



# Archdiocesan Disaster Committee Newsletter



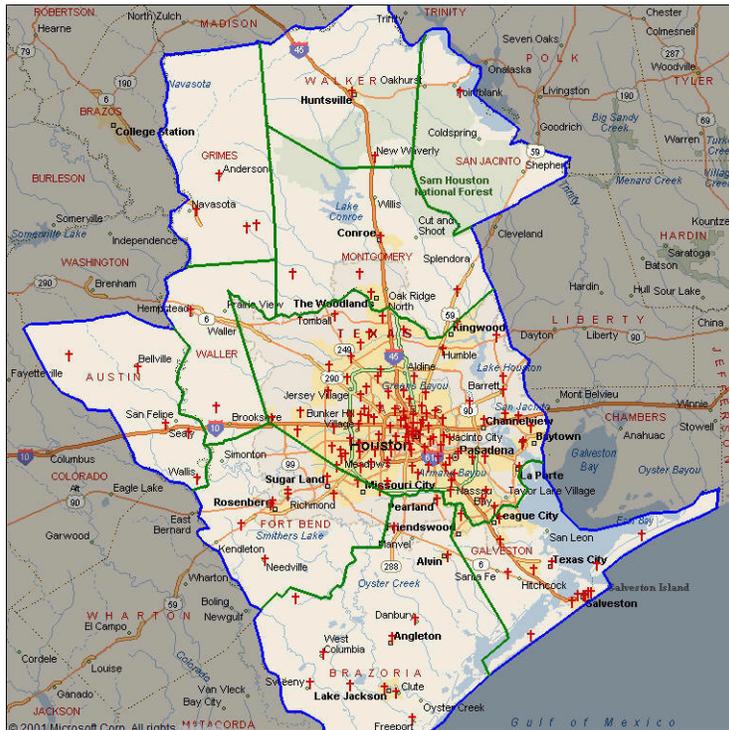
Volume 4, Issue 1 May 10, 2011

## HURRICANE SEASON 2011

### HURRICANE SEASON 2011 BEGINS JUNE 1

- Prepare now.
- Revisit your disaster plan.
- Profile your buildings.
- Review your facility maintenance schedule.
- Identify key staff.
- Develop your telephone tree.
- Schedule staff meetings to discuss the need for family disaster planning.
- Drill—phone tree
- Drill—evacuations
- Drill—shelter in place

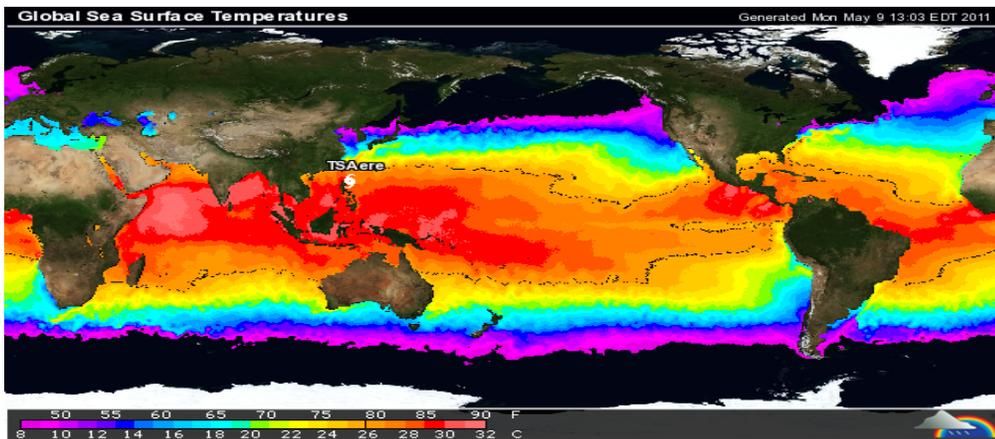
**WE CANNOT RELY SOLELY ON OTHERS. SOMETIMES WE ARE THE OTHER**



**Are we vulnerable to a landfalling hurricane?**

With so many of our locations concentrated in Gulf Coast counties and with the Houston Ship Channel providing a gateway to Harris County, you decide.

**PREPARE!  
PREPARE NOW!**



A lot of what happens this year will depend on how the surface water temperatures (SST) of the ocean waters develop. This is an image of May 9 2011. The brown areas are already at 80+ degrees and oranges are approaching 85+. By August/September these waters will be at their peak temperature.

**What can be done right now?**

Here are some steps you can take now at work AND home:

1. Trim trees back from buildings!
2. Remove dead or sick trees!
3. Pre-cut plywood to fit vulnerable windows!
4. Buy plylox clips to fasten plywood without nails or screws!
5. Review evacuation plans!
6. Review/test communication plans!
7. Review shutdown and startup protocols for facility (and home)!
8. Meet with staff (and your family) to discuss preparedness plans!
9. Stock 3—7 days of nonperishable food and drinking water!
10. Think backpacks!
11. Don't forget those whom you have made a commitment to assist!

