

The Official Coastal Bend

HURRICANE

www.kiitv.com/weather
www.coastalguardiansoutreach.org

Guide 2020



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Brief Hurricane History

Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters, like those found in the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricane season starts June 1 and ends November 30. The peak threat for the Texas coast exists from August through September. However, hurricanes can and have struck the Texas coast during every month of the hurricane season. Since 1851, 63 hurricanes have struck the Texas coast. That is one every three years on average.

Hurricane Hazards

Storm Surge

A storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. The rise in water level can cause extreme flooding in coastal areas resulting in storm tides reaching up to 20 feet or more in some cases. Along the Texas coast, these flood waters can penetrate far inland depending on the elevation of land. If the storm tide is greater than the land elevation (even if well inland) then storm surge flooding will be possible.

Six Tips About Storm Surges

1. Storm surge flooding is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. It poses a significant threat for drowning. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It only takes two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles.
2. Storm surge can cause water levels to rise quickly and flood large areas in just minutes, and you could be left with no time to take action if you haven't already evacuated as instructed.
3. Storm surge is not dependent on Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Hurricane Categories are based only on winds and do not account for storm surge. Any wind category can all cause life-threatening storm surge.
4. Many Gulf Coast areas are vulnerable to storm surge including areas many miles inland from the coastline depending on elevation of the coastal plan. Find out today if you live in an evacuation zone.
5. Storm surge can occur before, during and after the center of the storm passes through an area, and sometimes cut off evacuation routes. The water can also rise well in advance of the coming storm, in some cases 36 hours or greater. When an evacuation is ordered, do not wait until the last minute to leave.
6. During the peak of a storm surge event, it is unlikely that emergency responders will be able to reach you if you are in danger.

Tornadoes + Destructive Winds

Tropical cyclones also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall. Tornadoes produced by tropical cyclones are relatively weak and short-lived, but still pose a threat.

Hurricane force winds of 74 mph or more can destroy buildings, mobile homes, trees, and power poles. Debris such as signs, roofing material, siding, and small items left outside become flying missiles in a hurricane. The strongest winds occur in a region of the hurricane called the eyewall. Wind gusts in the right side of the eyewall are the most destructive. Hurricane force winds can be felt as far as 150 miles from the coast.

MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS MUST EVACUATE!

- No mobile home or manufactured home – no matter how new it is – can provide safe shelter from hurricane force winds
- Straps of other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from the high winds associated with a hurricane
- Mobile home residents must evacuate when told to do so by local authorities

Inland Flooding

There are numerous examples of significant flooding caused by land-falling tropical cyclones in Texas. Storms with a slow forward motion are the most dangerous as heavy rains persist for a longer period of time.

