

Information Bulletin

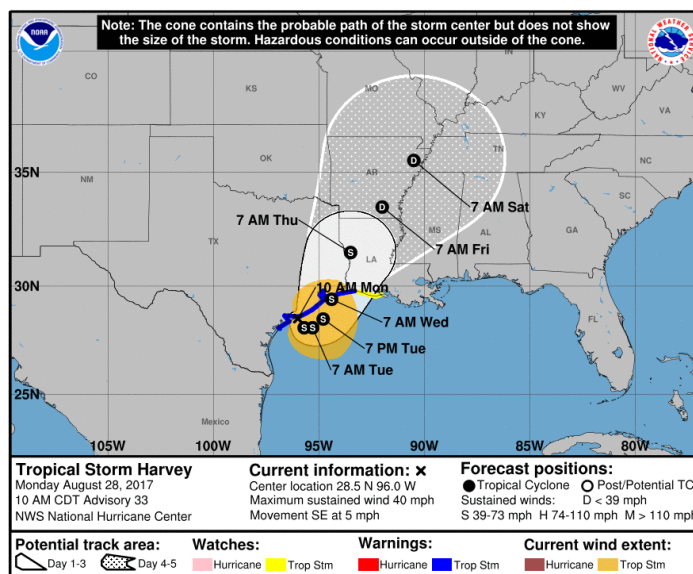
Americas: Tropical Storm Harvey

Information Bulletin N° 3	Date of issue: 28 August 2017
Date of disaster: 28 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), Tropical Storm Harvey's centre was located near latitude 28.5 North, longitude 96.0 West. Harvey is moving toward the south-east at around 5 mph (7 km/h), and a slow motion toward the south-east is expected through tonight, 28 August 2017. A gradual turn toward the north-east and a continued slow forward speed are expected for Tuesday, 29 August 2017 and into tomorrow evening. On the forecast track, Harvey's centre is expected to be just offshore of Texas' middle and upper coast through Tuesday night. Maximum sustained winds are approximately 40 mph (65 km/h), with higher gusts. Some slow intensification is possible over the next 48 hours. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles (280 km) mainly to the east of the centre. The minimum central pressure estimated from surface observation along the Texas coast is 997 mb (29.44 inches).



Predicted trajectory of Tropical Storm Harvey as of 10 am CDT, 28 August 2017. Source: NOAA

Watches and Warnings

- A Tropical Storm Warning has been issued east of High Island, Texas, to Cameron, Louisiana.
- A Tropical Storm Watch has been issued east of Cameron to Intracoastal City, Louisiana.
- A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for: Mesquite Bay to Cameron

- A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for: East of Cameron to Intracoastal City

Catastrophic and life-threatening flooding continues in south-eastern Texas.

Interests elsewhere along the middle and upper Texas coast and in southern Louisiana should continue to monitor Harvey's progress.

Preliminary damage assessment

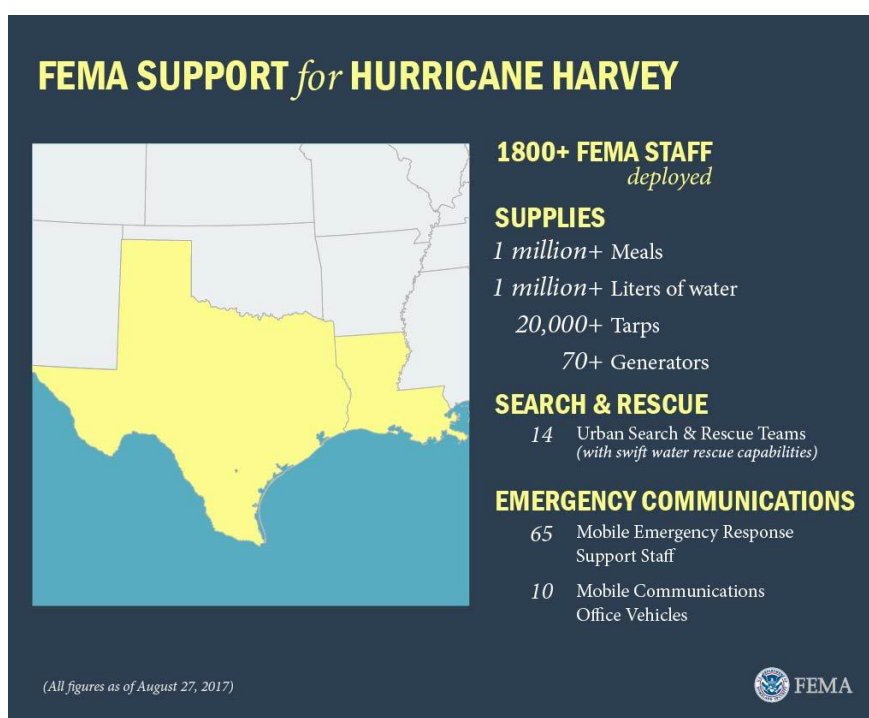
- The threat from Tropical Storm Harvey is far from over as extremely dangerous flooding continues in Texas and parts of Louisiana. Getting help in some areas will be challenging for some time due to devastating floodwaters and closed roads.



