



March 29, 2011

Risk and Vulnerability Workshop

Houston-Galveston Area Council



Introductions

- Amy Boyers, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- John Buri, SAIC, BDR Division
- **Bob Harriss,** Houston Advanced Research Center
- Jeff Sjostrom, Galveston Economic Development Partnership
- Francisco Sanchez, Harris County, Office of Emergency Management
- Chuck Wemple, Houston-Galveston Area Council

Agenda

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Importance of understanding risks and vulnerabilities within the region
- Assessing organizational risks
- Impacts of risks on economic recovery
- Impacts of risk on public health and safety, government, and the environment
- Risk mitigation opportunities
- Closing remarks and speaker panel discussion

Opening Remarks Amy Boyers – H-GAC

Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects Report

- Established by the H-GAC Board of Directors in 2007
- Comprised of experts in climate change and local infrastructure planning
- Recommends strategies for adaptation to climate change



Houston-Galveston Area Council Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects



Regional Adaptation Recommendations

- Enhance coordination of evacuation plans and communication systems
- Review and strengthen mutual aid agreements
- Prepare for increase in wildfires due to prolonged periods without rain and higher temperatures
- Avoid construction in areas subject to sea level rise
- Advocate hurricane resistant building standards as the minimum building code for high risk areas



Importance of Understanding Risks and Vulnerabilities Within the Region

Regional Profile

- 13 counties
- 12,500 square miles
- 6,087,133 estimated population in 2010
- > 26% population growth since 2000
- With continued growth, disaster events will have greater exposure and impact



Regional Profile

- Tenth largest port in the world
- 220 million tons of cargo transported each year
- Major center for oil and petrochemical industries
- Heightened vulnerability to hazardous materials incidents and acts of terrorism





Disaster Profile



By Year: Year Number of Disaster Declarations

Declared Disasters by Year or State

	State	Number of disaster declared
1	Texas	84
2	California	76
3	Oklahoma	66
4	Florida	63
5	New York	61
6	Louisiana	56
7	Alabama	54
8	Kentucky	53
9	Arkansas	51
10	Missouri	50
11	Illinois	49
12	Mississippi	48

Fires

- Tropical Storms
- Hurricanes
- Floods

By State:							
	State	Number of disaster declared					
1	Texas	84					
2	California	76					
3	Oklahoma	66					

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Disaster Profile

BILLION DOLLAR CLIMATE and WEATHER DISA 198	ASTERS 20 - 2009*				
	I Superiores	NUMBER OF	PERCENT	NORMALIZED DAMAGES (Billions of Dollars)	PERCENT DAMAGE
NUMBER OF EVENTS	Tropical Storms/Hurricanes	27	28.1%	367.3	51.1%
31 - 35 26 - 30 21 - 25 16 - 20 13 - 15 10 - 12 7 - 9 4 -	Severe Weather	20	20.8%	38.4	5.3%
	Heatwaves/Droughts	15	15.6%	185.2	25.7%
	Non-Tropical Floods	13	13.6%	70.5	9.8%
	Fires	10	10.4%	19.2	2.7%
	Freezes	6	6.3%	18.6	2.6%
	Blizzards	2	2.1%	11.9	1.7%
	Ice Storms	2	2.1%	5.9	~0.8%
	Noreaster	_1	1.0%	2.2	~0.3%
		30		740.2	

Source: National Climatic Data Center

Hazards Likely to Affect the H-GAC Region

- Flood (Riverine and Coastal)
- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes



Hazards Likely to Affect the H-GAC Region

- Wildfire
- Drought
- Excessive Heat
- Winter Storms
- Hail
- Coastal Erosion



Hazards Likely to Affect the H-GAC Region

- Infrastructure failure
- Dam/Levee Failure
- Earthquakes
- Sinkholes
- Subsidence
- Tsunami





What is Climate Change?

- Climate change refers to major changes in temperature, rainfall, snow, or wind patterns lasting for decades or longer. Both human-made and natural factors contribute to climate change:
 - Human causes include burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, and developing land for farms, cities, and roads. These activities all release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
 - Natural causes include changes in the Earth's orbit, the sun's intensity, the circulation of the ocean and the atmosphere, and volcanic activity.



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Impact of Climate Change on Disasters

Sea level rise

- 100 year events, like floods, are occurring more often
- Storms will be more severe, increasing the probability of urban flooding and storm damage
- Amplified storm surge increases the risk of loss of life and property

Average temperature rise

- Heat waves are expected to occur more frequently, last for longer periods of time, and with greater intensity
- Models suggest that for each 1 C increase in tropical sea surface temperatures, hurricane surface wind speeds will increase by 1 to 8% and core rainfall rates by 6 to 18%.