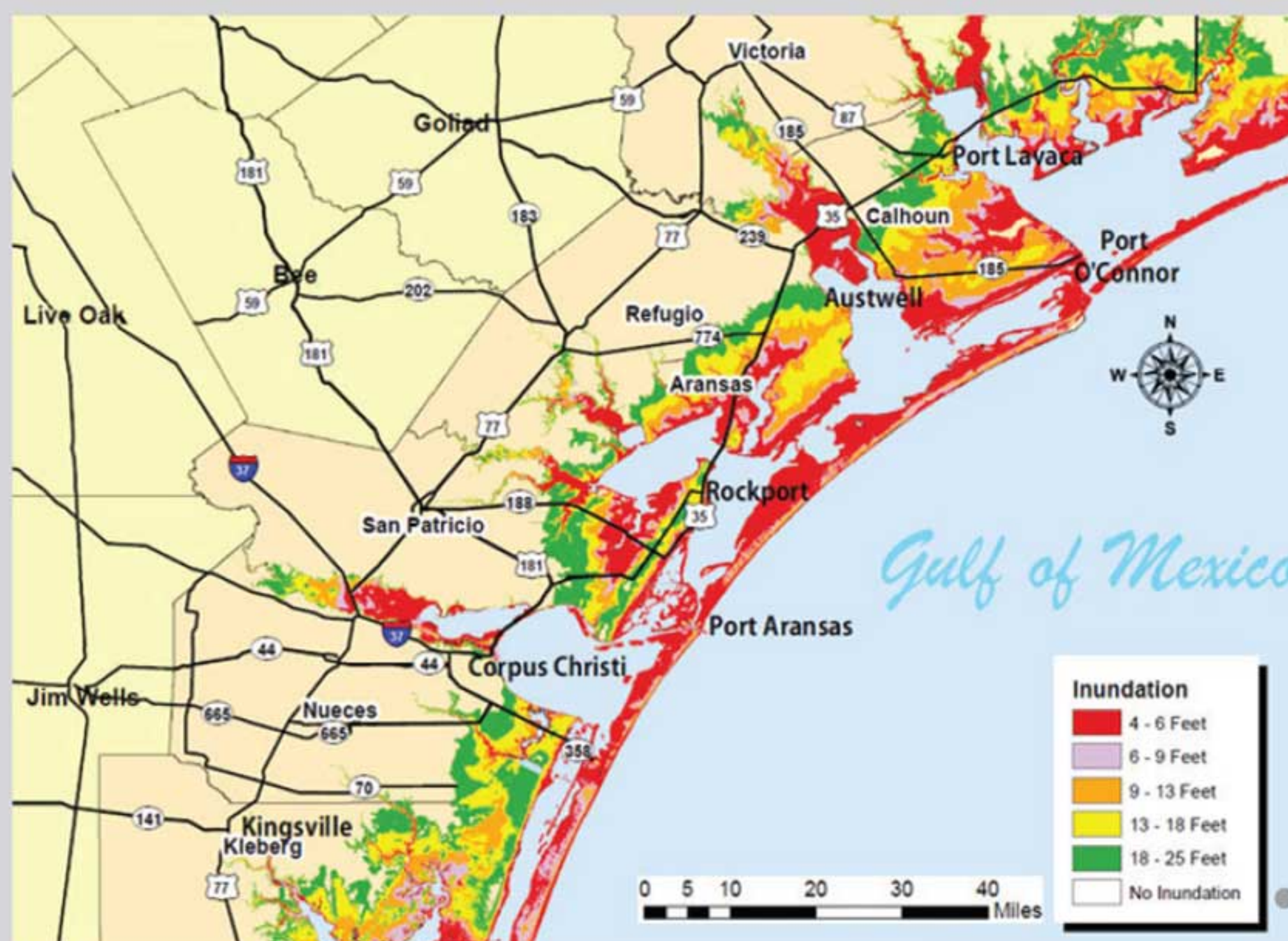
Five Ways to Protect Yourself and Others

Protect Your Personal Documents and Special Items

- Store valuables in plastic tubs with locking tops
- In case of evacuation, you should be able to secure and move all your items within 15 minutes

Buy Flood Insurance: A Plan for Replaceable Items

- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available from an insurance agent or the NFIP
- For more information see www.floodsmart.gov



Flood Proof Your Home – Take Steps to Minimize Flood Damage

- Shut off the main circuit breaker to prevent short circuiting and eliminate the threat of electrocution
- Raise outside air conditioning units onto platforms above ground level
- Store rarely used or expensive items in the attic or on high shelves

Develop a Family Flood Plan

- Develop a plan of action to keep from panicking during an emergency
- Have an evacuation route and alternatives planned in the event you are asked to evacuate
- Communicate your plans with friends or family outside of your home area
- Battery powered radios or televisions can be used in the event of a power outage

Storm Surge Map

Emergency Contact Information

DO NOT CALL 911 FOR NON EMERGENCIES!

Aransas County

Rockport Police – 361-729-1111
County Sheriff – 361-729-2222
Fulton Police – 361-729-5533

Bee County

County Emergency Management – 361-621-1550 ext.8181
www.co.bee.tx.us
Beeville Police – 361-358-8100
County Sheriff – 361-362-3221

Calhoun County

County Emergency Management – 361-553-4400
www.calhouncotx.org
County Sheriff – 361-553-4646

Goliad County

Goliad County Judge – 361-645-3337
County Sheriff – 361-645-3451

Jim Wells County

County Emergency Management – 361-668-1018
Alice Emergency Management – 361-664-3111
Jim Wells County Sheriff – 361-668-0341

Kleberg County

County Emergency Management – 361-595-8527
Kleberg County Sheriff – 361-595-8500

Live Oak County

County Sheriff – 361-449-2271

Nueces County

County Emergency Management – 361-888-0513
www.co.nueces.tx.us
City of Corpus Christi – 361-826-1100
citynet.cc/government/fire/readycc/index

Facebook: Ready CC; Twitter: ReadyCC
Port Aransas City Hall – 361-749-4111,
cityofportaransas.org

City of Robstown – 361-387-2522

Email: rfd@cityofrobstown.com

Bishop Police – 361-584-2443

Driscoll Police – 361-221-2902

Refugio County

County Emergency Management – 361-526-2820
County Sheriff – 361-526-1698

San Patricio County

County Emergency Management – 361-364-9650
Ingleside Police – 361-776-2531
Portland Police – 361-777-4444
County Sheriff – 361-364-9600
Aransas Pass Police – 361-758-5224

