



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Woven throughout the annals of history are devastating natural disasters of every variety. Due to its size and geography, Texas is particularly susceptible to the devastation of hurricanes. Characterized by torrential downpour, rising sea levels, and blistering winds, hurricanes pose a significant threat to coastal and inland communities alike. These cataclysmic weather events can level entire cities, and they often leave in their wake death and destruction on a widespread scale.

Hurricanes have, in recent years, inflicted hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of damage, but their human cost is far greater. From the 1900 Galveston Hurricane to Hurricane Harvey, thousands of Texans have perished as a result of deadly tropical storms, and countless families have had to watch in anguish as their homes, livelihoods, and possessions were destroyed by the raging waters.

Ultimately, we cannot prevent hurricanes, but we can prepare for them, and in that vein, it is imperative that every individual, family, business, and municipality take proactive measures throughout the year to protect themselves. We must, moreover, be especially vigilant during hurricane season: the six-month period from June through November. Each of us must evaluate our unique risk factors and mitigate them to the best of our ability. Namely, we should identify hurricane-prone areas and floodplains; develop an evacuation strategy and communication plan; gather disaster supplies such as food, potable water, medicine, and flashlights; assess our finances and insurance coverage; retrofit buildings for hurricane-force winds; and remain in contact with vulnerable neighbors.

There is no substitute for proper preparation, and the sensible measures we take today will pay dividends tomorrow. In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that investments in natural hazard mitigation carry a 5:1 benefit to cost ratio.

Each year during the month of May, entities throughout the state at every level of government labor as one to emphasize the importance of hurricane preparedness and to remind us of the destructive power that hurricanes can unleash upon us. Citizens should prepare for the upcoming hurricane season by any means possible, and all state agencies should review and update their hurricane preparedness plans.

In support, municipalities, counties, and state agencies—such as the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Education Agency, the Office of the Comptroller, the Texas Department of Insurance, and the Department of State Health Services—will conduct outreach and education activities to the fullest extent practicable.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to prepare their family, property, and community for the impending hurricane season. We can educate ourselves before the next hurricane season, and by so doing, we will pave the way for a safer, stronger tomorrow.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 21 – 27, 2023, to be

## Hurricane Preparedness Week



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
9th day of May, 2023.

  
Governor of Texas