

HURRICANE HARVEY

How the Houston Chronicle staff covered one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history



Harvey killed 75 people, flooded hundreds of thousands of homes and caused more than \$180 billion in damage. The Houston Chronicle put its entire 200-member staff on the story as the crisis unfolded over a full week. Because so many roads were under water, many of the Chronicle's reporters, editors, photographers and web producers could not get to the office. Instead, they fanned out across the region, relying on wit and will to move around and post stories, pictures and video on social media and the Chronicle's web platforms. Some reported even as their own homes were evacuated or encircled by water. Some hitched rides on rescuers' ATVs and small boats. Others waded into the floodwaters, braving snakes and swarms of fire ants. As a community service, the Chronicle distributed the paper for free (when roads were open), delivering 50,000 copies to shelters. It also lifted the paywall on its subscription website.

Here is how the storm, and the coverage, unfolded.

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

As Hurricane Harvey roars toward the Texas coast, the Chronicle publishes 158 stories on its twin sites, chron.com and HoustonChronicle.com. A Hurricane Guide offers weather updates and information on the storm's projected path, areas expected to flood and how to prepare.

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE



Here are areas that could see flooding



Stay up-to-date with our tropical weather resources



Here's what to do if your house floods



Follow the latest reports with our hurricane guide

LATEST

2:27 PM
Canadian health-care leader Dr. Peter Pisters to be next MD Anderson president

2:44 PM
Trump administration imposes sweeping sanctions on Venezuela

3:33 PM
No, Charles Manson is not being released to Texas

2:44 PM
10 civilians, including kids, dead in US-backed Somalia raid

2:05 PM
Minor 3.1 magnitude earthquake felt in Irving area

Houston ISD board candidates find common ground at forum

Trump attacks Republican leaders over debt ceiling 'mess'

2:19 PM
South Korean court

Harvey now a major hurricane as it inches closer to Texas coast



By John D. Harden, Andrew Kragie, and Shelby Webb

2:39 PM Hurricane Harvey strengthened into a Category 3 Friday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

- ▄ Abbott advises Houstonians to evacuate; local officials disagree
- ▄ Kroger restocking stores with water and supplies
- ▄ H-E-B restocking shelves for Hurricane Harvey
- ▄ 20,000 stuck at sea in cruise ships as idle hunkers down
- ▄ Flight cancellations, delays reported at Houston airports

eNewspaper free during Hurricane Harvey

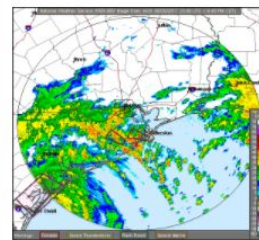
We have made the eNewspaper available if you experience delivery issues with your printed edition. Hurricane Harvey may result in hazardous road conditions causing a delay or no delivery of newspapers.

Read today's eNewspaper

The complete print edition, plus an extra digital-only section every day



Latest NWS Radar

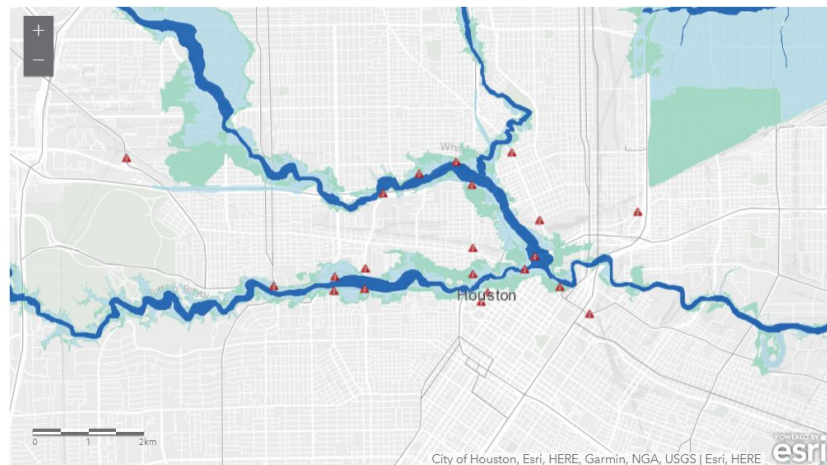


Your Safety Is Important To Us

To help you and your family remain safe, we are making HoustonChronicle.com free to the public. Visit our [Hurricane Information Center](#) for up-to-the minute news on the storm!

Explore Houston's flood-prone areas

See which areas of the city could receive the most flooding this weekend as Hurricane Harvey makes landfall. Waterways=dark blue. 100-year floodplains=light blue. 500-year floodplains =greenish blue. Coastal floodplains=orange. City of Houston barricades=red symbols.



Source: City of Houston data compiled by St. John Barned Smith and John D. Harden, Harris County Flood Control District and FEMA | Map created by data journalist Rachael Gleason/Houston Chronicle

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

Reporters, editors and digital producers update a running main bar and other stories 37 times through the night as Harvey makes landfall in Corpus Christi. Social media posts capture the devastation along the Texas coast.

Hurricane Harvey comes ashore, hitting north of Corpus Christi

Category 4 storm causes coastal flooding and Houston rain

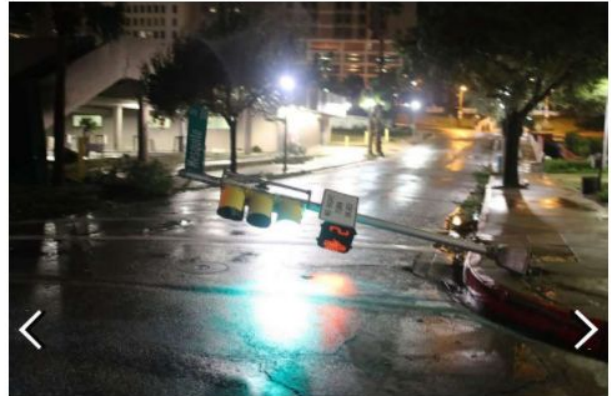


By Mark Collette, John D. Harden, Andrew Kragie, and Brooke A. Lewis

1:44 AM Harvey roared into Texas north of Corpus Christi as the most powerful hurricane to strike Texas in 56 years, flooding low-lying coastal areas and leaving tens of thousands without power.

Flash flood warning issued as Hurricane Harvey's bands roll across Houston

Officials warn of heavy rains, severe flooding after storm hits landfall



By John D. Harden, Shelby Webb, and Brooke A. Lewis

7:36 AM Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 storm late Friday night with 130 miles per hour winds. The storm weakened to Category 1 but its rains are now punishing the Houston area.



Houston Chronicle @HoustonChron · 26 Aug 2017

Photos show severe damage in Corpus Christi in wake of Hurricane Harvey



Photos show severe damage in Corpus Christi in wake of Hurricane ...

The Coastal Bend was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey overnight, and the damage was evident Saturday to area residents who saw flooding, downe...

chron.com

Storms and tornadoes blitz the Houston region ahead of Harvey's arrival.



The first band of rain arrives Saturday night, and the Chronicle notifies readers at 9:26 p.m.: “NWS issues most dire alert on TS Harvey.”