Victoria County

City/County Emergency Management – 361-580-5570
Victoria Police – 361-573-3221
County Sheriff – 361-575-0651

Additional Information

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, www.ready.gov

American Red Cross, www.redcross.org

(enter zip code for local office)

24 hour number to call for assistance 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)

TX DOT Highway Conditions

800-452-9292, drivetexas.org

Saffir-Simpson Scale



Category	Speed (MPH)	Damage Scale
5	> 157	Catastrophic
4	130 - 156	Extreme
3	111 - 129	Extensive
2	96 - 110	Moderate
1	74 - 95	Minimal

Hurricane Names 2020

• Arthur

• Bertha

• Cristobal

• Dolly

• Edouard

• Fay

• Gonzalo

• Hanna

• Isaias

• Josephine

• Kyle

• Laura

• Marco

• Nana

• Omar

• Paulette

• Rene

• Sally

• Teddy

• Vicky

• Wilfred

Check List + Supply Kit

The American Red Cross recommends that you have the following items in your hurricane supply kit.

- At least a 7-day supply of non-perishable food and water - one gallon of water per person per day is recommended.
- Battery powered portable television or radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Sanitation and hygiene items such as instant hand sanitizing gel, moist towelettes, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products
- Whistle
- Kitchen accessories, cooking utensils, and manual can opener
- Cash
- Extra clothing, blankets and sleeping bags
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Photocopies of identification, insurance, prescriptions, household inventory, credit cards, and your latest utility bill
- CD or photocopies of important documents such as birth/marriage certificates and titles
- Prescription medications, eyeglasses, contact lens solution, and hearing aid batteries
- Formula, baby food, diapers, and pacifiers
- Pet carriers, leashes, shot records, and food for each animal evacuating with you
- A good map showing county roads and highways
- Tire repair kit, booster cables, pump, and flares
- White distress flag
- Toys and games for children
- List of family phone numbers and addresses outside of the area

Final Check Lists

Actions to take when a storm is in the Gulf

- Listen frequently to radio, TV, or NOAA weather radio for bulletins and forecast of storm's progress
- Double check items in your emergency supply kit
- Fuel and service your vehicles
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie-downs
- Board up windows (*if shutters do not exist*) in case storms move quickly and you have to leave!

TAPE PROVIDES NO PROTECTION!

- Store lawn furniture and other loose, light weight objects, such as garbage cans and garden tools
- Garage or store vehicles that are not being used
- Follow instructions issues by local officials
- **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO!**

