

San Jacinto County

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Office Of the Emergency Manager

51 E Pine Ave * (936)653-3395

www.co.san-jacinto.tx.us/page/sanjacinto.Emergency





Dear Residents,

The safety and well-being of the citizens of San Jacinto County is my greatest priority. For this reason, our Office of Emergency Management has developed this guide to help you prepare for natural and man-made disasters.

The San Jacinto County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for coordinating and managing emergency response efforts within the county. This includes planning for and responding to a wide range of emergencies, including natural disasters, public health crises, and other events that pose a threat to the safety and well-being of the county's residents. Its primary responsibilities include:

Planning and preparedness by developing and maintaining a comprehensive emergency plan to address a wide range of hazards.

Coordination in emergency response effort, bringing together local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to ensure a well-organized and effective response to emergencies.

Disseminate Information and Communication of critical information to the public, such as weather updates, evacuation orders, and safety guidelines, through various communication channels to keep residents informed.

Resource management by coordinating the allocation of resources, including personnel, equipment, and supplies, to support emergency response operations, making sure needed resources are available during crises.

Response and recovery during emergencies, the OEM oversees the execution of emergency plans, ensuring that response efforts are effective. It also plays a role in the recovery phase, helping the community rebuild and return to normalcy. The Office conducts trainings and exercises to prepare first responders and the community for various emergency scenarios, enhancing overall readiness.

The OEM continually assesses the county's vulnerabilities and risks to identify potential threats, allowing for proactive planning and mitigation.

In the event of an emergency, having a plan and stocking up on vital supplies ahead of time will be crucial for the safety and well-being of you and your loved ones. This guide contains useful information that will help you prepare and protect your family and property in the event of a hurricane, tropical storm, or chemical emergency.

Above all, please make sure that you and your family are prepared.

Sincerely,

Emmitt Eldridge

Emergency Management Coordinator

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PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTIFICATION

The following outlets will be used to communicate emergency and disaster information to residents of San Jacinto County:

- Genasys Portal: <https://sanjacinto.genasys.com/portal>
- Local television and radio media (Houston)
- San Jacinto County website: <https://www.co.san-jacinto.tx.us/page/sanjacinto.Emergency>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanJacintoCountyEmergencyManagement>

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

The county has an “all hazards” emergency operations plan and will communicate emergency information to its residents for emergencies and disasters using the outlets mentioned above.

GENASYS ALERT SYSTEM

What is the Genasys Alert System service?

The Genasys Alert System service allows authorized county leaders to create and rapidly disseminate time-sensitive messages to every telephone number stored in the notification database. Only authorized officials are allowed access to the system.

How does the service work?

Authorized officials record a voice message that is then delivered quickly to individual phones in the notification database.

What types of messages will be sent using the service?

Any message regarding the safety or welfare of our community would be disseminated using the Genasys Alert System service.

Does the Genasys Alert System service replace other systems that have been used to provide time-sensitive information to residents?

This system is a significant enhancement to existing means of communication and is supplemental to, not a replacement for, the systems we have used in the past.

Is my telephone number included in the notification database?

It is our intention and hope that every residence in our community be included in the notification database. To sign up, please visit the website at <https://sanjacinto.genasys.com/portal> or call (936)653-3395, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, except holidays.

May I use a cell phone as my notification database listing?

Yes, we can accept cell phones in the database and encourage you to request that your number be included.

What precautions are being taken to protect personal information?

The Genasys Cloud suite of products are built on Amazon Web Services (AWS). AWS provides an impressive security and compliance portfolio with their cloud services, but Genasys Cloud doesn't stop with just those core services. Genasys Cloud uses Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTPS) and Transport Layer Security (TLS) to secure all connections to browsers, mobile apps, and other components bi-directionally with Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)-256 encryption.

If I am a non-resident home or vacation home owner, what phone number should be listed in the notification database?

For non-residents or owners who reside outside of our county, you may provide additional phone numbers to be included in our database to contact during certain situations. In general, calls are sent to the primary number only, but we also have the ability to call multiple numbers for each resident. Please visit the website at <https://sanjacinto.genasys.com/portal> or call (936)653-3395, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, except holidays.

If I have provided more than one phone number, when will they be called?

Should a situation arise that requires us to contact you at multiple phone numbers, we can activate the system to place a simultaneous call to all of your numbers. In most cases, we will be sending calls only to one phone number.

My primary phone or my second listing is a cell phone with a non-local area code. Will the Genasys Alert System service call numbers outside the area?

Yes. The area code does not impact whether or not a call is made.

GENASYS ALERT SYSTEM

How does the Genasys Alert system respond to busy signals or no-answer situations?

For busy signals, the call will be repeated several times in an attempt to reach you. The same is true for no-answer and call-waiting. If the phone is answered by a message recorder, the message will be left on the answering device. If, after several attempts the call does not successfully go through, the system will stop attempting to call.

I answer the phone but the “Hello” message repeats. It then hangs up, calls back, and the same thing happens again.

How can I hear the entire message?

Repeating or looping of messages happens when the system detects excessive noise in the background. This can be caused by a loud radio, television volumes, people talking, or busy traffic noise. When you receive the next call, say “hello” once and turn down the volume of your radio/television or press the mute button on your telephone to allow full message delivery.

We may conduct periodic tests to assure that messages are being delivered to numbers in the notification database.

HURRICANES & TROPICAL STORMS

What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, which is a generic term for a low-pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. The cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

- Tropical Depression — An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 kt) or less.
- Tropical Storm — An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph (34-63 kt).
- Hurricane — An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 kt) or higher.

What are sustained winds?

A 1-minute average wind measured at about 33 ft (10 meters) above the earth's surface.

What is a Knot (kt)?

1 knot (kt) = 1 nautical mile per hour or 1.15 statute miles per hour.

What is the difference between a watch and a warning?

A hurricane watch indicates the possibility that you could experience tropical storm force winds within 48 hours and a hurricane warning indicates that tropical storm force winds are expected within 36 hours or less for our part of the coast.

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE



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The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 categorization based on a hurricane's intensity at the indicated time. The scale provides examples of the type of damage and impacts in the United States associated with winds of the indicated intensity. In general, damage rises by about a factor of four for every category increase. The maximum sustained surface wind speed associated with the cyclone is the determining factor in the scale.

The scale does not address the potential for other hurricane-related impacts, such as storm surge, rainfall-induced floods, and tornadoes. It should also be noted that the wind-caused damage general descriptions are to some degree dependent upon the local building codes in effect and how well and how long they have been enforced.

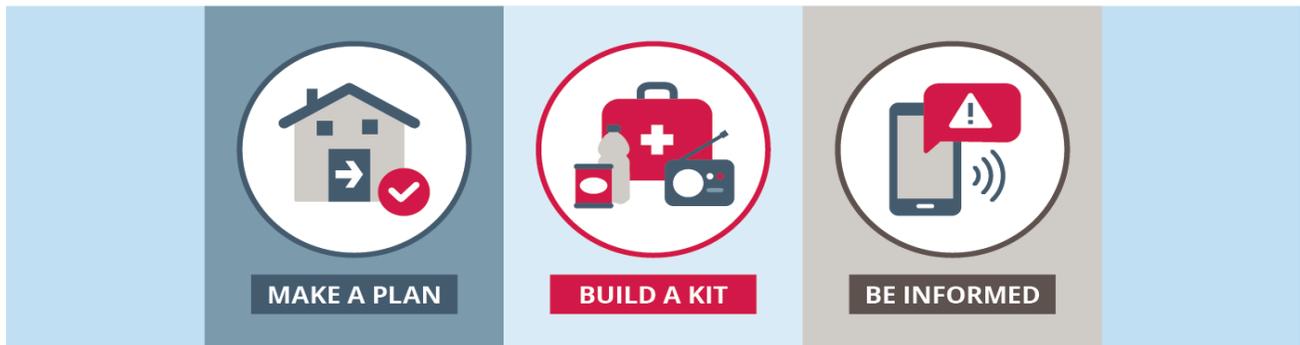
Earlier versions of the scale, known as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, incorporated central pressure and storm surge as components of the categories. The central pressure was used during the 1970s and 1980s as a proxy for the winds as accurate wind speed intensity measurements from aircraft reconnaissance were not routinely available for hurricanes until 1990. Storm surge was also quantified by category in the earliest published versions of the scale dating back to 1972. However, hurricane size, depth of near-shore waters, topography, the hurricane's forward speed and angle to the coast also affect the surge that is produced. For example, Hurricane Ike in 2008 made landfall in Texas as a Category 2 hurricane and had peak storm surge values of about 20 ft. In contrast, Hurricane Charley struck Florida in 2004 as a Category 4 hurricane and produced a peak surge of only about 7 ft. These storm surge values were substantially outside of the ranges suggested in the original scale. Thus, to help reduce public confusion about the impacts associated with the various hurricane categories, as well as provide a more scientifically defensible scale, the storm surge ranges, flooding impact, and central pressure were removed from the scale and only peak winds are employed in the revised version, the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

