



Texas Hurricane Beryl

July 8, 2024

Office of the Governor

Governor Greg Abbott

P.O. Box 12428

Austin, TX 78711

(512) 463-2000

[Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#)

[Gov. Greg Abbott \(@GovAbbott\) / X](#)

[Office of the Governor Greg Abbott | Austin TX | Facebook](#)

Press Release on July 5, 2024:

“Governor Abbott Provides Update On State Response To Hurricane Beryl

July 5, 2024 | Austin, Texas | [Press Release](#)

Announces Severe Weather Disaster Declaration For 40 Counties

Governor Greg Abbott today provided an update on Texas' ongoing response efforts to Hurricane Beryl and announced a severe weather disaster declaration for 40 counties. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) increased the readiness level of the State Emergency Operations Center as of 10 a.m. this morning and Texas Emergency Management Council agencies are working 24-hour operations, while also prepositioning state emergency response resources that were readied for deployment yesterday.

"As Hurricane Beryl approaches Texas, a severe weather disaster declaration has been issued for 40 counties to ensure at-risk communities have access to the resources and assistance needed to respond to this storm," said Governor Abbott. "I remain in daily contact with Acting Governor Patrick, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and other state officials to ensure Texas swiftly deploys all resources needed to help Texans as heavy rainfall, flooding conditions, and strong tropical wind are expected to impact multiple regions of the state. I thank our state's emergency response personnel who are working around-the-clock to protect their fellow Texans. Holiday travelers and communities in at-risk areas are urged to heed the guidance of state and local officials to keep themselves and their families safe."

Counties in the disaster declaration issued by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, as Acting Governor, include: Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Goliad, Gonzales, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, LaSalle, Lavaca, Live Oak, Matagorda, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Uvalde, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata, and Zavala. Additional counties may be added as conditions warrant.

According to the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Beryl is expected to briefly weaken before intensifying as it moves northwestward through the Gulf of Mexico. As Beryl moves over water, the risk for rip currents along beaches across the Gulf Coast will increase. Beachgoers should heed warnings of lifeguards, local officials, posted signs, and flags before venturing into the water. Interests in Texas should closely monitor this system and prepare now for potential hurricane impacts, including heavy rainfall, flooding, and damaging winds, as the system moves inland across the state.

Texans are urged to stay informed, monitor local weather forecasts, follow directions from local officials, make an emergency plan, review hurricane evacuation routes, build a kit containing emergency supplies, and consider reviewing flood risk and insurance coverage. Additionally, visitors to Texas beaches should review beach safety tips and remain aware of the risks of rip currents during an approaching tropical system in the Gulf of Mexico.

Texans are encouraged to visit the TDEM Disaster Portal or Texas Hurricane Center webpages for storm information. Additional storm safety and preparedness information is available at TexasReady.gov and tdem.texas.gov/prepare.

Governor Abbott yesterday directed TDEM to increase the readiness level of the State Emergency Operations Center to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) and to begin readying state emergency response resources for potential deployment ahead of Hurricane Beryl.

Lieutenant Governor Patrick is Acting Governor while Governor Abbott leads an economic development mission to Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

[Read the disaster declaration.](#)

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Texas Division of Emergency Management
2883 Highway 71 E
P.O. Box 285
Del Valle, TX 78617
(512) 424-2208

[Texas Division of Emergency Management](#)

[Texas Division of Emergency Management | Del Valle TX | Facebook](#)

[Texas Division of Emergency Management \(@TDEM\) / X](#)

Press Release on July 7, 2024:

“Acting Governor Dan Patrick Gives Press Conference on Texas’ Hurricane Beryl Preparations and Response

AUSTIN - Acting Governor Dan Patrick issued this statement today following his press conference with Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd:

“As Hurricane Beryl approaches the Texas coast, now is the time for Texans to make their final preparations to protect themselves and their property. 121 counties are already under state disaster declaration, and more may be added if conditions warrant.

“Beryl is expected to intensify right up to landfall and could transform into a Category 2 Hurricane. Landfall is expected early Monday morning between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. between Corpus Christi and Galveston. Beryl is a resilient storm, and it poses a serious threat for Texans in its path at landfall and the following 24 hours as it moves through Texas. The storm’s predicted path is shifting east, and the areas east of the I-35 corridor are expected to bear the brunt of the inclement weather. Residents sheltering in place should take precautions right away for sustained wind, heavy rain, flooding, storm surges on the coast, and possible tornados.

“It is of utmost importance that Texans pay close attention to their local officials. As Acting Governor, I am in constant communication with state agencies and will continue to do so. Do not ignore this very serious storm.”

To view Acting Governor Patrick’s press conference from earlier today, [click here](#).

To view Acting Governor Patrick’s disaster declarations, [click here](#).

According to the National Hurricane Center, Tropical Storm Beryl is expected to intensify as it moves northwest through the Gulf of Mexico, before it takes a northerly turn to make landfall along the mid-Texas coast as a hurricane on Monday. Interests in

Texas should closely monitor this system and finalize preparations for hurricane impacts, including heavy rainfall, flooding, potential tornadoes, and damaging winds as the system moves inland across the state.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) **increased the readiness level of the State Emergency Operations Center** as of 10 a.m. Friday and Texas Emergency Management Council agencies are working 24-hour operations, while also continuing to pre-position state emergency response resources that were readied for deployment by Governor Greg Abbott on Thursday.

