

## Disaster Resources – Hurricane Ike



United Way  
of Brazoria County

Hurricane Recovery as of **September 17, 2008**

### **Where to go for answers:**

United Way of Brazoria County

Office open 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs.; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Fri.

800-971-6677 or 979-849-9402

website: [www.uwbc.org](http://www.uwbc.org)

### **FEMA**

Congressman Nick Lampson's office will offer mobile telephone and internet facilities for the purpose of FEMA registration.

Date: Starting Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: American Legion Post 490, 11702 Galveston Rd (State Hwy 3), Houston, TX 77034 (across from Ellington Field)

Congressional caseworkers will be on hand to help constituents who have been affected by Hurricane Ike. Please bring the following items:

Social Security Number

Description of losses caused by disaster

Insurance information

Directions to damaged property

A telephone number where you can be contacted.

If you have any questions, please call Congressman Lampson's Stafford office at 281-240-3700.

### How to apply for assistance

Residents and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the speech and hearing impaired. The toll-free numbers are available 24 hours per day.

Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.

### Transitional housing assistance

FEMA has activated its transitional sheltering initiative to allow eligible Ike evacuees from Texas, who cannot return to their homes, to stay in hotels or motels until it is safe

for them to go home. FEMA will pay for the lodging directly to the hotels and motels. A listing of participating hotels is available online at [www.FEMAEvacHotels.com](http://www.FEMAEvacHotels.com). If an individual is staying at a hotel that does not participate in the program they are asked to hold their receipts and FEMA will assist them *FEMA press release, September 15, 2008*

To ensure reimbursement evacuees first need to apply for federal assistance through FEMA either online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling the FEMA toll-free call centers at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), TTY 1-800-462-7585. Eligible evacuees must fit the following criteria:

1. FEMA must be able to verify the identity of the evacuee;
2. The primary residence of the evacuee must be in one of the counties that has been designated a disaster area; and
3. The primary residence is inaccessible or unlivable due to damage or lack of power.

This assistance is intended to provide a more appropriate extended sheltering environment to evacuees who cannot return home because their neighborhoods are inaccessible or because their homes are unlivable due to damage or lack of power. The initial period of assistance is from September 14, 2008 to October 14, 2008. This program will not reimburse for previously incurred hotel expenses. Applicants are responsible for their own meals and for any lodging costs above the authorized allowance.

Because of the high number of calls FEMA is receiving, applicants should expect long wait times and consider calling during non-peak hours. The hotline is open 24 hours. Applicants are strongly encouraged to register online if at all possible. Home inspections do not need to be completed before applying. *FEMA September 15<sup>th</sup> press release*

### Grants

Home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. (Source: FEMA funded and administered).

Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs (Source: FEMA funded at 75 percent of total eligible costs; 25 percent funded by the state).

### Unemployment

Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals (Source: FEMA funded; state administered).

### Loans

Low interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including

renter losses. Loans available up to \$1.5 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration).

Loans up to \$2 million for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$2 million. (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration).

Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture operators to recover production and property losses, excluding primary residence (Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture).

### **Red Cross Shelters**

For current shelter list information go to [www.houstonredcross.org](http://www.houstonredcross.org) or call 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Because of the gas situation, it is highly recommended that individuals call to confirm occupancy at the shelters before traveling to the destinations.

People coming to Red Cross shelters should bring: pillows and bedding; diapers and formula for your children; prescription medicines; toiletries; food to meet any special dietary needs. These shelters cannot accommodate pets.

#### *Red Cross shelters as of 9/16/2008*

First Assembly Church  
601 S. Market Street, Brazoria

Frontier Baptist Church  
3133 N. Valderas, Angleton

#### **Additional Red Cross shelters:**

Sugarland First United Methodist Church, 431 Eldridge, Sugarland  
Family of Faith, 1671 FM 529, Houston  
Lindale Assembly of God, 504 Caplin, Houston  
Richey Street Baptist Church, 1010 S. Richey, Pasadena  
Family Faith Church, 2407 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville  
Johnson Coliseum, San Houston State University, 1964 Bobby K, Marks, Huntsville  
Huntsville High School, 650 FM 2821 E., Huntsville  
Winnie Stowell Community Center, 202 S. Park, Winnie  
Christbridge Fellowship Church, 29510 TX 249 Business, Tomball  
American Legion Hall, 1704 S. Main, Anahuac  
Peace Lutheran Church, 6435 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena  
Wooster Baptist Church, 7007 Bayway Drive, Baytown  
First Baptist Church of Dayton, 202 East Houston, Dayton

## **Points of Distribution (PODS)**

Points of distribution for water and ice have been set up at the following locations.  
Available during the day while supplies last.

Kroger, Clute

Angleton Recreation Center

West Brazos Junior High, Brazoria

Berry Miller School, Pearland

## **Meals**

The Salvation Army at 1618 N. Avenue J is serving breakfast at 7 a.m., lunch at 1 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m.

## **Veterans Services**

The Veterans Service Office provides information to all veterans and their families about the benefits to which they are entitled. Call (979) 864-1287 for more information.