For more information, visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to fire, chemical emergencies, storm surge, flooding, and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each type of hazard.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet.
- Designate an out-of-state friend as a family contact so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Check your insurance coverage. Flood damage is usually not covered by homeowners' insurance. Refer to page 23 for information on the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit.
- Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace the batteries every 6 months just as you do with your smoke detectors.
- Take First Aid, CPR, and disaster preparedness classes.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



HELPFUL WEBSITES

San Jacinto County Emergency Management (OEM)	https://www.co.sanjacinto.tx.us/page/sanjacinto.Emergency
Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM)	https://portal.tdem.texas.gov/
American Red Cross Southeast/Deep East Texas Chapter	Southeast & Deep East Texas Texas Gulf Coast Region American Red Cross
Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)	https://www.tdem.texas.gov/response/state-of-texas-emergency-assistance-registry
San Jacinto County AgriLife	https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/san-jacinto-county/
Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov
National Flood Insurance Program	www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program
National Hurricane Center	www.nhc.noaa.gov
National Weather Service	www.weather.gov
Texas Department of Insurance	www.tdi.state.tx.us
Texas Department of Public Safety	www.txdps.state.tx.us
San Jacinto County Animal Control	animal.control@san-jac.us

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens our area. If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location, then it is important to consider the following points:

- If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure. If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.
- During an evacuation, be prepared to wait in traffic. The large number of people in this area who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.
- If possible, make arrangements to stay with a friend or relative who resides outside of the evacuation zone. Discuss the details of your family evacuation plan with your intended host well before the beginning of hurricane season.
- If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave. Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.
- If you are unable to stay with friends or family and hotel/motel rooms are not available, report to an approved evacuation shelter.

Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and may not accept pets. Be sure to take your disaster supply kit with you to the shelter. When developing a family emergency plan, please keep in mind that emergency responders will cease to respond to emergency calls once sustained winds reach unsafe levels.

PREPARING YOUR HOME

The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter. According to recent wind technology research, it's important to strengthen the exterior of your house so wind and debris do not tear large openings in it. You can do this by protecting and reinforcing the following five critical areas: roof, straps, shutters, doors, and garage doors.

Hurricane Preparation

#HurricanePrep

Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed.

Place valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.

Cover windows with hurricane shutters or pre-cut plywood.

Create a Ready kit with enough supplies for at least three days, consider needs of children, pets and elderly.

Bring in all outdoor furniture and anything else that is not secured.

Develop an evacuation plan and where to reconnect with family.

ready.ga.gov

Set refrigerator to the coldest setting.

Fill gas tank.

Ready. Georgia

RED CROSS SHELTERS

The Red Cross opens shelters for those displaced after a disaster has occurred. For Red Cross Shelter information and locations, the county Office of Emergency Management will inform where any Red Cross shelter has been opened in the county for displaced residents. Updates will also be posted on the Emergency Management Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/SanJacintoCountyEmergencyManagement> or call the Emergency Management Office at (936)653-3395.

When staying in a shelter, please keep the following points in mind:

- Bring any prescription medication you may need.
- If possible, bring toiletries, change of clothes and small personal items (such as a book or games for children) to help make your stay more comfortable.

