



# HABINEWS

FIRST EDITION

AN AREA-WIDE NEWSLETTER FOR HABITAT HOMEOWNERS

## GETTING READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

It's time to get ready for the 2011 Hurricane season. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

### What you can do now...

- Locate the safest area in your home.
- Review your insurance policy.
- Determine escape routes and places to meet.
- Establish an out-of-state friend to contact.
- Locate the shut-off valves for gas and water.
- Keep a crescent wrench for the second water shut-off valve in the yard.
- Understand how to turn off the electricity on your main breaker box.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies.
  - ✓ Food
  - ✓ Water
  - ✓ Batteries
  - ✓ First Aid kit
  - ✓ Blankets
  - ✓ Cash
  - ✓ Radio
  - ✓ Flash lights
  - ✓ Toilet paper
  - ✓ Matches
- Seal important documents in zip lock bag and keep in a protected, dry area.
- Compile a list of emergency numbers (family, friends, neighbors, local emergency responders).



### As the storm approaches...

- Fill up your car's gas tank.
- Latch all doors and shutters.
- Place any loose items inside your house or garage. (bikes, trash cans, grills, hoses, bird feeders, wind chimes, etc.)
- Place fridge, freezer and AC on lowest settings.
- Move valuable items away from the windows.
- Avoid standing water.

<b>Emergency Services</b> 911	<b>Poison Center</b> (800) 764-7661	<b>National Weather Service</b> (281) 337-5074
<b>Non-Emergency Services</b> 311	<b>Texas Abuse Hotline</b> (800) 252-5400	<b>American Red Cross</b> (713) 526-8300
<b>United Way Helpline</b> 211	<b>Texas Road Conditions &amp; Closures</b> (800) 452-9292	<b>Salvation Army</b> (713) 752-0677



## IN THE BOUT OF A DROUGHT

Water plants and lawn early in the morning or late at night, every 5-7 days.

Avoid any outdoor burning.

Check your faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks.

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they're full.

Don't plant anything new or fertilize.

Stay hydrated.

*A note on fire extinguishers...*

Make sure you have a fire extinguisher and keep it in an easy to each location.

- ✓ Pull the pin.
- ✓ Aim at the base of the fire.
- ✓ Squeeze the lever *slowly*.
- ✓ Sweep from side to side.
- ✓ Keep an eye on the area to make sure it doesn't reignite.
- ✓ Dispose or recharge the extinguisher as recommended by manufacturer.

---

*Habitat for Humanity has helped build over 400,000 decent, affordable houses and served more than 2 million people around the world.*

*Habitat for Humanity ranks No. 6 among largest homebuilders in the U.S.*

## ANNUAL HOME SERVICE CHECKLIST

- ✓ Inspect foundation for holes, cracks and improper drainage. Repair if necessary.
- ✓ Clean exterior surfaces, check for mildew and paint if necessary.
- ✓ Check roof for holes, cracks and rotting.
- ✓ Replace batteries in smoke detectors (2 times a year).
- ✓ Water grass regularly.
- ✓ Inspect for pest infestations.



## INSURANCE CLAIMS

*Be sure you have insurance in place and understand your policy.*

1. Give immediate notice to your insurance company of your claim.
  2. The back of the check must be endorsed exactly as the names stated on the front of the check by the homeowner and by an officer of Habitat for Humanity.
  3. Bring the original check, a copy of the insurance claim and photos of the damage to your local Habitat affiliate.
  4. Habitat will deposit the insurance claim check and disburse funds incrementally.
  5. A habitat construction worker must inspect and assess the damage.
  6. 1/3 of the clam will be disbursed to the homeowner to begin repairs.
  7. As work is completed, the homeowner must provide Habitat with all receipts and contractor bids to receive the next disbursement of the claim check.
  8. Once repairs are complete, a Habitat representative must perform a final inspection.
  9. The remainder of the claim check can then be disbursed to the homeowner.
-

## To kick off your summer projects, check out your local ReStore!

The Habitat ReStore is a home improvement store that offers new and like-new building materials including furniture, paint, cabinetry and more at deeply discounted prices. Proceeds go toward our mission of eliminating substandard housing.



### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

It's important to remember the impact we have on our environment. Doing your part to care for the environment, even in the simplest ways, makes a significant difference. Here are some simple tips to get you started:

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Keep chargers unplugged when they're not in use.
- Turn up your AC during the day. Use ceiling fans.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they're full.

#### Local Area ReStores

13570 Murphy Road  
Stafford, TX 77477  
(281) 403-0700

Wed.-Fri. 10:00-6:00, Sat. 8:00-4:00

6161 South Loop East  
Houston, TX 77087  
(713) 643-1100

Mon.-Fri. 9:00-6:00, Sat. 9:00-5:00

1501 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Conroe, TX 77301  
(936) 441-5888

Thurs.-Sat. 10:00-4:00

13572 State Highway 249  
Houston, TX 77086  
(832) 327-1120

Wed.-Sat. 9:00-6:00

1520 South Shaver Street  
Pasadena, TX 77502  
(713) 472-0997

Tues.-Thurs. 8:30-5:30, Fri. & Sat. 8:30-6:00

#### ***Housing as a means of wealth creation for an entire community***

- *Homeownership and mortgage repayment as personal wealth accumulation*
- *Housing construction = job opportunities & small business stimulation*

## Volunteer Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity is still busy at work building homes and changing lives. You are still valuable to those efforts. Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated. Please reach out to your local Habitat affiliate to learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

