

Matagorda County News Advisory

Hurricane Ike News Advisory 1

Evacuation Ordered For Some Matagorda County Residents

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

11:15 AM

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Matagorda Bay is currently in the strike zone to receive Hurricane Ike. Ike is expected to be a major hurricane at landfall. Therefore, for the safety of our citizens, Matagorda County officials are ordering a mandatory evacuation of the areas south of Highway 35, except in Bay City and Van Vleck. The Blessing area should also evacuate. Evacuation of these areas must be completed by 6:00 PM Thursday, September 11. Public services will not be available in these areas past that time for the duration of the event. This includes the areas around Palacios, Ashby-Buckeye/El Maton, Collegeport, Matagorda, Wadsworth, Sargent, Chinquapin, Tres Palacios Oaks, Tidewater Oaks, Blessing Area, and Cedar Lane. This mandatory evacuation does **NOT** include Bay City or Van Vleck, or areas north of Highway 35. The Blessing area must evacuate, even though this is north of Highway 35.

It is recommended that you evacuate with your pets. Be sure to take a pet carrier, leash, vaccination records, and food for your pet. If you evacuate to a shelter, your pets will be boarded at a separate facility.

If you have no means of transportation or are unable to evacuate by yourself, you should call family or friends and ask them to assist you. If you cannot find anyone to help you evacuate, call 979-245-3056 or 979-244-5318 and request assistance to evacuate.

Members of the media or public who have questions about the mandatory evacuation, may call 979-244-5318.

Residents of Matagorda County who need shelter can go to our shelter hub in Austin. Signs as you come into Austin will direct evacuees to open shelters.

####MORE####

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Vehicles such as boats, 18 wheelers, trailers or second cars can be parked at Matagorda County Fairgrounds. If you park your property there, please be aware that it is at your own risk. Matagorda County is not responsible for damage or theft if you choose to place property there.

The swing bridges at Matagorda and Sargent will be permanently closed at 6:00 PM Thursday, which means you will not be able to pass over the bridges past that time.

If you know of people with hearing or language problems, please advise them of this information.

Again, Matagorda County officials have ordered a mandatory evacuation of people who live and work south of Highway 35, excluding Bay City and Van Vleck. This evacuation order covers Palacios, Ashby-Buckeye/El Maton area, Collegeport, Matagorda, Wadsworth, Sargent, Cedar Lane, Chinquapin, Tres Palacios Oaks, Tidewater Oaks, and the Blessing Area, even though Blessing is north of Highway 35. Residents in these areas must evacuate from these areas prior to 6:00 Thursday night. This mandatory evacuation does **NOT** include Bay City or Van Vleck, or areas north of Highway 35, except the Blessing area.

Stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions from Matagorda County, Bay City, and Palacios officials.

#####END#####

County Judge: Nate McDonald Date: 9-10-08 Time: 11:15