



Keeping you Knowledgeable, Safe, and in Compliance!

Ernest A. Emerson
Fire Protection Resource Library

A Volume From the Library

Hurricane Season

In the U.S., Atlantic Hurricane Season lasts from June 1st through November 30th. Already this month, Tropical Storm Bill made landfall on Matagorda Island, affecting a large portion of the Texas Gulf Coast. Additionally, hurricane season doesn't peak until late August, with the majority of storms occurring in September.

Eight major hurricanes (classified as Category 3 or greater) have made landfall in Texas in the past 60 years, leaving human casualties and billions of dollars in damage in their wake. The weather-related changes these storms create means that even storms that make landfall in Mexico or further east along the Gulf Coast can affect Texas by

causing storm surges, tornadoes, and flash flooding.

While the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center is our first line of defense, it serves only as a warning system for impending storms. The best weapon we have against these cyclones is advanced preparation.

Fire departments, especially those located in high-risk areas, can best prepare by creating a plan for natural disasters and learning from past mistakes. Encourage preparedness in your communities, not only for hurricanes but also for tropical storms, to help protect lives and property. See the "Additional Resources" sidebar and the videos listed below for helpful information.

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Visit us at the William B. Travis Building:
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Additional Resources:

- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- [TDEM Preparedness page](#)
- [FEMA: Hurricane preparedness](#)
- [Red Cross Hurricane preparedness](#)

Training Videos

HURRICANE IKE

AV09-2314 Date Acquired: 9/3/2009 Length: 30:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN
In September 2008, Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston, Texas. A category 2 hurricane with a category 4 storm surge, Ike resulted in catastrophic flooding 12 hours prior to landfall. In addition to coordinating mass evacuations, firefighters responded to more than 60 structure fires and performed more than 200 high-water rescues during and after the storm. Two stations and two fire apparatus were lost due to flooding. This course shares Galveston's lessons learned from Hurricane Ike, from pre-storm preparations to post-storm short- and long-term recovery. (c. 2009, rel. 9/09)

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY LESSONS LEARNED IN RECENT GULF COAST HURRICANES

AV06-1952 Date Acquired:

6/27/2006 Length: 2:00:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN
Recent hurricanes in this country put a major stress on emergency responders, but these experiences have taught them many valuable lessons. The purpose of this 2 hour session is to review how lessons learned from these disasters can improve disaster planning for hospitals, public health, fire departments, emergency medical services and law enforcement agencies. (2005)

SURVIVING A DISASTER

AV11-2480 Date Acquired: 4/20/2011 Length: 15:00 Format: DVD Author: NFPA
Surviving a Disaster emphasizes the importance of thorough planning as the primary survival strategy for any type of disaster event--and details how an emergency readiness and evacuation plan will help with safety, security, and comfort. Life-saving steps that could apply in all types of disasters include: Knowing

whether to shelter in place or evacuate; Following the instructions of local emergency personnel; Assembling a family disaster supplies kit; And other practices that safeguard the public against loss of life from large and small-scale events. Make sure residents know how to survive! Use this program as part of your local emergency management strategy. (Grade 6+, Family) (c2008)

INCIDENT AND DISASTER PREPARATION

AV08-2229 Date Acquired: 3/7/2008 Length: 30:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN

CERT: DISASTER RESPONSE

AV08-2224 Date Acquired: 3/4/2008 Length: 30:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN

ON THE FRINGE OF DISASTER

AV07-2183 Date Acquired: 8/30/2007 Length: 30:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN