



Preparing for Emergencies in the COVID Environment

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WHY an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activates

- When a no-notice incident with cascading impacts occurs, such as a hazardous materials release.
- When there is a warning period before an emergency, such as a forecasted hurricane or flash flooding.
- In preparation for planned events.



2020 Activations



- *12 hours average activation shift
- **activated about 90 hours (minus COVID)
- ***Longest COVID-19

- Natural Disasters
 - Severe Weather (3 in 2020)
- Planned Events
 - Houston Half, Full Marathons
 - MLK Jr. Day Parade
 - Rodeo Parade
 - George Floyd Memorial
- No-Notice Events
 - Watson Grinding Explosion
 - Civil Disturbances
 - Water Main Break
- Public Health Emergencies
 - COVID-19



Preparing Our City

Evacuation Hub Exercise

- **Entry**
 - PPE (masks, sanitizer)
 - Exiting transportation
 - Lines - social distancing
- **Temperature checks**
 - Isolation and quarantine protocols
 - Medical provisions
- **Registration**
 - Plexiglass
 - Electronic forms
- **Additional Considerations**
 - Added extra hall
 - Mobility
 - Pets
 - Disinfecting/cleaning procedures



Transportation



- Social distancing
- Facial coverings
- Hand hygiene
- Disinfecting common surfaces (doors, seats)
- Metro & HISD
- Ride Share

Red Cross, Non-Profit Partners, and Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (VOAD)

Shelters

- Shelters will follow CDC guidelines
 - Screening
 - PPE Kits
 - Plexiglass
- Types
 - Traditional
 - Non-congregate:
 - Hotels
 - Dormitories
- Pets Accepted

Volunteers

- Harder to get volunteers
- Churches and VOADs
- Use of City employees
- Make last-minute adjustments



Questions about City Preparations

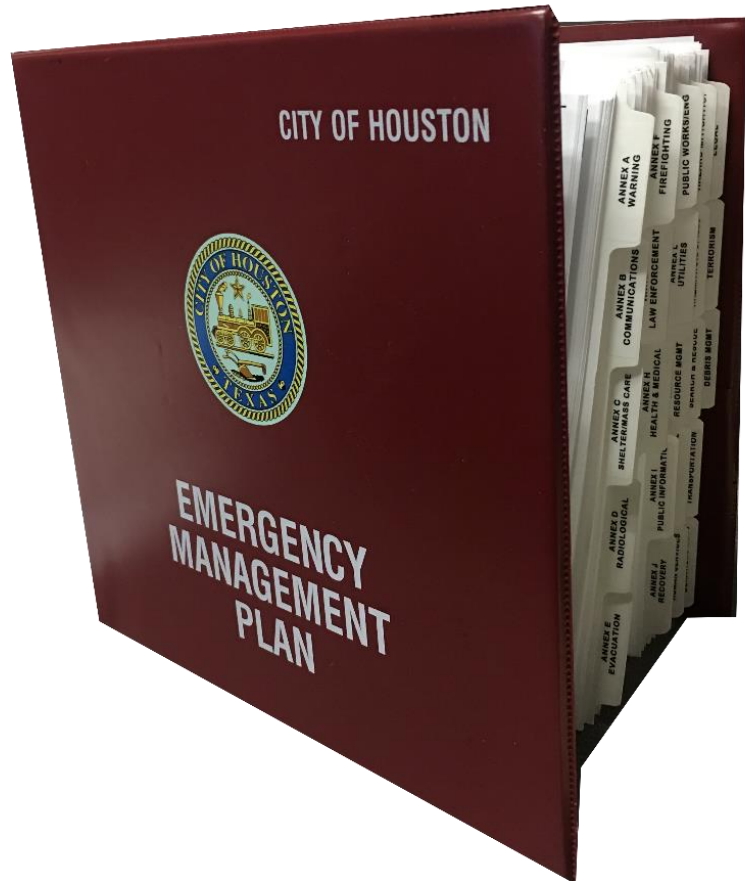




Preparing Internally

Emergency Plans

- Basic plan
 - ✓ Annexes
- Hazard-specific
 - ✓ Hurricane Response and Recovery Plan
 - ✓ Evacuation HUB Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plans
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Emergency Public Information Plan



Emergency Operations Center

Activations during COVID-19

- Sanitation wipe downs
- Individually wrapped food
- Reduced Staffing
- Social Distancing
 - Workstations
 - Food line
 - Teams



Workplace Preparedness



MAKE A PLAN

Emergency Kits for Employees

Encourage your employees to have grab-and-go emergency kits at the office, in the event of a disaster during the work day:

Include a small first aid kit, cash, energy bars, bottle of water, phone charger, etc.