TS Harvey spawns tornadoes across Houston area

Here's what you need to know about the storm, damage, forecasts

By Brooke A. Lewis, Shelby Webb, and Katherine Blunt Updated 8:02 pm, Saturday, August 26, 2017

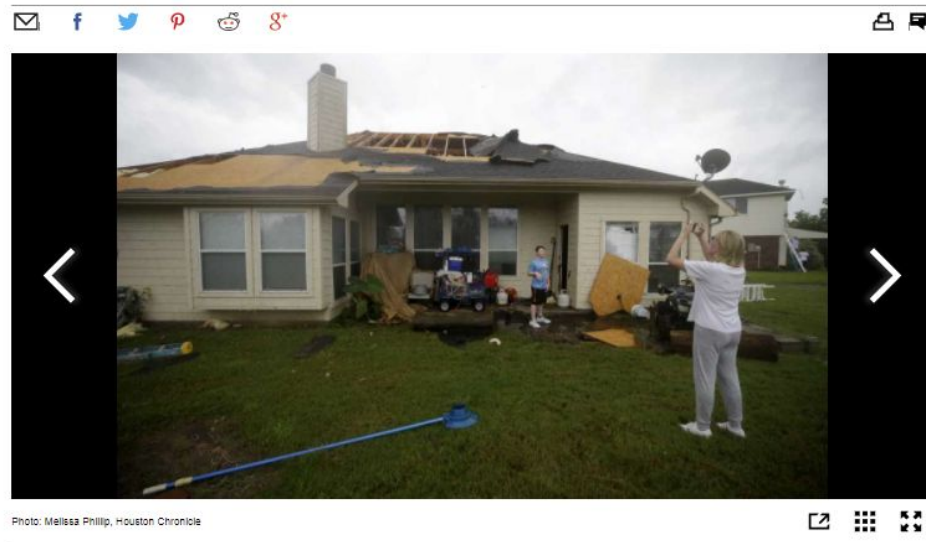


IMAGE 1 OF 166

A homeowner takes a photo outside her home after a tornado hit in the Lone Oak subdivision Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017, in Cypress. Several tornadoes from Hurricane Harvey have been reported in the area.

More bands of heavy rain are expected to start washing over the Houston area Saturday night, following a day filled with rain and at least seven tornadoes since Harvey made landfall late Friday.

One local forecast estimated between 8 and 10 inches of rain could fall in some parts by Sunday morning, an amount that would easily flood low-lying areas and places near bayous and rivers.

SUNDAY, AUG. 27

Harvey arrives in Houston in earnest, and with devastating effect. Forecasters' worst fears are realized as the storm stalls over the city and unleashes record-shattering rainfall. Soon, a third of Houston is underwater. Staff members turn to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat to report on the flooding and gather information from readers.



Mark Mulligan ✓
@mrkmully

Follow

Even with a boat, it's hard to navigate Meyerland right now @HoustonChron #Harvey2017



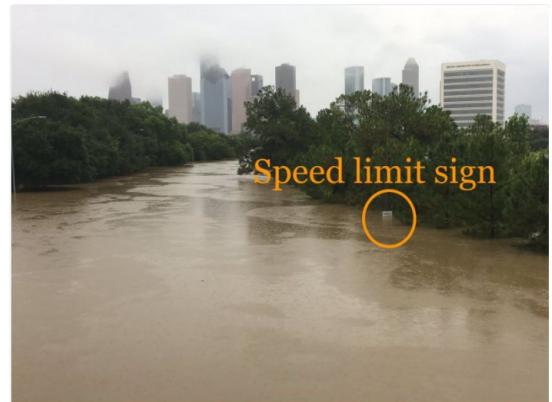
7:27 AM - 27 Aug 2017 from Houston, TX



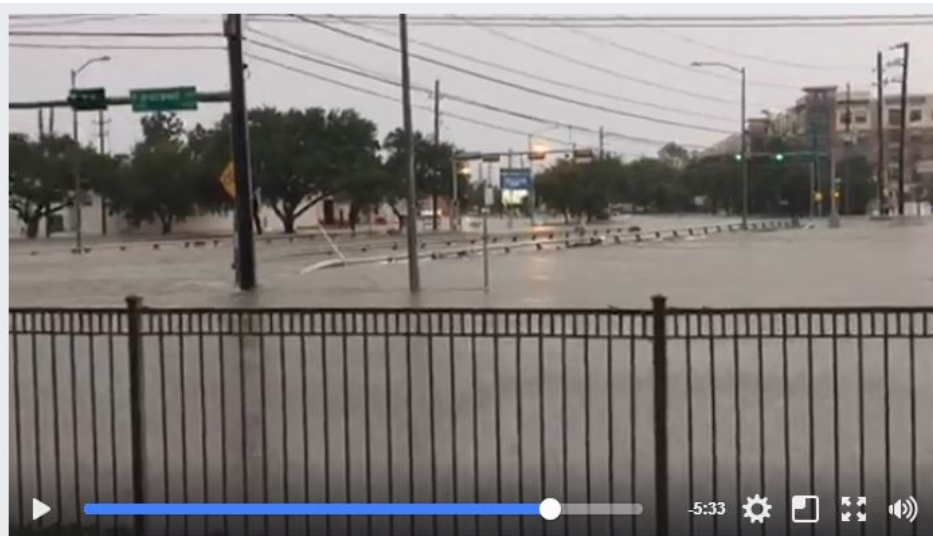
Maggie Gordon ✓
@MagEGordon

Follow

View from Rosemont Pedestrian Bridge @ 9 am. Yes, this is normally a major road. #MemorialDrive #Houston #HurricaneHarvey @HoustonChron



7:27 AM - 27 Aug 2017



Chron.com from the Houston Chronicle ✓ was live.
Published by Houston Chronicle [?] · August 27, 2017 ·

Brays Bayou is over its banks and completely covering the streets.

📍 Your video is popular in Texas

Boost Post

128K Views

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



The Chronicle publishes more than 100 online stories on Sunday alone. A rolling main bar is updated 723 times over the course of the week.

Tropical Storm Harvey unleashes historic flooding in Houston area

By Lindsay Ellis, Houston Chronicle, Susan Carroll, Dug Begley, John D. Harden, Emily Foxhall, Keri Blakinger, St. John BARNED-SMITH, Lydia DePillis, Robert Morast, Rebecca Elliott, Matt Dempsey, and Jacob Carpenter |

August 27, 2017 | Updated: August 27, 2017 11:58am



Photo: Elizabeth Conley, Houston Chronicle



IMAGE 1 OF 157

A resident makes her way in a flooded parking lot to get her car to higher ground as the rain continues to fall in Houston as a result of Hurricane Harvey on Saturday, August 26, 2017.

Tropical Storm Harvey officially became Houston's worst storm on record overnight, dumping heavy rains across the city and into overflowing bayous, leaving swaths of the city submerged in floodwater.

"It's catastrophic, unprecedented, epic -- whatever adjective you want to use," said Patrick Blood, a NWS meteorologist. "It's pretty horrible right now."

Brock Long, FEMA's administrator, said on CNN that Harvey is "a storm the United States has not seen yet."

The federal government declared Harris County a disaster area Sunday morning, Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee said, calling the scope of damage in Houston "enormous." Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said boats and helicopters were being deployed to help with rescues. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett estimated there were more than 1,000 water rescues so far.

Editors launch a stream of vignettes from journalists in the field. Every Houstonian has a Harvey story, and the dozens of accounts provide a panoramic sense of the disaster.

Stranded on Shepherd Drive south of Alabama (10 a.m.)

Twee Price's cell phone rang.

"I am stranded," she said, her voice breaking.

She paced below a Chinese restaurant's awning just south of Alabama street on Shepherd Drive. There, a few red bricks remained dry, inches above the pooling streets. Her car sat in the nearby intersection, water lapping at its wheels.

Price, 42, was trying to take surface roads to her home in Pearland, when her white Chevy stalled, then stopped.

"I may have to just walk home," she said into the phone. "I'm tired as hell."

She hung up and waded into the street and popped the trunk. Price tucked a rainbow and clear umbrella under her arm and held her purse tight. She closed the trunk and walked north, calf-deep, away from the white car.

-- Lindsay Ellis

Water rescuers from Austin: 'Someone had to step up' (Posted 7:12 p.m.)

Late Saturday, hours before Houston officials put out the call for help with flooding evacuations, Chris Romme was on the roads with three buddies. And their boats.

"We were watching the fight and knew it was getting bad," said Romme, 32, an Austin tech engineer and avid fisherman. "After a friend called from Houston and said they didn't have enough boats to get everyone out, we just packed up, got our boats and gear and headed out."

"Someone had to step up," he said. "You just know, sir, when you gotta go."

Romme, an Army veteran who was trained in water rescues, said by phone Sunday afternoon that even before their truck-and-boat caravan reached Houston, they were diverted by a deputy near Katy to help get two families out of their inundated cars, using Romme's Ford F-350 pickup, the truck he calls 'My Big Boy.'

Then, Romme was sent south -- "someplace, I don't even know where it was. I just followed the officer" -- with his boat to help rescue "a senior lady with three dogs."

