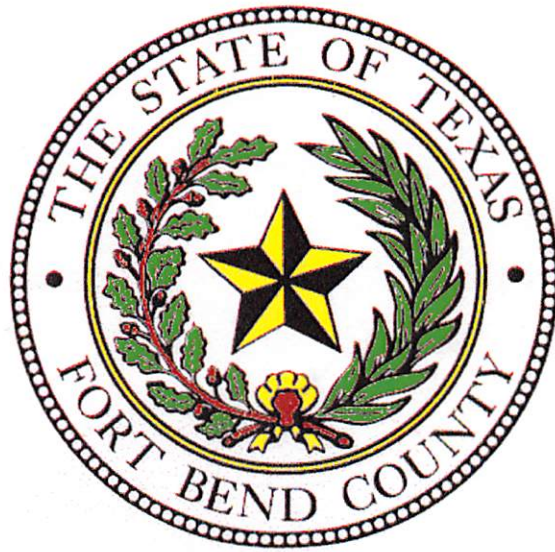


# **ANNEX E**



# **EVACUATION**

**Fort Bend County**

# APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

## Annex E

### Evacuation

This annex is hereby accepted for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Hebert  
County Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Troy Nehls  
Sheriff  
Fort Bend County

07/21/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff D. Braun  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
Fort Bend County

7/14/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## ANNEX E

### EVACUATION

#### I. AUTHORITY

See Basic Plan, section I.

#### II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to provide for the orderly and coordinated evacuation of all or any part of the population of Fort Bend County, including those communities that are Joint Resolution Jurisdictions, if it is determined that such action is the most effective means available for protecting the population from the effects of an emergency situation.

#### III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

##### A. Acronyms

EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
H-GAC	Houston-Galveston Area Council
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
MACC	Multi-Agency Coordination Committee
NRF	National Response Framework
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PIO	Public Information Officer
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UACC	Unified Area Coordination Committee

##### B. Definitions

1. **Evacuation.** The National Incident Management System (NIMS) defines evacuation as an organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
2. **Special Consideration Facilities.** Facilities that require unique attention because they house or serve populations that cannot take care of themselves during emergency situations and/or require unique support services. Such facilities include:
  - a. Schools and day care centers, where students require supervision to ensure their safety.
  - b. Hospitals and nursing homes, where patients need specialized health care personnel and equipment to maintain their health.
  - c. Correctional facilities, where offenders require security to keep them in custody.

3. **Access and Functional Needs Individuals.** Access and Functional Needs Populations are defined as those whose members may have additional needs before, during and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals with access and functional needs can include, but is not limited to: some senior citizens; people with disabilities; people who are non-English speakers; people who are culturally or geographically isolated; people with substance abuse issues; people who are homeless, marginally housed or shelter dependent; people with chronic medical conditions; children with special circumstances; people living in poverty; tourists and visitors; illegal residents; single-parent households; and people living in institutionalized settings.
4. **Multi Agency Coordination Committee (MACC).** Pursuant to NIMS and State of Texas Executive Order RP57, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) will establish a Unified Area Coordination Committee (UACC) during catastrophic incidents occurring in the H-GAC region. The UACC will establish a MACC. The purpose of the MACC is to support response activities across the region by centralizing resource requests and identifying resources that can be obtained locally.

#### IV. SITUATION & ASSUMPTIONS

##### A. Situation

1. There are a wide variety of emergency situations that might require an evacuation of portions of the local area.
  - a) Limited evacuation of specific geographic areas might be needed as a result of minor hazards or threats such as hazardous materials transportation accident, major fire, natural gas leak, or localized flash flooding.
  - b) Large-scale evacuation could be required in the event of a major hazards and threats such as hazardous materials spill, terrorist attack with chemical agent, extensive flooding, or a hurricane.
2. **Authority for Evacuations.** State law provides a County Judge or Mayor with the authority to order the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area within their respective jurisdictions. Hence, the Fort Bend County Judge and/or Mayor of a Joint Resolution Jurisdiction may order a mandatory evacuation of their respective jurisdiction upon issuing a local disaster declaration. The Fort Bend County Judge and/or Mayor may also take subsequent action to control re-entry, curtail movement, and deny building occupancy within a disaster area.

##### B. Assumptions

1. Most people at risk will evacuate when local officials recommend that they do so. A general estimate is that 80 percent of those at risk will comply when local officials recommend evacuation. The proportion of the population that will evacuate typically increases as a threat becomes more obvious to the public or more serious.
2. Some individuals will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat.

3. When there is sufficient warning of a significant threat, some individuals who are not at risk will evacuate.
4. Some evacuation planning for known vulnerable areas can and should be done in advance.
5. While some emergency situations are slow to develop, others occur without warning. Hence, there may be time for deliberate evacuation planning or an evacuation may have to be conducted with minimal preparation time. In the case of short or no-notice evacuations, there may be little time to obtain personnel and equipment from external sources to support evacuation operations.
6. The need to evacuate may become evident during the day or at night and there could be little control over the evacuation start time.
7. In most emergency situations, the majority of evacuees will seek shelter with relatives or friends or in commercial accommodations rather than in public shelter facilities.
8. Most evacuees will use their personal vehicles to evacuate; however transportation may need to be provided for evacuees without personal vehicles.
9. In the event of flooding (or high water), boats may be needed to assist in an evacuation.

## V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. General

1. Evacuation is one means of protecting the public from the effects of a hazard; protection is achieved by moving people away from the hazard. In planning for evacuation, the characteristics of the hazard and its magnitude, intensity, speed of onset, and anticipated duration are all significant factors. These will determine the number of people to be evacuated, the distance people must be moved to ensure their safety, the need for reception facilities, and the extent of traffic control and security required.
2. Fort Bend County and its Joint Resolution Jurisdictions must be prepared to conduct both small-scale and large-scale evacuations at all times of the day from known vulnerable areas and from unexpected incident locations. A General Evacuation Checklist, provided in Appendix 1, has been developed to guide the execution of evacuation operations.