Meredith B. Smith, CPCU, ARM  
Director, Ins & Risk Management  
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
713.652.8225 direct  
713.652.8251 fax  
msmith@archgh.org



**Every Hurricane Season involves great risk for our safety and the safety of our families and friends. If we knew for certain what would happen each year, it would not be called a "prediction" or "forecast".**

**Galveston 1900—Can it Happen Again?**

At the time of the Galveston Hurricane, weather forecasting was barely scientific. Observers in Cuba tried to warn the mainland US, but without means of verification, those warnings were ignored.

As the Great Storm bore down, Isaac Cline relied on observation. The nascent NWS had only the most primitive means to verify wind and weather, relying on historical data to determine "forecasts".

A storm of this intensity CAN and WILL happen again. What has changed is our ability to track weather and to prepare IF WE PAY ATTENTION.

**CELL PHONE USE FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

Text messaging works well and is more reliable than voice in a communication crisis. The bandwidth required for texting is less than voice so when cell lines are crowded, text can often squeeze through.

**Program all emergency #s into your cell phone NOW.**

**Forward your home phone to your cell# BEFORE YOU EVACUATE.**

**Most cell phones permit you to access weather and news information. Find out how yours works.**

**If your phone has a camera you can use it to photo damage to your property. Learn to use the camera now, not during the storm!**

**Keep your phone charged ALWAYS.**

**Be sure you have alternate charging methods, e.g., car, power, batteries, solar, etc.**

**Keep your cell phone DRY at all times. Water will damage it irreparably. In an emergency use baggies.**

**DEVELOP YOUR FAMILY PLAN AS A KEY TO PREPAREDNESS. EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE AN EMERGENCY PHONE STRATEGY. PRACTICE NOW.**

**Tell your contacts to text message you rather than try to call. Practice texting before you need it. Let your children teach you! Make this exercise part of your family preparation.**

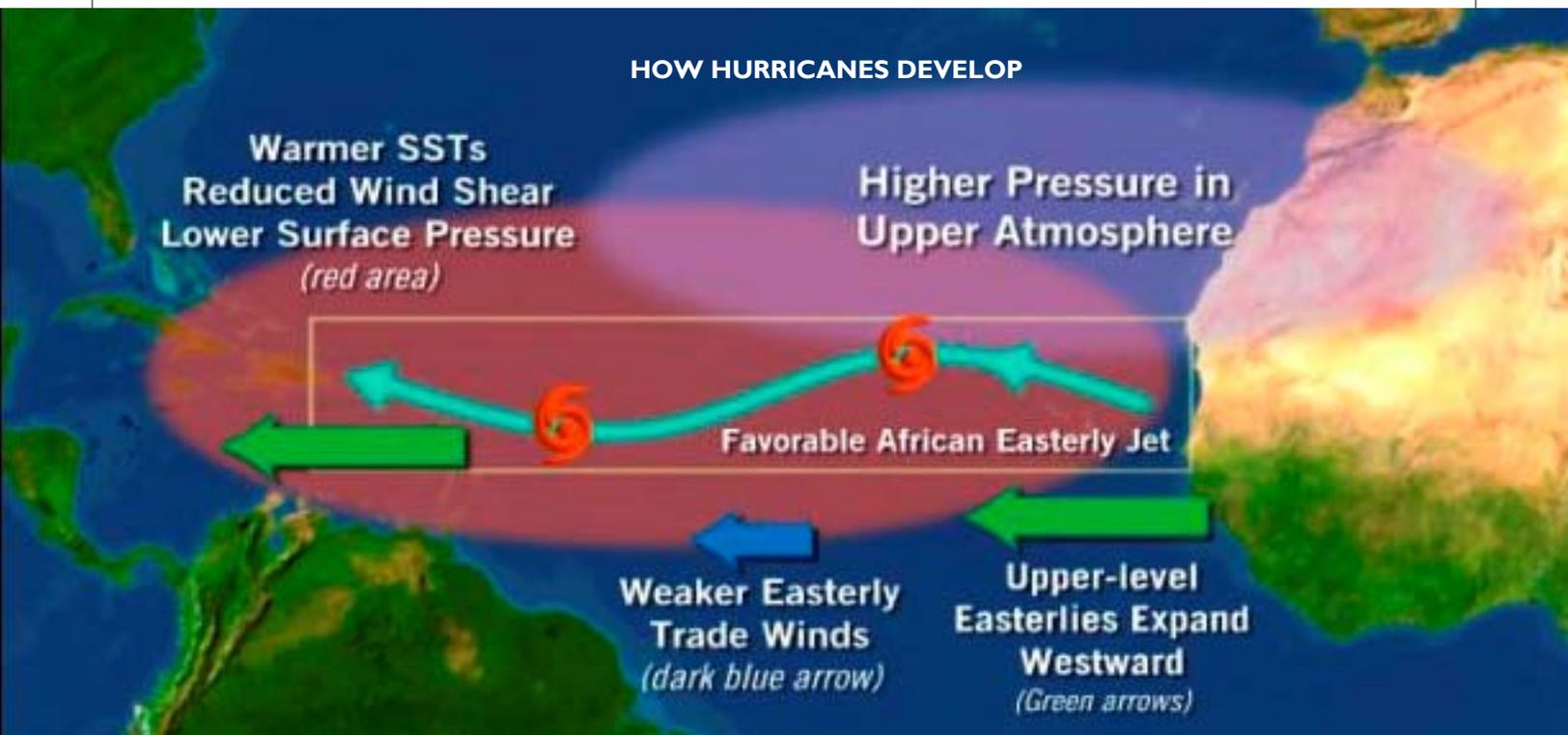
*"residents may choose their individual paths outside the official routes"*

