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Kingsbridge M.U.D. Newsletter
SUMMER | 2016

THIS ISSUE :

Hurricane preparedness
Getting To Know Your SEAL Security Team
Water Conservation

Hurricane season is HERE*

2016 has already seen its fair share of torrential downpours and hurricane season is just kicking off. Though the Greater Houston area has been spared from any major named storms in recent years, it doesn't mean we shouldn't be prepared. Hurricane season started June 1 and wraps up November 30. This year the meteorological experts at Colorado State University call for a total of twelve named storms, five hurricanes, and two major hurricanes (classified as Category 3 or stronger).



A very rare January hurricane started off 2016. Hurricane Alex, a Category 1 storm, developed in the East Atlantic region –though never making it to the eastern seaboard. The National Hurricane Center prepares the list of named storms 5 years in advance. The names selected for 2016 include the following:

- Alex (January)
- Bonnie
- Colin
- Danielle
- Earl
- Fiona
- Gaston

It takes only one storm to change your life and community. Eight years ago, Hurricane Ike made landfall in Galveston as a large Category 2 storm and caused a storm surge approaching 20 feet and knocking out power to over 2.5 million people. Ike was one of the most destructive hurricanes to ever hit Texas, causing almost \$20 billion in damages and killing 84 people. The 2008 storm is a sobering reminder of how a little preparation can go a long way.

As a reminder to develop a plan, the National Hurricane Center named the week of May 15-21, 2016 as Hurricane Preparedness Week.

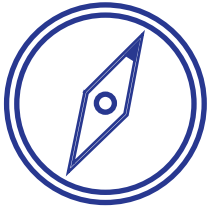
Each day highlighted a separate part of the plan and is detailed below.

Day 1 : Determine Your Risk

Find out what types of wind and water hazards can happen in our specific area. Flooding is the primary concern for inland Houston, The Bayou City

Day 2 : Develop an Evacuation Plan

Most evacuation routes for the Houston area involve heading West with contraflow routes (allowing travel west on both sides of the freeway) opening up along I-10 West and 290 towards Austin.



For evacuation routes check :

TxDOT keeps an updated evacuation map at www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html.

Day 3 : Secure an Insurance Check-Up

Call your insurance company and ask for an insurance check-up to verify you have sufficient homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home, car, or boat. Remember, standard homeowners insurance does not include flood coverage, though many areas of Houston have it listed as a requirement

Day 4 : Assemble Disaster Supplies

Hurricanes are unpredictable and can change course overnight. If you do not have time to evacuate, it is important to have a disaster kit ready. It is suggested to have enough non-perishable food, potable water, and medicine to last each person in your family at least one week.

Day 5 : Strengthen Your Home

Make sure your home is in good repair and up to local hurricane building code

specifications. Many retrofits can be done inexpensively. Have plywood, steel, or aluminum panels to board up your windows and doors. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of your home.

Day 6 : Identify Trusted Sources of Information

NOAA's National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center are your official sources for hurricane forecasts and the issuance of hurricane watches and warnings. News radio (such as AM 740) and/or our favorite local newscast should always have up-to-date information available as well.

Day 7 : Complete Your Written Hurricane Plan

The ideal time to prepare for a hurricane is before hurricane season begins, when you have the time and are not under pressure. Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan. Know where you will ride out the storm and procure your supplies well in advance.

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Things To Know About Hurricane Hazard Risks

- 1 Storm surge is water pushed ashore by the winds of tropical cyclones. It has caused more fatalities than any other hurricane hazard.
- 2 Category 1 hurricane winds are at least 74 mph and can cause massive damage to buildings and structures in its path.
- 3 Inland flooding is the most frequent cause of tropical cyclone fatalities. It can occur far from the coast and long after landfall.
- 4 Tornadoes are commonly spawned by a hurricane and can cause damage to areas which are far from the center of the hurricane.
- 5 Rip currents and waves along and near the coast can be deadly—even if the center of the storm passes well offshore.

* Kingsbridge M.U.D. District residents are not in the storm surge area.



REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Texas Division of Emergency Management, a division of Texas Department of Public Safety, has issued Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines to assist the public in preparing for Hurricane Season.

As part of this initiative, the State of Texas has organized the "State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry," or STEAR. This program allows gulf coast residents to register themselves or their loved ones if they have a disability or medical needs—who do not have friends or family to help—or simply do not have transportation.

The program asks that residents please understand that the Emergency Assistance Registry assists emergency officials in planning for emergency events. Having your information helps to determine what kinds of services might be required during a disaster, and helps responders plan and train more effectively. Communities use the information in different ways, so realize that having your information in the registry DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency. Registration is not a substitute for developing and maintaining your own family disaster plan.

To register yourself or loved ones for emergency assistance during emergency conditions, please visit <https://stear.dps.texas.gov>



Build your Emergency Kit

Below is a checklist to help you assemble your own kit for use in any emergency situation:

Documents:

An emergency plan with contact information, to ways to evacuate the home and a designated meeting place. Important documents to include:

- Birth and marriage certificates
- Passports and social security cards
- Insurance policies and agent's contact information
- Loan and deed documents
- Lists of medications and health information
- Local maps

Food :

- 1 gallon of potable water per person per day
- A 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Mess kit with utensils and dishware

Sanitary Items :

- Hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags and ties
- Toilet paper, moist towelettes
- Feminine hygiene products

Safety :

- First aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- A whistle to alert emergency responders
- Cell phone with chargers
- Matches in waterproof container
- Sleeping bag or bedding

Getting To Know Your S.E.A.L. Security Team



In 2015 the Kingsbridge District contracted a 3rd party security agency to provide additional security services for our neighborhoods. As always, if there is an immediate emergency, 911 is your first resource. The S.E.A.L. team has been brought on to help provide additional security services, not replace traditional law enforcement.