### B. Evacuation Decisions

1. The Incident Commander or, for large-scale evacuations, the EOC shall assess the need for evacuation, plan evacuations, and coordinate support for the evacuation effort. Evacuation planning should resolve the following questions:
  - a. What areas or facilities are at risk and should be evacuated?
  - b. How will the public be advised of what to do?

- c. What do evacuees need to take with them?
- d. What travel routes should be used by evacuees?
- e. What transportation support is needed?
- f. What traffic control is needed?
- g. Does the anticipated duration of the evacuation make it necessary to activate shelter and mass care facilities?
- h. How will evacuated areas be secured?

Evacuations that must be conducted because of incidents that occur without warning may have to be planned quickly and carried out with only those resources that can be mobilized rapidly.

2. The decision to recommend evacuation of the populace in and around the area of an incident site rests with the Incident Commander managing that incident. In general, the Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Mayors of Joint Resolution Jurisdictions shall issue recommendations for large-scale evacuations.

### **C. Hazard Specific Evacuation Planning**

Hazard-specific evacuation planning information will be developed for certain known hazards and included as appendices to this or other annexes. These appendices will describe the potential impact areas for known hazards, the number of people in the threatened area, and any special facilities including critical infrastructures affected. Such appendices should also identify potential evacuation routes and, where appropriate, transportation pickup points or assembly areas.

1. Likely major evacuation areas, other than hazardous materials or hurricane risk areas, and the potential evacuation routes for those areas are described and depicted in Appendix 2 to this annex.
2. Hazardous materials risk areas and potential evacuation routes from those areas are described and depicted in the appendices to Annex Q, Hazardous Materials and Oil Spill Response.
3. Guidance for hurricane evacuation is provided in the Fort Bend County Traffic Management Plan and in Appendix 3 to this annex, which also describes hurricane risk areas and evacuation routes.

### **D. Transportation**

1. Individuals. It is anticipated that the primary means of evacuation for most individuals will be personal. However, some individuals do not own vehicles and others will need assistance in evacuating and provision must be made to provide transportation for these individuals.

2. **Special Consideration Facilities.** Public schools normally have their own transportation resources; some private schools and day care centers may also have some transportation assets. Most other special consideration facilities rely on commercial or contract transportation companies for their specialized transportation needs. Unfortunately, many of these providers cannot provide sufficient equipment to evacuate a sizeable facility on short notice. Hence, local government may be requested to assist in providing transportation.
3. Emergency transportation may be provided by school buses, city buses, rural transportation system buses, ambulances, and other vehicles. See Annex S, Transportation, for transportation guidance; see Annex M, Resource Management, for transportation resources. In the case of large-scale evacuations with advance warning, pickup points may be designated or a telephone bank established to receive and process requests for transportation.
4. Public information messages that emphasize the need for citizens to help their neighbors who lack transportation or need assistance can significantly reduce requirements for public transportation during an evacuation.

#### **E. Traffic Control**

1. Actual evacuation movement will be controlled by the law enforcement agencies involved.
2. If at all possible, two-way traffic will be maintained on all evacuation routes to allow continued access for emergency vehicles. However, for large-scale evacuations, one-way traffic may be utilized.
3. For large-scale evacuations where time permits, traffic control devices, such as signs and barricades, will be provided by the Fort Bend County Road and Bridge Department, TxDOT, and Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Public Works Departments upon request.
4. Law enforcement will request wrecker services needed to clear disabled vehicles from evacuation routes.

#### **F. Warning & Public Information**

1. The Incident Commander will normally arrange for the warning of people to be evacuated in and around an incident site. The EOC will normally disseminate warning information for large-scale evacuations beyond the incident site or where evacuation is being conducted because of an imminent threat.
2. **Advance Notice of Possible Evacuation**
  - a. For slowly developing emergency situations, advance warning should be given to affected residents as soon as it is clear that an evacuation may be required. Such advance notice is normally disseminated through the media. Advance warning should address suitable preparedness actions, such as securing property, assembling disaster supplies, fueling vehicles, and identifying evacuation routes.

- b. Special consideration facilities should also be provided advance warning. Such facilities should be requested to review and be prepared to implement their evacuation plans and to keep the EOC informed of their status and any requirements for assistance.
- c. The access and functional needs population should also be given advanced notice. Notifying and preparing this segment of the population for evacuation will likely require additional time and resources. Any special circumstances or requests for assistance should be reported to the on-scene authorities or the EOC.

### 3. Evacuation Warning

- a. Evacuation warning should be disseminated through all available warning systems. See Annex A, Warning, for further information.
- b. In the case of immediate evacuation in and around an incident site, route alerting using siren and speaker-equipped vehicles moving through the affected area is usually effective. When possible, two vehicles should be employed -- the first to get the attention of the people and a second will deliver the evacuation message. Door-to-door notification should be considered for large buildings and in rural areas where residences may be some distance from the road.
- c. Special consideration facilities may be notified directly by on-scene authorities or by the EOC staff. However, if both the incident command staff and the EOC will be making notifications, a specific division of responsibilities for notification should be made so that no facilities are inadvertently overlooked.
- d. Law enforcement personnel should sweep the evacuation area to insure all those at risk have been advised of the need to evacuate and have responded. Persons who refuse to evacuate will be left until all others have been warned and then, time permitting, further efforts may be made to persuade these individuals to leave.

