

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF TEXAS, INC.

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

**The Atlantic Hurricane Season is June 1 - November 30.** As a valued Waste Management Customer, we want to take the time to inform you of our operations procedures in the event there is a hurricane. In addition, we would like to provide important information about what to expect before and after a hurricane as well as some information about what you can do to prepare yourself and family during hurricane season.

## BE PREPARED!

The most important thing you can do during hurricane season is preparing for a storm. Below are tips to help you and your family prepare.

- » Gather three days worth of non-perishable food and water for every member of your family. You will need at least one gallon of water per person per day.
- » Make a copy of important documents and back up electronic devices.
- » Provide family and friends with contact information in case you have to evacuate.
- » Keep a list of medications and doctor contact information.
- » If you have special needs, check with your local city or county about registration for assistance.
- » Prepare an emergency kit for your pets and make plans for their care in case of evacuation.
- » If you live in an area threatened by a storm surge, discuss evacuation plans with your family. Search for a zipcode evacuation map on the internet or contact city/ county officials to determine if your home is in an evacuation zone. If you need help evacuating, call the state at 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905.
- » Finally, stay informed by monitoring the news media. Local officials will provide information about current conditions, evacuations, and re-entry.



*Being prepared and knowing what to do before a hurricane arrives in the area is one of the smartest things to do to help keep your home and family safe during a storm. In this newsletter, I've highlighted useful tips on how to prepare for a hurricane, how to stay safe while it's happening, and how to deal with the aftermath once the storm has passed.*

*If you have any questions about pre or post storm collection procedures, please contact Waste Management online at [wm.com](http://wm.com) or by phone at 800-800-5804.*

*-Terry Woodson*

## BEFORE THE HURRICANE

Waste Management works with leaders in your community to establish a hurricane emergency action to ensure the safety of our customers and employees.

Should our area be subject to imminent impact (within 48 hours), garbage/ recycling collection services and landfill operations will be suspended to secure our facilities and allow our employees to prepare. Therefore, it is essential for customers to:

- » Not place any garbage/ recycling out for collection
- » Secure any remaining loose materials on the property, including garbage and/ or recycling containers.

## DURING THE HURRICANE

If you are staying home during a hurricane, here's what you should do:

- » Stay indoors, don't walk on beaches, riverbanks or in flood waters.
- » Use flashlights in the dark if the power goes out. Do NOT use candles.
- » Monitor local area radio, NOAA radio or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- » Avoid contact with floodwater. It may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- » Turn off the power and water mains if instructed to do so by local authorities.

## AFTER THE HURRICANE

Keep these tips in mind while cleaning up:

- » Check with local official first to make sure the area you wish to return to is safe.
- » Photo graph all loss and contact your insurance company.
- » Contact FEMA and Red Cross. These agencies may help in all aspects of a disaster, including clean-up, moving, storage, essential household items, medical support, etc.
- » Contact mortgage companies and any bank holding car loans to alert them of your status and determine if any relief is available. We also recommend you consider contacting your credit card companies and utility providers. Waste Management will restart collection following a storm as soon as it is deemed safe in communities and on streets.
- » Visit <https://www.wm.com/us/en/mywm/notifications> to get information about service delays in your area following a storm.
- » WM will only collect household garbage. Storm contractors will pick up all storm debris. See the graphic below for instruction about separating waste.

## HELPFUL SITES:

Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Homeland Security: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

FEMA: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

Claims assistance: [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)



Storm debris should be placed at the curb without blocking the roadway or storm drains.  
Be sure not to place debris near trees, poles, fire hydrants or other structures.



**Vegetation**  
Bagged leaves, limbs, plants, and trees



**Construction and Demolition Debris**  
Building materials, carpet, drywall, furniture, lumber, mattresses, and plumbing



**Appliances and White Goods**  
Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, stoves, washers, dryers and water heaters



**Electronics**  
Computers, radios, stereos, televisions, and other devices with a cord



**Hazardous Household Waste**  
Cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemicals, oils, oil-based paint and stain, and pesticides



**Household Trash and Recycling**  
Waste Management will collect your regular household trash and recycling