



# Hurricane Season Safety & Preparedness

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TxDOT Austin District






- Austin District Profile

- 11 counties
- 2.5 Million residents
- 2 Million vehicles registered
- 9,584 lane miles
- 15 Maintenance Sections
- 5 Area Offices
- Approximately 550 employees










- National Hurricane Preparedness week - April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Season official begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends November 30<sup>th</sup> (6 months of the year!)
- Districts are meeting this month to discuss their plan & make any needed updates
- TxDOT Hurricane Conference - May 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Corpus Christi
- Austin District Hurricane Preparedness Workshop - May 18<sup>th</sup>

*Hurricane Preparedness* weather.gov/hurricane 

## **Know Your Risk: Water & Wind**

-  Consider your threats: storm surge, flooding from heavy rain, strong winds, tornadoes, rip currents
-  Determine if you live in a flood-prone area
-  Find out if you live in an evacuation zone
-  Identify your home's structural risks (mobile homes & basements can be especially vulnerable)



# Hurricane Season Preparedness



- Three Missions During Hurricane Season
  1. Prepare for a local impact
  2. Prepare to aid coastal Districts
    - Pharr, Corpus Christi, Yoakum, Houston, and Beaumont
  3. Prepare to receive evacuees from coastal Districts
    - Evacuation routes, Evacuation lanes, Contraflow





