



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

PRESS RELEASE

Tropical System in the Bay of Campeche to Impact Texas, Commissioner Buckingham Warns Coastal Texans to be Prepared

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 09, 2024

Contact: Brittany Eck
(512) 963-7800
brittany.eck@glo.texas.gov

AUSTIN — Today Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., is encouraging all Texans to prepare for potential tropical storm conditions along the coast. There is a high degree of uncertainty as to the storm's path and impacts; therefore, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) is warning all coastal Texans to be prepared.

"A severe storm system with the potential to bring flash flooding threats and heavy rain is expected to impact the Gulf Coast this week," Commissioner Buckingham said. "The GLO is proud to help communities recover from natural disasters, but proper preparation is vital to keeping your family and your home safe. Download the GLO's Disaster Evacuation Checklist to learn how to be prepared for emergency situations."

The GLO encourages all Texans to prepare for hurricane season by doing the following:

- Know Your Risk - Sign up for your community's emergency warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Download the GLO's [Disaster Evacuation Checklist](#) – Learn how to build an evacuation kit – or “go bag” – and be prepared for emergency situations.
- Pack a “Go Bag” – Include items you need to take with you if you evacuate. A “go bag” should be easy to carry and kept in a place where you can grab it quickly.
- Make an Evacuation Plan - Check with local officials about updated evacuation shelters for this year. To find a shelter near you, download the FEMA app at fema.gov/mobile-app. Know where your family will meet up if you are separated and where you will stay. Check with drivetexas.org to find routes near you.
- Gather Supplies - Plan for your entire household including children, people with disabilities or access/functional needs, and pets.
- Secure Documents - Remember to secure copies of important personal documents. Filing for government assistance requires documentation. Be sure to keep documents in a secure location and take them with you if you need to evacuate. Place these documents in a waterproof bag and back them up on cloud storage or a thumb drive.

Protect Your Property - Shutter your home as needed, review your flood insurance policy (or sign up for one), and declutter drains and gutters. Most homeowner and renter insurance policies do not cover flood damage. A flood insurance policy generally does not take effect until 30 days after purchase, so be sure to maintain your policy. Take a video “tour” of your home to document all items and the home’s current condition.



Disaster Evacuation Checklist

The time to prepare for a disaster is now. This helpful checklist will get you started. Make sure to include your entire family - and its unique needs - in the preparation and discuss your emergency plan with them. Print this list and keep it with your emergency kit and "go bag".

MEDICAL NEEDS

- Medications for at least one week and copies of prescriptions
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses and supplies
- Medical equipment/assistive technology and backup batteries
- First aid kit

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Cell phone and charging equipment
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for electronics
- Tool kit
- Matches or lighter in waterproof container
- Whistle
- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, towels
- Soap/disinfectant/sanitizer
- Paper towels/moist towelettes
- Toilet paper

FOOD AND FAMILY SUPPLIES

- Cash and credit cards
- At least a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and supplies
- Extra warm clothes
- Comfortable shoes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste

COMFORT AND PRICELESS ITEMS

- Photo albums, books, puzzles, favorite stuffed toy, valuables

DOCUMENTATION

- Government Issued Photo ID (e.g., driver's license, passport)
- Personal records (e.g., birth certificates, marriage certificates)
- Medical records
- Financial information (e.g., bank account or credit card information)
- Property records (e.g., insurance policies, deed, lease)
- Utility bills
- Property tax records
- Waterproof, portable container for important documents
- Vaccination records

CONTACT INFORMATION

Make sure you have phone numbers and addresses for family, school, and work contacts as well as:

Primary physician:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Health insurance:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Home insurance:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Auto insurance:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Flood insurance:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Other insurance:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Financial institutions:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FEMA Disaster Helpline: 1-800-621-FEMA

TTY: 1-800-462-7585

VRS: 1-800-621-3362

Red Cross Helpline: 1-800-733-2727

The GLO works with local communities to encourage all Texans to protect their families and homes from natural disasters. For more disaster preparedness tips, Texans can follow the GLO on social media ([X](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)), watch video preparedness tips, and find resources for family and pets at recovery.texas.gov/preparedness.