Hurricane Harvey

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August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Rockport, Texas as a category 4 hurricane.
Harvey brought dramatically increased water and tide levels over the Texas Coast. Highest storm tides at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge, surge levels were more than 12 feet above ground level.
Harvey was unique. Instead of moving inland and farther away from the coast, Harvey stalled over South and Southeast Texas for days, producing catastrophic flooding.

Southeast Texas took the brunt of the heavy rainfall, many areas receiving more than 40 inches of rain in less than 48 hours!

Cedar Bayou in the Houston area received **51.88 inches of rainfall** a new North American record.
Animal Health Commission Timeline

- August 21: State and Regional Calls
- August 23: Representatives to SOC & DDC
- August 23: Begin stakeholder, local partners, internal calls
- August 25: Hurricane Harvey makes landfall
- August 26: Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC) calls begin
- August 28: AROCC stood up and Fully activated
- August 28 – September 11: AROCC Operations
- September 11: AROCC deactivated
- September 11: Field responders demobilized

Debrief, Hot Wash, and After-Action activities and meetings
Hurricane Harvey Statistics

Federal Declaration
September 19
- 53 Counties

Governor’s Proclamation
- 60 County

Peak Impact Stats:
- 781 Roads Closed
- 245 Human Shelters Open
- 7 State Staging Areas
- 41 Points of Distribution
- 119 TAHC Staff Responding

Animal Shelters:
- 40 State Co-Located shelters with 765 companion animals & pets
- 99 Independent animal shelters:
  - 2,352 livestock sheltered
  - 1,424 companion animals sheltered

13 Animal Supply Points

Livestock Assessments
- 37,000 head
- 16,000 head (assisted)

117 tons of hay dropped
1200 pounds of cubes dropped
(ground and air)
Agriculture Losses

$200 million plus in crop and livestock losses

- **Cotton - $100 million**
  - 200,000 bales (+/-)

- **Livestock - $93 million**
  - Livestock, infrastructure, feed & hay, fences

- **Rice and Soybean - $9 million**

Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service economists
## Hurricane Harvey Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Tons</th>
<th>Semi truck loads</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round Bales</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Square Bales</td>
<td>1,769</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cubes</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse Feed</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Stock</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet food</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

338 Semi Truck Loads

- 2,200 miles surveyed
- 117 tons of hay & cubes
Texas Animal Health Commission is the lead state agency on animal-related response in disasters and emergencies.

TAHC manages the Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC), which operates as an animal-issues EOC at the state level to coordinate animal response operations.

AROCC members include representatives from other animal/agriculture state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and industry partners.
Response Partners
Local Response Partners

- City of Austin Animal Services
- City of Irving Animal Services
- City of Dallas Animal Services
- City of San Marcos Animal Services
- City of Corpus Christi Animal Care Services
State Response Partners

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine
- Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Military Forces
- Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Temporary Emergency License Application - Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

On August 23, 2017, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation, which provided this agency the opportunity to assist individuals impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Based on this proclamation, The Texas Board of Veterinary Medicine (TBVME) is pleased to offer a Temporary Emergency License (TEL) to out-of-state veterinarians who wish to come to Texas to provide relief veterinary services, but do not hold a Texas Veterinary License.

Please click HERE to obtain the application packet and instructions. Processing your Emergency Temporary License applications will be a priority during this tragedy and we plan to issue the licenses within one business day, if possible, depending on the demand. Please provide an email address on your application, as your license will be emailed to you. We appreciate you reaching out to help those affected by this tragedy in Texas.

Any questions about this process can be directed to Marilyn Hartman, the Director of Licensing, at marilyn@veterinary.texas.gov or (512) 305-7658.
Federal Response Partners

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):
- USDA APHIS Veterinary Service
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
- USDA Animal Care
- USDA NRCS
- USDA FSA
National Response Partners

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Non-Governmental Organizations

- National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)
- Houston SPCA
- Austin Humane Society
- Humane Society of North Texas
- SPCA of Texas
- Emancipet
- Code 3 Associates
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

NARSC means National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition
Non-Governmental Organizations

- Texas Veterinarian Medical Association (TVMA)
- Texas Equine Veterinary Association (TEVA)
- Veterinarian Medical Reserve Corp (VMRC)
- South by South Vets
- Greater Good/Rescue Bank
Industry Response Partners

- Texas Cattle Feeders Association
- Texas And Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
- Independent Cattleman’s Association
- Texas Association of Dairymen
- Texas Poultry Federation
- Texas Pork Producers
- Texas Farm Bureau
- San Antonio Zoo
- Fort Worth Zoo
Field Response
Animal Supply Points Coordination

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

[Map showing various ASP points across Texas]
Need Large or Small Animal Supplies?

Call 979-845-7800 to find an animal supply point near you
Donations
Texas Department of Agriculture
Best Practices, Lessons Learned & Opportunities for Improvement
Common Animal Issues in Disaster

- Transportation & Evacuation
  - Sheltering
- Rescue, Capture, & Contain
  - Veterinary Care
- Donation Management
- Identification & Reunification
  - Carcass Issues
- Public Information
Self/voluntary evacuation more prevalent

Have a plan

Public Information
  - First time incorporating 2-1-1 into JIC
  - Early messaging & consistent messaging
Zoos Helping Zoos
Sheltering

Pre-Planning
- Resources
- Tracking animals/owners
- Reunification issues
- Reporting/Information Management

Best Case Scenario
Rescue, Capture and Contain

- Vetted response partners are important: well-meaning citizens *can* be a major problem

- TAHC Companion Animal calls: coordinate partnership organizations - NGOs
Identification and Reunification
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raiser’s Association
Veterinary Support

Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team
Carcass Issues

- It’s Prioritized Debris!!!
- Jurisdictional authorities and responsibilities
  - Public property versus private property

TCEQ
Public Information

- Public Information Crucial
  - Social Media
  - Early messaging (pre-incident)
  - Phone banks
  - Start conference calls to stakeholders early (pre-incident)
  - Consistent messaging from all response partners
  - First time incorporating 2-1-1 into Joint Information Center
“I’ve never seen angels dressed like y’all”
Questions
Thanks for your time

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