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Information Bulletin

Americas: Hurricane Harvey

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 2	Date of issue: 25 August 2017
Date of disaster: 25 August 2017	Point of contact: Felipe Del Cid, Disaster and Crisis Department Continental Operations Coordinator, email: Felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The Situation

According to the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Hurricane Centre (NHC), the centre of Tropical Storm Harvey the eye of Hurricane Harvey was located by a NOAA Hurricane Hunter aircraft and NOAA Doppler radar near latitude 27.1 North, longitude 96.3 West at 100 PM Central Daylight Time (1800 Coordinated Universal Time [UTC]). Harvey is moving toward the north-west near 10 mph (17 km/h); however, its forward speed is expected to decrease significantly over the next couple of days. On the forecast track, Harvey will make landfall on the middle Texas coast tonight, 25 August 2017 or early Saturday, 26 August 2017; Harvey is then likely to meander near or just inland of the middle Texas coast through the weekend. Maximum sustained winds are near 110 mph (175 km/h), with higher gusts. Some strengthening is possible, and Harvey is forecast to become a major hurricane before it reaches the middle Texas coast. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 35 miles (55 km) from the centre, and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to in addition, a 53-mph wind gust was reported at Port Aransas, and a 51-mph gust was measured at the Bob Hall Pier near Corpus Christi. Sustained winds of 56 mph and a 69-mph gust were measured by NOAA buoy 42020. The minimum central pressure based on data from the NOAA plane is 945 mb (27.91 inches).



Predicted trajectory of Hurricane Harvey as of 2 pm CDT, 25 August 2017. Source: NOAA

Watches and Warnings

A Storm Surge Warning is in effect for:

* Port Mansfield to High Island, Texas

A Storm Surge Watch is in effect for:

* South of Port Mansfield, Texas to the Mouth of the Rio Grande

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for:

* Port Mansfield to Sargent, Texas

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for:

* North of Sargent to High Island, Texas

* South of Port Mansfield Texas to the Mouth of the Rio Grande

A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for:

* South of the Mouth of the Rio Grande to Boca de Catan, Mexico

Preliminary damage assessment

Since Hurricane Harvey has yet to make landfall in Texas, United States of America, no damage has been reported; however, Hurricane Harvey will make landfall tonight along the Texas Gulf Coast with over 100 mph winds and up to 35 inches of rain, which could cause devastating and life-threatening flooding and tornadoes. The storm is expected to hover over parts of Texas and Louisiana for several days. According to the American Red Cross (AMCROSS), the storm has been upgraded to a Level VII disaster relief operation (DRO). Currently, there are 7 collective centres that are open and another 50+ on standby. The United States' Department of Homeland Security (DHS) indicates that as many as about 392,000 people may lose power and be affected by other infrastructure-related issues including water, transportation, healthcare, access to emergency services and communications. Moreover, 12 cities and counties have been given orders to



Hurricane Harvey has already begun pounding the Texan coastline. Source: ABC Eyewitness News

evacuate, which includes nearly 37,000 residents of Matagorda County, and the governor of Texas has activated 700 National Guard members.

Exposure by province

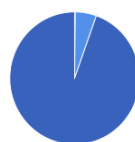
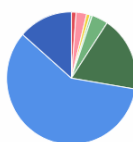
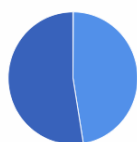
Estimated wind impact	Wind Speed (km/hour)	Pop. Tamaulipas, MEX	Pop. Nuevo Leon, MEX	Pop. Texas, USA	Pop. Louisiana, USA	TOTAL
Catastrophic damage	183.6 - 720.0		0	2,724	0	2,724
Severe damage	152.3 - 183.6	0	0	178,950	0	178,950
Wide spread damage	129.6 - 152.3	0	0	408,239	0	408,239
Moderate damage (5% damage)	105.8 - 129.6	0	0	134,558	0	134,558
Minor damage; power out	91.1 - 105.8	0	0	89,695	0	89,695
Trees down; some power loss	76.0 - 91.1	0	0	624,680	0	624,680
Branches breaking	61.2 - 76.0	1,687	0	2,844,315	385	2,846,387
Large tree sway	48.2 - 61.2	841,702	0	9,108,500	13,712	9,963,914
Small tree sway	33.5 - 48.2	934,145	59,286	2,099,725	244,735	3,337,891
		1,777,534	59,286	15,491,386	258,832	17,587,038

Tamaulipas, MEX

Nuevo Leon, MEX

Texas, USA

Louisiana, USA



Exposure according to the possible areas of impact. Source: Dashboard

National Society actions

American Red Cross:

- Evacuation orders are in effect in both Texas and Louisiana; more than 90 people spent Thursday night (24 August 2017) in seven Red Cross collective centres, with nearly 50 additional collective centres ready to open and support thousands of people if needed.
- The Central and South Districts have begun opening evacuation centres in the counties of Webb, Kerr, Bexar, Comal, Travis and Fayette.
- The Red Cross is mobilizing hundreds of trained Red Cross disaster relief workers and deploying truckloads of kitchen supplies and tens of thousands of ready-to-eat meals to support this response effort.
- Trailers full of collective centre supplies including cots and blankets—enough to support more than 20,000 people—are arriving in Texas today, 25 August 2017.
- More than 40 Red Cross emergency response vehicles are activated with dozens more on alert.
- The Red Cross is also working in close collaboration with government officials and community partners in both Texas and Louisiana to coordinate potential response efforts.
- The Red Cross has pre-positioned blood products in Houston ahead of the storm to help ensure that it can maintain an adequate blood supply over the weekend; it is also staging additional blood inventory in Dallas as well in case of cancelled flights or severe flooding.



AMCROSS ambulance being mobilized to respond to the hurricane.

Source: AMCROSS

- Upgraded to a Level VII DRO.
- There is 1 feeding trailer currently in Houston with another 4 en route; there are 2 other trailers going to Victoria and Corpus Christi. Plans are also in the works to partner with the Southern Baptists of Texas to open 4 kitchens between the 3 locations.
- Disaster Health Services has established a Staff Wellness line, and prepared Medical Go Bags.
- Community Partnership is working with local partners to help with support during the event, including having The Children's Museum help support activities for the kids at the collective centres.
- The operation is conducting calls for the activation of staff and volunteer workforce as well as reaching out to Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and local emergency management for collaborative planning.

IFRC actions

- Developed a [Dashboard](#) for the Hurricane Harvey
- Since the formation of Harvey in the Caribbean, the IFRC has been monitoring the storm and coordinating with the affected National Societies (Belize, Honduras Nicaragua and various other National Societies in the Caribbean)
- Maintaining Monitoring Alert Level II
- IFRC's Communications Unit is maintaining contact with AMCROSS through the IFRC's regional office for the Americas
- IFRC's Communication Unit is reposting information on the storm on the IFRC's social media channels and its website
- The Disaster and Crisis Department is producing informational bulletins on the storm's progress

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.

Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace