# Prepare yourself — and your pets — for the unexpected

Taking good care of your pets during a disaster requires preparation. When you get your family's emergency kit ready (for more on that, visit <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xUENG">https://go.usa.gov/xUENG</a>), be sure to pack these items for your furry friends as well:

- At least a two-week supply of food, water and medicines in an airtight container
- Registration information, adoption papers and vaccination documents
- Familiar items such as treats, toys and bedding, which can help reduce stress for your pet
- A picture of you and your pet together: If you become separated, this will help document ownership and enable others to assist you
- Collar or harness with ID tag, rabies tag and leash
- Sturdy, safe crate or pet carrier large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down
- Pet litter and litter box, paper towels, newspapers, plastic trash bags, household bleach

For more tips, visit <a href="https://www.ready.gov/pets">www.ready.gov/pets</a>.



IF YOU EVACUATE. TAKE YOUR PETS WITH YOU



#### Stay cool this summer

Extreme heat has hit parts of Texas, creating conditions in which heat-related illnesses are possible. If you're in an affected area, drink plenty of water, stay out of the sun, check up on relatives and neighbors, and stay in airconditioned rooms. Harvey survivors in FEMA housing units should call the Maintenance Switchboard Call Center, 877-**503-6053**, if they have problems with their air-conditioning. Survivors must not attempt to repair units or allow outside personnel to fix them. Performing unauthorized repairs is a violation of the housing unit's license agreement.

# Counties granted \$10.6 million for generators, debris removal

FEMA awarded more than \$9.2 million



to Orange County for debris removal after Harvey and over \$1.4 million to Bay City for six electric generators. Orange County removed 658,598 cubic yards of debris from public rights of way, at a cost of nearly \$10.3 million. The county's FEMA Public Assistance grant requires a 10 percent match by the applicant, or \$1,029,677. Bay City's Hazard Mitigation grant will pay for four fixed and two portable generators. A 25 percent match is required for the \$1.9 million project. Learn more about Orange County at <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xUEXs">https://go.usa.gov/xUEXs</a> and Bay City at <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xUEX7">https://go.usa.gov/xUEX7</a>.

# Keep Informed

For more information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit:

www.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey

or the Texas Division of Emergency Management at: **www.dps.texas.gov/dem/** 

#### Stay in Touch

For updates on your application status or appeals, visit:

www.DisasterAssistance.gov

800-621-3362 (711 or VRS) OR 800-462-7585 (TTY)

To find the nearest Disaster Recovery Center, visit:  $\mathbf{www.fema.gov/drc}$ 

## Free crisis counseling helps Harvey survivors cope



Recovering from Hurricane Harvey doesn't just mean rebuilding your home or finding a new job. Long after physical recovery is complete, the signs of stress and trauma may remain.

Texans Recovering Together provides free, confidential crisis counseling and referral services to help survivors in 31 counties work

through their disaster recovery. Dial 2-1-1 to be referred to a local provider.

Crisis counseling providers visit homes and community settings for Texans Recovering Together, rather than conducting sessions in an office. The program is run by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and funded through grants from FEMA totaling \$13.9 million.

More than 147,000 survivors of Hurricane Harvey have received individual crisis counseling, group crisis counseling, public education, community networking services, educational contacts or basic support through Texans Recovering Together. Services provided include stress management techniques, coping mechanisms and connections to disaster-relief resources.

Additionally, staff have provided nearly 145,000 secondary services, including handling telephone and hotline contacts, and distributing digital and printed educational materials.

Learn more about Texans Recovering Together at <a href="https://go.usa.">https://go.usa.</a> gov/xUPFN, and find other disaster behavioral health resources at www.hhs.texas.gov/disaster-assistance.

# Voluntary agency liaisons provide crucial support to nonprofits

The outpouring of support for Hurricane Harvey survivors has been inspiring. So many people have sent donations or traveled to Texas to volunteer, it would have been overwhelming if not guided by expert disaster specialists.

FEMA's voluntary agency liaisons (VALs) have helped ensure those contributions would not be lost in the commotion of disaster response and helped maximize their value throughout the recovery process.

Among other duties, VALs shared best practices from past disasters, guided the creation of communitybased long-term recovery groups (LTRGs), supported existing LTRGs and integrated volunteer



collaboration between governmental and nongovernmental organizations and arranged volunteer base camps.

Since Harvey, VALs have helped manage more than 93,000 volunteers and track nearly 3.5 million volunteer-hours. They've also helped manage a massive amount of donations, and created a multi-agency warehouse to control the flow of donated goods.

VALs also have supported the creation of 22 LTRGs that are in various stages of development to support survivors in 29 counties. These nonprofit, community-based organizations, which will support survivors with unmet needs for years to come, continue to receive frequent counsel and close support from local VALs.

### FEMA grants state more than \$82 million

FEMA has awarded \$76.7 million to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and over \$6.2 million to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for activities related to Harvey recovery.

The GLO was reimbursed for managing the Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS) program, which provided emergency repairs and power restoration to single-family, owner-occupied

homes. Those repairs made houses safe, sanitary and secure so homeowners could return while continuing to work on their recovery.

The \$76.7 million grant requires a 10 percent non-federal match, or \$8.5 million of the nearly \$85 million total project. The total cost of the PREPS program, with previous reimbursements, exceeded \$170.5 million.

The TXDOT grant reimbursed the agency for setting up seven temporary base camps with lodging and meals for first responders and emergency officials in the hurricane's immediate aftermath.

Both grants came from FEMA's Public Assistance program, which reimburses communities for actions taken after a disaster. Visit https://go.usa.gov/xUEXT to learn more on the TXDOT award and https://go.usa.gov/xUEXD for more on PREPS.