### 4. Emergency Public Information

- a. Warning messages disseminated through warning systems alert the public to a threat and provide basic instructions. They are short and to the point. The public will often require amplifying information on what to do during an evacuation. The Public Information Officer (PIO) will insure that such information is provided to the media on a timely basis for further dissemination to the public. Provisions must be made to disseminate information to individuals with functional needs, including the blind and hearing impaired. Specific public information procedures are contained in Annex I (Emergency Public Information).
- b. Amplifying instructions for an evacuation may include information on the location of shelter and mass care facilities, specific evacuation routes, guidance on securing their homes, and the need for evacuees to take certain items with them during an evacuation. When school children are evacuated, parents need timely information on where and when to pick them up.
- c. When the incident that generated the need for evacuation is resolved, evacuees must be advised when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses.

## **G. Special Consideration Facilities and Access and Functional Needs Individuals**

1. Special consideration facilities, such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, day care facilities, and correctional facilities are responsible for the welfare and safety of their clients, patients, students and inmates. Virtually all such facilities are required to have an emergency plan that includes provision for emergency evacuation, but in order to effectively implement their plans they must be warned of emergency situations.

### **a. Schools & Day Care Centers**

- 1) If evacuation of public schools is required, students will normally be transported on school buses to other schools outside of the risk area, where they can be picked up by their parents. It is essential that the public be provided timely information on these arrangements. In the case of a large-scale emergency situation with advance warning, schools will generally be closed and students returned to their homes so they can evacuate with their families.
- 2) Private schools and day care centers, including adult day care facilities, typically do not have significant transportation resources and may require government assistance in evacuating. However, these agencies are encouraged to have transportation contracts in place in the event an evacuation is required.

### **b. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, & Correctional Facilities.**

- 1) If evacuation of these facilities is required, patients and inmates should be transported, with appropriate medical or security support, to a comparable facility. The facility operator is responsible for making arrangements for suitable transportation and coordinating use of appropriate host facilities. In the case of short-notice or no-notice emergency situations, facilities may be unable to make the required arrangements for transportation and may need assistance from local government with transportation and in identifying suitable reception facilities.
  - 2) Medical patients and prisoners should not be housed in shelter and mass care facilities with the general public.
2. Access and Functional needs individuals may require additional evacuation assistance, transportation, and/or medical care during major evacuations (See Annex H – Health and Medical). Emergency management planning will identify the access and functional needs population and address those needs as required before, during, and immediately after a major disaster or catastrophic incident.

## **H. Handling Pets During Evacuations**

1. Evacuees who go to the homes of relatives or friends, or commercial accommodations with their pets, do not normally pose difficulties during evacuation. However, evacuees with pets seeking public shelter can create potential problems. For health reasons, pets (except for service animals) are not allowed in emergency shelters operated by the American Red Cross and most other organized volunteer groups. However, a number of

studies have indicated that some people, particularly the elderly, will not leave their homes if they cannot take their pets with them. When people have left pets behind during evacuations, emergency responders often have to return to the evacuated area to round up and remove those animals. Therefore, it is recommended that pet owners who choose to evacuate their home make reasonable arrangements for suitable boarding of pets.

#### **I. Access Control & Security**

1. In an evacuation, the security of evacuated areas is extremely important. Those who have evacuated may not do so in the future if their property has been damaged or stolen during their absence. Law enforcement should establish access control points to limit entry into evacuated areas and, where possible, conduct periodic patrols within such areas to deter theft by those on foot. To the extent possible, fire departments will take measures to insure continued fire protection.
2. If an evacuated area has sustained damage and cannot be reoccupied for an extended period of time, it may be necessary to implement a permit system to limit access to emergency workers, homeowners, business owners, utility workers, and contractors restoring damaged structures and removing debris. Refer to Annex G, Law Enforcement, for further information.
3. During an evacuation, persons displaying an official county issued "Essential Personnel" insignia will be allowed to proceed to their place of employment for the purpose of securing a facility or for providing an essential service to the citizens of Fort Bend County. See Annex G, Law Enforcement – Appendix 3

#### **J. Return of Evacuees**

1. Return of evacuees to their homes or businesses in evacuated areas requires the same consideration, coordination, and control as the original evacuation. For limited incidents, the Incident Commander will normally make the decision to return evacuees and disseminate it as appropriate. For large-scale evacuations, that decision will normally be made by the Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Mayor or Mayors of Joint Resolution Jurisdictions and disseminated through the media.
2. The following conditions should prevail in the evacuated area before evacuees are authorized to return:
  - a. The threat that caused the evacuation has been resolved.
  - b. Sufficient debris has been removed to permit travel and roads and bridges are safe for use.
  - c. Downed power lines have been removed; ruptured gas, water, and sewer lines have been repaired; and other significant safety hazards have been eliminated. However, utility services may not have yet been fully restored.
  - d. Structures have been inspected and determined to be safe to reoccupy.
  - e. There is adequate water available for firefighting.

3. For return and re-entry, it may be necessary to provide transportation for those who lack vehicles and traffic control on return routes.
4. Public information intended for returnees should address such issues as:
  - a. Documenting damage for insurance purposes.
  - b. Caution in reactivating utilities and damaged appliances.
  - c. Cleanup instructions.
  - d. Removal and disposal of debris.

#### **K. Actions by Phases of Emergency Management**

##### **1. Prevention**

- a. Where possible, undertake mitigation for known hazards that have in the past led to evacuation.
- b. Discourage development, particularly residential construction, in potential risk areas, including floodplains, areas downstream from suspect dams and dikes, and areas adjacent to facilities that make, use, or store hazardous materials.
- c. Seek improvement to preplanned evacuation routes if needed.
- d. Enhance warning systems to increase warning times and reduce the need for hasty evacuations.