His friends and their boat headed on to Houston, where they reported by late in the afternoon that they were assisting fire and rescue officials get residents away from rising floodwaters. Romme said he was working with EMS and fire officials at various locations in South Houston.

"I've done five or six," he said by phone. "Pretty much everywhere is underwater. And it's still raining."

He said a number of other private boats were also at work assisting Houston victims.

"This is Texas. You step up to help when you're needed," he said, asking a reporter to "please put my name in your story so my boss will know why probably won't be at work tomorrow."

--Mike Ward

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE VIGNETTES](#)

EXTRA STORM COVERAGE
 A historic deluge of the Houston Chronicle may be later than it seems (on this page)
 > Special section
 Hurricane's impact at
 Houston Chronicle.com & Edition
 > All stories, including angles
 and the media & motion, are
 free throughout the storm.

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

Monday, August 20, 2007 / Houston Chronicle and Chronicle.com | 14¢ (US, MSRP) | 22¢ (US) | *****

Storm High 152

SWAMPED BY HARVEY

Harvey's floodwaters inundated homes in Houston.

In an act of neighborly compassion common in the Houston area, residents are their personal hands to rescue Joe Blakes in a floodwater.

MED CENTER:

After sewage
 leak, Ben Tuck
 reaches transfer
 of some patients

By Todd Anderson,
 Jerry Davis
 and Andrew Knight

Ben Tuck Hospital was
 poised to begin patient
 transfers after a sewage
 leak contaminated the
 facility's water supply for
 the first day of Hurricane
 Harvey.

The facility was
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IT'S NOT OVER YET: 6 are believed dead, thousands flee their homes in widespread catastrophic flooding.

By Susan Carroll,
 John D. Hester
 and Eric Taylor

Evacuated from their
 homes in Houston
 and the surrounding
 area, thousands of
 people are being
 housed in temporary
 shelters and
 hotels.

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By the numbers

276 high water stations
 in the Houston area
 are expected to be
 flooded by Harvey.

60-625 people are
 expected to be
 evacuated from
 the area.

27.45 inches of rain
 fell in the area.

26.76 inches of rain
 fell in the area.

16 hospitals in the
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It's not over yet: 6 are believed to be dead, thousands flee their homes in widespread catastrophic flooding

Tropical Storm Harvey unleashed the worst flooding in Houston history, dumping as much as 29 inches of rain in some areas over two days, sending bayous over their banks and leaving neighborhoods across the Houston area deep in floodwaters.

And the worst may be yet to come.

SEE ITEM NO. 2 IN THIS ENTRY FOR THE FULL STORY

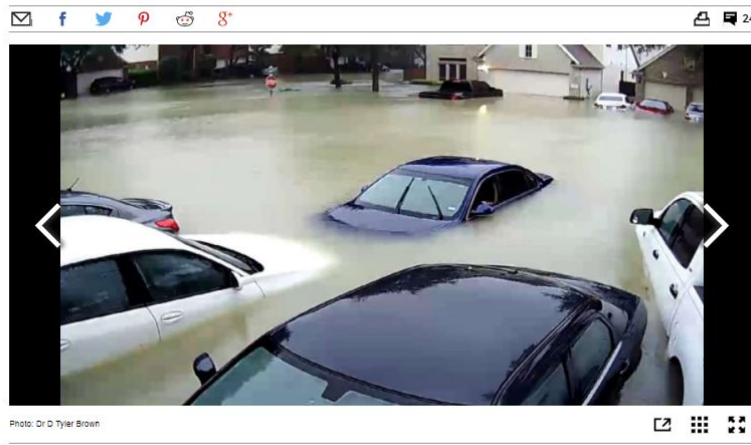
MONDAY, AUG. 28

Live updates continue through the night as Harvey swamps the nation's fourth largest city. On social media, photographers post images of the devastation, reporters break news and readers share their stories.



Houston residents share Hurricane Harvey photos on social media

By Fernando Alfonso III, Darla Guillen, Matt Young, and William Axford Updated 5:32 pm, Tuesday, August 29, 2017



Cars under water following Tropical Storm Harvey around the Westpark Tollway north of Richmond, Texas.

A reader service team publishes live updates throughout the day on weather forecasts, road closures, shelter locations, power outages, school closures, the status of medical facilities and lists of grocery stores and restaurants that are still open.

Houston-area roads closed during Hurricane Harvey

By John-Henry Perera and William Axford Updated 7:28 am, Tuesday, September 5, 2017



Photo: U.S. Coast Guard Photo By Petty Officer 3rd Class Johanna Strickland.



IMAGE 1 OF 195

Coast Guard Air Station Houston responds to search and rescue requests after Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas, Aug. 27, 2017. The Coast Guard is working closely with all local and state emergency operation
[... more](#)



Widespread and worsening flood conditions prompted the closure of nearly every major road in Houston as the outer bands of Harvey swept through the Houston area.

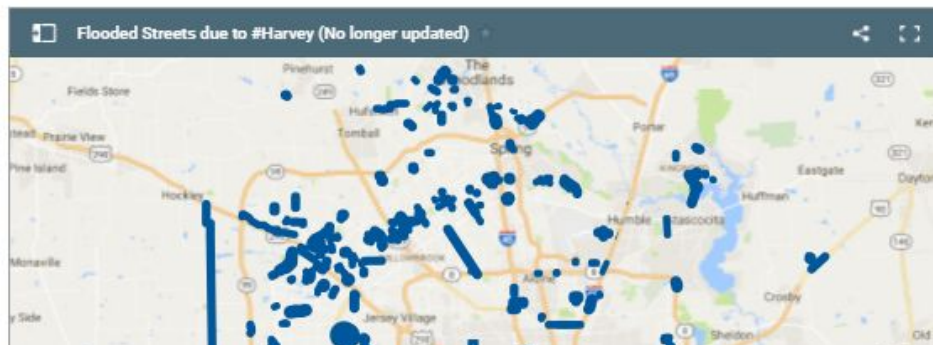
As of 7 a.m., **Houston TranStar is logging 39 high-water road closures** in the area. At its worst point, these included entire sections of Interstate 10, I-45, I-610, I-69, US 290, Texas 225, Texas 288, Beltway 8 and Texas 3 in Galveston.

Even on roads that are not completely closed off, officials warn that you should avoid those areas.

Here are some of the high water spots as reported by Houston Transtar:

Help us track flooded streets in Houston

[Click here to help us crowdsource the map.](#)



Reporters and photographers capture gripping accounts of high-water rescues.

Rescues in Dickinson and across the city continue as the rain pours down

DICKINSON: Rescue crews bring welcome salvation to the desperate

By Loni Kriel and Keni Blakinger Updated 9:31 pm, Monday, August 28, 2017

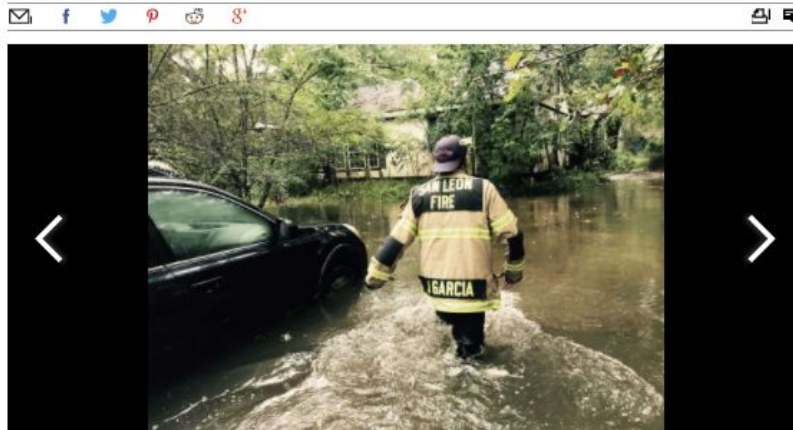


Photo: Houston Chronicle

IMAGE 2 OF 3

Volunteer firefighter Jody Garcia goes house to house in a Dickinson neighborhood seeking residents who need help. "Everyone is doing what they can," Garcia said. "It's awesome to see."

DICKINSON - Jody Garcia checked in with dispatch first thing Monday.


