



Hurricane/Storm Resources

Updated 7/8/24


Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement

For updates, feedback, and questions please email: laura.cuellar@houstontx.gov

*****VERSION EN ESPAÑOL*****

POST-STORM Safety:

[Sign up for Alert Houston](#) - the City of Houston's official emergency notification system, providing information about current conditions, expected impacts, and tips for staying safe. AlertHouston provides timely and critical updates for people who reside in, work in, visit, or have loved ones in Houston.

- COH Office of Emergency Management:
 - <https://www.houstonoem.org/>
 - www.houstonoem.org/pages/recover
- Interact with our [flood tracker for real-time flood updates](#), live weather radar and storm surge threat
- Check our power outage tracker for [real-time updates across Texas counties](#)
- [CALL 311 to Report Street Hazards](#)
 - [Street Hazard Map](#)
- [Available Cooling Centers & Shelter Locations](#) - Harris County and others
 - [Cooling Centers in Houston](#)
-  [Beryl District C Resources](#) - Councilmember Abbie Kamin

Food Assistance:

If you need immediate food assistance, please click on our [Find Food Now map](#). We recommend you call each partner to verify hours of operation and to check the safety of road conditions before heading out.

Federal Assistance:

Houstonians seeking assistance should first report their damage to their insurance company. Then, fill out a Damage Assessment with the State of Texas using the [iSTAT tool](#).

To apply for assistance, go to: www.DisasterAssistance.gov, call 800-621-FEMA (3362) or use the [FEMA App](#). Click the link for more information about the [presidential disaster declaration](#).

- President Joe Biden has approved a major disaster declaration in the wake of severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding affecting the greater Houston area. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Harris,



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Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners **recover from the effects of the disaster.**

Residents who are uninsured or underinsured can register for assistance that may include funding to repair or replace their homes, temporary housing, access to low-interest loans or other programs to help them jumpstart their recovery. Visit disasterassistance.gov

- Individuals and families may be eligible to receive Serious Needs Assistance, which is a one-time \$750 payment per household for essential items like food, water, baby formula, breast feeding supplies, medication and other emergency supplies.
- Eligible survivors may also receive Displacement Assistance, which is money to help with housing needs if you cannot return to your home because of the disaster. The money can be used to stay in a hotel, with family and friends or other options while you look for a more permanent housing solution.

Insurance Claims - Thoroughly document the damage in your home by taking photos and videos. If you have insurance, you should file a claim with your insurance company immediately.

iSTAT Damage Report - Report damage to TX Division of Emergency Management iSTAT Form (allows city officials to track damage and bring needed resources into the area). Fill out the form here: <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/>

SBA Loans - The US Small Business Administration offers low-interest disaster loans to residents in major disaster areas. You do not need to own a business to apply. Apply here: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

Vulnerable Populations

- [The STEAR program](#) is a free registry for Texans of any age that need additional assistance during an emergency event due to access or functional needs or lack of transportation for evacuation. The STEAR registry assists local emergency planners and responders with information about the needs of individuals in their community
- [COH Youth Emergency Prep Guide](#)- The guide, developed for youth by youth, provides essential information to protect Houston's young residents during times of crisis.



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- **Free Meals for Young Children:** Children under the age of 6 who live in [56 delivery zip codes](#) are eligible for a Kids Meal Inc.'s free meals delivery program. Meals will also be provided for older siblings when school is out. [More info on how to apply can be found here](#) or by calling **713-695-5437** with any questions. The application is in English or Spanish.
- **Resources for Senior Citizens** [CLICK HERE for support](#) from Crowdsourc Rescue to:
 - transport vulnerable populations to a safe place
 - delivered food, water, and other needed supplies.

