

BAYTOWN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



**GET A KIT. MAKE A PLAN.
STAY INFORMED. BE INVOLVED.**



Baytown Fire Department | Office of Emergency Management

RECOVERY RESOURCE LIST

CITY OF BAYTOWN

Phone: 281-422-8281
Website: www.baytown.org
Facebook: facebook.com/BaytownCityHall/

Baytown Office of Emergency Management
baytown.org/197/Emergency-Management

City of Baytown, Building Services Division
281-420-6537 (Permits and Code Enforcement)
building@baytown.org

City of Baytown, Public Works and Engineering
281-420-5300
(Trash, debris, water, and waste water)
PWE@baytown.org

LOCAL RECOVERY RESOURCES

United Way of Greater Baytown and Chambers County
281-424-5922
(Case management, emergency assistance, and long term recovery)

Baytown Area and Chambers County Disaster Recovery (BACC-DR)
www.unitedwaygbacc.org/bacc_dr

UTILITIES

CenterPoint Energy Electric
713-207-2222

CenterPoint Gas
713-659-2111

Baytown Christian Alliance
(281) 402-3958 (Volunteers and Clean-Up)
baytownchristianalliance@gmail.com

Hearts and Hands of Baytown
(832) 597-8908 (Food Assistance)
heartsandhandsofbaytown@gmail.com
www.heartsandhandsofbaytown.com/

OTHER RECOVERY RESOURCES

American Red Cross
(Shelter, case management, financial assistance)
800-733-2767

Baker Ripley
(Sheltering and community support)
713-667-9400

Salvation Army
(Sheltering and community support)
713-378-0020

Clothed by Faith
(Provide clothing to survivors)
713-412-9244

Southeast Area Ministries
(emergency assistance)
713-417-5626

Catholic Charities
(Case management and emergency assistance)
713-526-4611

Texas Department of Insurance
800-252-3439

Lone Star Legal Aid
1-800-733-8394 or www.lonestarlegal.org

Texas Gulf Coast VOAD
www.tgcrvoad.org/tornado-resources/



The City of Baytown is susceptible to a variety of disasters, both natural and man-made. Our location along the gulf, in combination with being the home to many industrial companies, leaves us vulnerable to many hazards. Baytown has experienced various emergencies over the years, including hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, winter storms, and hazardous chemical exposures. Each of these events brought difficult predicaments, yet demonstrated the strength and resiliency of our city and our citizens.

The Baytown Office of Emergency Management (OEM) manages these emergencies by utilizing resources to better prepare, respond, recover, and mitigate potential harm in the Baytown area.

Having the knowledge, skills, and abilities to respond to a disaster is everyone's responsibility. Join us in better preparing our community by taking these four simple steps to be ready for any major event: **Get A Kit. Make a Plan. Stay Informed. Get Involved.**

While we never want a disaster to happen, it has been shown time and time again that being prepared for these events is essential. Proper planning will give you and your family better peace of mind during these incidents when resources are limited.

We encourage everyone to be Baytown Ready and use this guide as a resource to begin your emergency planning.

Sincerely,

Jason Reynolds
City Manager

Charles Johnson
Mayor

Disaster Supply Kit

Checklist



Water

- ✓ 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day enough for 7 days



Food

- ✓ 7-day supply of non-perishable food
- ✓ Hand-operated can opener
- ✓ Plastic plates, cups & utensils



First aid

- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Backup prescriptions for essential medications



Personal Hygiene

- ✓ Hand sanitizer
- ✓ Dental care & vision products
- ✓ Travel size soaps, wet wipes, & other hygiene supplies



Clean Air Items

- ✓ Masks & face covers
- ✓ Extra AC filters
- ✓ Tape, plastic, & towels to seal room



Household Items

- ✓ Disinfectant
- ✓ Non-scented bleach for sanitizing
- ✓ Toilet paper/paper towels & garbage bags

- Listen to local officials for specific directions on water safety and boil water notices
- Water that is unsafe for drinking should not be used to brush teeth, bathing, or washing dishes
- Use bottled or boiled water for drinking and to prepare and cook food
- Boiling instructions: bring water to a full rolling boil for 1 minute and allow to cool before use
- For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/index.html

Disaster Supply Kit

Checklist



Lighting

- ✓ Flashlights
- ✓ Fluorescent lanterns
- ✓ Waterproof matches or utility lighter



Communication

- ✓ Portable battery-powered radio
- ✓ Extra batteries for devices
- ✓ Charged portable charger for cell phone or car charger