There were 176 rescue calls holding on the second day of flooding in this deluged subdivision south of League City, parts of which had turned into a patchwork of canals, thanks to more than 25 inches of rain.

The volunteer firefighter in San Leon grew up in this neighborhood, and for him the rampage of Hurricane Harvey was personal. His first rescue Sunday was his cousin, who was stuck in an attic with her small child.

To get to her, Garcia employed the ingenuity so many other Texans have during this disaster and enlisted the help of a stranger he found on the side of the road. Richard Robinson had a boat. Garcia had a truck. Together, they rescued more than a hundred people on Sunday alone. Entire families were lifted into Robinson's small, gray dinghy.

SEE ITEM NO. 4 IN THIS ENTRY FOR THE FULL STORY

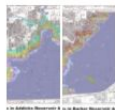
A Chronicle staff member camped out at the emergency operations center reports on the state of Houston's two dams, the heart of the city's flood defenses. If they fail, thousands could die.

 **John D. Harden** @jdharden Following

NEW **#Breaking**: Flood water is rising in the neighborhoods adjacent to Addicks and Barker reservoirs.


#houstonflood

[houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-t ...](http://houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-t...)



John D. Harden @jdharden
#Breaking: Corps of engineers begin releasing water from Addicks and Barker earlier than planned.
houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-t... via @HoustonChron

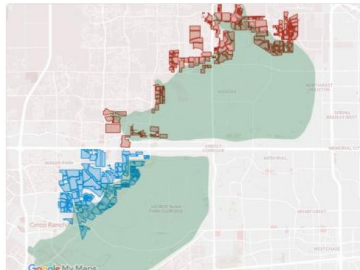
2:26 AM - 28 Aug 2017

 **John D. Harden** @jdharden Following

NEW: An interactive map of the subdivisions at risk of flooding from rising dam levels.

goo.gl/kmtJmN

@HoustonChron



12:18 AM - 29 Aug 2017

54 Retweets 34 Likes

The Chronicle publishes 55 online stories on Tuesday. The next morning's print newspaper reflects the scale of the disaster.

EXTRA STORM COVERAGE

Home delivery of the Houston Chronicle may be later than normal this week.

Special section on Harvey's impact at HoustonChronicle.com/E-Edition

All stories, including apps and the replica edition, are free throughout the storm.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 HoustonChronicle.com and Chron.com | P.16 (36, 36, 320) | Storm High 79, Low 73

UNCERTAINTY ENGULFS REGION



Volunteers run their rescue boats along 'Edwell Road' near the Sam Houston Tollway helping evacuate stranded people Monday in an east Houston neighborhood.

DICKINSON: Rescue crews bring welcome salvation to the desperate

By Lami Kiehl and Keri Blakinger

DICKINSON — July 2017. Garcia decided to walk to work Monday morning. To get to his car, Garcia had to wade through the water. There were 20 rescue boats in the area, and Garcia was one of the few people who had a car. Garcia had a car, but it was stuck in the water. Garcia had a car, but it was stuck in the water. Garcia had a car, but it was stuck in the water.

Fears over rising rivers, levees that could fail

By Susan Carroll, John A. Hinkle and Doug Begley

With the Houston area under water for the third straight day, emergency crews are expected to continue throughout the area. People with boats and other vehicles are expected to continue throughout the area. People with boats and other vehicles are expected to continue throughout the area.

FEHA: Officials begin coordinating start of yearslong rebuilding effort

By James O'Connell and David Price

WASHINGTON — Federal emergency officials, along with thousands of engineers, estimated that it will take a year to get the area back to normal. The area is expected to be a yearlong rebuilding effort. The area is expected to be a yearlong rebuilding effort.

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Uncertainty engulfs region

Fears over rising rivers, levees that could fail

BY SUSAN CARROLL, JOHN D. HARDEN AND DUG BEGLEY

With the Houston area under water for the third straight day, emergency crews rescued thousands of people with boats and helicopters as suburban leaders ordered massive evacuations over fears that levees would give way under the force of flooded waterways.

Much of Fort Bend and Brazoria counties were evacuated as the rain-swollen Brazos River was expected to approach historic flood levels Tuesday, and two subdivisions in north Harris County were evacuated late Monday amid similar concerns over aging levees.

Rains, sometimes heavy, are expected to continue throughout the area perhaps into next week, reaching up to 50 inches over the upper Texas coast, including the Houston-Galveston area.

"This is a landmark event," said Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long after making a plea for help from the public. "We have not seen an event like this. You could not dream this forecast up."

SEE ITEM NO. 3 IN THIS ENTRY FOR THE FULL STORY

TUESDAY, AUG. 29

As the rain continues unabated, entire neighborhoods are inundated, displacing tens of thousands of people. Shelters are overwhelmed. Chronicle photographers board boats to document water rescues.



Reporters file stories from shelters, which are overflowing and short on supplies.

George R. Brown's Harvey evacuees: Photos show what life is like inside Houston's convention center

By Heather Leighton and Nancy Sarnoff Updated 2:21 pm, Tuesday, August 29, 2017

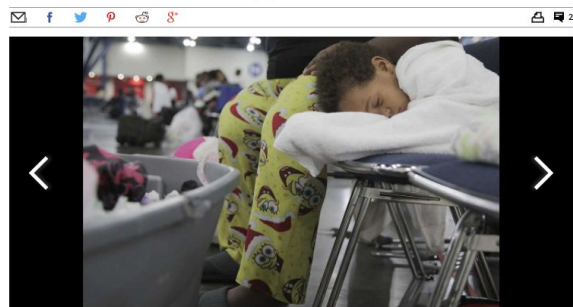


PHOTO: EIZABETH CONLEY, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

IMAGE 13 OF 68

Braylin Mathews Simms Jr., naps on a chair in the George R. Brown Center in Downtown Houston as Hurricane Harvey inches its way through the area on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017.

With rain still falling from Hurricane Harvey, more areas of Houston were placed under mandatory and voluntary evacuations and thousands of people were rescued from their homes by officials. With each rescue, Houston area shelters quickly began to fill up.



The Chronicle is first to report that the Arkema chemical plant near Houston has flooded, creating a risk of devastating explosions. The coverage is anchored by Matt Dempsey, who co-wrote a series of articles a year earlier on the hazards posed by Houston's petrochemical complex.



Matt Dempsey ✓ @mizzousundevil · 29 Aug 2017

Floodwaters from Harvey could lead to an explosion of highly reactive chemicals at the Arkema plant in Crosby.



Arkema chemical plant faces explosion risk after Harvey floodwaters

Flood waters from Hurricane Harvey created an emergency situation that could trigger explosions at the Arkema chemical plant northeast of Hous...

houstonchronicle.com



16



389



160



Matt Dempsey ✓

@mizzousundevil

Following

The Arkema facility was given a high potential for harm in a 2016 analysis by @MKOPSC and the @HoustonChron

6:18 PM - 29 Aug 2017



Matt Dempsey @mizzousundevil · 29 Aug 2017

Replying to @mizzousundevil @MKOPSC @HoustonChron

The facility sits near many homes and businesses in the Crosby area. The company is working with DHS on where to safely put a command post.

1 6 8



Matt Dempsey @mizzousundevil · 29 Aug 2017

There's more than 50 facilities on that high potential for harm list. You can read more about our analysis here:



Chemical Breakdown

Explosions and toxic releases are frequent and frightening, and yet the threats are hidden from the public.

houstonchronicle.com

1 20 17

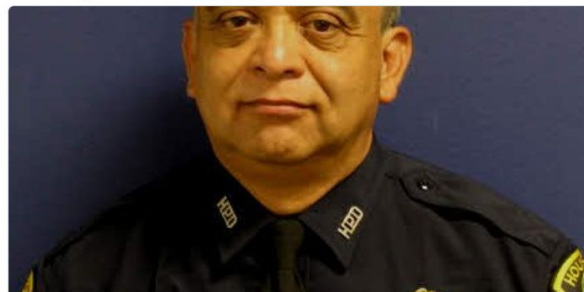
The Chronicle is first to report the drowning death of a Houston police officer.