##### **2. Preparedness**

- a. Identify areas where previous major evacuations have occurred and additional areas that may require large-scale evacuation in the future due to known hazards. See Appendix 2 for potential major evacuation areas other than hazardous materials risk areas; hazardous materials risk areas are described in Annex Q, Hazardous Materials & Oil Spill Response. Determine the population of risk areas and identify facilities that may require special assistance during evacuation (hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.) to determine potential transportation requirements.
- b. To the extent possible, identify individuals with access and functional needs who may require assistance in evacuating and maintain contact information for those individuals.
- c. Identify primary and alternate evacuation routes, taking into account road capacities.
- d. Review the disaster preparedness plans of special consideration facilities and advise facility operators of any changes that may be needed to make them more workable.
- e. Include evacuations in emergency drill and exercise scenarios.

- f. Conduct public information programs to increase citizen awareness of possible reasons for evacuation, preplanned evacuation routes, availability of transportation, the need to take appropriate food, clothing, and other disaster supplies during an evacuation, and the desirability of helping neighbors who may need assistance during an evacuation.
- g. Promulgate procedures for protecting government resources from known hazards by relocating them.

3. Response

See the General Evacuation Checklist in Appendix 1

4. Recovery

- a. Initiate return of evacuees, when it is safe to do so.
- b. Coordinate temporary housing for those who cannot return to their homes.
- c. Provide traffic control for return.
- d. Initiative recovery activities for evacuees who have suffered loss of or damage to their homes or businesses.
- e. Carry out appropriate public information activities.

<b>VI. ORGANIZATION &amp; ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
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**A. Organization**

- 1. The normal emergency organization, described in Section VI.A of the Basic Plan and depicted in Attachment 3 to the Basic Plan, will plan and execute evacuations and the return of people to their homes or businesses. A large-scale evacuation, however, may require the activation of a Unified Area Coordination Committee (UACC) to support the Incident Command Posts (ICPs) and EOCs.
- 2. Incident Command System (ICS) – Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/Multi-Area Coordination Committee (MACC).
  - a. As noted previously, the Incident Commander will normally determine the need for, organize, and conduct limited evacuations in the immediate vicinity of the incident site. If large-scale evacuation is required, the chief elected official should make the recommendation for such evacuation to the public.
  - b. A division of responsibility for evacuation tasks should be agreed upon between the Incident Commander and the EOC. The Incident Commander will normally manage evacuation operations at the scene, while the EOC coordinates operations beyond the incident site, such as coordinating traffic control along evacuation routes,

arranging for the activation of shelter and mass care facilities, and advising other jurisdictions of the evacuation.

- c. During a large-scale evacuation, a division of responsibility for evacuation tasks should be agreed upon between the EOCs and the MACC. EOCs will normally manage evacuation operations within their respective jurisdictions while the MACC coordinates evacuation operations affecting multiple jurisdictional areas. The MACC may coordinate traffic control along evacuation routes, arrange for the activation of shelter and mass care facilities, and advise other jurisdictions.

## **B. Assignment of Responsibilities**

1. The Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Mayor will:
  - a. For emergencies and disasters, recommend that citizens evacuate, when appropriate.
  - b. Approve release of warnings, instructions, and other emergency public information relating to evacuation
  - c. Coordinate evacuation efforts with other local governments that may be affected by the evacuation, where appropriate.
  - d. Direct the relocation of essential resources (personnel, equipment, and supplies) that are at risk to safer areas.
  - e. Direct the opening of local shelter and mass care facilities, if necessary.
2. The Incident Commander will:
  - a. Identify risk areas in the vicinity in the incident site and determine protective actions for people in those risk areas.
  - b. If evacuation of risk areas and special consideration facilities is required, plan, organize, and conduct the evacuation with the resources assigned.
  - c. Request support from the EOC to assist in coordinating evacuation activities beyond the incident site, such as activation of shelter and mass care facilities, if required.
3. The EMC will:
  - a. Develop and maintain evacuation planning information for known risk areas, including population of the area, and primary evacuation routes.
  - b. Review the evacuation plans of special consideration facilities within known risk areas and determine possible needs for evacuation support.
  - c. Coordinate evacuation planning to include:
    - 1) Selection of suitable evacuation routes, based on recommendations from law enforcement.

- 2) Movement control, based on recommendations from law enforcement.
  - 3) Transportation arrangements.
  - 4) Shelter and mass care arrangements.
4. Common Tasks for All Organizations
- a. If time permits, secure and protect facilities in evacuation areas.
  - b. If time permits, relocate essential equipment, supplies, and records to non-risk areas.
5. Law Enforcement will:
- a. Recommend evacuation routes to the Incident Commander or EOC staff.
  - b. Provide traffic control during the evacuation
  - c. Protect property in evacuated areas and limit access to those areas.
  - d. Secure and protect or relocate prisoners.
  - e. Coordinate law enforcement activities with other emergency services.
  - f. Assist in warning the public.
  - g. Provide information to the PIO for news releases to the public on evacuation routes.
6. The Fire Service will:
- a. Be responsible for fire protection in the vacated area.
  - b. Assist in warning the public
  - c. Assist in evacuating access and functional needs individuals.
7. The Public Information Officer (PIO) will:
- a. Disseminate emergency information from the Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Mayor advising the public of evacuation actions to be taken.
  - b. Coordinate with area news media for news releases.
8. The Fort Bend County Road & Bridge Department and/or the Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Public Works Department will:
- a. Provide traffic control devices upon request.