Family Safety Items

- ✓ Smoke alarms / CO detector
- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ Sunscreen & insect repellent
- ✓ Shovel & basic tools



Baby Items

- ✓ Formula, bottles & powdered milk
- ✓ Diapers & baby wipes
- ✓ Diaper rash ointment



Pet Needs

- ✓ 7-day supply of non-perishable pet food & water
- ✓ Kennel or pet carrier & leash
- ✓ Pet medications & pet first aid kit
- ✓ Current photo in case they get lost
- ✓ Cat litter & box/doggy cleanup bags
- ✓ Pet bed & toys



Transportation Items

- ✓ State & Regional Road Maps
- ✓ Extra set of car/house keys
- ✓ Basic repair items (tools, tire patch kit, engine oil)

- Keep items in airtight waterproof bags • Change your stored water supply every 6 months.
- Replace your stored food every six months • Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year • Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescriptions.

HURRICANES



Hurricanes cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. Hurricanes and tropical storms also spawn tornadoes, create storm surges along the coast, and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH

Tropical storm conditions are possible within the next 48 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING

Tropical storm conditions are expected within the next 36 hours.

HURRICANE WATCH

An announcement issued 48 hours in advance to notify that hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area.

HURRICANE WARNING

An announcement issued 36 hours in advance to notify that hurricane conditions are expected within the specified area.

WHEN THESE ALERTS ARE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, YOU SHOULD:

- Monitor your local TV and radio.
- Fuel vehicles and generators.
- Check your disaster supply kit.
- Cover windows with plywood.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, toys and any other items that could become projectiles.
- Take pictures of property and contents for insurance purposes.
- Evacuate immediately, if advised.
- Protect home with hurricane shutters.
- NEVER use generators indoors.

IF YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME DURING THE HURRICANE, YOU SHOULD:

- Continue to monitor your local TV and radio stations.
- Fill bathtubs and all available containers with water.
- Turn off utilities, if requested.
- Remain indoors in a closet, bathroom, or hallway of your house - away from any windows.
- Cover yourself and your family members with a mattress or a dining room table to protect yourself from flying debris.



EVACUATIONS

Evacuating for a hurricane will involve a staggered and scheduled process that gives residents in the greatest dangered areas the opportunity to leave first – followed by those in lower risk areas. The hurricane evacuation map is based on local zip-codes. Visit the link below for more information:

www.h-gac.com/hurricane-evacuation-planning

The decision to evacuate is based on information from the National Weather Service and the Baytown Office of Emergency Management. Once the Mayor issues an evacuation order, follow instructions on when to evacuate, what to do, and where to go.



State of Texas
Emergency
Assistance
Registry (STEAR)

People living in surge/evacuation zones without adequate transportation may require assistance. Those needing assistance in evacuating should register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) each year before the beginning of hurricane season for transportation assistance and wellness checks. Register by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting stear.tdem.texas.gov.

IF OFFICIALS INDICATE AN EVACUATION IS NECESSARY:

- Leave as soon as possible and avoid flooded roads.
- Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off the electricity and main water valve.
- Bring pre-assembled emergency supplies and protective clothing.
- Tune in to your local emergency radio or television station.
- People traveling with young children, elderly family members, or people with disabilities, access, and functional needs should leave early. If you wait to leave until the general evacuation is recommended, traffic will be heavier and the weather may be worse, lengthening the time you may have to spend in your car.
- If time permits, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or move it to a higher floor.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.

FLOODS

Floods are the most common natural hazard in the United States and Baytown. Flooding is an overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods can occur within minutes or over a long period that may last days, weeks, or longer. Damaging flooding may happen with only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Baytown can be adversely impacted by river/bayou flooding, coastal flooding, storm surge, inland flooding, or flash flooding.



The City of Baytown recognizes that areas of the city are subject to periodic flooding. To minimize flooding, the City of Baytown has adopted floodplain management regulations. The City is also an active member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) to help our residents obtain federal flood insurance at a discounted rate. For more information about floods, visit www.floodsmart.gov/

DEVELOP A FLOOD PLAN

- Know your flood risk and flood zones.
- Purchase flood insurance.
- Check your disaster supply kit.
- Develop an evacuation plan for you and your family.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown.
- Do not drive into water.
- Get to higher ground.

FLOOD WATCH

Conditions are favorable for flooding.

FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is imminent or occurring.