Impact of Climate Change on Disasters

- The effects of climate change are still being defined. As impacts continue to occur, there will be an increased need for adaptation and resilience.
 - Adaptation is defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as "adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities"
 - Resilience is defined as "the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and still retain its basic function and structure"

Guest Speaker Dr. Bob Harriss – Houston Advanced Research Center

(|H|A|R|C|)

Risk Assessments

- A risk assessment identifies:
 - What are our threats and vulnerabilities
 - What needs to be protected
 - What are the implications of loss or damage
 - What is the value to the organization
 - What can be done to minimize exposure
- Risk assessments can be conducted with internal or external resources

Risk Assessments

- Traditional risk assessments involve:
 - Identifying hazards
 - Profiling hazard events
 - Assessing vulnerability
 - Inventorying assets
 - Estimating losses
 - Risks to the population

Hazard Identification



- Review state, regional and local hazard mitigation plans, reports, flood ordinances, and land use regulations
- Talk to local experts
- Review past events and declared disasters
- Search historical records, newspapers, and the internet
- Interview long-term residents or historical societies

Profiling Hazards

- Describe the location or areas most likely to be affected.
 - Keep in mind that the some hazards affect will be more specific (like floods) and some will be more unpredictable (like tornadoes)
- Define the extent (also called magnitude or severity) of each hazard with a range of possible impacts
 - Flood depth in inches or feet, wind speeds in miles per hour, inches of rain, etc.
- Discuss the probability of the hazard to occur in the area
- Provide research on the past occurrences of each hazards in and around the area
 - Locations, dates, recorded intensity, damages and associated costs

- Describe the types of structures affected by the hazards and their construction characteristics
 - Buildings residential, commercial, institutional
 - Infrastructure transportation systems, lifeline utility systems, communications systems
 - Critical facilities hospitals, schools, public works facilities
- Anticipate the hazards' impact to vulnerable structures
- Summarize vulnerability in dollar values or percentages of anticipated damage









Disaster Specific: Hurricane Ike Related Risks

- 49 declared counties
- \$1.3 billion in Public Assistance grants
- \$396 million for Category A debris operations
- 26 million cubic yards of eligible debris removed
- Over 150 permitted debris management sites



Disaster Specific: Hurricane Ike Related Risks

- Category 2 at landfall
- 110 mile per hour winds
- 19-22 foot storm surge
 - Set the record for greatest storm surge associated with a category 2
- Rainfall exceeded 20 inches in some areas
- 3 million + without power



Assessing Organizational Risks and Continuity Planning

- Organizational risks are internal risks that have the potential to disrupt normal operations. Potential operational risks include:
 - External threats and hazards
 - Process threats and hazards
 - Internal threats and hazards

External threats and hazards

- Natural disasters
- Cyber attack
- Economic catastrophe
- Civil unrest
- Labor dispute, strike

- Process threats and hazards
 - Inadequate critical supply
 - Failure of a partner or supplier
 - Poor process design

- Internal threats and hazards
 - Sabotage
 - Inadequate training and cross training
 - Information technology systems failure
 - Inadequate continuity planning

Operational Disruptions

- There are several types of disruptions that can impact your organization's operations:
 - Denial of access to a facility
 - Denial of service due to a reduced workforce
 - Denial of service due to equipment or systems failure



Interactive Discussion

How would your organization address:

- Building damage caused by a fire?
- Reduced workforce due to pandemic flu?

IT systems failure?

Continuity Planning

- Operational risks are mitigated by developing a viable continuity plan.
- Continuity planning involves the following major components:
 - Identifying mission essential functions
 - Determining the critical resources required to maintain those functions
 - Identifying the risks that have the potential to disrupt mission essential functions
Critical Elements of Continuity Planning

- Orders of succession
- Delegations of authority
- Mission essential functions
- Critical resources
- Continuity facilities
- Interoperable communications
- Vital records management

- Devolution of command and control
- Human capital management
- Risk management
- Plan implementation phases
- Training and exercise program
- Plan maintenance strategy

Mission Essential Functions

- Continuity plans are designed to ensure the execution of mission essential functions
- Mission essential functions are the organization's business functions that must continue with no or minimal disruption.
- Essential functions enable an organization to:
 - Provide vital services
 - Exercise civil authority
 - Maintain the safety of the public
 - Sustain the industrial and economic base
 - Meet regulatory/statutory requirements

Business Impact Analysis

- Business Impact Analysis is a method to identify the effects of failing to perform a mission essential function.
 - Identify potential threats and hazards
 - Identify threat and hazard characteristics
 - Estimate likelihood of occurrence
 - Evaluate mission essential function to each threat or hazard
 - Estimate overall impact if mission essential function failure occurs

Continuity Locations

Planning considerations to identify continuity locations:

- Location Risk-free environment; geographically dispersed
- Construction Safe from high-risk areas
- Space Space for personnel, equipment, and systems
- Transportation Consider public access, public transportation, and proximity to hotels and restaurants
- Communications Support data and telephone communication requirements
- Security Controlled access
- Life Sustaining Access to life-sustaining essentials such as food, water, and lodging
- Site Preparation Requirements Time, effort, and cost required to make facility ready
- Maintenance Degree of maintenance required to keep facility ready



Impacts of Risks on Economic Recovery

What are Economic Risks?

