



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Trey Duhon
County Judge
County of Waller
836 Austin St., Room 203
Hempstead, TX 77445

Dear Judge Duhon:

Today marks the first day of the 2018 Hurricane Season. Experts anticipate an above-average season with 14 named storms, including seven hurricanes, three of which are expected to be major.

Six Presidential Disaster Declarations have been issued for Texas in the past three years. These disasters should serve as a reminder that Texans must prepare for the hurricane season, and the most effective response and recovery begins at the local level.

As a local elected official, you can take several steps today to lead your community's preparedness effort. Comprehensive recovery planning requires establishing and rehearsing plans for continuity of operations and a system to protect critical government documents. It also requires that citizens be reminded to:

- Maintain adequate levels of renter or flood insurance (which includes a 30-day waiting period before going into effect), even if you do not live in a flood plain;
- Safeguard important personal documents such as birth certificates, deeds or insurance policies; and
- Keep emergency supplies like bottled water and canned food on hand.

General Land Office (GLO) staff have conducted training and outreach throughout the state, focusing on pre- and post-disaster recovery planning, and we will continue to do so. We encourage all jurisdictions to participate in training for disaster recovery planning. The economic health of our communities depends upon the steps local governments take to build resilience.

In the wake of Hurricanes Ike, Dolly, Rita, and Harvey, the Bastrop wildfires and the 2015-16 floods, Texas has made great strides to improve our preparation for disasters. The GLO provides resources to assist communities as we prepare for the hurricane season and other hazardous events at: www.glo.texas.gov/recovery/partnerships/recovery-resources/index.html.

Additional helpful resources are available at the websites listed below:

Federal and State Preparedness:

Department of Homeland Security <https://www.ready.gov/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency <https://www.fema.gov/>

The United States Coast Guard <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

American Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/>

Texas Division of Emergency Management <https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/>

Texas A&M Forest Service <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/>

National Flood Insurance Program <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

Texas Department of Insurance <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/>

Small Business Administration <https://www.sba.gov/>

Texas General Land Office <http://www.glo.texas.gov/recovery/index.html>

I am honored to support and work alongside our Texas communities to prepare and respond to whatever comes our way. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact our Senior Deputy Director of Community Development and Revitalization Pete Phillips at 512.475.5000 or cdr@glo.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.P. Bush', written in a cursive style.

GEORGE P. BUSH

Commissioner, Texas General Land Office