TORNADOES



TO PREPARE FOR A TORNADO, DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY PLAN:

- Know the difference between a Tornado Watch and Warning.
- Know where to go to shelter.
- Know the signs of a tornado and how to spot.
- Pay attention to weather reports.
- Do not get under a bridge or overpass. Seek a low flat area.
- Avoid flying debris.

TORNADO WATCH

Weather conditions could lead to the formation of severe storms and tornadoes. **BE PREPARED:** Know your safe location. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is coming.

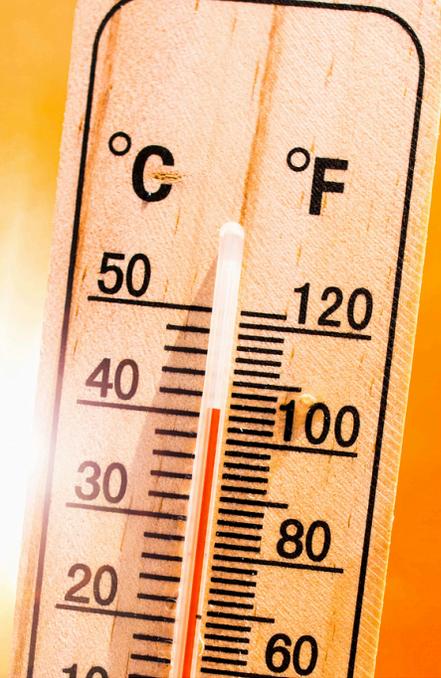
TORNADO WARNING

A tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, meaning a tornado is occurring or expected soon. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.

TORNADO EMERGENCY

And exceedingly rare situation with a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage due to a confirmed violent tornado. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.

Although Baytown is not located in Tornado Alley, severe weather can spawn tornados and water spouts. Typically, these storms are short lived and weak. However, a major tornado with strong winds is possible. It is important to know where to go when a Tornado Warning is issued. To shelter from a tornado, go inside immediately and seek the lowest and most interior room with no windows. No place outside is safe from a tornado.



EXTREME HEAT

In Texas, thousands of individuals suffer heat-related illnesses each year. Individuals at highest risk include older adults, young children, and those with medical conditions. Young, active, and healthy individuals can be affected if they participate in vigorous physical activities during hot weather. Heat-related illnesses are preventable.

Heat-related illnesses happen when the body is not able to properly cool itself. These can result in damaging of the brain and other vital organs. Serious forms of heat-related injuries include heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Heat stroke requires immediate medical treatment. Heat exhaustion is a milder form of heat-related illness, but should not be taken lightly as it can progress to a heat stroke without proper intervention. Heat cramps, sunburn, and heat rash are other forms of heat-related injuries that should be closely monitored.

During extreme heat situations, the City of Baytown may open Cooling Centers as a public place to cool down.

TO PREPARE FOR EXTREME HEAT, DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY PLAN:

- Hydrate early and avoid drinks with sugar, caffeine, or alcohol.
- If outside, wear lightweight clothing, find shade, take breaks, and stay hydrated.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Watch for heat cramps, exhaustion, or stroke.
- Check on family, older adults, and neighbors.
- If A/C or power is out, find a cooling center or public space.
- Do not leave people or pets in a closed car.

WINTER WEATHER

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

A combination of sleet and freezing rain is expected to cause a significant inconvenience. Caution should be exercised.

FREEZE WATCH

There is a potential for significant, widespread freezing temperatures within the next 24-36 hours.

FREEZE WARNING

Significant widespread freezing temperatures are expected.

How to get ready for freezing temperatures



Pipes



People



Pets



Plants



Phones

Occasionally, Baytown will receive winter weather with freezing temperatures which may impact transportation, utilities, or electricity. Prepare your family for these types of events.

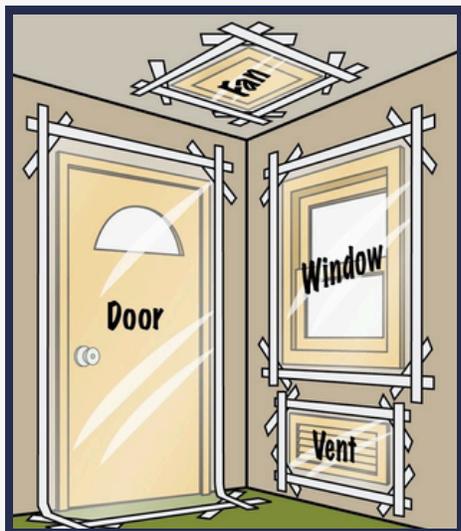
Area residents should:

- Check on the elderly.
- Remember the five “P’s”:
 - Protect People
 - Protect Pets
 - Protect Pipes
 - Protect Plants
 - Power Phones
- Prepare your car for winter by having it serviced and add antifreeze as needed.
- Avoid slick roadways, if possible.
- Keep emergency supplies at hand.
- Stay informed about the weather conditions.
- During sub-freezing temperatures, warming centers may be opened to provide a warm place for the public to seek refuge from the cold.



