



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Tropical Depression Eight Update

Status Update from the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

MONTGOMERY COUNTY –Tropical Depression 8 is expected to strengthen into Tropical Storm Hanna before making landfall on the Texas coast. This storm’s wind speeds have increased to 35 MPH, and a tropical storm watch has been issued for much of the Texas coast from Port Mansfield to High Island.

Tropical Depression 8 is expected to produce heavy rains across portions of Louisiana and Southeast Texas, which could result in flash flooding. This storm is expected to produce 2 to 4 inches of rain with isolated maximum totals of 6 inches along the Gulf coast. Tropical storm wind conditions are possible within the watch area as early as late Friday afternoon. Widespread river flooding is not expected at this time. There is still uncertainty on the track and intensity of the storm, but we should become more certain as we get closer to landfall.

Additionally, our office is monitoring Tropical Storm Gonzalo which has formed over the Atlantic, and continues to strengthen. Gonzalo is expected to move near or over the southern Windward Islands this weekend. Hurricane Watches are currently in effect for Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with additional watches for other islands be announced later today. We are continuing to keep a close watch on Gonzalo as the storm track develops and makes its way West. It is important that residents of Montgomery County begin to prepare and keep a close watch on these storms in the Gulf. Our next update is expected around 5 PM today.

PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

- Understand that your planning may be different this year because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
- Give yourself more time than usual to **prepare your emergency food, water, and medicine supplies**. Home delivery is the safest choice for buying disaster supplies; however, that may not be an option for everyone. If in-person shopping is your only choice, take steps to **protect your and others’ health when running essential errands**.
- Protect yourself and others when filling **prescriptions** by limiting in-person visits to the pharmacy. Sign up for mail order delivery or call in your prescription ahead of time and use drive-through windows or curbside pickup. If available order a 60 or 90 day supply to have on hand.
- Pay attention to local guidance about updated plans for evacuations and shelters, including **potential shelters for your pets**.
- If you need to evacuate, prepare a “go kit” with **personal items** you cannot do without during an emergency. Include items that can help protect you and others from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer, or bar or liquid soap if not available and two cloth face coverings for each person. Face covers should

not be used by children under the age of 2. They also should not be used by people having trouble breathing, or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow **social distancing** recommendations (staying at least 6 feet, about 2 arms' length, from others) and **other CDC recommendations** to protect yourself and others.
- If you need to go to a disaster shelter, follow CDC recommendations for staying safe and healthy in a **public disaster shelter** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

STAY SAFE AFTER A HURRICANE

In addition to following guidance for staying safe and healthy **after a hurricane**, note that:

- You should continue to use **preventive actions** like washing your hands and wearing a **face covering** during clean up or when returning home.
- It may take longer than usual to restore power and water if they are out. Take **steps to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning** if you use a generator.
- If you are injured or ill, contact your medical provider for treatment recommendations. Keep wounds clean to prevent infection. Remember, accessing medical care may be more difficult than usual during the pandemic.
- Dealing with disasters can cause stress and strong emotions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is natural to feel anxiety, grief, and worry. **Coping with these feelings and getting help** when you need it will help you, your family, and your community recover.
- People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. Additional information can be found at the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** page.

STAY INFORMED

- Register for **AlertMCTX**, the county's official emergency alert system, to receive real-time weather alerts and post-storm recovery information.
- More information about how to prepared for this year's hurricane season is available **here**.
- Download the ReadyMCTX app. This app shows shelter and donation center locations when activated, and additional information from our office.
- Recovery information is available at **www.mctx.org/recover**

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