- Hurricanes
 - Utility failure
 - Transportation infrastructure damage
 - Increased fuel costs
- Drought and excessive heat
 - Agricultural losses
- Coastal erosion
 - Loss of tourism revenue

Economic and Financial Impacts of Disasters

- Post event financial resource gaps reduce future growth
- Can lower credit rating
- Increase interest rates on external borrowing
- Dampen investment and reduce long term growth

Economic and Financial Impacts of Disasters

- Increase debt stocks
- Hampers investment in basic infrastructure
- Climatic hazards occur more frequently than geophysical hazards, therefore it is advantageous to adapt proactive measures
- Possible net declines in imports and exports, resulting in direct and indirect reductions in tax revenue

Economic and Financial Impacts of Disasters

- Positive impacts of disasters:
 - Post event investment can result in high levels of economic activity
 - Rehabilitation and reconstruction provide opportunities for repairs that may have been neglected

Cost of Disasters

- Estimated insured losses from disasters worldwide:
 - > 2010: \$110 billion
 - > 2009: \$22 billion
 - > 2008: **\$44 billion**



Post Event Recovery

- Natural disasters have impacted more than 30% of all small businesses in the country
- Survival rate for companies without a disaster recovery plan is less than 10%
- Around 70% of all successful attacks on computer networks are carried out by employees and insiders

Hurricane Ike Economic Impacts

- 20% of the nation's oil refining capacity shut down
- UTMB John Sealy Hospital lost approximately \$160 million in revenue from lack of capacity due to flood damage
- Over \$300 million in losses to the seafood industry
- 11,000 + filed unemployment insurance claims with the Texas Workforce Commission

Reducing Economic Impacts

- Work with local chambers of commerce on business continuity efforts
- Engage in long term community recovery planning
- Participate in revitalization programs that may include grant funding
- Encourage local businesses to seek disaster recovery assistance from the Small Business Administration
- Provide for sustainable redevelopment opportunities
- Take advantage of tax incentives available through the Department of Energy

Guest Speaker Mr. Jeff Sjostrom - Galveston Economic Development Partnership



GALVESTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Supporting business and community



Impacts of Risks on Public Health and Safety, Government, and the Environment

Potential Impacts

Flood

- Significant threat to life and property, and public health concerns after the fact
- Water inundated homes, businesses, and infrastructure
- Loss of livestock and agriculture
- Vector control issues and the spread of disease



Potential Impacts

- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
 - Potentially devastating storm surge and wind damage
 - Heavy debris generation
 - Loss of essential utilities and associated infrastructure
 - Temporary suspension of essential government services



Importance of Debris Management Planning

- 40–50 percent of all disaster-related costs are associated with debris management
- Impacts landfills in region
- Wear and tear on roads and bridges
- Imminent threat to public health and safety
- Cleanup and documentation put additional strain on staff
- Staff unfamiliar with large-scale debris operations
- Federal regulations that must be followed:
 - 44 CFR, 36 CFR
 - FEMA 325, PA Pilot Program



Debris Management Planning Activities

- Identification of roles and responsibilities
- Development of debris estimates
- Debris management site identification
- Review of statutory and legal requirements
- Plan development and finalization

Primary responsibility for debris management planning lies with the local jurisdiction

Importance of Emergency Management

Emergency management seeks to promote safer, less vulnerable communities with the capacity to cope with hazards and disasters



Principles of Emergency Management

- Comprehensive
 - All hazards, all phases, all impacts all stakeholders
- Progressive
 - Anticipate future disasters and mitigate
- Risk Driven
 - Hazard identification, risk analysis, impact analysis

Integrated

 Ensure unity throughout all levels of community, vertical and horizontal

Principles of Emergency Management

Collaborative

- Encourage trust and advocate on team atmosphere, build consensus and communication
- Coordinated
 - Synchronized activities of all stakeholders
- Flexible
 - Adaptive, improvise, creative and innovative solutions to solve problems
- Professional
 - Both art and science, knowledge learning, education, public stewardship