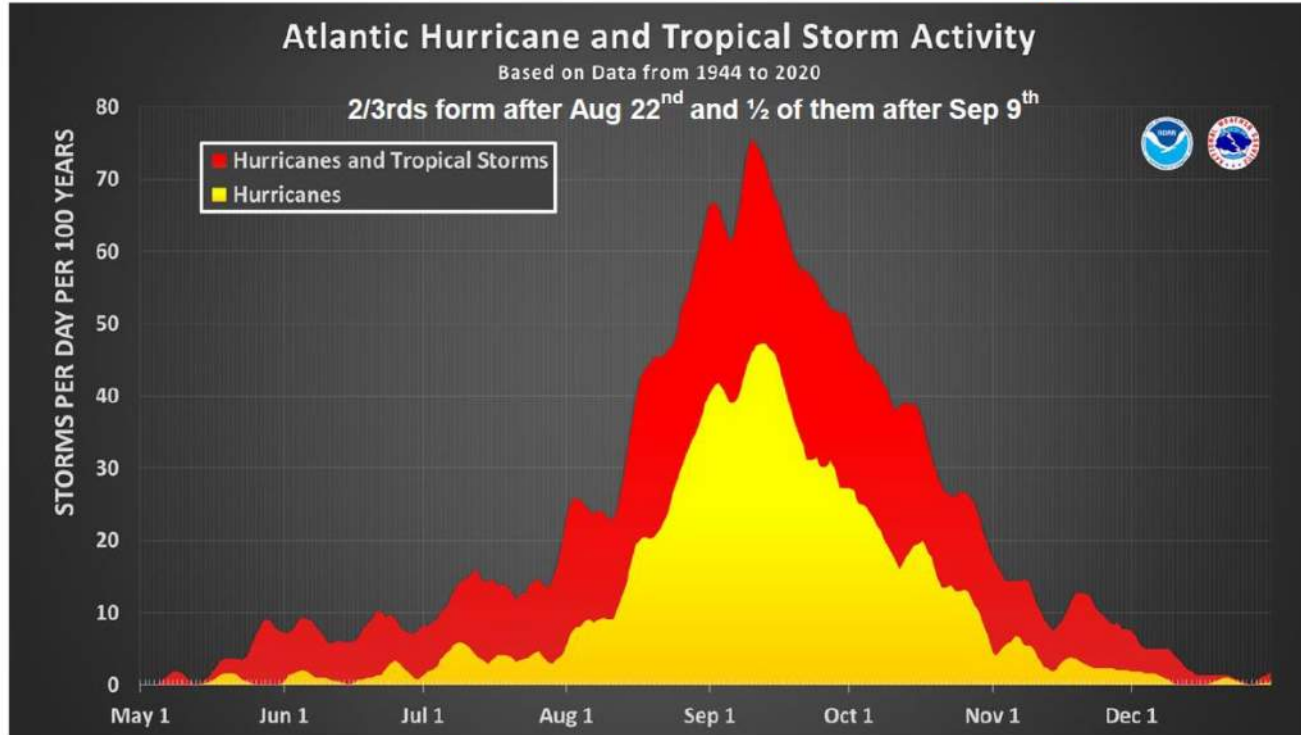


- Support to coastal Districts
  - Push and clear
  - Cut and clear
  - Sign repairs
  - Signal repairs
- Number of staff based on Category storm
  - Minimum of 15 employees
- Plan A, Plan B, Adjust