BUILD A KIT



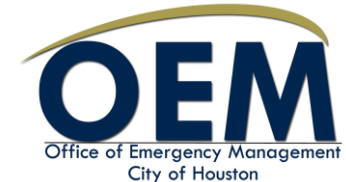
STAY INFORMED

All Hazards
NOAA
Weather Radio
NOAA's National Weather Service

nws.noaa.gov/nwr
NOAA Weather Alert Radio

**FLOOD
EDUCATION
MAPPING TOOL**

HarrisCountyFEMT.org



Business Preparedness



- **Important Records**
 - Insurance policies
 - Contracts
 - Employee Records
- **Redundancies**
 - Back up hard drives to cloud
 - Inventory of equipment with serial numbers
- **Emergency Supplies**
 - Waterproof lockbox
 - 3-day supply of food
 - Batteries

Personal Preparedness

IMPORTANT PAPERS

- Passport
- Immunizations
- Insurance
- Waterproof

UNIQUE FAMILY NEEDS

- Medications
- Infant care
- Pet Care

COVID-19

- Masks
- Sanitizer



Resources

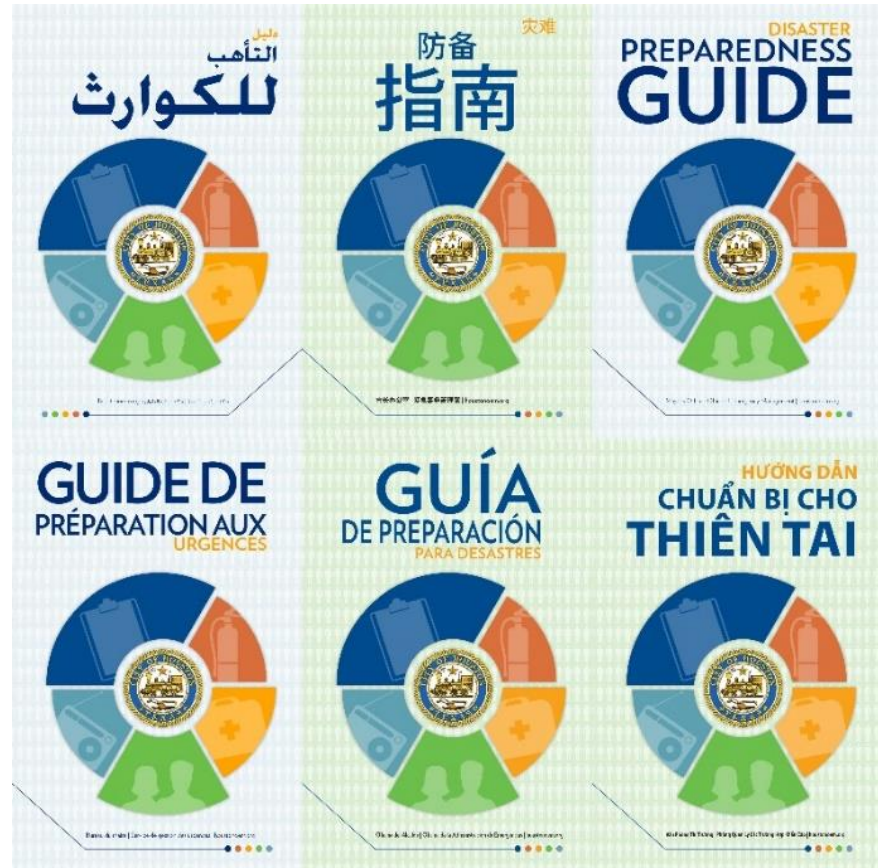
houstonemergency.org
City of Houston Emergency Information

houstonrecovers.org
Disaster Recovery Resources

houstonoem.org
Preparedness Resources and Info on
OEM

houston311.org or call 311
Order copies of the City's Disaster
Preparedness Guide

- Disaster Preparedness Guides - Available in six languages
- *Are You Ready?* materials





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