Types of Emergency Management Planning

- Emergency operations
- Warning and notification
- Communications
- Shelter and mass care
- Radiological protection
- Evacuation
- Firefighting
- Mass care

Types of Emergency Management Planning

- Law enforcement
- Health and medical services
- Emergency public information
- Recovery
- Public works and engineering
- Utilities
- Resource management
- Direction and control

Types of Emergency Management Planning

- Human services
- Hazard mitigation
- Hazardous materials and oil spill response
- Search and rescue
- Transportation
- Volunteer and donations management
- Legal
- Terrorist incident response

After Action Reports

- An after action report presents observations and recommendations based on data collection and analysis following an exercise or disaster event
 - Record observations
 - Assess against defined plans and procedures
 - Determine the root cause of any deviations from plans and procedures
 - Identify the consequences of the variation in actions
 - Document the lesson learned
 - Make recommendations for improvement

Understanding the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. It is intended to:
 - Be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents, hazards, and impacts, regardless of size, location or complexity.
 - Improve coordination and cooperation between public and private entities in a variety of incident management activities.
 - Provide a common standard for overall incident management

Preparedness Resources and Programs

- www.ready.gov
- www.citizencorps.gov
- www.fema.gov
- www.sba.gov
- www.h-gac.com
- www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem



Get Involved - Citizen Corps

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

Provides training in disaster preparedness, basic disaster medical operations, fire safety, light search and rescue, and other essential topics enabling trainees to take a more active role in personal and public safety.



Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

 Coordinates the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses and other health professionals who are willing to volunteer during emergency situations and assist with public health matters.



Get Involved – Citizen Corps

Fire Corps

 Actively involves citizens in public education, training, and volunteer efforts focused on fire prevention and safety.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

 Enhances the capabilities of state and local law enforcement by utilizing volunteers.

Neighborhood Watch

 Works to provide information, training and resources to citizens and law enforcement agencies throughout the country.







Training Recommendations

Available at www.training.fema.gov

- IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS 200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS 235 Emergency Planning
- IS 700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS 800 National Response Framework, An Introduction



Guest Speaker Francisco Sanchez – Harris County OHSEM





Risk Mitigation Opportunities

Need for Risk Mitigation

Human Built Risks

- 52% percent of the United States' population resides within 50 miles of the U.S. coast
- Most building codes and ordinances only minimally restrict coastal construction
- Category 5 building standards and properly elevated structures are not always encouraged
- Proximity to floodplain poses serious risks to life and property



Hazard Mitigation Planning

- Resource Organization: Identify and organize interested members of the community and subject matter experts.
- Risk Assessment: Identify characteristics and potential consequences of hazards. Understanding how much of the community can be affected by hazards and the impacts to community assets is paramount.
- Plan Development: Determine priorities based on risks posed by hazards and explore ways to minimize undesired effects.
- Plan Implementation and Monitoring: Implementation can include initiation of mitigation projects to changes in everyday organizational operations. Monitor, evaluate, and update the plan on a consistent basis.



Mitigation Grant Programs

FEMA

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC)
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)

<u>HUD</u>

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Mitigation Opportunities

- Infrastructure upgrades water, sewer, drainage
- Floodwater retention use of public space
- Housing buyouts and elevations
- Flood proofing
- Electrical power and transmission techniques

Pre-Disaster Preparation

- Proper pre-disaster documentation = increased likelihood of post-disaster funding
 - <u>Document and photograph</u> condition of hazard-prone structures, including buildings, roads, bridges, etc.
 - Maintain historical damage records
 - Maintain maintenance report history
 - Include prioritized potential mitigation projects in Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Identify vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with special needs and low to moderate income populations

Pre-Disaster Preparation

Standards for Development

- Update building codes in high-risk areas
 - Elevated Structures
 - Increased rigidity standards
- Encourage responsible development
 - Demonstrate awareness and effective use of drainage and retention areas (holding water vs. immediate transport)
 - Ensure hazard studies are incorporated into local zoning ordinances

Residential Mitigation

- Home Elevations
- Property Acquisition
- Flood proofing
- Public outreach and prevention/protection campaigns
 - Where are planned "safe" facilities
 - Hazards kit
 - Create awareness now, not only in time of need

Infrastructure Mitigation

- Identify critical facilities for all systems (roadways, wastewater, sewer, drainage, electrical, etc.)
- Determine what equipment would be needed for varying levels of damage
 - Generators for critical lift stations
 - Signage for evacuation
 - Diesel/natural gas for maintaining equipment

Guest Speaker Chuck Wemple – Houston-Galveston Area Council



Thank You - Questions?



Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects

Amy Boyers, Houston-Galveston Area Council



H-GAC Foresight Panel on **Environmental Effects**

Dr. Philip Bedient

Herman and George R. Brown Professor of Civil Engineering **Rice University**

Dr. Peter Bishop

Director, Transportation Planning Houston-Galveston Area Council

Dr. Robert Harriss

President and CEO Houston Advanced Research Center

Dr. Neal Lane

Malcolm Gillis University Professor & **Professor of Physics** Senior Fellow, Baker Institute **Rice University**

Consultant Professor of Future Studies University of Houston Mike Talbott, P.E. Director, Harris County Flood Control District **Alan Clark** Harris County Public Infrastructure Department

Dr. Arnold Vedlitz

Dr. Barry Lefer

University of Houston

Dr. Eugene Leong

Professor, Bob Bullock Chair in Government and Public Policy Director of the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy Texas A&M University

Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences

Report available for download: http://www.h-gac.com/go/EnvironmentalEffects

Future Climate Scenario



- Temperature rise of 2-7° F
- Sea level rise of 2-5 feet
- Longer dry periods but heavier rainfall events
- Increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms

Impacts

Human



Natural



Built



5' Sea Level Rise **Inundation from**





Recommendations



2009 Capstone Project







- Texas A&M University Bush School of Government and Public Service
- Examine public infrastructure's resiliency
 - Climate change
 - Adaptation
- Examine responsiveness to Foresight Panel report

Recommendations







- Rebrand how climate change is perceived
- Focus on constituent education
- Offer workshops and other support opportunities to involve and educate stakeholders
 - Risk and vulnerability assessments

Thank you

Amy Boyers Sr. Environmental Planner Houston-Galveston Area Council 713-993-2441 amy.boyers@h-gac.com

Report available for download: http://www.h-gac.com/go/EnvironmentalEffects

Managing Risks and Uncertainties in an Era of Increasing Catastrophes

Robert Harriss Houston Advanced Research Center <u>www.harc.edu</u> <u>www.texasclimatenews.org</u>

Houston-Galveston Area Council March 29, 2011



Worldwide Evolution of Catastrophe *Insured* Losses, 1970-2008



(Property and business interruption (BI); in U.S.\$ billon indexed to 2007, except 2008 which is current) Sources: Kunreuther and Michel-Kerjan, *At War with the Weather* (2009) - data from Swiss Re and Insurance Information Institute

The 25 Most Costly Catastrophe Insurance Losses, 1970-2008 (17 were in the US; 12 of these since 2001)

\$ Billion	Event	Victims (Dead or missing)	Year	Area of Primary Damage
46.3	Hurricane Katrina *	1,836	2005	Gulf of Mexico
35.5	9/11 Attacks	3,025	2001	East Coast (NYC, Arlington, Va.)
23.7	Hurricane Andrew	43	1992	Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas
19.6	Northridge Earthquake	61	1994	California
16.0	Hurricane Ike *	348	2008	Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean
14.1	Hurricane Ivan *	124	2004	Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Bahamas
13.3	Hurricane Wilma 🔸	35	2005	Yucatan, Florida, Caribbean
10.7	Hurricane Rita *	34	2005	Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Cuba, Bahamas
8.8	Hurricane Charley *	24	2004	Caribbean, Cuba, Florida
8.6	Typhoon Mireille	51	1991	Japan
7.6	Hurricane Hugo	71	1989	Caribbean, Atlantic Coast
7.4	Winterstorm Daria	95	1990	France, UK, et al.
7.2	Winterstorm Lothar	110	1999	France, Switzerland, et al.
6.1	Winterstorm Kyrill	54	2007	Germany, UK, NL, France
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5.0	Typhoon Bart	26	1999	Japan
5.0	Hurricane Gustav *		2008	Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean
4.5	Hurricane Georges	600	1998	Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean
4.2	Tropical Storm Alison *	41	2001	Houston area
4.2	Hurricane Jeanne *	3,034	2004	Caribbean, Florida
3.9	Typhoon Songda	45	2004	Japan, South Korea
3.6	Thunderstorms *	45	2003	USA
3.5	Hurricane Floyd	70	1999	Bahamas, Columbia, U.S. Atlantic coast



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Climate Variability and Extremes





Prepared by the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University.

http://hobbycenter.rice.edu

What's Happening?

We expect a continuing increase of population in the Houston-Galveston area.

We expect an increase in property values at risk.

We expect Upper Texas Coast critical national energy infrastructure and resources to be at risk.

Current scientific evidence cannot determine if we are experiencing an enhanced hurricane cycle <u>or</u> a climate-driven trend that will result in sustained increases in extreme weather events. In either case reducing risks and uncertainties related to extreme hazards are a good investment.