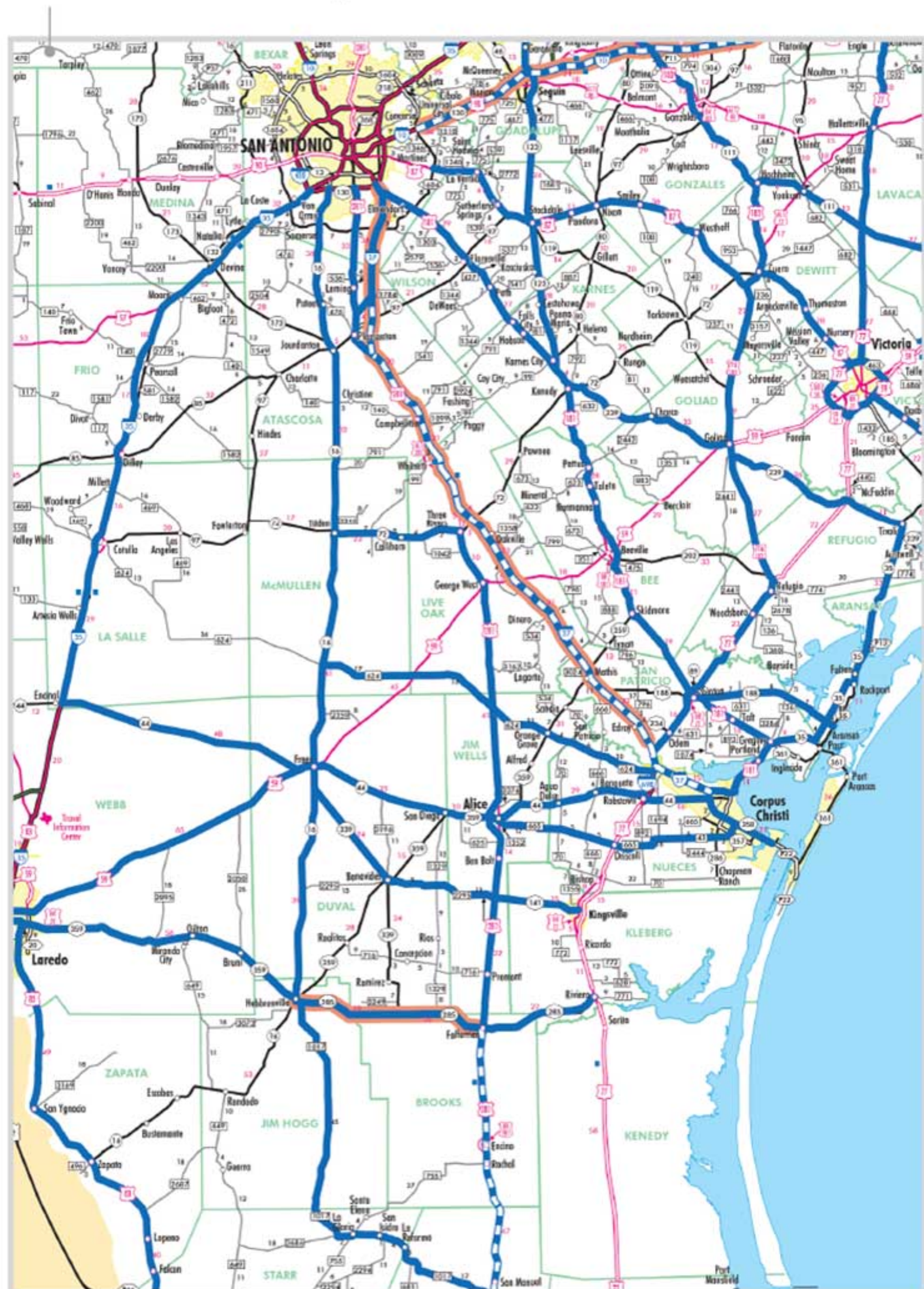
Final actions to take if leaving

- Turn off propane tanks
- Unplug small appliances
- Empty refrigerator and freezer
- Lock home securely
- Take pets with you

Final actions to take if staying

- Close storm shutters
- Notify family members of your evacuation plans
- Lower water level in swimming pool by one foot
- Turn refrigerator or freezer to coldest setting and open only if necessary (*25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic foot freezer below freezing for 3-4 days*)
- Follow instructions from emergency managers and be prepared to turn off utilities if ordered to do so
- Board up remaining doors, brace garage door, and remain inside. Stay away from boarded up windows
- Take refuge in a predetermined safe room, such as an interior closet, bathroom, or hallway
- **DO NOT EXPECT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE DURING A LANDFALLING HURRICANE**

Evacuation Map



Never Drive on Flooded Roads

- Driving into flooded roadways puts your life and the lives of others at risk
- Unless told to evacuate, you are probably safest staying at your current location
- If you encounter flood waters when driving, Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Hurricane Preparation

Home Prep

Elevation Matters

- Know the elevation of your home. Are you in a flood or evacuation zone?

Mobile Homes

- Check tie-downs for rust or breakage
- Residents of mobile homes must evacuate when told to do so

Landscaping

- Trim trees, shrubbery, and dead limbs, especially ones close to your home
- Repair or replace broken or damaged fences

Roofing

- Inspect the roof for loose tiles, shingles, or debris
- Consider replacing old or damaged shingles with new ones rated for hurricane force winds
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts

Doors

- Reinforce garage doors and tracks or replace with a hurricane-tested door
- Reinforce double entry doors with heavy duty foot and dead bolts
- Use a security dead bolt with one inch minimum bolt length

Windows

- If possible, install tested and manufactured hurricane shutters
- Inspect existing shutters to ensure they are in good working order
- Alternative: Use 5/8" or greater exterior grade plywood secured by 2 1/2" screws and/or special clips. Obtain wood and fasteners, cut wood to size, pre-drill holes and place anchors to homes

Preparing for Your Pet's Safety

Your pet should be part of your overall hurricane preparation plans. Below are a few important things to help you prepare.

- Make sure your pet's vaccinations are current and you have proof they are current
- DO NOT assume that a public shelter or hotel will accept your pet
- Be sure to have a current photo of your pet
- Each animal should have a properly sized pet carrier - the carrier should be large enough for the animal to stand up in and turn around
- Pack enough food and bottled water for the duration of your evacuation - DO NOT let your pet eat food or drink water from outside that may become contaminated
- Be sure to pack all medications your pet may need along with a muzzle, collar, leash, paper towels, and trash bags
- Make sure your pet has a proper ID collar

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Hurricane Tracking Map