Even though the county may not open cooling centers during the summer, residents who need relief from the heat are encouraged to visit their local libraries, recreation centers, or shopping malls.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Water (at least 1 gallon daily per person for 5 to 7 days)
- Food (at least enough for 5 to 7 days) - Non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices - Foods for infants or the elderly - Snack foods - non-electric can opener - cooking tools and fuel - Paper plates and plastic utensils
- Blankets and pillows
- Clothing and sturdy shoes (seasonal and rain gear)
- First aid kit and medications
- Special items for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries, hygiene items, and moisture wipes
- Flashlight and batteries ≤ Battery-operated NOAA weather radio
- Telephones (fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional telephone set that is not cordless)
- Cash, including small bills, and credit cards (Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods.)
- Keys
- Toys, books, and games
- Important documents in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag (insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.)
- Tool set
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items - Proper identification/immunization records/medications - Ample supply of food and water - A carrier or cage - Muzzle and leash



FOOD AND WATER SUPPLY

If disaster strikes, you might not have access to food, water, and electricity for days or weeks. Having an ample supply of clean water should be a top priority in an emergency. A normally active person needs to drink at least 2 quarts of water each day. You can expect to double that amount in hot environments.

You will also need water for food preparation and hygiene. Store at least one gallon per person, per day. Ideally, you should store at least a 2-week supply of water for each member of the family. Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers.

Never use a container that has held toxic substances. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. You can also purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums. Seal water containers tightly, label them and store in a cool, dark place. Rotate water every 6 months.

Boiling is the safest method of purifying water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3 to 5 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. Let the water cool before drinking. Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between 2 clean containers. This will also improve the taste of stored water.

Even though it is unlikely that an emergency would cut off your food supply for 2 weeks, you should prepare a supply that will last that long. The easiest way to do this is to increase the number of basic foods you normally keep in your pantry.

If the electricity goes off, you can use a charcoal grill or camp stove outdoors. Canned food can be eaten right out of the can. If you decide to heat the food in the can, be sure to open the can and remove the label first.



PREPARING FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly and without warning. You are in the best position to plan for your own safety since you know what your functional abilities and needs are. You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance.

Create a Personal Support Network

Organize a network that includes your home, workplace, volunteer site, and any other place where you spend a lot of time. Members of your network can be roommates, relatives, neighbors, friends, and co-workers. They should be people you trust, who can check on you, and can provide help within minutes.

Make a Plan

- Meet with your family, friends and personal care attendants to review information about community hazards and emergency plans. Plan how to prepare for each hazard that could impact your local community and how to protect yourself.
- Choose an "out-of-town" friend or relative to be your contact. Following a disaster, family members should call this person and tell them where they are.
- Choose a place right outside your home to meet family in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, and a location outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Develop a communications plan which includes contact information for family members, members of your support network, caregivers, your out-of-town contact, and emergency services.
- Be sure everyone in your family knows the best escape routes out of your home, as well as where the safe places are in your home for each type of disaster.
- Take your pets with you if you evacuate. Be aware that pets may not be permitted in emergency public shelters. Prepare a list of family, friends, boarding facilities, veterinarians, and "pet-friendly" hotels that could shelter your pets in an emergency.

Considerations for People with Disabilities

- Know how to connect and start a back-up power supply for essential medical equipment.
- Consider getting a medical alert system that will allow you to call for help if you are immobilized in an emergency.
- If you use an electric wheelchair or scooter, have a manual wheelchair available as well.
- Teach those who may need to assist you in an emergency how to operate the necessary equipment.
- Store back-up equipment at your neighbor's home.
- Arrange for more than one person from your personal support network to check on you in an emergency.
- If you are vision or hearing impaired, plan ahead for someone to convey essential emergency information to you. ≤ If you use a personal care attendant obtained from an agency, check to see if the agency has special provisions for emergencies.
- If you live in an apartment, ask management to identify and mark accessible exits and access to all areas designated as emergency shelters or safe rooms.
- Have a cell phone with an extra battery available. People with special needs often need more time to prepare for an emergency. If you have special needs and do not have family or friends to assist you in an evacuation, call register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR), to register visit <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/response/state-of-texas-emergency-assistance-registry>

PLANNING FOR YOUR PETS

When preparing for emergencies, remember to include your pets in the plan. Bring them indoors well in advance of an impending disaster.

Preparedness Checklist

- Make sure that your pet is current on vaccinations.
- Prepare a pet disaster supply kit.
- If you plan to shelter your pet, try to work it into your evacuation route. Keep in mind that pet shelters will be filled on a first come, first serve basis so try to call ahead to determine availability. Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics, friends and relatives out of harm's way are all potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.