Ike 20 miles to left - 20 mph stronger



This was NHC Forecast 48H before land fall



H-GAC Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects









Port of Freeport



5 Feet of Sea Level Rise



First Steps to a Safer Houston-Galveston Region

- Community leaders should seriously consider the recommendations of the H-GAC Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects .
- Encourage community organizations to discuss and promote mitigation and adaptation actions that lead to a more disaster resistant and resilient Houston-Galveston region.
- Encourage a public-private collaboration on supporting and implementing both structural and non-structural measures that will mitigate impacts of severe weather and climate events on our communities and ecosystems.

Summary

The Facts:

Data suggests an era of "large-scale risks"; huge and still growing concentration of value in high-risk areas; and the possibility of more devastating disasters in the future.

The Reality:

We need guiding principles and actions that will incentivize investments in loss-reduction measures.

Examples include coastal protection (e.g., Ike Dike), protection of strategic ecosystem resilience and restricting development from high risk areas, and the voluntary relocation of vulnerable populations from high risk locations.

Managing Risks and Uncertainties in an Era of Increasing Catastrophes

Robert Harriss Houston Advanced Research Center <u>www.harc.edu</u> <u>www.texasclimatenews.org</u>

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Communications & Community Preparedness as Mitigation



County Judge Ed Emmett director

Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards and their effects.



County Judge Ed Emmett

Harris County

- •1777 square miles
- 4 million people (larger than 24 states)
- •2nd largest port based on exports
- •3rd largest county in U.S. by population
- •34 cities
- •54 fire departments
- •Over 125 law enforcement agencies
- •22 major watershed's
- •Over 1200 MUDs & PUDs
- •8800 miles of pipeline
- •35 presidential declarations of disaster



County Judge Ed Emmett director

The Region Ranks #1 -

- •U.S. manufacturing cities
- Top Texas tourist destination
- •Healthiest housing market
- Largest IT service economy
- Highest population growth in the nation



County Judge Ed Emmett director

Key Industries

- Information Technology
- Nanotechnology
- •Energy
- Aerospace
- •Health Care





Potential Hazards

- Hurri<mark>cane</mark>
- Tornado
- Flood/Flash Flood
- Winter Storm
- Power Outage
- Water Shortage
- Wildfire
- Mass Fatality
- HazMat or Chemical
- Terrorist Act
- Civil Disturbance

- Earthquake
- Oil Spill
- Economic Loss
- Communications
- Urban Fire
- Building Collapse
- Subsidence
- Utility Outages
- Drought
- Disease
- Rail Accident



2010 in numbers





 $\frac{\textbf{County Judge Ed Emmett}}{\text{d i r e c t o r}}$

Preparedness

Harris County Citizen Corps:

Community Emergency Response Teams

Volunteers in Police Service

Medical Reserve Corps

USA on Watch

Fire Corps



COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT

The Need to be Ready

In 95% of all emergencies,

Bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue



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First Responders Per Capita

1 firefighter for every 280 people

1 million firefighters – 750,00 volunteer

1 sworn officer for every 385 people

436,000 sworn law enforcement personnel

291,00 sworn sheriff's office personnel

1 EMT/paramedic for every 325 people

860,000 all levels of pre-hospital services: Basic EMT, intermediate EMT, paramedic



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Citizen Corps Mission

Every American can participate through:

- **<u>Personal responsibility:</u>** preparedness plans and disaster supplies kits – home health and safety practices- disaster mitigation measures – crime prevention and reporting
- **Training:** emergency preparedness response capabilities first aid fire suppression search and rescue procedures public health and safety
- Volunteer service: law enforcement fire emergency medical services community public health emergency management disaster relief & community safety organizations



DIRECTOR

Harris County Citizen Corps



srazoria/Chambers/Galveston/Harris County Hurricane Evacuation Map &



County Judge Ed Emmett

Citizen Corps Community Benefits

- Greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control
- Builds community pride, unity and patriotism
- Promotes risk reduction, mitigation, and preparedness
 practices
- Prepares us all for helping others in a crisis



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Citizen Corps Community Benefits

Benefits for First Responders:

•Year round support through volunteer programs

 Reduces burden on first responder services by promoting mitigation and preparedness measures

•Creates well trained, better informed, and better prepared citizens to take care of themselves and others during times of crisis – allowing first responders to address the most crucial needs



 $\frac{\textbf{County Judge Ed Emmett}}{\text{director}}$

Additional CERT Training Opportunities

- Shelter management
- Community relations
- Donations management
- Functional and needs concerns
- Debris removal
- Utilities control
- Advanced first aid
- Automated External Defibrillator use
- •CPR Skills



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Course Preview

- The Scope of this course includes:
- Fire safety.
- Disaster medical operations.
- Light search and rescue.
- Cert organization.
- Disaster psychology.
- CERTS and terrorism.
- Review & CERT Drill.