A severely damaged home in Rockport, TX. Source: Weather Underground

- There is one confirmed fatality in Rockport as a result of a single-family house fire that the person was trapped in during the height of the storm. The US Coast Guard indicates that they have received over 300 requests for Urban Search and Rescue assistance. Houston has reported that at least 5 people are dead, and its emergency services has received over 2,500 calls for assistance and another 1,000 are in the queue. Thousands of homes could be impacted by water release from two dams on Monday, 28 August 2017 and Tuesday, 29 August 2017. About 787,000 people are under voluntary evacuation orders. Officials are evacuating about 200 homes in Conroe due to releases from Lake Conroe. Louisiana remains under a state of emergency because of Tropical Storm Harvey, which isn't forecast to move into the state, but could bring severe weather and flash flooding caused by the associated rain bands. Additional rainfall amounts of 15 to 25 inches are expected in southwestern Louisiana and 5 to 15 inches expected in south-central Louisiana.
- Harvey will continue to produce several feet more of rain over the next several days, and millions of people are facing flash flood warnings, including the entire Houston metro area, which is under a flash flood emergency; Harvey is expected to produce life-threatening rain accumulations of 15 to 25 inches and isolated maximum amounts of 50 inches over the coast through Friday, 1 September 2017.
- Harvey is causing catastrophic flooding in south-east Texas.
- The governor of Texas declared a state of emergency for 68 counties.
- The Texas National Guard and Texas State Guard activated a total of 3,000 service members Sunday, 27 August 2017 to respond to Harvey.
- Multiple airports, significant roads and multiple ports are closed. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)/United States Coast Guard (USCG) are coordinating with impacted ports to determine status and make restoration plans.
- A Matagorda County official issued a mandatory evacuation for all Bay City (pop. 17,614) residents on Monday, 28 August 2017, as catastrophic flooding of up to 10-feet of water is expected.
- About 261,000 customers are without power in Houston and counties along the south-east coast.

- A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Mesquite Bay to High Island, TX.
- More than 1,800 people took refuge from the deadly storm Saturday night (25 August 2017) at 34 Red Cross and community centres in Texas. In Louisiana, one collective centre, where 8 people spent Saturday night, is open; these numbers are expected to grow and dozens of additional collective centres could open.
- There are numerous reports of people stranded in their homes and water rescues are ongoing; roads are flooded, rail lines are shut down, airports closed and hundreds of thousands have no power. Numerous hospitals, nursing facilities and dialysis centres are closed.



American Red Cross:

- Hundreds of Red Cross volunteers from all over the country are on the ground now, working to provide safe shelter and comfort to people impacted by this devastating storm.
- The Red Cross has enough shelter supplies in Texas to support 28,000 people, and supplies for an additional 22,000 people are being sent in now.
- Tractor trailer loads of ready-to-eat meals, comfort kits, kitchen supplies and cleaning supplies are on the ground in Texas.
- AMCROSS is working in close collaboration with government officials and community partners in both Texas and Louisiana to coordinate potential response efforts



A AMCROSS volunteer speaks with an affected family.
Source: AMCROSS

IFRC actions

- Developed a [Dashboard](#) for the Hurricane Harvey
- Published three information bulletins ([Information Bulletin no. 1](#); [Information Bulletin no. 2](#))

- Issued Regional Intervention Team (RIT) alert for communications, which was requested by AMCROSS
- The IFRC's regional office for the Americas is monitoring the storm's development and coordinating with AMCROSS' regional director
- Regional disaster managers (DM) are monitoring the situation
- Developed press releases
- DM focal points for Central America and Mexico are disseminating informational messages



An AMCROSS volunteer conducts a damage assessment in a stricken neighbourhood.
Source. AMCROSS

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

American Red Cross:

- Roberto Brito de la Cuesta, American Red Cross director for Latin America and the Caribbean; mobile: +507 6670-8015; email: Roberto.BritodelaCuesta@redcross.org

In IFRC Regional Office for the Americas:

- Inigo Barrena, head of Disaster and Crisis department, phone: +507 317 3050; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org.
- Regional Logistics Unit (RLU): Mauricio Bustamante, Regional Logistics coordinator, phone: +507 317 3050; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org
- Diana Medina, regional communications manager; email: diana.medina@ifrc.org
- Felipe Del Cid, Disaster and Crisis Department continental operations coordinator, email: felipe.delcid@ifrc.org

In Geneva:

- Sune BULOW, emergency operations and information management-Disaster and Crisis Department; email: sune.bulow@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

- Priscila Gonzalez, planning and monitoring coordinator, phone: +507 317 3050; email: priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Marion Andrivet, emergency appeals and marketing officer, phone: +507 317 3050; email: marion.andrivet@ifrc.org
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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