Pet Disaster Supply Kit

- Proper identification, including immunization records, proof of ownership, and current photograph of your pet
- 2-week supply of food (dry or canned), a can opener, a spoon, and food dish
- 2-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs and non-spill water dish
- A collar with identification on your pet, a leash to control your pet, and a muzzle
- A properly-sized carrier or cage labeled with your contact information for each pet (Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.)
- Newspapers, trash bags, and paper towels for clean up
- Medications
- Specific care instructions including diet, known allergies, dose, and frequency for medications
- Familiar items to make pets comfortable, such as favorite toys, blankets and treats



If your pet is lost after a disaster, contact:

San Jacinto County Animal Control at (936) 524-3891, animal.control@san-jac.us

San Jacinto County AgriLife at (936)628-6407, <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/san-jacinto-county/>

San Jacinto County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will also keep data of all animals lost during the disaster event, to assist in getting all animals back to the proper owner.

San Jacinto County OEM (936) 653-3395, <https://www.co.san-jacinto.tx.us/page/sanjacinto.Emergency>

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

- Fill up with fuel before you leave town. Always keep your tank at least half full during hurricane season.
- Check your vehicle's fluid levels and ensure there is adequate coolant in the radiator.
- Check for proper air pressure because hot road surfaces are rough on tires. Be sure your spare tire has air and that you have the proper equipment to change your tire. Ensure you have a jack and lug wrench in your vehicle.



- Make sure you carry water and non-perishable food for you and your passengers in case you become stranded.
- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle and use emergency flashers. Tie a white cloth on the antenna or door handle and raise the hood.
- Have a working flashlight and extra batteries in your vehicle.

EVACUATION

Under Texas law, the County Judge and The Office of Emergency Management may advise or order an evacuation for our county. Should the County Judge or Emergency Manager advise or order an evacuation, the emergency message will be communicated to San Jacinto County residents through the outlets identified under the Public Information Notification section on page 4.

Refer to page 21 for information on the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) for residents with special needs. Please note that emergency responders will cease to respond to emergency calls once sustained winds reach unsafe levels.



STEAR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REGISTRY

Do you or anyone you know need some assistance during times of an emergency event? The state of Texas presents the STEAR program. The STEAR program is a **free** registry that provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs in their community. Texas communities use the registry information in different ways. Registering yourself in the STEAR registry DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency. Available services will vary by community. For more information on how your community will use information in the STEAR registry, contact your local emergency management office.

Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with access and functional needs such as:
- People who have limited mobility
- People who have communication barriers
- People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
- People who require transportation assistance
- People who require personal care assistance

How to Register

- Register Online at [State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry](#)
- Dial 2-1-1 or use your video telephone relay option of choice to contact [211](#) at 877-541-7905 (Texas Information Referral Network)
- Registration forms
- [Nursing Home & Assisted Living STEAR Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)
- [STEAR Individual Registration Form \(2023\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Registro del Estado de Texas para Asistencia en Casos de Emergencia \(STEAR\) 2023 \(PDF\)](#)

Required Information to Register

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Primary Language

Additional questions asked to capture vital information for local emergency planners and responders

- Emergency Contact Information
- Caregiver Information
- Pets
- Transportation assistance for home evacuation
- Communication Barriers
- Disability, Functional or Medical Needs

Registration is **VOLUNTARY**

Registering for STEAR doesn't guarantee you assistance in an emergency. By registering in STEAR you are consenting to sharing your information with first responders and other state agencies during a disaster.

Individual assistance questions, please contact your local government emergency management coordinator for more information.

Protecting Critical Documents and Valuables

When disaster strikes, your immediate concern will be your safety and the safety of those you care about. Once the immediate danger passes, however, having your financial and medical records and important contact information will be crucial to help you start the recovery process quickly. Taking time now to safeguard these critical documents will give you peace of mind, ensure you have access to essential medical and prescription information, and help you avoid additional stress during the difficult days following a disaster.

In addition, take the time now to think about the priceless personal items you would want to protect from damage or take with you if you had to suddenly evacuate your home.

The first step is to take an inventory of your household documents, contacts, and valuables. The checklist below will get you started. Then download the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) at www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness for more complete checklists and guidance on collecting and safeguarding this important information.