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCIES

Chemicals are part of our everyday lives. They are used daily at home and in the industry. Therefore, hazardous material incidents can occur nearly anywhere chemicals are used, stored, or transported. The best way to protect yourself when an accident happens is to be prepared. During a hazardous material incident, you may be asked by local officials to “shelter-in-place” instead of evacuating. Staying indoors until the emergency is over may be much safer than going outside where the air may be contaminated. In the event that there is an incident involving a chemical release, make sure to turn off your A/C and close all doors, windows, and vents to prevent chemical vapors from entering. Be prepared by having a Shelter In Place (SIP) Kit with plastic sheeting, tape, towels, scissors, and other materials ready to seal your room.



SHELTER IN PLACE

1. Go inside. Quickly move people and pets indoors.
2. Close and lock all windows and doors.
3. Turn off and close all venting systems, including air conditioners, bathroom and stove fans, and fireplace dampers.
4. Go into an interior room and seal it. Block any gaps to the outside air with tape, plastic, or damp towels.
5. Tune in to your local radio or TV station for more information.



PANDEMIC

STAY PREPARED

- Learn how diseases spread to help protect yourself and others.
- Prepare for the possibility of schools, workplaces, and community centers being closed.
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days or weeks.
- Create a Pandemic Emergency Plan.
- Review your health insurance policies.
- Seek medical advice from your doctor.

The City of Baytown, along with the rest of the world, lived through the COVID-19 Pandemic which taught us many lessons on how to be better-prepared.

A pandemic is a disease outbreak that spans several countries and affects a large number of people. Pandemics are most often caused by viruses, which can easily spread from person to person. A new virus can emerge from anywhere and quickly spread around the world. It is hard to predict when or where the next new pandemic will emerge. Here are a few public health tips to help prepare for a pandemic.

DURING A PANDEMIC

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Keep a distance of at least six feet between yourself and people who are not part of your household.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or face cover when in public.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay at home if you are ill to prevent the spread of disease.
- Follow the guidance of the local health authorities in Baytown, Harris County, and Chambers County.
- Follow your doctor's recommendation on vaccination.

Public Health Agencies

Baytown Health Department
www.baytown.org/750/Health-Animal-Control

Harris County Public Health
www.publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/

Chambers County Public Health
www.co.chambers.tx.us/page/health.department

Texas Department of State Health Services
www.dshs.texas.gov/

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS



For many individuals with disabilities, access, and functional needs, emergencies present a real challenge. While each person's abilities and needs are unique, every individual can prepare for a disaster. Being ready is part of maintaining your independence.

PREPAREDNESS TIPS

- Evaluate your needs, abilities, and limitations to determine what type of help you will need in an emergency.
- Create a support network or “buddy system” with friends, family, or neighbors.
- Have a contact list with any communication needs.
- Keep at least one-week's supply of medications available during an emergency.
- Have a medical information list: copy of current insurance card, medications, allergies, medical provider, and pharmacist.
- Inform your employer or school about the assistance you will need in an emergency.
- Have extra assistive devices and medical equipment available.
- Keep extra power supply readily available to support powered assistive devices and wheelchairs.
- Plan in advance for service animals.
- Maintain a health information card or medical alert bracelet.

PET PREPAREDNESS



In the event of an evacuation, the single most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to take them with you. If you need to find a safe place for them ahead of time, check with the Baytown Health Department, Animal Services Division, or local veterinarian to help identify a pet-friendly evacuation shelter in your area.

Carefully monitor and bring pets inside at the first warning of a storm or disaster. Animals sense impending storms and can become disoriented and wander away. After a disaster, help reorient your pet by walking them on a leash. They may be confused if landmarks or scents are altered.

