



Robert Eckels
County Judge

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FACT SHEET

Sunday
September 26, 2005
10:00 A.M.

Gloria Roemer, Communications Director TranStar* 6922 Old Katy Rd.*Houston, Texas 77024

Harris County Region Continues Recovery

THE RETURN

State officials are urging those returning to gulf coast communities to follow a three-day state plan for a safe and orderly return.

On Sunday, those living west of Interstate-45 and north of Interstate-10, including Tomball, the Woodlands, Waller, Hockley, Katy and Brookshire returned to their homes.

Today communities west of State Highway 35 and south of I-10, including Richmond, Stafford, Rosenberg, Sugar Land, Pearland and those living inside Loop 610 are encouraged to return.

On Tuesday, areas east of I-45 and north of I-10, including Liberty and Chambers counties are scheduled to return.

Areas with more significant damage are still being assessed and residents of those communities are strongly discouraged from returning at this time.

For a map of the plan: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/hcr/goinghome/>

THE ROADS BACK

Trinity River Bridge

The Trinity River Bridge on U.S. 59, between Houston and Lufkin, is now open to traffic. The bridge, which had been closed over the weekend as a precaution while water was released from Lake Livingston, was reopened at midnight. Motorists can now take U.S. 59 all the way to Houston and are no longer detoured to I-45.

Returning to Houston; fuel supply limited. Traffic was reported as steady on major highways leading to Houston on Sunday and slowed some at the most congested locations. While supplies are being replenished, availability of fuel is limited in some areas.

Travel is still discouraged in the southeast corner of Texas. TxDOT crews today will continue clean-up in the area bounded by U.S. 59 and State Highway 103. Also, TxDOT is working to check and repair traffic signals in the area. I-10 east of Houston is open but exits into Beaumont and portions of southeast Texas are closed.

TxDOT messaging signs continue to communicate with travelers about evacuation accommodations and services. For State roadway information call 1-800-452-9292.

The HOV lanes on I-10, 290, I-45 North, 59 Eastex and 59 Southwest freeways will remain open 24 hours per day for inbound traffic. The HOV lane on the Gulf freeway (I-45 South) will remain open for outbound traffic until normal operations resume.

The Harris County Toll Road Authority has waived fees for toll roads through Wednesday morning at 5:00 a.m.

For Harris County roadway information visit www.HoustonTranStar.org

THE RECOVERY

Damages

Harris County Tax Assessor/Collector Paul Bettencourt estimates structural damage in Harris County to be approximately \$42 million. The highest concentration of losses is in the eastern part of the county and do not include inventory losses.

Electricity

CenterPoint Energy reports that approximately 91% of area residents now have power. The majority of customers without power are concentrated in heavily wooded areas. Over 700,000 customers lost power as a result of Hurricane Rita. All repairs are expected to be finished by Friday.

Representatives of local power companies are working with emergency management officials to coordinate repairs. A total of 4,000 employees are working to restore electricity, of which 2,400 are from out of state.

Do not call to report outages, except for emergencies, such as downed power lines. **CenterPoint Energy knows when and where outages have occurred. For emergency issues only, call 713-207-2222.**

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/newsroom/storm/>

Harris County

All Harris County departments are open.

Harris County jury duty is closed on Monday and Tuesday but state district and county courts are open.

www.co.harris.tx.us

City of Houston

Mayor Bill White has called on essential personnel return to the city and to their jobs to contribute to the recovery effort. Mayor White urged grocery store employees and gas station operators to join medical professionals, transportation related employees and others coming back to normalize the region's daily activities.

City officials announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse the city \$124 for each car towed under its Safe Clear mandatory tow program. Residents can call 713-884-3131 if their vehicle was towed.

Metro

Metro is resuming partial bus and rail service today. Metro is also resuming bus services to support essential personnel that need transportation to assist in the Hurricane Rita recovery effort. Rail service is restored to a Sunday schedule.

Partial bus service for Monday is as follows:

METRO BUS SERVICE FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005 FREQUENCY WILL BE ACCORDING TO SUNDAY SCHEDULE

1 Hospital	45 Tidwell
2 Bellaire	46 Gessner
3 Langley / Gray	47 Hillcroft
4 Beechnut	48 Navigation
5 Kashmere / Southmore	50 Harrisburg / Heights
6 Jensen	52 Hirsch / Scott
8 S. Main / Yale	56 Airline
9 N. Main	60 McGregor
10 Willowbend	65 Bissonnet
11 Almeda / Nance	68 Brays Bayou
14 Hiram Clarke	72 Westview
15 Fulton	73 Bellfort
20 Canal / Long Point	77 Liberty / MLK
23 Crosstimbers	78 Irvington
25 Northline / Richmond	80 Dowling / Lyons

26 / 27 Outer / Inner
30 Clinton / Cullen
33 Post Oak
36 Lawndale
37 El Sol
40 Pecore / Telephone
42 Holman
44 Acres Homes

82 Westheimer
83 Lee Road
85 Antoine
86 FM 1960
87 Sunnyside
102 IAH
137 Northshore
163 Fondren

In addition, reduced Park and Ride service will be available. Park and Ride buses will depart at the top of each hour during peak morning and afternoon periods only. Not all lots will be open. There will be no midday service (9am - 3pm) or service after 7pm. Updated information is as follows:

202 Kuykendahl
204 Spring
205 Kingwood
214 Northwest Station
221 Kingsland
228 Addicks

236 Maxey Road
246 Bay Area
247 Fuqua
257 Townsen
262 Westwood
265 West Bellfort

Two circulator shuttles will operate in the Texas Medical Center: the 320 TMC White and the 321 TMC Blue.

www.ridemetro.org

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

All districts in Harris and Galveston counties will be closed at least Monday and Tuesday. Residents are encouraged to monitor their local media for school closings changes

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

The following cities are under dusk to dawn curfews unless specific times are indicated:

Friendswood, Texas City, Jacinto City, La Porte (6pm to 6am) , Kemah (6pm to 6am)

Richmond/Rosenberg and Clear Lake have lifted their curfews

RESOURCES

United Way Shelter Hotline	311
To find a displaced loved one :	1-877-568-3317
To report price gouging:	1-800-252-8011
Red Cross Hotline:	713-313-5480
For cars towed on a freeway within The City of Houston:	713-884-3131
To report price gouging:	1-800-252-8011
Texas DPS Road Conditions Hotline:	1-800-452-9292
Health volunteers should call:	Call 1-800-942-5540

www.hcoem.org/rita

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