- b. Assist in keeping evacuation routes open.
  - c. Provide barricade and barrier materials to restrict entry to evacuated areas and other areas where entry must be controlled.
9. The Transportation Officer will
- a. Coordinate transportation for evacuees without vehicles or who need assistance in evacuating, determining and establishing pickup points if necessary.
  - b. Coordinate transportation assistance for the evacuation of special consideration facilities if required.
  - c. Coordinate all transportation relating to relocation of essential resources.
  - d. Provide information to the PIO on pickup points or special pickup routes for those who require transportation, so that this information may be provided to the public.
10. The Shelter Officer will:
- a. For short-term evacuations, coordinate with operators of government-owned buildings schools, churches, and other facilities for use of their facilities as temporary evacuee holding areas.
  - b. For other than short-term evacuations, coordinate with the American Red Cross and other service organizations to open shelters and activate mass care operations. See Annex C, Shelter & Mass Care, for further information
11. Health and Human Services will:
- a. Monitor evacuation of hospitals and nursing homes and coordinate evacuation assistance, if requested.
  - b. Coordinate the evacuation assistance of access and functional needs individuals if requested.
12. Animal Control will:
- a. Coordinate arrangements to provide temporary facilities for pets arriving with evacuees.
  - b. Be prepared to provide shelter managers with information on procedures for handling evacuees with pets.
13. Special Consideration Facilities, such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and correctional facilities will:
- a. Close and supervise evacuation of their facilities.

- b. Coordinate appropriate transportation for evacuees and en route medical or security support.
- c. Arrange for use of suitable host facilities.
- d. Request emergency assistance from local government if assistance cannot be obtained from other sources.
- e. Ensure assigned personnel are trained and knowledgeable of evacuation procedures.
- f. Disseminate public information to advise relatives and the general public of the status of their facilities and the patients, students, or inmates served by those facilities.

## VII. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

### A. General

1. The Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Mayor has the general responsibility for recommending evacuation, when that is the most suitable means of protecting the public from a hazard.
2. In situations where rapid evacuation is critical to the continued health and safety of the population, the on-scene Incident Commander may recommend evacuation of people at risk in and around an incident scene and direct and control the required evacuation.
3. Large-scale evacuations and evacuations conducted on the basis of imminent threat where there is no current incident scene will normally be coordinated and directed by the EOC.

### B. Evacuation Area Definition

1. Areas to be evacuated will be determined by those officials with the authority to recommend evacuation based on the counsel of those individuals and agencies with the necessary expertise, the use of specialized planning materials or decision aids, the recommendations of state and federal agencies, and, where appropriate, advice from other subject matter experts. Evacuation recommendations to the public should clearly describe the area to be evacuated with reference to known geographic features, such as roads and rivers.
2. The hazard situation which gave rise to the need for evacuation should be continually monitored in case changing circumstances, such as an increase in rainfall or wind shift, change the potential impact area and, thus, the area that must be evacuated.

### C. Lines of Succession

1. The lines of succession for the Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Mayors are outlined in Section VII of the Basic Plan.

2. The lines of succession for each department and agency head shall be according to the standard operating procedures established by each department.

## VIII. INCREASED READINESS ACTIONS

### A. Level IV - Normal Conditions.

See the mitigation and preparedness activities in section V.J, Actions by Phases of Emergency Management.

### B. Level III - Increased Readiness.

Increased Readiness may be appropriate if there is a greater than normal threat of a hazard which could necessitate evacuation. Level 3 readiness actions may include:

1. Reviewing the Fort Bend County Traffic Management Plan and other information on potential evacuation areas, facilities at risk, and evacuation routes.
2. Monitoring the situation.
3. Informing first responders and local officials of the situation.
4. Checking the status of potential evacuation routes and shelter/mass care facilities.

### C. Level II - High Readiness.

High Readiness may be appropriate if there is an increased risk of a hazard which necessitates evacuation. Level 2 readiness actions may include:

1. Monitoring the situation.
2. Alerting response personnel for possible evacuation operations duty.
3. Coordinating with special consideration facilities to determine their readiness to evacuate.
4. Checking the status of resources and enhancing short-term readiness if possible. Monitoring the availability of transportation assets and drivers.
5. Advising the public and special consideration facilities to monitor the situation.

### D. Level I - Maximum Readiness.

Maximum readiness is appropriate when there is a significant possibility that an evacuation operation may have to be conducted. Level 1 readiness actions may include:

1. Activating the EOC to monitor the situation and track resource status.
2. Placing first responders and transportation providers in an alert status; placing off-duty personnel on standby.
3. Updating the status of resources.

4. Checking the status of evacuation routes and pre-positioning traffic control devices.
5. Preparing to activate the Fort Bend County Traffic Management Plan as necessary.
6. Updating plans to move government equipment to safe havens.
7. Selecting shelter/mass care facilities for use.
8. Providing information to the public on planned evacuation routes, securing their homes, and those items they need to take with them. Preparing to issue public warning if it becomes necessary.

## IX. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

### A. Reporting

Large-scale evacuations should be reported to state agencies and other jurisdictions that may be affected in the periodic Situation Report prepared and disseminated during major emergency operations. The Situation Report format is provided in Annex N, Direction & Control.

### B. Records

1. Activity Logs. The Incident Commander and, if activated, the EOC shall maintain accurate logs recording evacuation decisions, significant evacuation activities, and the commitment of resources to support evacuation operations.
2. Documentation of Costs. Expenses incurred in carrying out evacuations for certain hazards, such as radiological accidents or hazardous materials incidents, may be recoverable from the responsible party. Hence, all departments and agencies will maintain records of personnel and equipment used or lost and supplies consumed during large-scale evacuations.

### C. Resources

General emergency response resources that may be required to conduct an evacuation are listed in Annex M, Resource Management.

### D. Post Incident Review

For large-scale evacuations, the Fort Bend County Judge and/or the Joint Resolution Jurisdiction Mayor shall organize and conduct a review of emergency operations by those tasked in this annex in accordance with the guidance provided in Section VIII.F of the Basic Plan. The purpose of this review is to identify needed improvements in this plan, procedures, facilities, and equipment.