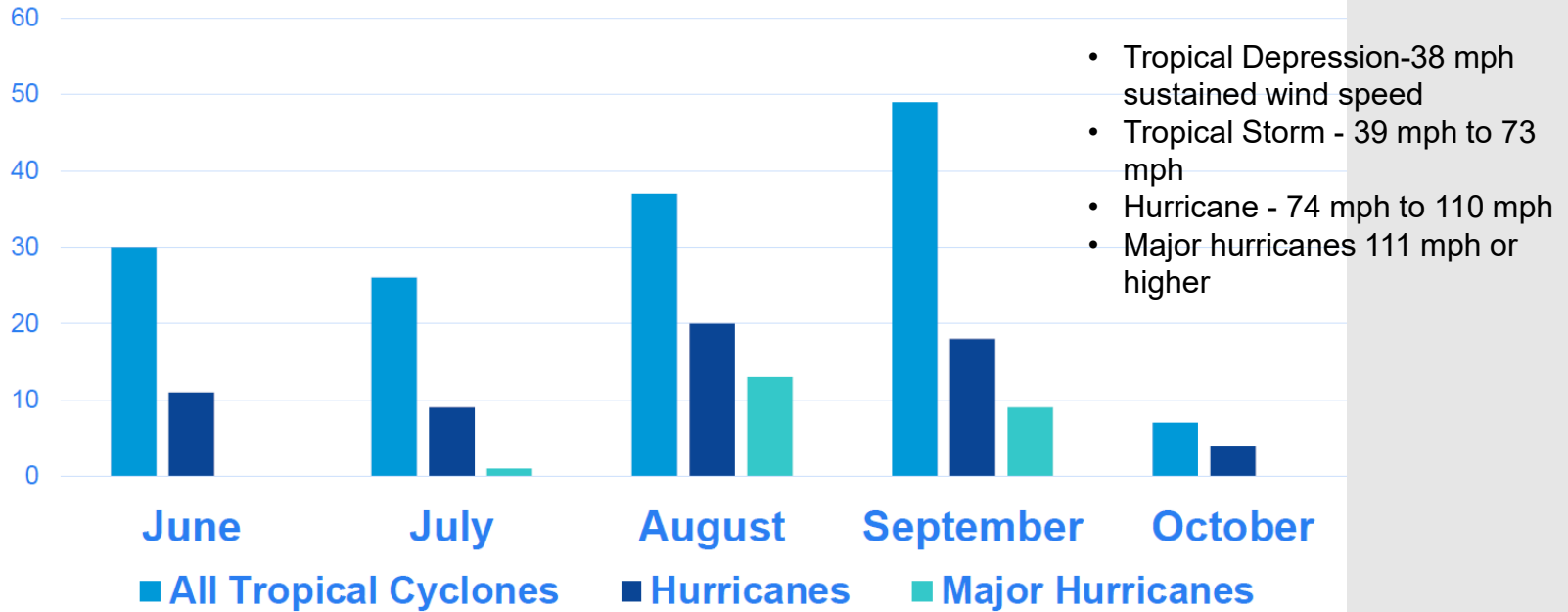
## Atlantic Basin Climatology





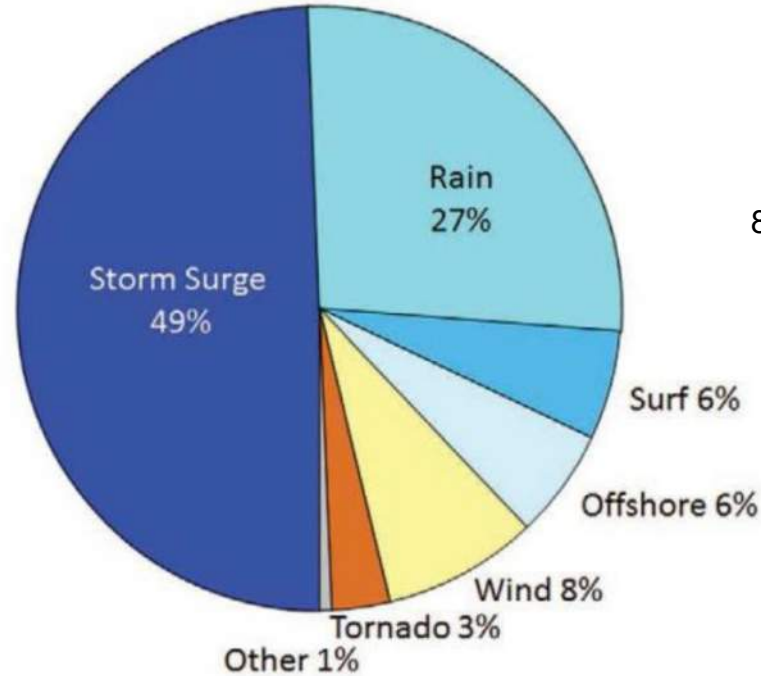
## Texas Tropical Cyclone History by Month

Tropical Depressions, Tropical Storms, and Hurricanes





## Direct Fatalities from Tropical Cyclones



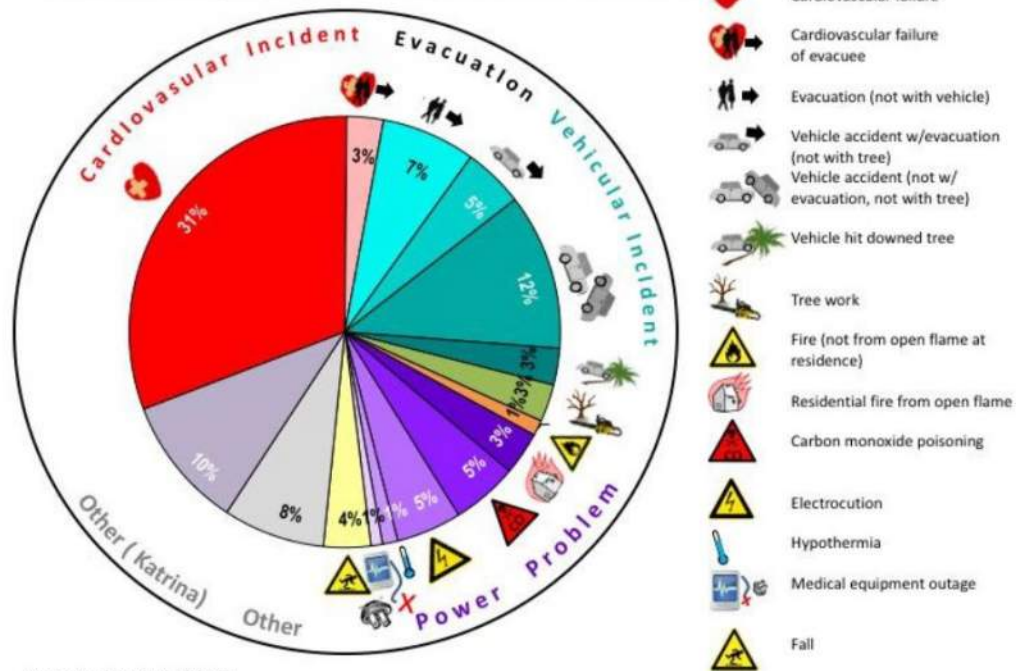
82% of Fatalities are water related





## Indirect Fatalities from Tropical Cyclones

U.S. Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Indirect Deaths, 1963-2012