It is important to understand how S.E.A.L. can provide security services and what their limitations are. Any non-emergency calls can be made to their hotline number: 713-766-1600.

- S.E.A.L. Security's services are providing the availability to call a 24 hour dispatch center, GSAT. They encourage residents to call for assistance, report a dangerous or potentially threatening situations or activity, on view incidents occurring, and to inquire on their

services. GSAT will determine the seriousness of the incident and will dispatch an officer if necessary and/or notify respective law enforcement and authorities to the location of the incident.

-S.E.A.L. offers the efforts and expertise of Certified Police Officers and highly trained Certified Commissioned Security Officers. Utilizing a combination of the two forces has proven to substantially increase visibility and amplify your reduction in crime.

- S.E.A.L. will work closely with the Board of Directors in making sure that the communication and direction of patrols are understood by its members. SEAL has open communication and shares information between local law enforcement agencies, the board of directors, and the security board.

- S.E.A.L. Officers are required to take a 40 hour security class with an additional 8 hours a month of on-going training, all certified by the Texas Department of Public Safety. SEAL also runs one of the largest training academies in Houston.

-S.E.A.L.'s main focus is to lower crime and also represent the District in the most professional way. Officers will always be out meeting and introducing themselves to the constituents of the community. They will attend functions inside the community to show support.



Resident Notification System



You can sign up for email and/ or text-messages alerts by registering online at <http://www.kingsbridgemud.com/residential/alerts>. You may also sign up for text-message only alerts by texting the word "yes" to 281-769-3226.



WATER CONS

In the next 30-50 years there will be a rise in population in Houston and its surrounding areas bringing the total to 11 million people. We look at the projected population growth against our potable water supply and while the population continues to rise, our water supply does not. An increase in conservation is severely needed. There are many ways to conserve that are easy and ultimately cost effective.

Communities across the country are starting to face challenges in maintaining healthy and affordable water supplies; that's why it's more important than ever to use our water wisely and not waste it.

Average Daily Household Water Use

A typical household uses approximately 260 gallons of water every day. We can reduce this amount by using these ten simple steps to water conservation.



Install low-flow shower heads, taps, faucets, and toilets. Older faucets use between 3 and 7 gallons per minute (GPM), while low-flow aerators reduce water flow to 1.5 GPM. Likewise, a low-flow toilet can reduce water consumption per flush by approximately 30%. High efficiency toilets can save an average household 2500 gallons a year per toilet.



Turn off the faucet

while brushing your teeth, shaving, washing your hands, or rinsing dishes or vegetables. Each minute you have the faucet off saves at least 3 gallons. In the shower, get wet, turn off the water to lather, and then turn the water back on to rinse. To make this an easy step, some low-flow shower heads have levers to temporarily stop the flow of water.



Fix dripping taps and leaking toilets by

replacing washers and worn parts. A faucet drip or

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invisible leak in the toilet will waste up to 5,475 gallons a year. To check for toilet leaks, add 10 drops of food coloring to the tank. Wait 15 minutes. If the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.



Place Plastic jugs filled with sand or stones in your toilet tank to

reduce the amount of water it uses per flush. Don't use bricks, which can flake off inside the tank and interfere with the toilet's operation.



Wash only full loads in both the dishwasher and washing machine,

or set the water levels to accommodate smaller loads.



Use mulch and shade netting to reduce evaporation in your

garden. Mulch helps the soil stay moist, and as an added benefit, reduces weeds, which are water gluttons. Water only when plants wilt or when it's difficult to push a screwdriver into the soil.



Use biodegradable (phosphate-free) detergents and soaps

and re-use dishwater in the garden. If you want to make an even greater impact, consider plumbing your house to a gray-water system that collects water from your sinks, washing machine, baths, and showers for irrigating (check your local water regulations first).



Xeriscape. Is much like natural landscaping, however instead of

looking for plants that are native to your region, you are also looking for plants that have the ability to thrive on little to no supplemental irrigation throughout the year.



Plant densely in your garden. The denser the vegetation, the

more water that can be stored. Decreasing the amount of water that gets evaporated, this turns a higher percentage of water into productive --water decreasing the amount of supplemental irrigation needed.



Irrigation system. Have your system inspected to ensure it is operating correctly, identify any problems and set it to run more efficiently.

A Little Goes a Long Way

The potable water supply on this Earth is finite. With that being said we have many tools we can use to extend and replenish the life of our water supply. It is our responsibility just as much as the next generation's to do everything that we can to conserve; not just for yourself, but for your children as well. We at Kingsbridge MUD are simply requesting you be mindful of the water you are using and where it is going, for that alone could save countless gallons across the district.



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Best Trash 281-313-2378

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Si Environmental 832-945-1531

Gas Leaks

Centerpoint Energy 800-752-8036

Sheriff's Office

Fort Bend 281-342-6116

District Security Patrol

S.E.A.L. Security 713-766-1600