That's the **official** position concerning evacuation. Do you know all the ways out of your area? Where flooding occurs? How to get to the highways? What is the nearest higher ground?

Do you really need to evacuate or are you afraid of being without power? TV? A/C?

There were 1000's of folks stranded in traffic during the Rita evacuations who did not need to leave. They clogged the roads and made it more difficult for the MANDATORY evacuation area to empty.

Don't panic. Be smart. Always think ahead and think of the other person.



# National Weather Service Weather Forecast Houston/Galveston, TX

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## 2011 Houston/Galveston Hurricane Preparedness Meetings

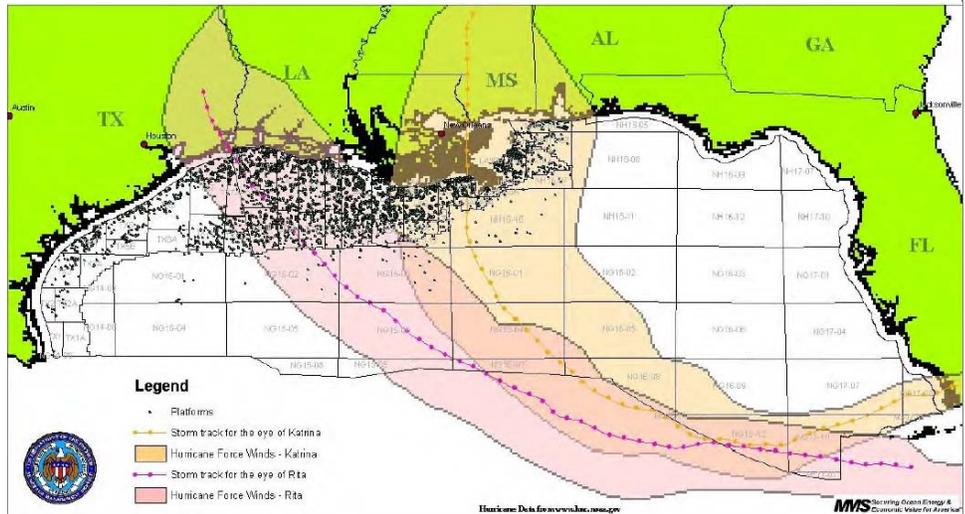
Date	City/County	Time	Location	Point of Contact
April 30	Baytown/Harris	10 AM - 2 PM	Baytown Community Center 3407 Market Street	281-420-6311 <a href="mailto:pam@baytown.org">pam@baytown.org</a>
May 22-26	Nationwide	Daily	<a href="#">Hurricane Preparedness Week</a>	Houston/Galveston National Weather Service Office (281)337-6074 <a href="mailto:grhwy.webmaster@noaa.gov">grhwy.webmaster@noaa.gov</a>
May 18	City of Galveston	TBA	Hurricane Preparedness Town Meeting	
May 20	Fort Bend County	9 AM-1 PM	Emergency Preparedness Workshop Sugar Land Community Center 226 Madage Way Sugar Land, TX	Register Online at: <a href="http://www.fbcocm.org">www.fbcocm.org</a> 281-342-6185
May 21	League City/Galveston	10 am - 2 pm	Helen Hall Library	
June 2	Angleton/Brazoria	6:30-8 PM	TBA	Texas AgriLife Extension 979-864-1558
June 4	City of Houston and Surrounding Region	10 AM - 3 PM	<a href="#">2011 Houston/Galveston Hurricane Workshop</a> George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida De Las Americas Houston, TX 77010-6099	Houston/Galveston National Weather Service Office (281)337-6074 <a href="mailto:grhwy.webmaster@noaa.gov">grhwy.webmaster@noaa.gov</a>
June 4	Harris/Pasadena			
June 4	Matagorda/Bay City	9 AM - 1 PM	Bay City Civic Center 201 7th Street	Texas AgriLife Extension Service 979-245-4100 <a href="mailto:lconnell@tamu.edu">lconnell@tamu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:kbrussell@ag.tamu.edu">kbrussell@ag.tamu.edu</a>
June 4	Jamaica Beach	10 AM-Noon	16626 San Luis Pass Road Jamaica Beach	
June 6	Bayou Vista	6-8 PM	MUDD Building	
June 7	Freeport/Brazoria	6:30-8 PM	TBA	Texas AgriLife Extension 979-864-1558
June 9	Lake Jackson/Brazoria	6:30-8 PM	TBA	Texas AgriLife Extension 979-864-1558
June 9	Tiki Island	6-8 PM	TBA	
June 23	Pearland-Manvel/Brazoria	6:30-8 PM	TBA	Texas AgriLife Extension 979-864-1558
June 30	Alvin/Brazoria	6:30-8 PM	TBA	Texas AgriLife Extension 979-864-1558