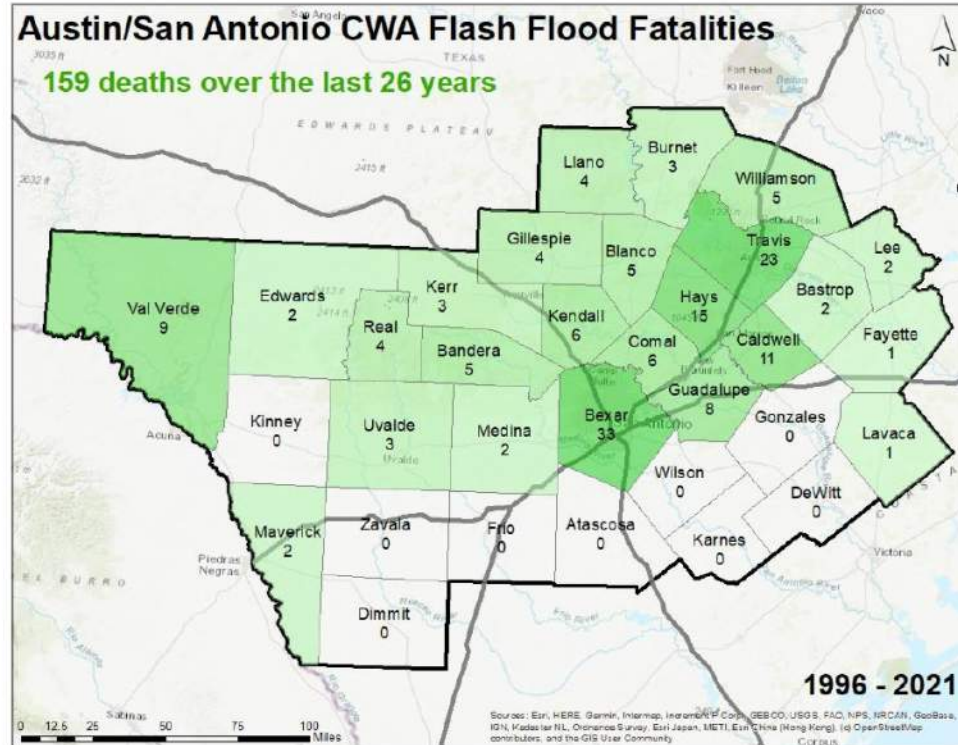


Rappaport and Blanchard, 8/7/2015

- 34% of Fatalities are cardiovascular related
- 15% are related to evacuation
- 20% vehicular related



## Flash Flood Fatalities in South Central Texas



- Inland flooding is the leading cause of fatalities in South Central Texas from Tropical Cyclones
- Our greatest risk/threat
- 74 Fatalities in the Austin District, not including Mason County



## Hurricane Harvey – 2017



- Most likely area the CENTER of the storm will track
- Cone is based on average NHC errors from last 5 years
- 2/3rds of the time forecast center stays within the cone
- Impacts can occur WELL OUTSIDE the cone
- Highest US record recorded in Nederland, TX with 60.58" during Harvey (broke the previous record by 12")



- Have a hurricane plan
  - Share the plan with your family and close friends
- Have a free State of Texas travel map in your vehicles
- Buy supplies early
  - Take care of home in advance
- Plan for the worst and hope for the best
- Follow trusted weather forecast sources
- [Hurricane Preparedness webpage](#)
- [Texas Hurricane Center | Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#)

