



Robert Eckels
County Judge

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESS ADVISORY

Friday
September 23, 2005
10:00 P.M.

www.hcoem.org/rita

Hurricane Rita Reaches Towards Harris County *Galveston County & Southeast Harris County Take Initial Hits*

Harris County Homeland Security and Emergency Management officials warn that downgraded conditions should not be taken for granted by area residents. Significant winds, heavy rain, power outages and limited medical facilities pose significant threats to public safety until Hurricane Rita passes the Houston area.

CenterPoint Energy and Galveston County report 90,000 customers in the area have lost power. Sporadic outages are expected to continue throughout the evening.

The Galveston County Office of Emergency Management is warning League City residents to expect winds of up to 85 miles an hour by midnight. Winds are expected to sustain that level for approximately four hours.

At Bermuda Beach, seawater has already reached the first row of seafront homes. Stewart Beach waters have reached the pavilion; city officials do not expect waters to rise into the building.

Clear Lake Medical Center, Baybrook Mall, East Houston Hospital, Mainland Medical Center, Moody Gardens and Bayshore Medical Center are business closures that reflect widespread closures in Galveston County and southeast Harris County. Some businesses however, including some on the seawall, remain open.

As of 9 p.m. ET

Location: 85 miles southeast of Sabine Pass on the Texas-Louisiana border

Latitude: 28.7 North

Longitude: 93.0 West

Movement: Northwest 11 mph

Winds: 120 mph