

College Station 2005 Hurricane After Action Review



8 December 2005

PURPOSE

This report was prepared at the direction of Glenn Brown, Interim City Manager, and is intended to provide a comprehensive review of the emergency response efforts of the City of College Station to the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita evacuations and related incidents. The report is based upon feedback provided by numerous City employees who were directly or indirectly involved in the various areas of responsibility during these two extended operations.

Background

Hurricane Katrina

Strongest In The Last 100 Years

CAT 4 At Landfall

920mb – Third Lowest On Record

500 In 4 Shelters

1700 In Local Hotels

Local Involvement 29 Aug – 12 Sept

500 Family Members Still In The Area

Hurricane Rita

Winds Out To 150 Miles From Center

CAT 3 At Landfall

937mb At Landfall

9,300 In 32 “Official” Shelters

1700 In Local Hotels

Local Involvement 20 Sept – 28 Sept

3 Million Evacuated the Gulf Coast



Both Hurricanes Were a Category 5 In The Gulf



Findings

Information was obtained through the employee response forms along with discussions of the review panel. These items were grouped according to the subject areas as stated in the Brazos County Emergency Operation Plan. This is intended to provide a straight forward look at the two responses and identify specific areas that function well along with those that need improvement.

Finding Categories

Alert & Warning

Resource Management

Shelters/Mass Care

Direction and Control

Evacuation

Human Services

Law Enforcement

Volunteer Resources

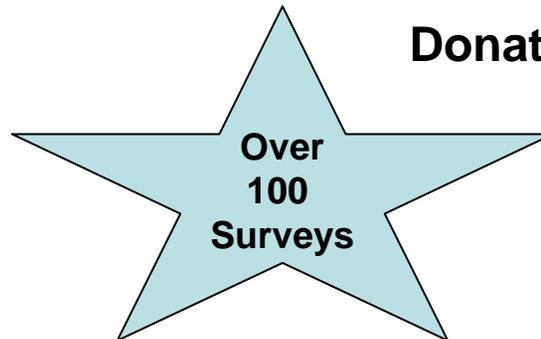
Health/Medical

Transportation

Public Information

Donations Management

Public Works



Recommendations

To improve our capabilities for future emergency response efforts, we must learn from the past. The key is to anticipate future events and determine needs to meet those challenges. Also, it is imperative that mistakes not be repeated. If we do not provide an honest assessment of past operations and determine ways to fix problems that have been identified, we are assured that we will repeat them. This is not acceptable for our employees or our citizens.

Short Term Recommendations

Complete by July, 2006

Revise ANNEX C: Shelter & Mass Care

Web EOC Training

Revise Gateway Plan

All agencies National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant

Designate the creation of the Department of Emergency Management

Complete a proposal for a new County-wide EOC facility

Mid-Term Recommendations

Complete by January, 2007

Conduct Shelter Operations Training

Provide Adequate Staffing for Emergency Management

Repair the Emergency Alert System (EAS) at the Brazos County EOC

Acquire a County-wide AM Low Band radio alert system

Identify the requirements to adapt Web EOC for the Shelter locations

Create, staff and train for a Joint Information Center (JIC)

Acquire additional 800mz radios for emergency management operations

Reconfigure existing 800mz radios to enhance interoperable capabilities

Conduct disaster recovery training for City staff.

Conduct an annual review of emergency plans

Long Term Recommendations

Complete by January, 2009

Develop a new county-wide EOC for all local agencies

Review and revise ANNEX E: Evacuation

Continue to "harden" the utility system

With concrete poles,

Underground electric service

Standby generators at essential facilities

Provide on-going maintenance and tree trimming

College Station Emergency Response History

1983	August	Hurricane Alicia
1991	December	Floods
1992	October	Floods
1994	October	Severe Thunderstorms / Floods
1995	September	Encephalitis Mosquito Control
1997	November	Bush Presidential Library Dedication
1999	May	Seminole LPG Pipeline Rupture
1999	November	Aggie Bonfire Collapse
1999	December	Y2K Precautions
2000	August	Shenandoah Pipeline Rupture
2003	April	Region-wide Electric Outage
2003	July	West Nile Mosquito Control
2004	May	Floods
2005	August	Hurricane Katrina
2005	September	Hurricane Rita
2006	????????	??????????????

After Action Review

- It is not a critique
- It is a facilitated professional discussion
- It should be a positive learning experience
- It is not a “blood letting”
- It is not a test; it does not grade success or failure

After Action Review Agenda

1. Report Overview
2. Lincoln Center Lance Jackson
3. Conference Center Grace Calbert
4. Gateway Reception Center Sheila Walker
5. Communications Mike Hare
6. Police Department Operations Chief Clancey
7. Fire Department Operations Chief Alley
8. Public Works Operations Marshall Wallace
9. CS Emergency Operations Center Steve Beachy
10. BC Emergency Operations Center Brian Hilton
11. Comments from attendees All Departments
12. Closing Remarks Glenn Brown