St. John Bamed-Smith
@stjbs

Following

BREAKING: Houston Police officer drowns in Harvey floodwaters



Houston Police Sgt. Steve Perez drowns in Harvey floodwaters

A Houston police officer drowned in his car in Harvey floodwaters, officials confirmed Tuesday.

chron.com

11:23 AM - 29 Aug 2017

353 2.0K 1.1K

The Chronicle photo department hires a helicopter to capture still and video images of the flooded city. Later, the paper flies its drone, operated by a staff photographer who is an FAA-certified drone pilot, over scenes of the devastation.

Harvey's Houston from above: Aerial photos show extreme flooding in Bayou City

By **Brett Coomer** Updated 3:03 pm, Tuesday, August 29, 2017



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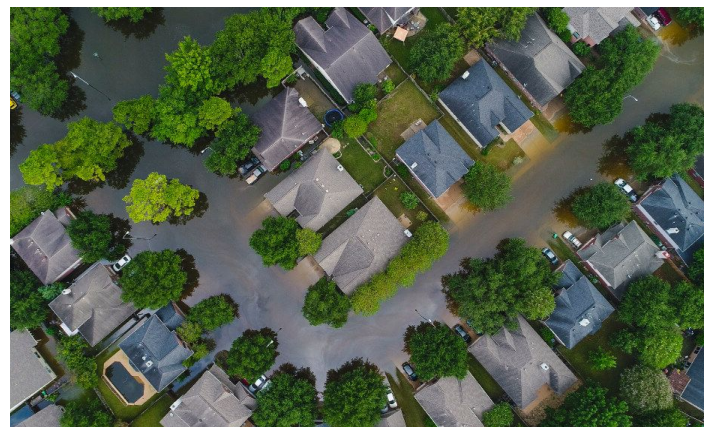


Photo: Brett Coomer, Houston Chronicle



IMAGE 1 OF 99

Interstate 10 at Market is shown blocked by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017, in Houston.



EXTRA STORM COVERAGE
 • Home delivery of the Houston Chronicle may be later than normal this week.
 • Special section on Harvey's impact at HoustonChronicle.com 5 C Edition
 • All stories, including apps and the replica e-edition, are free throughout the storm.
HOUSTON  **CHRONICLE**
 Wednesday, August 30, 2017 | HoustonChronicle.com and Chron.com | Tel. 281. No. 321 | ***
 Storm Hits 25, 26, 27

An aerial photograph showing a dense residential neighborhood where many houses are completely surrounded by floodwater. The water is a murky, brownish-yellow color. The houses have dark, tiled roofs, and some greenery is visible between them. The flooding appears to be quite deep, reaching up to the roofs of some structures in the distance.

HoustonChron  HoustonChronicle.com throughout the day for the latest

SEE **ITEM NO. 5** IN THIS ENTRY FOR
THE FULL STORY

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30

The entire Chronicle staff remains on duty for the fourth day in a row. To prevent a dam failure, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases huge quantities of water from Addicks and Barker reservoirs into an already flooded city, swamping thousands more homes. The death toll reaches 18.



Houston Chronicle @HoustonChron · 30 Aug 2017

Is it safe to drive to Houston after Hurricane Harvey? Here are the routes that are still closed



Is it safe to drive to Houston after Hurricane Harvey? Here are the ro...

Many of Houston residents are wondering if it's safe for them to head back into the city from Dallas, Austin, Lufkin, San Antonio and other cities in chron.com



Houston Chronicle @HoustonChron · 30 Aug 2017

Van with six drowned family members found near Greens Bayou.



Van with six drowned family members found near Greens Bayou

Six members of a Houston family - including four children - have apparently been found, apparently still trapped in their van in Greens Bayou, Harris ... chron.com

Water from 2 reservoirs will swell Buffalo Bayou; crews build temporary dam on I-10

By Mihir Zaveri | August 30, 2017 | Updated: September 1, 2017 2:07pm

✉ f t p d g 9



Photo: Brett Coomer, Staff



IMAGE 1 OF 232

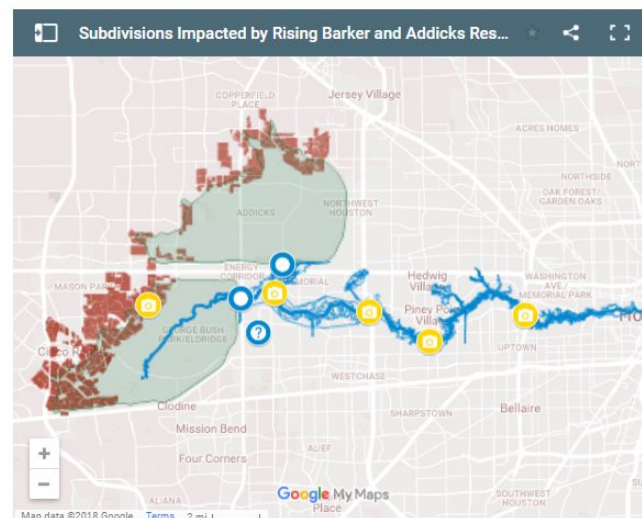
Water is released from the Barker Reservoir in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Harvey on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017, in Houston. (Brett Coomer / Houston Chronicle)

Releases from the Addicks and Barker dams sent floodwaters into an already swollen Buffalo Bayou, which was flooding thousands of Harris County homes Wednesday as officials rushed to relieve pressure on the 70-year-old reservoirs intended to protect the sprawling city downstream.

Interactives explain how the two Army Corps dams are designed to keep Houston safe.

How Addicks, Barker dams are supposed to work

Water flows downward into creeks and streams in Addicks and Barker watersheds, kept behind large earthen dams. The dams control flow into Buffalo Bayou, which keeps downtown Houston from flooding. Too much water on both sides, and the flow is impacted. That's complicated by the Houston Ship Channel, which is actually pushing water into Buffalo Bayou backwards. This week rising pool levels in Barker Reservoir and Addicks Reservoir spilled over into adjacent subdivisions that sit against the dams, shown below.



Again, the best of the coverage is showcased in the next morning's newspaper.

BLOCKED: 'SANCTUARY CITIES' LAW'S ENFORCEMENT STALLED HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Thursday, August 23, 2017 | houstontextlink.com and chron.com | 10¢ US, No. 122 | *** | Sleeps High 95, Low 72

THREATS RISE FROM RESERVOIRS, RIVERS

As sun finally returns, a devastated region tallies the damage

By Susan Carroll, the
Baylor and Shelby Webb

From as large parts of the city were back to the Wednesday, much of the Houston area remained in crisis as worsening conditions around a reservoir sent more water pouring into thousands of homes in west Harris County and rising river levels threatened thousands more to the south and east.

People who ventured out found shorter lines at gas stations, fresh milk on grocery store shelves and an Astros game planned for Saturday. But to the west of Houston, emergency crews struggled with overflowing dams, trying to stop water from pouring into homes and flooding Interstate 10 - one of the state's major arteries.

The northeastern suburbs of Houston, a community with about 100,000 residents, struggled to cope with rising water levels and rising river levels threatened thousands more to the south and east.

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Houston Harbor cradles her nephew, Sergio Matthews Sims Jr., as at the George R. Brown, where nearly 100,000 people are taking shelter.

MORE INSIDE

• [Flooded homes: River engulfs swath of food-battered Brazoria County](#) **Page A3**

• [Flooded homes: River engulfs swath of food-battered Brazoria County](#) **Page A3**

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FLOOD CONTROL: Water from 2 reservoirs will swell Buffalo Bayou; state crews build temporary dam on I-10

By Miller Zinner

Releases from the Atascadero and Buffalo dams sent floodwaters into an already swollen Buffalo Bayou, which was flooding thousands of homes in west Harris County. The Army Corps of Engineers is working to prevent the 10-year-old reservoirs intended to protect the sprawling city from flooding.

HARVEY FATALITIES: The worst is confirmed after bodies of 6 family members are found in submerged van



By Gabrielle Banks, Lindsay Ellis and Cindy George

Mona Saldivar watched from Green River Drive on a muggy Wednesday morning as authorities tugged a white work van from the murky Greens Bayou. She'd held out hope that perhaps the van didn't contain the bodies of her loved ones, that maybe they were safe somewhere.