MENTAL HEALTH

- [Resource Guide for Traumatic Events](#)
- Mental Health America of Greater Houston:
<https://mhahouston.org/mental-health-resources/>
- City of Houston Youth Mental Health Guide:
<https://www.houstontx.gov/education/youth-engagement/youth-mental-health-guide.html>

Call	Text or Chat
The Harris Center Crisis Line: Dial: 713-970-7000, option 1 Toll free: 866-970-4770 Hearing Impaired: 800-799-4889 Relay Texas: 711	Emotional Support Text Line: Text SUPPORT to 832-479-2135 Using the text line is not a replacement for ongoing mental health treatment and is not able to assist in crisis situations. Text responders will provide basic support and community referral information. It is your decision to determine what to do with that information once it is provided.
The Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Dial: 800-273-8255 (800-273-TALK)	988 Suicide and Crisis LifeLine: Text 988 to 988
Suicide and Crisis LifeLine: Dial 988	Chat online: suicidepreventionlifeline.org



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Download The Harris Center App!



TheHarrisCenter.Org



iOS Apple – Mobile APP



Google Play – Mobile APP

VOLUNTEER OR DONATE

- Those wishing to make monetary donations are encouraged to use the [Greater Houston Disaster Alliance](#), a United Way organization
- **The Houston Food Bank** needs nonperishables such as peanut butter, canned proteins, protein bars and other things that don't require cooking. To register for volunteer work or to make a donation visit www.houstonfoodbank.org or call 713-547-8604.
- **Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston:** This agency administers programs ranging from Meals on Wheels to Animals, and offers refugee services and promotes interfaith and community partnerships. For future volunteer opportunities or to make a donation go to www.imggh.org, Instagram: @interfaithministries
- **Salvation Army:** Offers a variety of services from disaster relief to homeless shelters, food pantries, job training and rehab. www.Salvationarmyusa.org

Post-storm safety Tips (from COH ZIP)

Please follow these simple safety measures to prevent injury and further property loss.

Stay informed: Follow weather and emergency notifications updates.

Stay connected: Communicate with your family and friends frequently. Share your status and check in on others.

Avoid floodwaters: Do not walk, swim or drive through flooded areas.



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Be aware of trees and falling objects: Stay clear of standing under or near damaged trees, buildings, scaffolding, cranes, etc. If in doubt, do not approach.

Identify property damage/broken windows: Document and report any COH property damage. Secure the area and avoid all hazards.

Avoid power lines: Avoid downed power lines and report them to CenterPoint Energy.

Check vehicle safety: Check for any damage before driving — tires, windows, water intrusion, etc.

Generator safety: If using a generator, always keep it outside and away from windows.

Mental health: Seek support from family, friends or EAP if you're feeling overwhelmed.

Your health and safety always take priority. Following these safety measures will lead to a safer and faster recovery after the storm.

Articles from Houston Chronicle:

[Houston-area and Texas emergency phone numbers and contacts to know for Hurricane Beryl](#)

What do I do if my power is out?

In the Houston area, CenterPoint Energy owns the utility infrastructure and sells electricity to retail providers such as Reliant or Just Energy. During widespread power outages, CenterPoint provides updates to consumers, even though retail providers can also provide updates.

The Houston Chronicle's tracker has [real-time updates across Texas counties](#). CenterPoint's [online power outage tracker](#) also updates every five minutes and allows customers to sign up for alerts, but users have experienced some service interruptions with it.

While the power is out, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommends the following:

- Install battery-powered carbon monoxide detectors in central locations on every level of your home to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Use any generator, camp stove or charcoal grill outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment and electronics.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed, and use coolers with ice if necessary.

How long can food stay safe in my fridge when my power is out?



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Refrigerators will keep food safe for up to four hours, [according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#). People should keep the fridge door closed as much as possible and discard any perishable food after four hours without power.

The USDA also warned never to taste food to determine its safety and to evaluate each item separately.

A full freezer will hold a safe temperature for 48 hours, and for 24 hours if the freezer is half full and the door remains closed.

What do I do if a tree fell on my home?

The city of Houston's Office of Emergency Management encouraged residents needing downed trees removed after Thursday's storm to [submit a service request](#).

To submit a request, visit the City of Houston's [website](#).

Harris County residents are also encouraged to report damage through the state's [self-reporting damage assessment tool](#) to help determine if the state and federal government will issue disaster declarations.

How do I file an insurance claim on my property?

Document the damage to your property and surrounding areas with photos, video and notes. Then, reach out to your insurance company to process a claim. Go [here](#) for an explainer on what kind of damage insurance covers.