## **American Legion Emergency Grants**

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund is set up to aid Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) members and their families during a disaster to provide immediate assistance for food, clothing and shelter. The Departments of Louisiana and Texas are currently experiencing such a situation. To be eligible, Legion and SAL members must be current on their membership and in an area which was mandatorily evacuated by a government agency.

They have activated a process where they can take grant applications directly over the phone (800-588-3365) for those needing immediate assistance (up to \$500), and are residing in a county or parish that was mandatorily evacuated. Once the application is called in they will mail the check back to the member directly.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

1. Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members.
2. Those residing in counties or parishes on mandatory evacuation and/or still evacuated and in need of immediate funds, we will issue checks right away up to \$500.00. These checks will be mailed first class (3 – 5 business days) to the address you provide to the Customer Service Representative via the toll-free number. If at a later time period you determine that additional funds are needed, you may re-apply for more funds (up to \$1,500 total), utilizing the proper procedures through the Department Headquarters and providing copies of receipts showing out-of-pocket expenses.
3. NEF funds are not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.)
4. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application



## **Prescription Assistance Programs**

### **EPAP – Ike Activation**

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced up to \$2 million in individual assistance for victims of Hurricane Ike from affected counties in Texas, through a new Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The program provides a way for pharmacies to process claims for prescription medications and certain durable medical equipment items for individuals who do not have any form of health insurance policy and who are from the Texas emergency area.

Claims for individuals with private insurance, such as employer sponsors coverage or an individual health policy, are not eligible for payment under the EPAP. Nor are claims for individuals with public insurance, such as Medicare or Medicaid.

EPAP covers one-time, 30-day supplies of medication and certain medical equipment such as canes, walkers, wheelchairs and diabetic supplies.

With a written prescription, eligible individuals may receive assistance for essential pharmaceutical and durable medical equipment lost as a direct result of Ike. The supply can be used to treat an acute condition and to replace maintenance prescription drugs or medical equipment.

To assist in the determination of eligibility, pharmacies must check at the point of sale for other forms of health insurance coverage. Only claims with a date of service between September 12 and September 22, 2008 are eligible for processing under the EPAP Ike Activation at this time.

Eligible individuals must have a new prescription from a licensed health care practitioner, a current prescription bottle, a prescription phoned in by a licensed health practitioner, or proof of an existing prescription in order to receive a prescription fill and/ or certain medical equipment.

Pharmacies must dispense the generic form of medication unless otherwise indicated as brand medically necessary by the licensed health care practitioner.

The HHS website is featuring a link to public health and safety information specifically related to hurricanes at [www.hhs.gov/hurricane](http://www.hhs.gov/hurricane). The EPAP-Ike Activation can be accessed at [www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/Downloads/EPAP\\_PublicComm\\_Ike.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/Downloads/EPAP_PublicComm_Ike.pdf).

## **Food Stamps**

Texas will be providing emergency food stamps to Hurricane Ike victims who qualify and will automatically replace benefits for programs participants in the storm's path.

If you already get food stamps:

- HHSC will replace some of your September food stamps

- You do not need to come to the HHSC office or call
- HHSC will put the new food stamps amount on your Lone Star Card later this week

If you don't already receive food stamps:

- You might be receive emergency help if you lost income this month due to the storm
- You can apply by going to one of the following HHS offices by October 17  
794 S. Brazosport Blvd., Clute (979)265-1291  
3403 Mustang Road, Alvin (281)331-0790  
*Many benefits offices in areas heavily impacted by Hurricane Ike are closed due to power outages. Please call to make sure the office is open before you go.*
- You will need to show proof of you identify and home address, such as a drivers license.
- You will need to answer questions about your family's income and resources. A family of 4 earning up to \$2,915 this month might be able to get help.
- Those can get food stamps will get 2 months of benefits. If you can give more proof of income and resources, you might get benefits for a longer period.

To check the balance on your Lone Star Card call the Help Desk at 1-800-777-7328.

### **Insurance**

For questions about insurance, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), has set up a toll-free Consumer Help Line, 1-800-252-3439, to assist individuals with insurance questions. Extended hours are being offered, operating Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. TDI has introduced a Hurricane Ike Consumer Resource Page on the website at [www.tdi.state.tx.us/consumer/storms/cpmhurrike.html](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/consumer/storms/cpmhurrike.html).

### **Financial Services and Consumer Advice**

Better Business Bureau	713-868-9500
Consumer Credit Counseling Service	713-923-2227

### **Consumer Complaints**

The Office of the Attorney General announced extended hours during the emergency for its Consumer Complaint Hotline, 800-252-8011. Consumers can call the hotline between the extended hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to report price gouging on necessities including groceries, clothing, medical supplies, lodging, repair work and fuel during and after such crisis. Complaints can be made online 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, on the OAG website at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov).

### **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers with Chain Saws, wheelbarrows, rakes, etc. – Many homes need clean up, especially those of the county's elderly residents. Individuals and groups are invited to email Gloria Luna at [gluna@uwbc.org](mailto:gluna@uwbc.org) or call her at (979) 849-9402 to discuss projects.

Volunteers to deliver food to homebound – There are a number of elderly, disabled and low-income individuals who are unable to get to food and water. Email Gloria Luna at [gluna@uwbc.org](mailto:gluna@uwbc.org) or call her at (979) 849-9402 for further information.