Then authorities confirmed the unfathomable: The bodies of Saldivar's four children, ages 6 to 16, and their paternal great-grandparents were inside the van. A relative trying to transport the six away from rising floodwaters on Sunday afternoon instead drove into high water, which swept the vehicle off the road. The relative escaped the van but was unable to save the others.

"This is like the hardest thing that anybody would ever go through," Mona Saldivar said by phone later. She declined to discuss the events that led to the tragedy.



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Houston's Source for Breaking News
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Threats rise from reservoirs, rivers

As sun finally returns, a devastated region tallies the damage

BY SUSAN CARROLL, DUG BEGLEY AND SHELBY WEBB

Even as large parts of the city came back to life Wednesday, much of the Houston area remained in crisis as worsening conditions around a reservoir sent more water pouring into thousands of homes in west Harris County and rising river levels threatened thousands more to the south and east.

People who ventured out found shorter lines at gas stations, fresh milk on grocery store shelves and an Astros game planned for Saturday. But to the west of Houston, emergency crews struggled with overflowing dams, trying to stop water from pouring into homes and flooding Interstate 10 - one of the state's major arteries.

SEE ITEM NO. 6 FOR THE FULL STORY

Harvey fatalities

The worst is confirmed after bodies of 6 family members are found in submerged van

BY GABRIELLE BANKS, LINDSAY ELLIS AND CINDY GEORGE

Mona Saldivar watched from Green River Drive on a muggy Wednesday morning as authorities tugged a white work van from the murky Greens Bayou.

She'd held out hope that perhaps the van didn't contain the bodies of her loved ones, that maybe they were safe somewhere.

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"This is like the hardest thing that anybody would ever go through," Mona Saldivar said by phone later. She declined to discuss the events that led to the tragedy.

SEE ITEM NO. 7 FOR THE FULL STORY

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

Explosions rock the Arkema chemical plant, sending a plume of black smoke above a residential community. Harvey's flood waters had cut the power needed to keep volatile compounds at cool temperatures. The Chronicle had reported on this possibility two days earlier, and as conditions at the plant deteriorated, reporter Keri Blakinger was sent to the area to stand watch.



Keri Blakinger ✓
@keribla

Following

#BREAKING - explosions reported at Crosby chemical plant. Headed there right now. Here's company statement.

Local officials had previously established an evacuation zone in an area 1.5 miles from our plant, based on their assessment of the situation.

We continue to work closely with federal, state and local authorities to manage the situation.

As we communicated in recent days, our site followed its hurricane preparation plan in advance of the recent hurricane and we had redundant contingency plans in place. However, unprecedented flooding overwhelmed our primary power and two sources of emergency backup power. As a result, we lost critical refrigeration of the products on site. Some of our organic peroxides products burn if not stored at low temperature.

We have been working closely with public officials to manage the implications of this situation, and have communicated with the public the potential for product to explode and cause an intense fire. Organic peroxides are extremely flammable and, as agreed with public officials, the best course of action is to let the fire burn itself out.

We want local residents to be aware that product is

4:45 AM - 31 Aug 2017



Keri Blakinger ✓
@keribla

Following

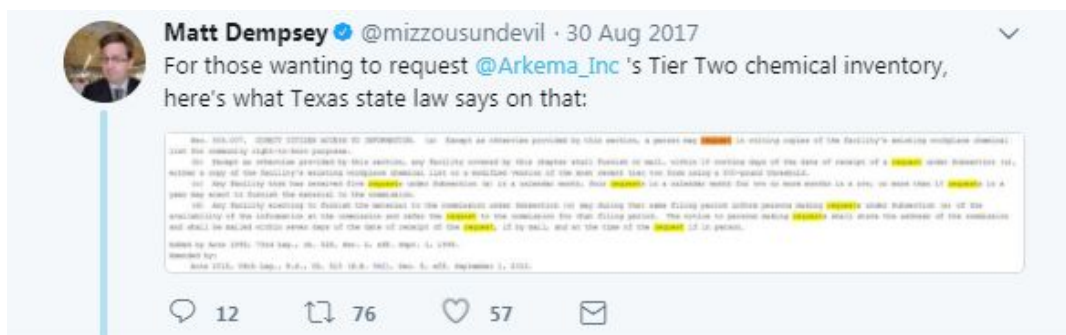
The multiple popping sounds heard this morning were containers w/in one van. Other eight have not combusted.

Keri Blakinger ✓ @keribla

There are nine vans filled w/36,000 pounds of chemicals in 15-pound containers, per HCFMO. #Arkema

7:59 AM - 31 Aug 2017

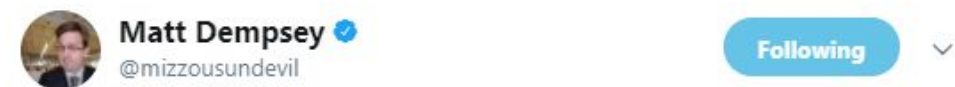
Blakinger is joined by Matt Dempsey, the original reporter on the Arkema story. The two dig for details of the plant's chemical inventory and provide live updates.



Replying to @michaelsbarajas @Arkema_Inc @JSpencer_HCSO

The company says it will provide the Tier 2 to me. I have not seen the latest one yet though

5:09 PM - 31 Aug 2017



@Arkema_Inc says plume = noxious not toxic.
@SheriffEd_HCSO? like a campfire
@hcfmo? don't stand in it.
@FEMA ? "incredibly dangerous"

7:04 PM - 31 Aug 2017

By Thursday, the Chronicle has published 14 stories on the Arkema plant since Harvey hit Houston. Reporters update Thursday's live story 47 times. Additional stories and interactives reveal the danger of living in the capital of the nation's petrochemical industry.

Chemical facilities face danger during Harvey shutdowns

By Matt Dempsey and Jordan Blum | August 29, 2017 | Updated: August 31, 2017 6:01pm



Photo: Melissa Philip, Staff

IMAGE 1 OF 2

Exxon Mobil has a refining complex in Baytown. Some refineries are restarting.

Hurricane Harvey's winds and floodwaters have created emergencies at chemical facilities across the Houston area, from an Exxon Mobil roof collapse at its massive Baytown complex to the risk of an explosion at a chemical plant northeast of Houston.

The incidents, which also included a shelter-in-place Monday evening in La Porte from a pipeline leak, reveal how dangerous it can be when a storm of Harvey's magnitude collides with the nation's petrochemical capital. Even the controlled, Harvey-related shutdowns of refineries and plants are resulting in the release of millions of pounds of carbon monoxide and other chemicals into the region's atmosphere - primarily through a process called flaring.

MOST POPULAR

Former Alley Theatre artistic director gets \$383,000 severance

A new generation of hair restoration may help you beat your...



Rachael Gleason

@rachaelgleason

This week #Harvey's winds, floodwaters threatened Houston's chemical plants. How dangerous can it be? We mapped it:

houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-t ...



1:40 AM - 31 Aug 2017 from Houston, TX

Thousands in region begin process that could take years



"For most of the county and most of the area, we're getting beyond the rescue stage," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. "In order for people to get their lives

Frank Barrera said he went to a

HoustonChronicle.com/
hurricane

Frank Barrera said he went to a

Chron.com
HoustonChronicle.com
Twitter@HoustonChron
Facebook: HoustonChronicle

NATION | WORLD
Russia punished
 In retaliation, U.S. orders Russia to close diplomatic offices in San Francisco, New York and Washington, D.C. **PAUL M.**

For Breaking News
throughout the day for the
photos and video from Houston
Chron.com
@HoustonChron
HoustonChronicle

SEE **ITEM NO. 8** FOR THE FULL STORY

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1

Houston becomes a tale of two cities — one still flooded, one starting to return to life. The online report focuses on efforts to help residents get back on their feet.



Chron.com from the Houston Chronicle was live.

Published by Brett Coomer [?] · September 1, 2017 ·

The 36th Combat Aviation Brigade of Texas Army National Guard fly search and rescue operations over areas damaged by Tropical Storm Harvey in southeast Texas.