PET PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

- Food and water (7 day supply)
- Crate & kennel
- Bowls for food and water
- Leash and/or harness
- Medications and vaccination records
- Toys and pet beds
- Collar with identification tags and microchip information
- A current photo of your pet
- Pet waste clean-up supplies

ID YOUR PET

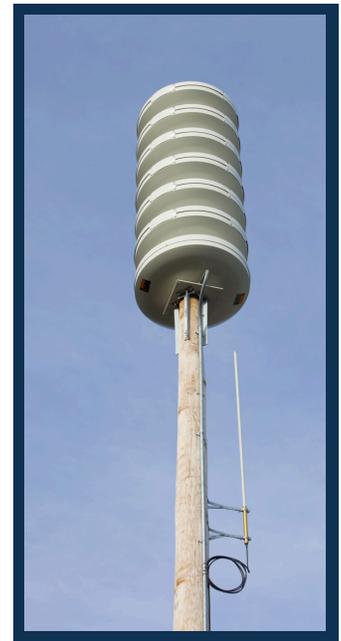
Pet microchipping is the best way to ensure reunification with your animal. Your cell phone number should be on the identification tag, and your microchip registration should be kept current. If your pet is adopted from a shelter or rescue organization, make sure the registration has been transferred to you and is not still with the adoption group.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

BAYTOWN SIREN SYSTEM

The City of Baytown maintains several sirens strategically located across the area to provide warnings to residents about chemical emergencies. When the sirens activate, this means residents should Shelter-In-Place immediately. An "All-Clear" message will be issued by local authorities when it is safe to resume normal activity.

The Siren System is tested on a weekly basis: every Wednesday at 9am for one (1) minute. No action is required by residents during this test.



CAER ONLINE MESSAGES

Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) Online is a system for community members to view posted messages and alerts about industrial incidents, planned events, and operational disruptions. Messages offer basic information such as what the incident or event is, where it happened, and whether any action is required by community members. Download the CAER Online App on your mobile device or visit

www.ehcma.org/public-safety/caeronline/



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



If you are interested in learning more about chemical preparedness, emergency planning, and other protective measures, please join us at the monthly meeting of the Greater Baytown Area Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC is composed of residents and officials from local government, industry, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, hospitals, schools, civic and environmental groups, and the news media. For more information visit www.gbcclepc.com.



An advertisement for the Baytown Alert system. It features a smartphone displaying a notification. The notification text reads: "Thank you for signing up for Baytown Alert to stay informed and up to date." Below the notification is a blue button that says "BAYTOWN ALERT". To the left of the phone, text says "STAY INFORMED WITH BAYTOWN ALERT" and "Sign up for Baytown Alert and receive emergency notifications via voice, email, and text message." Below this are icons for a car, a cloud with rain, and a warning sign, with the text "Get severe weather alerts, traffic updates, and emergency notifications." At the bottom, it says "SIGN UP AT www.baytown.org/alert".

SOCIAL

- @BaytownCityHall
- @cityofbaytowntx
- @cityofbaytown
- Channel 16

HELPFUL NUMBERS

- Baytown Dispatch Communications Center
911
- Baytown Fire Department
281-422-2311
- Baytown Police Department
281-422-8371
- Baytown Office of Emergency Management
281-422-1129
- City Hall
281-422-8281

WEBSITES

- City of Baytown
www.baytown.org
- Baytown Alert
www.baytown.org/alert
- Baytown Emergency Management
<https://baytown.org/197/Emergency-Management>
- Baytown Floodplain Management
<https://www.baytownengage.com/floodplain>
- National Weather Service
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx>
- Harris County Flood Warning System
<https://www.harriscountyfws.org/>

GET INVOLVED



The Baytown Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to the general public and residents of the greater Baytown area. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Response training includes fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available. To register for our next CERT Training Course, contact the Baytown OEM at 281-422-1129 or oem@baytown.org.



GET INVOLVED

Amateur Radio: Baytown Emergency Communications Group

The Baytown Emergency Communications Group is a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) organization that provides emergency backup communication in the event that normal communication networks are disrupted.



RACES volunteer operators are:

- Licensed Radio Amateurs
- Certified by a civil defense agency (Baytown OEM)
- Able to communicate on Amateur Radio frequencies during drills, exercises and emergencies
- Activated by local, county and state jurisdictions
- The only Amateur Radio operators authorized to transmit during declared emergencies when the President of the United States specifically invokes the War Powers Act.

Applicants must complete an application to become a volunteer of the City of Baytown which includes a background check. For more information contact Baytown Office of Emergency Management.



Baytown Fire Department

Office of Emergency
Management

 baytown.org/preparedness

 201 E Wye Dr, Baytown, TX 77521

 (281)-422-2311

  @baytownfire