Put a checkmark next to any item that you may need to collect and safeguard. Be sure to include emergency contact phone numbers or other contact information with your documentation for questions that may arise following a disaster.

HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION

Think about the documents you would need to identify yourself and your household members, including children and pets, your relationships, or status. These may include:

- Vital records (birth, marriage, divorce certificate, adoption, child custody papers)
- Passport, driver's license, Social Security card, green card, military service identification, other
- Pet ownership papers, identification tags

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

If your home or income is impacted by a disaster, you will need documentation to request assistance from insurance providers and from government disaster assistance programs.

- Housing: lease or rental agreement, mortgage, home equity line of credit, deed
- Vehicle: loan documents, VIN, registration, title Other
- Financial Obligations: utility bills, credit cards, student loans, alimony, child support, elder care, automatic payments such as gym memberships
- Financial Accounts: checking, savings, debit cards, retirement, investment
- Insurance Policies: homeowners, renters, auto, life, flood, appraisals, photos, and lists of valuable items
- Sources of Income: pay stubs, government benefits, alimony, child support Tax Statements:
- Federal/State income tax returns, property tax, vehicle tax
- Estate Planning: will, trust, power of attorney

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- Health/dental insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, VA health benefits
- List of medications, immunizations, allergies, prescriptions, medical equipment and devices, pharmacy information
- Living will, medical power of attorney
- Caregiver agency contract or service agreement
- Disabilities documentation
- Contact information for doctors/specialists, dentists, pediatricians, veterinarians

PROTECT YOUR DOCUMENTS AND VALUABLES



- Once you have gathered your financial, legal, and contact information, it is essential to safeguard this information. Consider storing paper copies of important documents at home in a fireproof and waterproof box or safe, in a bank safe deposit box, or with a trusted friend or relative. If you are using a safe deposit box, you may want to ask your bank or check State laws to confirm who can and cannot access the safe deposit box if the lessee dies or is incapacitated.
- Store electronic copies of important documents in a password-protected format on a removable flash or external hard drive in your fireproof and waterproof box or safe, or consider using a secure cloud-based service. Visit www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/st04-019 to learn how to use electronic encryption to protect sensitive information.
- Think about where you store valuable belongings and ways to better protect these items. If you have valuable items stored in a basement, you may want to move them to a higher location and put them in waterproof containers to avoid water damage. Or you may want to keep small items in a flood/fireproof home safe. You may also want to secure items that are displayed on shelves or walls if your home may be subject to high winds or earthquakes.

Thank you for doing your part to prepare! Spread the word and encourage others to join the movement at www.ready.gov/prepare.

MANAGING STORM DEBRIS

In preparation for a potential hurricane or other impending storm, residents should take the following precautions to secure all items outdoors:

- 1) Place garbage containers in a location away from open spaces.
- 2) Bundle and tie down all loose trash, such as tree limbs or wood planks. Place these materials in a location where the debris cannot become hazards to homes and automobiles in high winds.
- 3) After any strong storm, separate household garbage, such as food, diapers and regular household waste, from debris caused by high winds, hail, and rain.

Separating Household Garbage from Storm Debris

Do your part to speed up the recovery process.

Proper clean-up procedures can go a long way toward regaining your normal way of life.

Regular household garbage should be put in trash bags and placed in the usual pick-up location. Storm debris should be segregated into separate piles by category; vegetation (tree limbs, leaves, shrubs, etc.), construction (fencing, roofing, carpet, etc.), and white goods (refrigerators, freezers, appliances, etc.).



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides general flood insurance information at www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program

The Ask the Expert link allows you to send flood insurance-related inquiries about program policy, operations, and aspects of flood hazard mitigation. More technical questions are sent to specialists in FEMA's Mitigation Directorate or to underwriting and claims experts.

Homes are by far our most valuable possessions. Every year, more homes in the U.S. are damaged by floods than any other natural disaster. Because more roads, buildings and parking lots are being constructed where natural land once was, floods are becoming more severe throughout the U.S. Flood insurance is the best way to protect your home. Federal Disaster Assistance is only available when a disaster is federally declared by the President.

FLOODED STREETS

The Texas Department of Transportation encourages drivers not to drive in severe weather unless absolutely necessary. If you must drive, remember to avoid driving into standing water.