*Hurricane Preparedness*  
**Take Action Today**

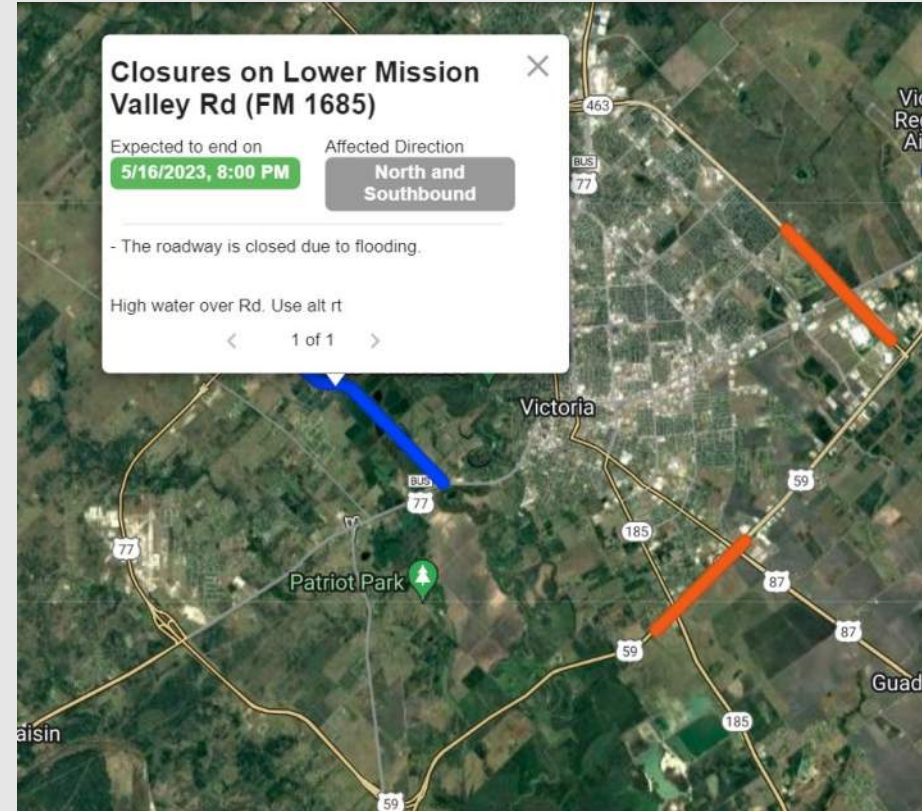
weather.gov/hurricane

- Determine your risk from water & wind
- Begin preparing now, before a storm
- Learn how to understand hurricane forecasts and alerts
- Learn what to do before, during, and after a storm







- Resources available to travelers
  - DriveTexas.org
    - Desktop version
    - Mobile version
    - Call Center 1-800-452-9292
- Local emergency management apps/notifications
  - Ready Central Texas
  - WarnCentralTexas.org







 **Situation Overview**  
National Weather Service Houston/Galveston

- No significant changes since this afternoon.
- Hurricane Harvey a category 1 hurricane forecast to be a strong category 3 hurricane at landfall
- Landfall, middle Texas coast Friday night
- Storm surge inundation 6 to 12 feet above ground level from South Padre to Sargent, 5 to 8 feet AGL Sargent to Jamaica Beach, 2 to 4 feet Jamaica Beach to High Island and around Galveston Bay
- Steering flow weakens considerably after landfall; slow movement means heavy rainfall & **life threatening flooding** especially coastal counties



Satellite Image of Harvey, Thursday evening

Image 8/24/2017  
Created 10:27 PM

  @NWSHouston  
weather.gov/houston

## Questions?







## 2023 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Arlene  
Bret  
Cindy  
Don  
Emily  
Franklin  
Gert

Harold  
Idalia  
Jose  
Katia  
Lee  
Margot  
Nigel

Ophelia  
Philippe  
Rina  
Sean  
Tammy  
Vince  
Whitney

**See a  
familiar  
District  
employee  
name?**