## You think gas prices are high now ?

A hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico has national significance. The concentration of production sites and refineries as displayed in this graphic shows the vulnerability of the energy industry to events along the coast. **Not only did Katrina impact production, but Rita's wind path overlapped Katrina delivering a double blow.**

9 refineries were shut down and 15 refineries reduced capacity (39% of the US total). Due to electrical failures, there was at one point no electricity available to operate pipelines feeding supply to the Southeast and Midwest.

Due to port and refinery shutdown and damage, 10% of the normal US crude import stream was stopped.



Impact of Katrina & Rita on Gulf of Mexico rigs and platforms. 92% of US offshore oil production shut down. 83% of US natural gas production shut down.

## The Inside Story on Insurance

**Question:** What if we don't get our new building insured before the storm?

**Answer:** We (you) have a guarantee of protection in these circumstances. It is understood that circumstances may prevent the addition of a property on the exact day of transfer.

However, it is important that new properties be reported to the risk management office asap.

If your building is being completed through the Archdiocesan construction office, we report interim values to the underwriters based on pending, in progress, and completion reports provided by Construction.

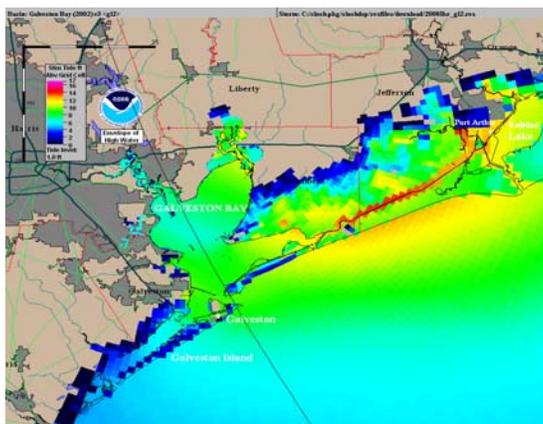
If your property is purchased through the Real Estate department we report those transactions to the underwriters based on reports from Real Estate.

You will, however, need to be mindful of any transactions of construction projects undertaken on your own without the involvement of Archdiocesan administration.

Projects completed or properties accepted without guidance from the Archdiocese may involve a host of issues which could impact your insurance outcome. For construction we will require (and arrange for) an appraisal to confirm estimates for any

project of significant value (\$500,000 or above) not built through our Construction Department. We will also need to confirm the insurance carried by your contractors including Builders Risk which covers exposure during the construction process.

And as always we will expect that your new building incorporates mitigation strategies (free board, elevated mechanicals, etc.).



IKE Water Envelope—8 to 17 feet and Ike was a Category 2

- 2011 Names  
 Arlene, Bret,  
 Cindy, Don, Emily,  
 Franklin, Gert,  
 Harvey, Irene,  
 Jose, Katia, Lee,  
 Maria, Nate,  
 Ophelia, Philippe,  
 Rina, Sean,  
 Tammy, Vince,  
 Whitney

## Air pressure

Air pressure will often indicate coming weather conditions by signaling when a low or high pressure system is moving through an area. The barometer works by balancing the weight of mercury in the glass tube against the atmospheric pressure just like a set of scales. If the weight of mercury is less than the atmospheric pressure, the mercury level in the glass tube rises. If the weight of mercury is more than the atmospheric pressure, the mercury level falls. Low pressure = storm.