Allyn West Retweeted



Houston Chronicle @HoustonChron · 1 Sep 2017

Here's a tool if you need help cleaning out your house or if you want to help.



Live map: Where to find houses that need your help

An interactive map by Sketch City pairs volunteers with flooded houses that need mucking - removing carpet, drywall, floorboards, mud and more.

houstonchronicle.com

Business writers Ryan Maye Handy and James Osborne look at who had flood insurance, and who didn't.

Thousands of Houston-area homeowners faced Harvey with no flood insurance

By Ryan Maye Handy and James Osborne Updated 1:33 pm, Saturday, September 2, 2017

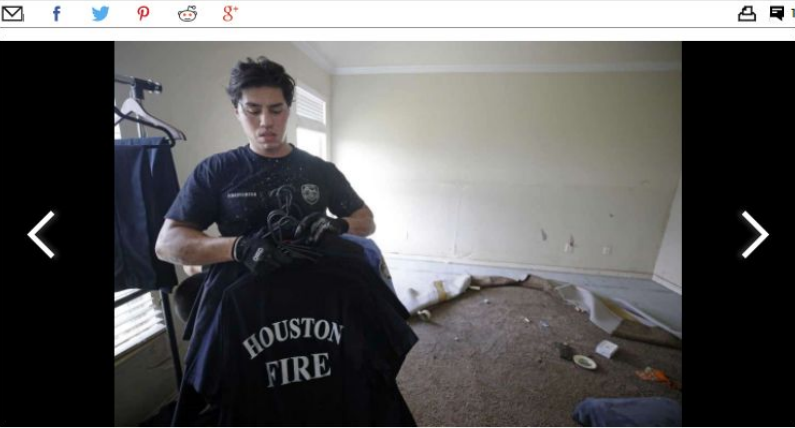


Photo: Melissa Phillip, Staff

IMAGE 2 OF 10

Jordan Morales, a Houston firefighter with Station 9, packs up his uniform shirts as he cleans up his flooded home Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, in Spring. He said about 5 feet of water flooded his home in the ... more

It took less than an hour for floodwaters to nearly swallow Jordan Morales' home in a neighborhood where homeowners are not required to buy flood insurance because the area rarely, if ever, floods.

It is one of the largest financial assets to his name and it looked as if it had been shipwrecked: Mud smeared the walls; furniture piled on itself; and doors broke apart or swelled shut. "The water was up to 5 feet. The entire place was just destroyed," the 28-year-old Houston firefighter said of the home near Spring that he has owned for two years. "Flood insurance shouldn't be optional. It should be mandatory."

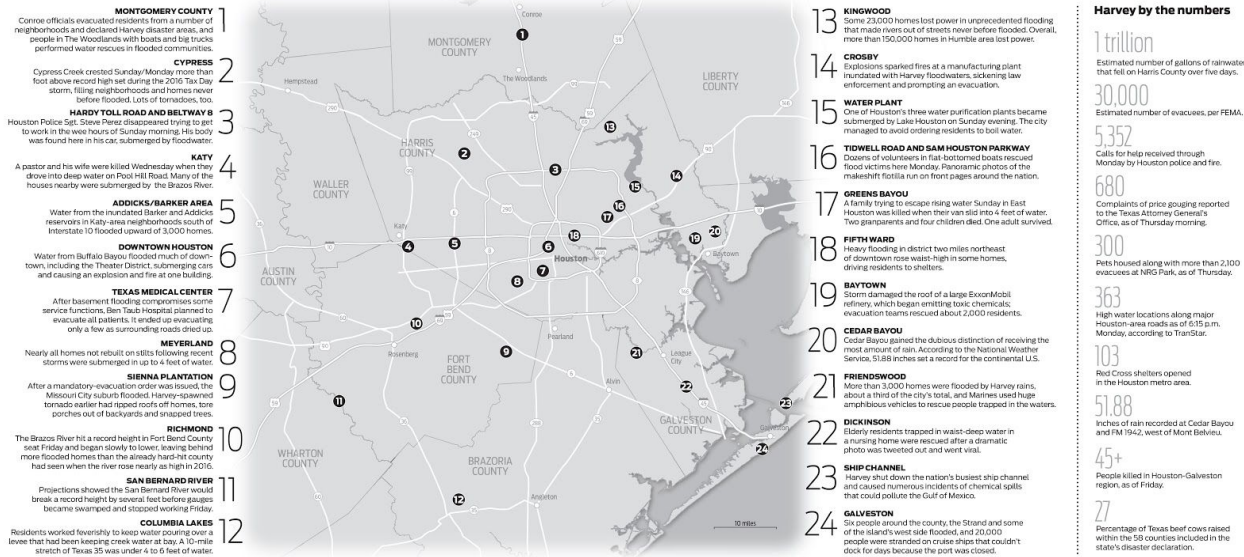
More than a million homes in Harris County are not insured for floods, leaving thousands of area homeowners with unthinkable repair costs while, in most cases, they're still on the hook for their mortgages.

An infographic in the next day's newspaper breaks down Harvey by the numbers: 1 trillion gallons of rain, 103 Red Cross shelters, 30,000 evacuees, 45 dead — and counting.

Harvey gave us its worst

Harvey lingered over the region for days, drowning the area with rain and leaving Houston with scars that will last years. Here's a look at just some of what the storm did to our home.

Data compiled by Todd Ackerman and Dug Begley Graphic by Ken Ellis and Charles Apple



[illegible]

At the end of the day, the children and adults at the food bank in the Bronx wait for their turn to be served. Photo by David J. Phillip for The New York Times.

By James Hanley and Jason Osborne

By Jeff Dowd and John Heil

By Will Hume and John Heil

It took him less than five minutes to get to the food bank in the Bronx, where he was one of the thousands of people who are routinely turned away by the food bank's staff because they are not on the list.

One of the largest financial markets in the world, Wall Street is home to more than 100 million people who are not on the list. And it has been there for more than 100 years.

Wall Street is a place where the world's largest financial markets meet. It is a place where the world's largest financial markets meet. It is a place where the world's largest financial markets meet.

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When the contraband stopped, water was known to be falling in the Bronx. It was a place where the world's largest financial markets meet. It is a place where the world's largest financial markets meet.

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The National Flood Insurance program is a federal program that provides flood insurance to property owners in the United States. It is a program that provides flood insurance to property owners in the United States.



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- Resident-centered care tailored to meet your or your loved one's individual needs
- Life-long learning opportunities include art, cooking, Spanish, technology and wellness classes

Call **281-936-2805** to schedule a visit and discover the Holly Hall difference!

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HollyHall
 Retirement Community



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HollyHall
 Retirement Community

Family's evacuation made more harrowing as mom goes into labor

When the contractions started, water was knee-deep and rising in the pretty brick house on Saffron Lane.

She didn't tell her husband, Kevin, about the pain. At least not then. He was outside, keeping his own secret. Their street, their yard, their driveway in the Friendswood subdivision called Forest Bend had become an angry river. He watched a neighbor's portable basketball hoop get swallowed whole.

Earlier, they had talked about evacuation. The emergency alerts were blasting from their phones every few minutes. They packed some clothes and medicine, just in case. They grabbed their 3-year-old's stuffed wolf and the cellphone on which their 6-year-old played games. When the water began to slosh into the garage, Kevin loaded a generator, along with their Siberian husky named Shilo, into the back of the truck he had put up on blocks.

But it was like going through the motions, neither of them quite believing what was happening.

Then, suddenly, the water was in the house. Kevin switched off the power as it reached the electric sockets. Nacole timed her contractions by the clock on her cellphone. By the time the Friendswood police boats began appearing on their street, around dawn, they were five minutes apart.

Kevin half-stumbled, half-swam out to flag down a crowded boat for help.

"Go back," the people hollered, trying to keep him safe. "We'll be back."

"Y'all better hurry," he called into the rain. But they couldn't hear. In the distance there were others, screaming for help.

SEE **ITEM NO. 9** FOR THE FULL STORY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

As floodwaters start to recede, the extent of Harvey's destruction comes into view. More than 10,000 public school students have been displaced, toxic waste sites have been flooded and FEMA has been overwhelmed by 507,000 applications for assistance.