The State of Texas currently has more than 2,500 responders and 1,200 assets rostered and deployed in support of the state's response to anticipated impacts from Hurricane Beryl. The following state emergency response resources have been rostered and deployed to support response operations:

- **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (Texas A&M Task Force 1 & Texas Task Force 2):** Search and Rescue Personnel, and Swiftwater Boat Squads.
- **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service:** Texas A&M Public Works Response Team.
- **Texas A&M Forest Service:** Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) All-Hazards Incident Strike Teams and Saw Crews, including personnel, and fire engines.
- **Texas National Guard:** National Guard Personnel, including High Profile Vehicles and Chinook & Black Hawk Helicopters.
- **Texas Department of Public Safety:** Texas Highway Patrol Troopers, the Tactical Marine Unit, and Helicopters with hoist capabilities.
- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:** Game Wardens and Park Police to provide law enforcement support, along with Swiftwater Boats, Airboats, Flat Bottom Boats, Four-wheel Drive Vehicles, and Helicopters.
- **Texas Department of State Health Services (Emergency Medical Task Force):** Medical Incident Support Teams and Severe Weather Packages, including Ambuses, Ambulances, and Command Vehicles.
- **Texas Department of Transportation:** Highway maintenance personnel and personnel to monitor roadway conditions.
- **Texas Animal Health Commission:** Personnel to provide livestock support.
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service:** Disaster Assessment and Recovery Agents as well as AgriLife Extension Agents to support agricultural and livestock needs.
- **Texas Department of Information Resources:** Monitoring for potential cyber-threats and impacts to technology infrastructure.
- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:** Air/water/wastewater monitoring
- **Railroad Commission of Texas:** Monitoring the state's natural gas supply, and communicating with the oil & gas industry.
- **Public Utility Commission of Texas:** Personnel to coordinate with utility providers across the threat area.
- **Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster:** Coordinating volunteer organizations across impacted areas.

- **FEMA Region 6:** More than 100 personnel, 500,000 Meals Ready to Eat, 800,000 liters of Water, 20,000 Tarps, 2,500 Rolls of Plastic Sheathing, Generators, Urban Search and Rescue Teams, Tractor-Trailers, Communications and Command Vehicles.

Texans are urged to stay informed, monitor local weather forecasts, follow directions from local officials, make an emergency plan, **review hurricane evacuation routes**, **build a kit containing emergency supplies**, and **consider reviewing flood risk and insurance coverage**. Additionally, visitors to Texas beaches should review **beach safety tips** and remain aware of the **risks of rip currents** during an approaching tropical system in the Gulf of Mexico.

Texans are encouraged to visit the **TDEM Disaster Portal** or **Texas Hurricane Center** webpages for storm information. Additional storm safety and preparedness information is available at **TexasReady.gov** and **tdem.texas.gov/prepare**.

The State of Texas continues to take action to provide all available resources to help support local communities from the anticipated impacts of Hurricane Beryl, including:

- **July 2nd– Texas Emergency Management Officials Urged Texans to Keep an Eye on the Gulf this Holiday Week**
- **July 3rd– Governor Abbott Directed TDEM to Issue Hurricane Beryl Advisory Notice for Texas Emergency Management Council**
- **July 4th– Governor Abbott directed TDEM to increase the readiness level of the State Emergency Operations Center**
- **July 5th– Acting Governor Patrick Issued a Disaster Declaration for 40 Counties** and Held a Press Conference
- **July 6th– Acting Governor Patrick Expanded Disaster Declarations for an Additional 81 Counties”**

Updates on Hurricane Beryl can be found at **Hurricane Beryl (texas.gov)**

American Red Cross

American Red Cross Central and South Texas Region
2218 Pershing Dr.
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 928-4271

[Central & South Texas | Texas Region | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross Serving Central and South Texas | Austin TX | Facebook](#)

American Red Cross Texas Gulf Coast Region
2700 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77098
(713) 313-1608

[Gulf Coast | Texas Region | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross Texas Gulf Coast | Houston TX | Facebook](#)
[American Red Cross TX Gulf Coast \(@RedCrossTXGC\) / X](#)

Open Shelters:

- Webb County:
LBJ 9th Grade Campus
5511 St. Luke Blvd.
Laredo, TX 78046
- Waller County:
Hempstead Recreation Center
635 US-290 Bus
Hempstead, TX 77445
- Victoria County:
Bloomington Elementary School
200 N Leonard St.
Bloomington, TX 77951
- Calhoun County:
Bayside Community Church
25080 TX -172
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
- Nueces County:
H.M. King Early College High School
2210 Brahma Blvd.
Kingsville, TX 78363

Department of Transportation

Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th St.
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-8588

[Texas Department of Transportation \(txdot.gov\)](https://www.txdot.gov)
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[TxDOT \(@TxDOT\) / X](#)

Please see the following link for updated traffic conditions: [DriveTexas](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

2-1-1 Texas
Dial 2-1-1 or (877) 541-7905
[2-1-1 Texas | Texas Health And Human Services Commission \(211texas.org\)](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather. Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.