

Hurricane Harvey Private Sector

eBrief



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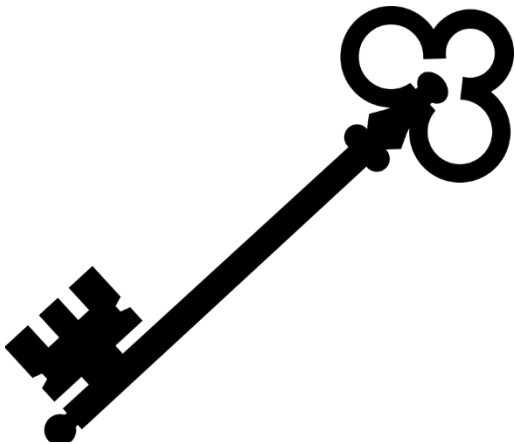


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Harvey Survivors Needing Hotel Stays Get Extension to Oct. 24

Hurricane Harvey survivors who need more time to find housing are getting an extension to stay temporarily in hotels while they look for an alternative place to live.



The Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program, which pays for short-term hotel stays, has been extended by 14 days. The new checkout date is Oct. 24. Participants eligible to continue in the program will receive a phone call telling them what they need to do to remain at their current hotel or find a new hotel. Applicants must meet certain requirements to remain eligible.

Hurricane Harvey survivors who are not currently in the program but who may be eligible are notified automatically. TSA participants must be registered with FEMA for disaster assistance.

FEMA pays directly for the room and any applicable taxes. Applicants are responsible for all other incidental costs (meals, transportation, etc.). Hotels may require a credit card for incidental expenses.

A household of four or fewer members is authorized for one hotel room and a household of five or more is authorized additional rooms based on a limit of four people per room. One member of each household 18 years old or older must reside in each room.

TSA-eligible applicants must find and book their own hotel rooms. The list of participating hotels is available at DisasterAssistance.gov under the [Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program](#) link or by calling FEMA at 800-321-3362. For 711 or Video Relay Service, call 800-621-3362. For TTY, call 800-462-7585.

Applicants with disabilities or who have access and functional needs should check with hotels to ensure appropriate accommodations are available. Those with pets must check with the hotel to see if they are accepted. Applicants must show photo identification and adhere to any hotel check-in requirements.



Smithsonian Experts Help Harvey Survivors Salvage Family Treasures

Survivors of Hurricane Harvey can learn how to salvage and stabilize household treasures damaged by the storm from Smithsonian Institution preservation experts who are visiting three State of Texas/FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) this week. Among the heirlooms that might be salvageable are photos, artwork, quilts, important documents and other keepsakes. The experts will discuss how to handle, dry and clean these items, as well as personal safety during the salvage process, setting priorities and treatment options.

Part of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, the experts are visiting these locations



Wednesday, Oct. 11

H-E-B Parking Lot
1000 East Concho Street
Rockport, TX 78382
11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 12

Richard M. Borchard Regional
Fairgrounds
1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd.
Robstown, TX 78380
11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 13

Dr. Patty Dodson Public
Health Center
2805 North Navarro Street
Victoria, TX 77901
11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Smithsonian Institution, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force is a partnership of 42 national service organizations and federal agencies. It was created to protect cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies. For more information on the task force, email HENTF@si.edu.



Beware of Identity Thieves, Scam Artists after a Disaster

Texas survivors of Hurricane Harvey should watch for and report any suspicious activity or potential fraud from identify thieves, scam artists and other criminals. In some cases in Texas, thieves have tried to register with FEMA using names, addresses and Social Security numbers they have stolen from other people.

Identity theft

- The aftermath of a disaster can attract opportunists and con artists. You should be alert to fraudulent
- Attempts to obtain money or steal personal information.
- FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications.
- Scammers may ask you for your Social Security Number, bank account number or other sensitive information.
- These fraudulent attempts may be made in person, over the phone or by e-mail.
- Don't fall for scam artists who promise a disaster grant and ask for large cash deposits or advance payments in full.
- Federal and state workers do not solicit or accept money.
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Phony housing inspectors

- You should watch out for people posing as housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA or SBA. Inspectors representing FEMA and SBA carry photo identification.
- FEMA inspectors already have each applicant's nine-digit registration number and will not ask for this number.



If you have any concerns about individuals representing themselves as FEMA, or would like to report fraud, please contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud at **(866) 720-5721**. You can also report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.

If you are the victim of a home repair scam or price gouging, call the Office of the Texas Attorney General at **(800) 252-8011**.



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NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (voice), 711/VRS – (Video Relay Service), (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).