**TURN AROUND
DON'T DROWN®**

Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people followed this simple advice: Turn Around Don't Drown®. More than 50% of flood-related deaths are due to someone driving or walking into floodwaters.

- ✓ 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock adults off their feet and sweep them away.
- ✓ 12 inches of moving water can carry off a small car.
- ✓ 18 to 24 inches of moving water can carry away larger vehicles including trucks, vans and SUVs.

If you come to an area that is covered with water, you may not know the depth of the water or the condition of the road or ground underneath. This is especially true at night, when your vision is more limited. Play it safe. Whether driving or walking, any time you come to a flooded area, Turn Around Don't Drown®.

Forces on Vehicles Crossing Streams

The car will be carried when:
Buoyancy Force Greater Than Vehicle Weight

There is no friction force once the vehicle is lifted off the road.
Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle related.

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT FLOOD SAFETY AT:**

weather.gov/safety/flood

**WHEN
FLOODED
TURN AROUND
DON'T
DROWN**

**NATIONAL
WEATHER
SERVICE**

**FLOOD
SAFETY**

**FOR YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY**

NOAA PA 201850

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS RELEASE SHELTER IN PLACE

Whether from an accidental spill or an intentional attack, hazardous materials can pose a great danger to you and your family. In the event of an emergency where hazardous materials may have been released into the atmosphere, authorities may instruct you to shelter in place. This is not the same as going to a shelter in case of a storm. Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room with few or no windows and taking refuge.

1. In case of a release of toxic chemicals in your area, you should immediately seek protection in the nearest building, such as your home. If you cannot shelter inside a building, sheltering inside your parked vehicle with the ventilation system turned off is a safe alternative to remaining outdoors.
2. Select an interior room inside your home or business that is most easily sealed from outside air. Plan to use this room as your Shelter in Place room. Because of the difficulty of sealing rooms with window air conditioners, window fans, attic fans, and wall heaters, rooms with these devices should be avoided as shelter in place rooms.
3. A shelter in place kit should be stored inside your shelter in place room. This kit should contain the following items:
 - Masking tape (2-3 inches wide)
 - Plastic film or sheets (such as painting drop cloths)
 - Towels or sheets for sealing under doors
 - Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - Bottled water or access to running water
5. Pre-cut the plastic film to fit over all windows, air conditioner vents, electrical outlets, and light switches in your shelter in place room. Use the wide masking tape to secure the plastic sheets to the walls. Use the wide masking tape to seal between the door and door frame. Lay a slightly wet towel or sheet along the bottom of the door.



6. While you are safely sheltered in place, keep your phone line open to receive updates. Stay inside until the "all clear" signal is given, then remove the masking tape and plastic sheets. Open all doors and windows, turn on your air conditioning or heating system, and "air out" your home or building for 15 to 30 minutes.

Sheltering-in-place is meant to protect you and your family for a few hours. According to experts, a tightly sealed, 10' x 10' room will have enough oxygen to last one person for about five hours.

Shelter-in-place techniques are effective because they are easily and quickly accomplished. In a matter of moments, you can be safe inside your pre-selected room. For more information about shelter-in-place, contact your local emergency management office.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

San Jacinto County

Office of Emergency Management	(936)653-3395
Sheriff's Office (For Emergencies Dial 9-1-1)	(936)653-4367
Animal Control	(936)524-3891
AgriLife	(936)628-6407
Coldspring City Hall	(936)653-3289
Shepherd City Hall	(936)628-3305
Point Blank City Hall	(936)377-2899

State of Texas

Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)	(877)541-7905
Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM)	(512)424-2208
Texas Department of Transportation	(936)628-3328
Texas Department of Public Safety	(936)653-5634
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	(409)898-3838

Volunteer Agencies

American Red Cross Southeast & Deep East Texas Chapter	(409)883-2322
The Salvation Army of Conroe, Texas	(936)760-2440
United Way of Angelina County	(936)632-3203
Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas	(409)924-4400

Federal Agencies

Federal Emergency Management Agency	(800) 621-3362
National Flood Insurance Program	(877) 336-2627
National Weather Service	(281)337-5074

Other

Sam Houston Electric	(936)653-5400
Entergy	(800)968-8243