**Houston Chronicle**  @HoustonChron · 2 Sep 2017

HISD offers detail on school damage and student relocation



HISD offers detail on school damage and student relocation
About 10,000 to 12,000 Houston ISD students will likely be temporarily displaced from their storm-damaged schools and sent to other campuses...
chron.com

**Margaret Kadifa**
@margaretkadifa

Following 

Wrote a heartbreaking story about Andrew Pasek, 25, who waded in floodwaters to save his sister's cat
houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-w ...
[@HoustonChron](https://twitter.com/HoustonChron)

**Man risks everything to save sister's cat**
Despite rising floodwaters, Andrew Pasek headed on Tuesday to his older sister's house to save her cat.
houstonchronicle.com

8:08 AM - 1 Sep 2017



Lise Olsen ✓
@chondigger

Following

Serious concerns raised by citizens & @HarrisCountyAO about water quality, damage and potential toxic release at #Superfund site @EPA

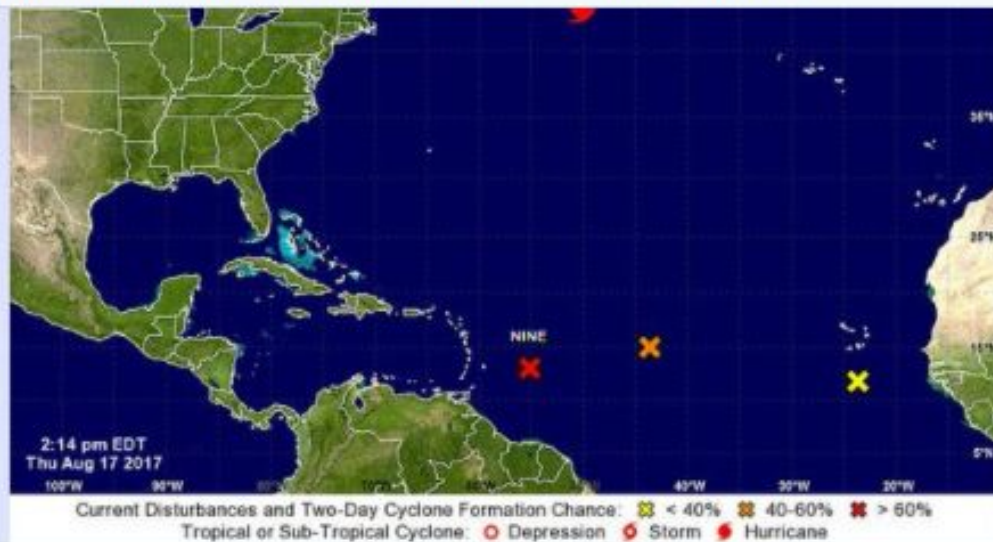
Lise Olsen ✓ @chondigger

Cap covering lethal San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site could be undermined by #Harvey2017 #houwx #Houstonfloods
chron.com/news/houston-t...



Houston Chronicle ✓ @HoustonChron · 2 Sep 2017

Hurricane Harvey timeline for those who don't know what day it is



Hurricane Harvey timeline for those who don't know what day it is

Cleanup efforts have begun across Houston, and after so many days of dealing with the rain, flooding and its aftermath most people living in the cit...

chron.com



Jeremy Wallace
@JeremySWallace

Follow

President Trump makes unplanned stop to visit homes along Scarsdale Blvd where street corners filled with damaged furniture #Harvey



3:38 PM - 2 Sep 2017

Trump visits Houston as comforter-in-chief

On second trip to Lone Star State, he visits families, helps hand out lunches

By Jeremy Wallace, Houston Chronicle | September 2, 2017 | Updated: September 3, 2017 12:29am

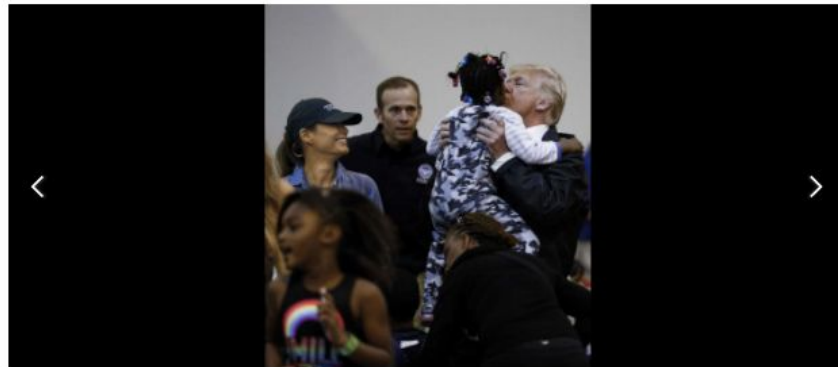


Photo: Michael Grecco, Staff

IMAGE 1 OF 50
President Donald Trump kisses a child while visiting Tropical Storm Harvey evacuees at NRG Center with his wife, Melania.

President Donald Trump tried on the role of comforter-in-chief during a three-hour visit to Houston on Saturday, visiting displaced families, touring waterlogged neighborhoods and, at one point, helping Red Cross volunteers hand out boxed lunches at the NRG Center.

The president, dressed in khakis and a black windbreaker, hugged a baby and played with children displaced from their homes at NRG, which has become one of the area's biggest disaster shelters in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey's record rainfalls and catastrophic flooding.

"They were just happy," Trump said of the kids. "You see a lot of happiness. It's really been nice. It's been a wonderful thing. As tough as this was it's been a wonderful thing - I think even for the country to watch, the world to watch."

When Air Force One landed at Ellington Airport shortly after 11 a.m., Trump shook Mayor Sylvester Turner's hand and spent nearly two minutes in conversation with the first-term Democrat. Trump also repeatedly praised Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, and his office's response to the crisis.

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In the early days of the disaster, three Chronicle reporters — Mike Hixenbaugh, David Hunn and Mark Collette — were dispatched to find emblematic stories of Houston's week-long ordeal. Their 5,760-word narrative, "51 Inches," dominates HoustonChronicle.com and the newspaper's Sunday front page on Sept. 3, describing how five people from different walks of life survived one of America's worst natural disasters.

51 Inches

Terror, heartbreak and heroism: Five Houstonians brave one of America's worst storms

BY MIKE HIXENBAUGH, DAVID HUNN
AND MARK COLLETTE

In the middle of the night on Aug. 13, a mass of swirling air blew off the coast of Africa, more than 5,000 miles from Texas.

Four days later, Eric Berger, a Houston meteorologist, awoke to a bulletin from the National Hurricane Center. A growing storm cluster was moving toward the Caribbean Sea. Some of the early tracking models showed it could come to the U.S. Gulf Coast, but more likely, the system would sputter and die.

Berger didn't post anything that morning on Space City Weather, the forecasting blog he runs from his home in League City. No need to worry people just yet. Instead, he drove his 13-year-old daughter to the dentist to have her braces adjusted.

Across town, Ajshay James, a single mom, was sending emails about a potential investment property and hoping to get her almost-2-year-old daughter into a school for children with special needs; Mustafa Herby, an Iraqi refugee, was designing a 3D model for a garden bed to be built at Rice University; Michael Arceneaux and his wife were getting ready to take their daughters back-to-school shopping; Erick Ellis was under the hood of a 2003 Chevy Tahoe, fixing an A/C compressor.

Five people in a region of more than six million, all of them oblivious.

They couldn't have known that a low pressure system in the Atlantic would, over the next week, grow into the fiercest hurricane to hit Texas in four decades.

That it would stall over Houston and dump 51.88 inches of rain at Cedar Bayou in West Harris County, more than any storm in U.S. history.

That it would fill 50,000 homes with water, kill four dozen people and test the resolve of America's fourth-biggest city.

SEE **ITEM NO. 10** FOR THE FULL STORY

[illegible]

HoustonChronicle.com/**51inches**

Fifty-one inches: Terror, heartbreak and heroism as five souls brave the worst storm in U.S. history

Story by *Mike Hixenbaugh, David Hunn and Mark Collette*
Multimedia by *Mark Mulligan and Michael Ciaglo*

Published: Sept. 2, 2017