**E. Exercises**

Local drills, tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and full-scale exercises shall periodically include an evacuation scenario based on the hazards faced by Fort Bend County.

**X. ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. The Fort Bend County Sheriff is responsible for developing and maintaining this annex. Recommended changes to this annex should be forwarded as necessary.
- B. This annex will be revised and updated in accordance with the schedule outlined in Section X of the Basic Plan.
- C. Departments and agencies assigned responsibilities in this annex are responsible for developing and maintaining SOPs covering those responsibilities.

**XI. REFERENCES**

- FEMA, *Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning* (SLG-101)
- Fort Bend County Traffic Management Plan
- Fort Bend County Hazard Mitigation Plan

**APPENDICES:**

- 1 ..... General Evacuation Checklist
- 2 ..... Potential Evacuation Areas
- 3 ..... Hurricane Evacuation – Traffic Management Plan (published separately)

## GENERAL EVACUATION CHECKLIST

✓	Action Item	Assigned
	<b>PLANNING:</b>	
	1. Determine area(s) at risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine population of risk area(s)</li> <li>▪ Identify any special consideration facilities in risk area(s)</li> </ul>	
	2. Determine evacuation routes for risk area(s) & check the status of these routes.	
	3. Determine traffic control requirements for evacuation routes.	
	4. Estimate public transportation requirements & determine pickup points.	
	5. Determine temporary shelter requirements & select preferred shelter locations.	
	<b>ADVANCE WARNING:</b>	
	6. Provide advance warning to special consideration facilities & advise them to activate their evacuation transportation & reception arrangements. Determine if requirements exist for additional support from local government.	
	7. Provide advance warning of possible need for evacuation to the public, clearly identifying areas at risk. See Annex I, Emergency Public Information.	
	8. Develop traffic control plans & stage traffic control devices at required locations	
	9. Coordinate with special consideration facilities regarding precautionary evacuation.	
	10. Ready temporary shelters selected for use.	
	11. Coordinate with transportation providers to ensure vehicles & drivers will be available when and where needed.	
	12. Coordinate with school districts regarding closure of schools.	
	13. Advise neighboring jurisdictions that may be affected of evacuation plans.	
	<b>EVACUATION:</b>	
	14. Advise neighboring jurisdictions & the local Disaster District that evacuation recommendation will be issued.	
	15. Disseminate evacuation recommendation to special consideration facilities. Provide assistance in evacuating, if needed.	
	16. Disseminate evacuation recommendation to the public through available warning systems, clearly identifying areas to be evacuated.	
	17. Provide amplifying information the public through the media. Emergency public information should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What should be done to secure buildings being evacuated</li> <li>▪ What evacuees should take with them</li> <li>▪ Where evacuees should go &amp; how should to get there</li> <li>▪ Provisions for those without transportation</li> </ul>	
	18. Staff and open temporary shelters	
	19. Provide traffic control along evacuation routes & establish procedures for dealing with vehicle breakdowns on such routes.	
	20. Provide transportation assistance to those who require it.	

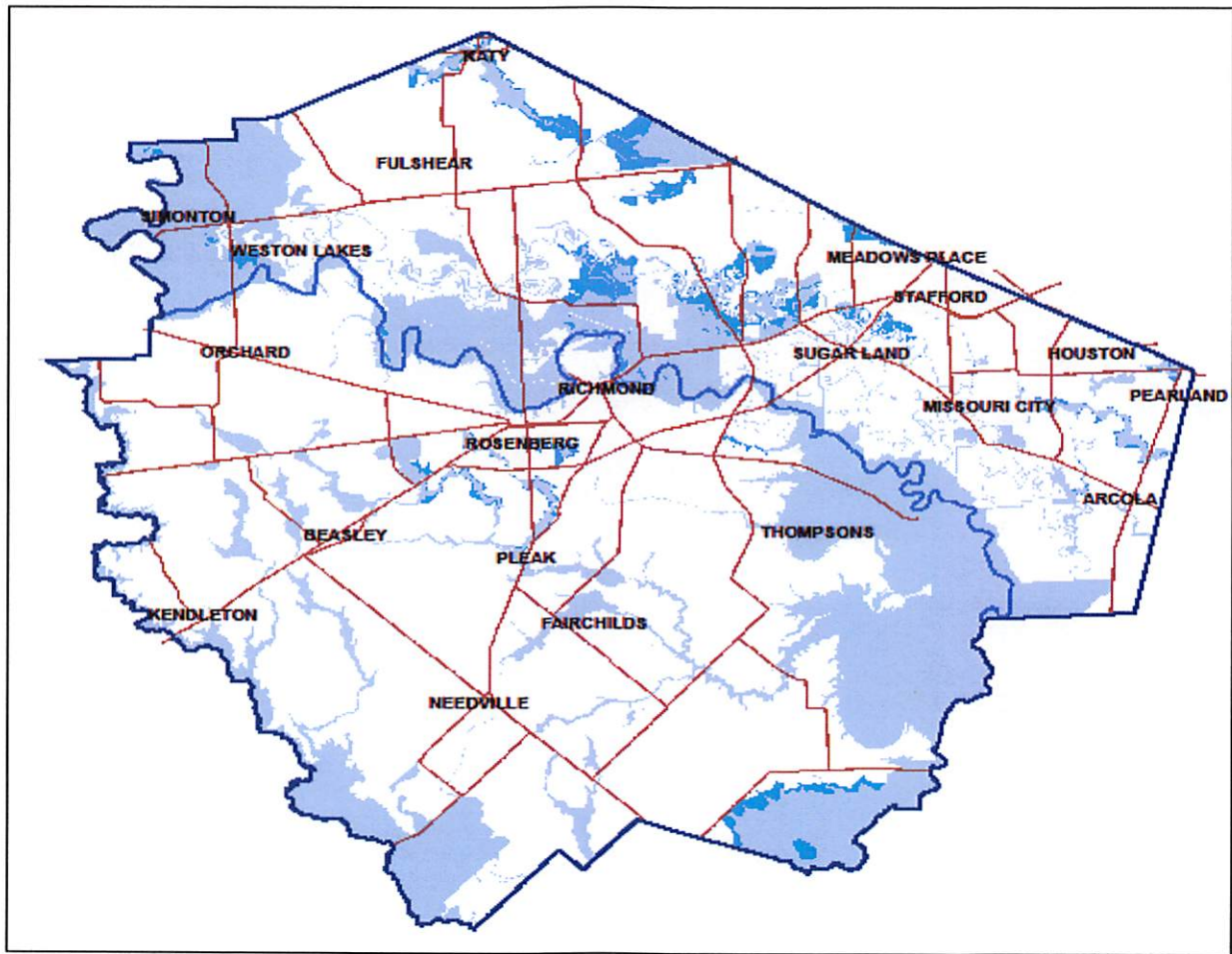
	21. Provide security in or control access to evacuated areas.	
	22. Provide Situation Reports on evacuation to local Disaster District.	
	<b>RETURN OF EVACUEES</b>	
	23. If evacuated areas have been damaged, reopen roads, eliminate significant health and safety hazards, & conduct damage assessments.	
	24. Determine requirements for traffic control for return of evacuees.	
	25. Determine requirements for & coordinate provision of transportation for return of evacuees.	
	26. Advise neighboring jurisdictions and local Disaster District that return of evacuees will begin.	
	27. Advise evacuees through the media that they can return to their homes and businesses; indicate preferred travel routes.	
	28. Provide traffic control for return of evacuees.	
	29. Coordinate temporary housing for evacuees that are unable to return to their residences.	
	30. Coordinate with special consideration facilities regarding return of evacuees to those facilities.	
	31. If evacuated areas have sustained damage, provide the public information that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Documenting damage &amp; making expedient repairs</li> <li>▪ Caution in reactivating utilities &amp; damaged appliances</li> <li>▪ Cleanup &amp; removal/disposal of debris</li> <li>▪ Recovery programs. See Annex J, Recovery.</li> </ul>	
	32. Terminate temporary shelter & mass care operations.	
	33. Maintain access controls for areas that cannot be safely reoccupied.	