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Public Education & Outreach

More than 184 outreach events

Over 100 tours of the EOC

297 Media inquiries

25,000 Ready DVDs

144,000 disaster preparedness wheels

Total: 938 Communications Products



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Communications

Goal:

To be the most timely and accurate source of information

Audiences:

Decision makers, stakeholders & the public



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Joint Information Center



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facebook.com/DisasterPIO twitter.com/DisasterPIO



County Judge Ed Emmett d i r e c t o r

The Role of Hazard Mitigation in Sustainable Communities Regional

Planning



Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC Region







Recent Experience with Natural Disasters

Aftermath of Hurricane Ike

Increased Awareness of Vulnerability & Mitigation

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning

Thoughts on Housing

Flooding



Flooding




Wildfire Threat – Wildland Urban Interface







Ike Approaches



Hurricane Ike-Evacuation Area

Households	
No.	Pop
228K	606K
Businesses	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
>15K	256K
Special Needs	100
Households	<u>No.</u>
w/out Cars	14K
Disabled Individuals	96K



Pre-Landfall





Pre-Landfall



Pre-Landfall



Hurricane Ike- NOAA SLOSH Model (Estimated Storm Surge)



Over 2 Million without Power

CenterPoint Energy Outage and Restoration Map



Roads Impassable







Destruction







Residents and Workers Displaced



Focused on Immediate Needs

















	<u>No.</u>	Pop
Households	81K	205k
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
Businesses	>5K	99k
		Impr
Property*	Parcels 199	Value
Residential	60K	\$6.9E
Commercial	5K	\$3.7E
Other	32K	\$191M



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	No.	<u>Jobs</u>
Businesses	>5K	99K
		Impr.
Property*	Parcels Parcels	Value
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		Impr
Property*	Parcels	Value
Residential	60K	\$6.9E
Commercial	5K	\$3.7E
Other	32K	\$191N

Infrastructure	No.
Schools (K-12)	42
Sub-Stations	41



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Residential	60K	\$6.9B
Commercial	5K	\$3.7B
Other	32K	\$191M

Infrastructure	<u>No.</u>
Schools (K-12)	42
Sub-Stations	41
Waste Water Treatment Plants	131



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Hospitals	13



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Infrastructure	<u>No.</u>
Schools (K-12)	42
Sub-Stations	41
Waste Water Treatment Plants	131
Hospitals	13
Universities	4



H-GAC Assistance

Debris removal contracts

- Workforce services
- **Economic development grants**
- **HMGP Grant Eligibility**
- Administration of loan programs
- Social Services Block Grants
- Allocation of \$2 billion CDBG DR

Chronic Impacts – Seafood & Ecotourism

*** chron** Hurricane Central: Ike

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE TRAVEL BLOGS JOBS

Recommend 11 Comments 4 Recommend

ELISA TODAY

lke's salty floods leach ranches of life

Crops and cattle suffer where storm surge left barren fields

By CINDY HORSWELL Copyright 2009 Houston Chroniole March 8, 2009, 1:14AM



Six miles from the Gulf, dead crabs lie on the saltcrusted soil. They were left behind when the water receded.

WINNIE — The two brothers are the : family to oversee one of the state's o 1819.

But Steven and Bill White could neve 60,000-acre spread in Chambers Co does, today.

Patches of salt encrust the soil where planted this month. Most of the pastu 2,500 head of cattle, is so dead that t when they walk across It.

"Look at that," said Bill White, squatti crabs. Further proof, he noted, that fo like's surge, their ranch became part

The water has receded eight miles ba behind a saity residue that continues



Traval

Ike destroys wildlife 'truck stop'

Updated W22/2008 12:59 FM | Comments 44 | Recommend 34

Home

Nime



By Marisol Bello, USA TODAY

Money

Sports

Life

Tech

ANAHUAC, Texas — For hundreds of species of migratory birds h Anahusc National Wildlife Refuge is the last place they can fill up of the 600-mile trek across the Gulf of Mexico.

They may not be able to do that this year, after Hurricane like decir watchers around the country for the array of migratory and coasta

"It's like a truck stop," says Matt Whitbeck, the refuge's wildlife biol stop will be closed. That's what I'm afraid of."

