

Nueces County Hurricane Reentry Plan



City of
Corpus
Christi

Background

- Hurricane Katrina/Rita
- Coastal Bend Emergency Management Association/Industry Partnership
- Authority
 - Govt Code 418.108 Local Evacuation Authority
 - Govt Code 418.050 Phase Reentry Plans
 - Coastal Bend Regional Coordination Plan to Catastrophic Incidents- Coastal Bend Regional Hurricane Reentry Plan Annex

Purpose

- To provide uniform guidance for personnel who may require early reentry **prior to the retraction of the local evacuation order.**
- To promote and facilitate the timely reentry of essential personnel to speed the recovery of affected jurisdictions within Nueces County and its economy.
- A key component of continuity of government preparedness planning includes deliberate plans to ensure the continuation of essential functions through a wide range of incidents and requires a collaborated and concerted effort to coordinate provisions for federal, state, and local governmental entities, private sector, public sector, volunteer organizations active in disaster (VOAD) and agencies that provide critical services to assist first responders in the execution of their duties and those in direct support of critical infrastructure/key resources.

General Approach

- Guidance for required agency credentials & proof of residency
- Four Tiers
 - Tier 1- Traditional First Responders
 - Tier 2- Mass Care & Damage Assessment
 - Tier 3- Restoration of Essential Services
 - Tier 4- Business Owners & Residents
- Issuance of “Reentry Letters”
- Procedure for “Evacuation Exemption”

Who gets a letter?

- Exempt Organizations
- Tier 2 Personnel

**** Letters will only be issued on a standardized letterhead that has been mutually agreed upon ****



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Nueces County EVACUATION ORDER EXEMPTION

The organization named below has been granted an exemption to the hurricane mandatory evacuation order. All organization personnel are to remain at their assigned work location and are not granted free access within the evacuation area. All essential/critical personnel should be further classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2 level personnel and carry appropriate credentials as outlined in the Nueces County Hurricane Reentry Plan.

Business/Organization Name

Address

24 HOUR VERIFICATION POINT OF CONTACT:

Name:
Phone:

In the event information indicates that this letter is misused, the letter will be immediately confiscated by law enforcement authorities and returned to the issuing agency.

Chief Elected Official

Issuing Jurisdiction

Date: _____

Letter Serial Number (optional): _____

EXPIRATION DATE: December 31, 2011

Evacuation Exemption

- Organizations approved for exemption may include essential government personnel, first responders and limited private organizations in direct support of critical infrastructure/key resources.
- The organizations are considered self sufficient and remain at their own risk.
- Must have a written plan to include provisions for food, water, shelter and medical needs for a minimum of 72 hours post landfall and should have provisions for backup power and emergency communications capabilities such as satellite phones and/or HAM radio.
- Approval by Emergency Management Director on a case by case basis.

Tier 1 Personnel

Search and rescue (SAR) and security force operations

- SAR agents include local Fire/EMS, law enforcement, Texas Military Forces and other State and/or Federal emergency response teams such as Texas Task Force One/Two.
- Typically uniformed and are in clearly identified emergency response vehicles. These organizations are not required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter however should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

Tier 2 Personnel

Immediate mass care and damage assessment

- Typically provided by recognized state agencies such as Texas Military Forces and limited state VOADs such as American Red Cross, Texas Salvation Army and Texas Baptist Men. Most other disaster relief workers are classified as Tier 3.
- Official damage assessment teams may include Federal, State and local officials and are required to possess official agency identification credentials.
- CI/KR and utilities assessment personnel must be permitted immediate access to ensure essential services, such as water, power and communications, are restored and infrastructure is intact.
- Should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials. Personnel in this category are expected request Tier 2 reentry authorization prior to hurricane season and should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.
- ***The intent is to allow immediate and unrestricted access to both Tier 1 & 2 personnel as soon as the responding agency feels it safe to begin operations in the impacted area however may be further restricted at the discretion of local IC.***

Tier 3 Personnel

Restoration of essential services, POD & other support operations

- Essential services include power, infrastructure, public works, wastewater/water and utility repair and restoration.
- Health care agency personnel, which may include hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and dialysis centers. Credentialed volunteer health professionals possessing valid identification may be included.
- Insurance agents and adjusters.
- An example of businesses that may be allowed reentry as Tier 3 include those that have far reaching impact on recovery such as grocery stores, fuel providers, pharmacies, banking institutions and other “big box” providers (i.e. Wal-Mart, HEB, Home Depot, Lowes).
- Should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials. These organizations are not required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter however should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

Tier 4 Personnel

All other business operators & residents

- Tier 4 business operators/owners and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate **agency credentials and/or proof of residency as appropriate.**
- *All others not defined previously are considered “general population” and will be allowed reentry after the mandatory evacuation order has been lifted.*
- *Any conflict at designated check points will be routed through the local Incident Commander and EOC for resolution. LIFE SAFETY will be the ultimate deciding factor in ALL cases.*

Required Agency Credentials

All personnel working in the impact area shall carry proper credentials and identification on their person at all times.

All

- State issued driver's license or identification card
- Proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

Governmental Employees:

- Agency Photo Identification.
- Designation of "essential" or "disaster personnel" should be prominently displayed.
- Local volunteer personnel such as fire department/emergency services district personnel should possess applicable locally recognized identification as appropriate.

Private/VOAD Organizations:

- Agency identification with photo.
- Tier 2 Level Essential Personnel Authorization Letter and/or company designation letter detailing the employee essential function and to the extent possible defining the geographic area where work is to be performed.

Additional

- Employees performing work that requires special credentialing/licensing should be prepared to produce credentials as required by the certifying agency. (TCLEOSE, DSHS license/certification, TCEQ, etc.)

Proof of Residency

Proper identification for resident access should include one or more of the following:

- current state issued driver's license or identification card
- utility bill
- mortgage deed
- property tax documents
- or any governmental document which includes an address or other means that identifies the location of their property.

Next Steps...

- Countywide Implementation
 - City of Bishop- Completed
 - City of Port Aransas- Completed
 - City of Robstown- Completed
 - City of Corpus Christi- Completed
- Standardized Processes
 - Online Access
 - Request Forms
 - Processing/Approval Procedure
- Issuance of Letters

Questions?

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