**POTENTIAL EVACUATION AREAS**





- 1. Description:** **Many communities along the Brazos River in Fort Bend County**
- Hazard: *River flooding (based on the location of the 100-year flood plain)*
- Est. Population: *Approximately 50,000 people*
- Evacuation Routes: *U.S. 90 E&W, U.S. 59 N & S, State Hwy 36 N, State Hwy 99 N, State Hwy 6 N & S, FM 762, FM 1093*
- Areas Affected: *Missouri City, Richmond, Simonton, Sugar Land, Thompsons, Thompsons Ferry / Hagerson Road area, Brazos Bend State Park Rosenberg, Fulshear, Rio Brazos Subdivision*
- 
- 2. Description:** **Communities along the San Bernard River**
- Hazard: *River flooding (based on the location of the 100-year flood plain)*
- Est. Population: *Approximately 2,500 people*
- Evacuation Routes: *Tierra Grande Road, U.S. 59, SH 36*
- Areas Affected: *Tierra Grande Subdivision, Kendleton and adjacent areas*
- 
- 3. Description:** **Major evacuation of Fort Bend County citizens**
- Hazard: *Category 4 or 5 intensity hurricane*
- Est. Population: *685,345 (although evacuation is not generally required, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the population will still choose to evacuate Fort Bend County)*
- Evacuation Routes: *State Hwy 36 N, State Hwy 6 N, FM 359, Grand Parkway(SH99)*
- Areas Affected: *Entire County*

Note: More detailed jurisdiction floodplain maps can be found in the Fort Bend County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

