

Matagorda County News Advisory

Hurricane Ike News Advisory 2

Evacuation Information For Matagorda County Residents

Supplement to News Advisory 1

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

11:45 AM

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Matagorda County officials have ordered a mandatory evacuation of the areas south of Highway 35, except Bay City and Van Vleck. Evacuation of these areas must be completed by 6:00 PM Thursday, September 11. Note that the mandatory evacuation does **NOT** include Bay City or Van Vleck or any areas north of Highway 35, with the exception of the Blessing Area. 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, except the Blessing Area.

All roads in Matagorda County are open for evacuation. The designated evacuation routes for Matagorda County are:

- Residents east of the Colorado River evacuate using Highway 60 to Wharton, then Highway 59 to Highway 71, then to Austin.
- Residents west of the Colorado River should evacuate using Highway 35 to Highway 71, then to Austin. This does not mean you have to evacuate to Austin; however, this route will be available to us for purposes of evacuation. Expect travel delays on evacuation routes. Be sure your car is full of gas.

Residents of Palacios needing assistance evacuating should be at Palacios City Hall at Henderson and Fourth Street at 9:00 AM on Thursday morning, September 11.

All schools in Matagorda County will be closed Thursday, September 11 and on Friday, September 12. Palacios Independent School District will also close on Monday, September 15.

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County and city offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, also.

In preparing to evacuate, you should assemble the following emergency supplies and complete these actions:

- Refer to our public information in the front section of the ypOne telephone directory and take this phone book with you
- Clothing for your family for 3 days
- Bedding, pillows, and towels
- Prescription medicine and spare eyeglasses
- Soap and toiletries
- Baby food and diapers
- Your address book or list of important telephone numbers
- Your checkbook, credit cards, and cash
- Valuable papers
- Your driver's license and identification cards
- Proof of address such as an electric bill
- A portable radio, flashlight, and batteries
- Prepare your home before you depart – turn off all appliances except your refrigerator and freezer; lock your doors and windows
- Ensure your car is in good shape and that you have adequate fuel
- Take ready-to-eat food and drinks in your car.
- Limit your use of the telephone to important calls only
- Decide where you will go and make arrangements with family, friends, or hotels
- Check on other family members or friends or neighbors who may need assistance evacuating
- If you need assistance evacuating, cut out the orange page in the ypOne telephone book and place it in a visible location.
- Check the Texas Department of Transportation website for information about road conditions – www.txdot.gov

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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 remain in the area, be sure to have:

- Plenty of ready to eat or canned food
- All medications filled for each family member
- Diesel fuel for generators
- Have 1 gallon of water available per day per person, enough for at least 7 days
- Battery powered portable radio or television, and batteries
- Personnel sanitary supplies
- Manual can opener
- First aid supplies
- Important documents in a water proof bag
- Special needs items for each family member – infant formula, eyeglasses, etc.
- Change of clothing for each person for 3 days, readily available
- Water proof matches
- Flashlights and batteries
- Toys, books, and games for children
- Extra car keys and house keys readily available
- Contact names and phone numbers readily available
- Fuel for cooking
- Sanitation supplies – bleach, detergent, soap
- Tools for household needs – shovels, axes, etc.

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- Cash on hand in case ATM machines do not work or banks are closed.
- Information on how to shut off your utilities

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, and Cedar Lane. Residents in these areas must be evacuated prior to 6:00 PM Thursday night. This mandatory evacuation does **NOT** include Bay City or Van Vleck, or areas north of Highway 35.

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 Matagorda County actions, may call 979-244-5318, 979-245-8051, or 979-245-8108.

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

####END####

County Judge: Mat McDonald Date: 9-10-08 Time: 11:45