🗶 chron | Hurricane Central: Ike

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE TRAVEL BLOGS JOBS HOMES

Recommend 44 Comments 23 Recommend

Vietnamese crabbers starting over — again

Oak Island residents whose lives were devastated by lke are no strangers to hardship

By CINDY HORSWELL Copyright 2008 Houston Chronicle Nov. 15, 2008, 11:08PM

1 2 3



Lam Huynh lies down empty crab traps to the back of his fishing boat on Trinity Bay earlier this month. Huynt's business was devastated by Hurricane like.

OAK ISLAND — What little is left of Lam Huynh's Bay can no longer hold back the chilly winds, pour deluge of mosquitoes.

The Vietnamese fisherman, his wife and sons, age now forced to sleep in tents. They cook their food bath water over the red glow of a small propane d

Worn down by more than two months of a rugged existence. Huynh's wife cried on a recent day as h trudged through mud, splintered wood, rusty nails used to be their peaceful fishing community in Ch.

Hurricane like devastated Oak Island on Sept. 13, nothing inhabitable, where the Huynhs and 25 oth families once eked out a living catching grabs from bay.

Not only are their homes gone, but so are most of





Wildlife refuges, state parks slammed by lke

By CINDY HORSWELL Copyright 2008 Houston Chronicle 12, 2008, 11:19PM



Parts of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge remain submerced weeks after Hurricane like made landfall It may take several years and more than damage Hurricane like did to the state pa refuges along the Guil Coast that once a million tourists a year.

The storm eroded beaches, washed awa destroyed wildlife habitats in the three reparks between Sabine Pass and Galvest

Sea Rim State Park and Galveston State attracted 250,000 tourists a year, suffere Ironically, Sea Rim had been on the verd being closed for three years to make \$70 after Hurricane Rita.

Now, Texas Parks and Wildlife's regional expects it to take at least three to five ve

After Rita, we still had a park left at Se This time we don't. Ike has destroyed ev



Chronic Impacts – Seafood & Ecotourism

*** chron** | Houston & Texas News

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE TRAVEL BLOGS JOBS HOMES CARS CLAS



6 Recommend Recommend

The state of the bay

Oysters may be the hardest-working creatures in the water, filters for an ocean's lifeblood. And their massive loss from lke threatens the entire ecosystem.

By SHANNON TOMPKINS HOUSTON CHRONICLE Aug. 24, 2009, 12:49AM



Javier Zendejas works aboard Jen's Seafood's oyster boet, Miss Britney, on a reef in Galveston's East Bay, where 80 percent of the cysters ile dead, smothered by the blanket of sediment Hurricane like weshed in. Galveston Bay's oysters, crucial to the health of Texas' largest estuary ecosystem and the \$675 million-a-year recreational and commercial fishing industry it supports, have survived more than century of human indignities, including avaricious gnawing by shi diredgers, burtal under spoil from channel dredging and drastic changes in the bay's hydrology.

But many of the remaining patches of the bay's still-vibrant ovstell reefs couldn't survive v September.

As Hurricane like's win Peninsula and Galvesi soli and vegetation cothe bay.

This mix of soil, sand, floor, carpeting much (

Approximately 60 perc



Challenges with Economic Recovery

Local Governments

- Tight Budgets and tough decisions
- Economically Vulnerable
- Infrastructure needs
- Potential loss of major employers
- Displaced citizens & workers

Long Term Recovery

STATE OF TEXAS

CHAMBERS COUNTY

Long-Term Commun Recovery F

a place, a destination, a state of mind November 2008

A REAL CONTRACT

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PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMEN

Bolivar

February 2010

Governor Rick Perry Judge Robert Eckels Brian Newby



Sustainable Communities Regional Planning



- Inclusive
- Representative
- Comprehensive
- Integrated
- Weaves community fabric
- Uniquely linked to natural disasters & hazard mitigation





STORM SURGE

WATER THIS HIGH Have a Plan, Know Your Plan

INFORMATION

813-272-6900













GAO

January 2010

Janua

Francis X. Analyst in

Septembe

CRS Prepar

GM

Natural Disaster Housing Reconstruction Plan



As required by HB2450, 81st Legislative Session Submitted by the Natural Disaster Housing Reconstruction Advisory Committee November 30th, 2010

e Viable Disaster ase Study of the tive Housing Program Ronnenter for: ent of Housing and Urban Development Policy Development & Research nergency Management Agency ssistance Directorate

Housing Pilot Program
























Local Officials for Coastal Co

Design Considerations, Regulato Best Practices for Coastal Comm

FEMA P-762 / February 2009



FEMA

Home Builder's Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones

Technical Fact Sheet Series FEMA P-737 / September 2008



Federal Emergency Management Agency U.S. Department of Homeland Security 500 C Street, Southwest Washington, DC 20472

ards and

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for

Mitigation Plays A Key Role



Questions?





Houston-Galveston Area Council