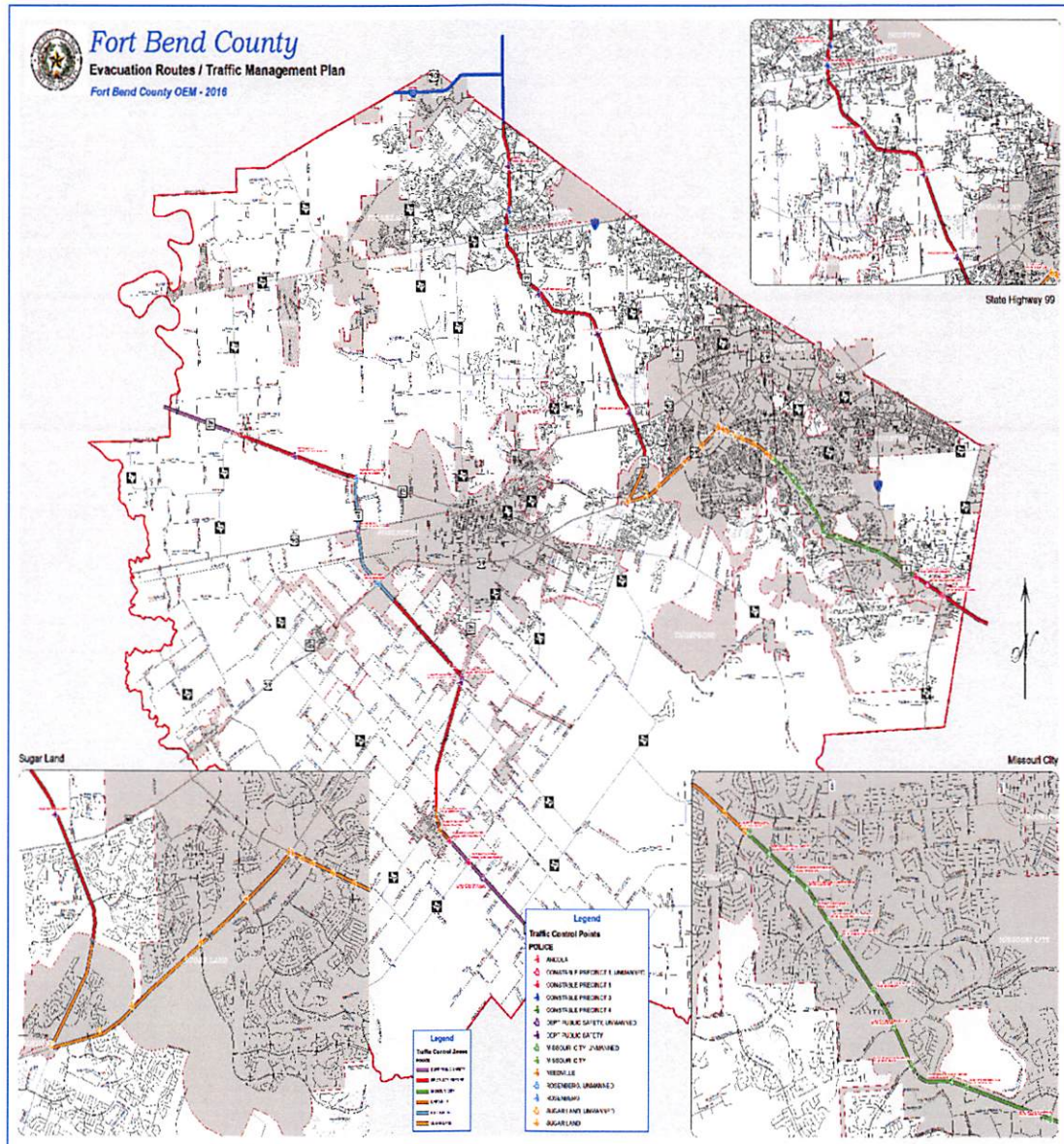
## *Fort Bend County Floodplains*

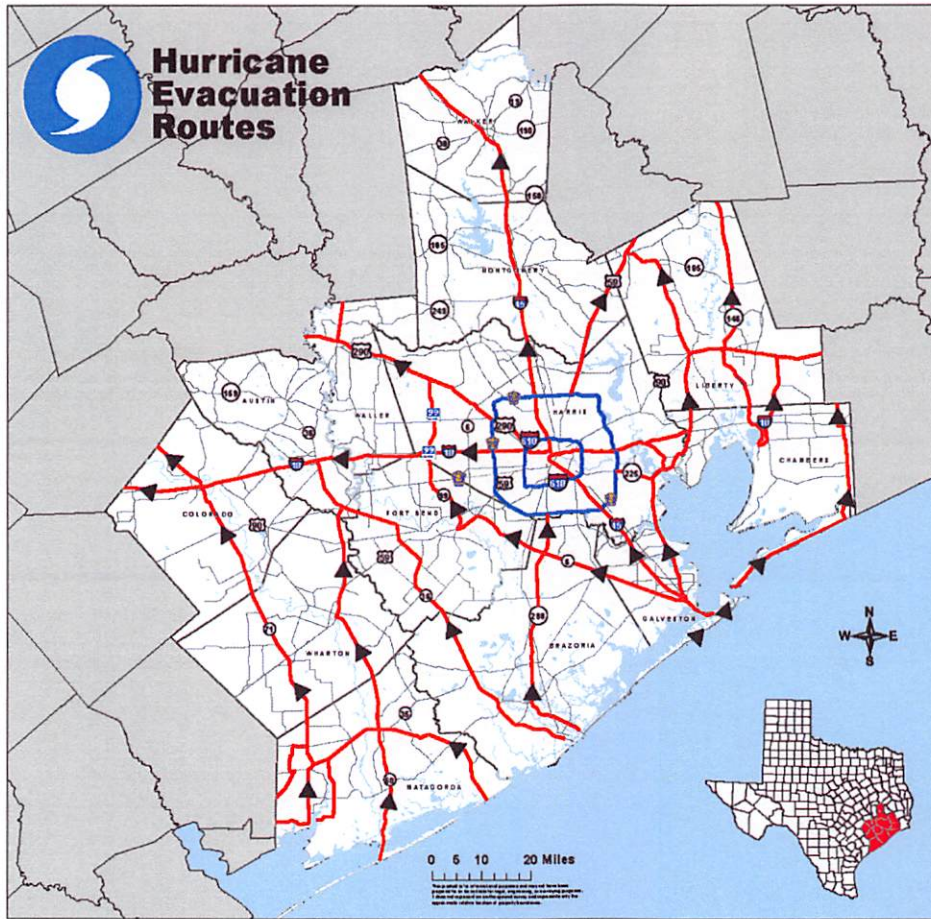


**Legend**

-  Highways
-  100 Yr Floodplain
-  500 Yr Floodplain
-  Fort Bend County







**H-GAC Region**

Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton



**Route Designation**  
 - Evacuation Corridors  
 - Evacuation Connections  
 - Other Roads  
 - County Boundary

Expiration Date: December 31, 2016  
 Map Created by:  
 Houston-Galveston Area Council

### **Hurricane Evacuation – Fort Bend County Traffic Management Plan**

Fort Bend County is not a coastal county and therefore is not in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone.

Fort Bend County is considered to be a “Pass Through” County. The primary mission for Fort Bend County is to facilitate the flow of evacuees through the county from coastal evacuation zones.

This appendix references the Fort Bend County Traffic Management Plan (published separately) which was developed to facilitate the coordinated flow of evacuation traffic from the coastal counties through the region.