Nueces County
Hurricane Reentry Plan

Reentry information available at:
www.co.nueces.tx.us/emergency

Revised 4/22/16
Background

- **Hurricane Katrina/Rita- 2005**

- **Hurricane Ike- 2008**

- **Authority**
  - Texas Government Code 418- Texas Disaster Act
    - 418.108 Local Evacuation Authority
    - 418.050 Phased Reentry Plans
  - Coastal Bend Council of Governments Resolution (2010)
  - Various Local Emergency Management Plans (2011)
    - Nueces County and cities of Bishop, Corpus Christi, Port Aransas & Robstown
2016 Plan Validation

- Face-to-face input sessions (3) and solicitation for written input from current participants

- General Comments
  - Requested additional clarification on existing process
  - Interest from surrounding areas to adopt similar program
  - Conduct drill to test issuance of letters
  - Renumber tiers to align with State Reentry Plan

- EMCs agreed to no substantial change requiring re-adoption by governing boards.
2016 Updates

- Adding additional training opportunities
- Outreach upon request for surrounding areas
- Conduct drill with Tier 1 participants – late June
- Renumber Tiers to mirror State Reentry Plan
  - Record of Change
  - Tier Adjustment Memo
Countywide cooperative partnership:

- To provide uniform guidance for personnel who may require **early reentry prior to the retraction of the local evacuation order**.

- To promote and facilitate the timely reentry of essential personnel to speed the recovery of affected jurisdictions within Nueces County and its economy.
General Approach

- Phased Reentry
- Guidance for required credentials & proof of residency

Four Tier System
- Tier ER- Emergency Response (Public)
- Tier 1- Immediate Mass Care & Damage Assessment (Private)
- Tier 2- Restoration of Essential Services, Points of Distribution (POD) and other support
- Tier 3- Business Owners & Residents

Issuance of Tier 1 Reentry Letters

Procedure for Evacuation Exemption

Note: Tier numbering change does NOT change definitions!
Phase One: Emergency Response, Immediate Mass Care & Damage Assessment

Phase Two: Restoration of Essential Services, POD & Other Support

Phase Three: Business Owners & Residents

Tier ER & 1

Tier 2

Tier 3
Who gets a letter?

- Exempt Organizations
- Tier 1 Personnel

Letters will only be issued on a standardized letterhead that has been mutually agreed upon.
Evacuation Exemption

- May include limited private organizations in direct support of critical infrastructure/key resources.
- Must be self-sufficient and remain at their own risk.
- Must have a written plan to include provisions for food, water, shelter, and medical needs for a minimum of 72 hours post landfall.
- Provisions for emergency communications such as satellite phone.
- Approval by Emergency Management Director (County Judge/Mayor) on a case-by-case basis.
Includes local Fire/EMS, law enforcement, Texas Military Forces and emergency response agencies in support of efforts in the affected area.

Typically uniformed and are in clearly identified emergency response vehicles.

Clarification:

- Public Sector Only
- Governmental entities are NOT required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter
- Special districts are strongly encouraged to participate in reentry program to avoid unintentional confusion (WCID, ISD, POCCA etc.)
- Outside emergency response agencies should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.
**Tier 1 Personnel**

Immediate Mass Care and Damage Assessment

- **Includes:**
  - CI/KR and utilities assessment personnel must be permitted immediate access to ensure essential services are restored and infrastructure is intact.
  - Official damage assessment teams
  - Immediate mass care is typically provided by recognized state agencies such as Texas Military Forces and limited state VOADs such as American Red Cross, Texas Salvation Army and Texas Baptist Men.
  - Others at the discretion of the EMD

- Should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials.

**Clarification:**

- Critical personnel of “Exempt Organizations” are classified as Tier ER or 1
- The intent is to allow immediate and unrestricted access to both Tier ER & 1 personnel, however, may be further restricted at the discretion of local Incident Commander.
Tier 2 Personnel
Restoration of Essential Services, Point of Distribution (POD) & Other Support Operations

- Essential services include power, infrastructure, public works, wastewater/water and utility repair and restoration.

- Includes:
  - Relief workers to provide food and other supplies for first responders and others that did not evacuate the area.
  - Health care agency personnel, which may include hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and dialysis centers.
  - Insurance agents and adjusters.
  - Key businesses and media. Businesses must have far reaching impact on recovery such as grocery stores, fuel providers, pharmacies, banking institutions and other “big box” providers (i.e. Wal-Mart, HEB, Home Depot, Lowes).

- Should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials.

Clarification:

- These organizations should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.
Tier 3 Personnel
All Other Business Operators & Residents

- Business operators/owners and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate agency credentials and/or proof of residency as appropriate.

Clarification:

- All others not defined previously are considered “general population” and will be allowed reentry only after the mandatory evacuation order has been lifted.

- Have a reason to be where you are...no site seeing.
Personnel Planning - Private Sector Example

1. Ride Out Team
   - Emergency Response Team
   - Damage Assessment Team

2. Hazard Remediation
   - Logistics Force Package
   - Restoration Team

3. All others
Personnel Planning - Public Sector Example

- Emergency Operations Center
- Emergency Responders
- Damage Assessment Teams

Department Heads
Supervisors
Logistics Support Package

All others
Returning Home

- Any conflict at designated control points will be routed through the local Incident Commander and EOC for resolution. The safety of personnel will be the ultimate deciding factor in ALL cases.

- Tier ER-2 personnel are the full responsibility of their employer until Tier 3 is authorized.

- Personnel traveling in groups through control points should all possess the same level of credentialing or greater.

- Family members and friends will not be allowed reentry until Tier 3 if possessing appropriate proof of residency.
Access Control Actions

- Roadblock- Prevent entry or travel on a specific roadway.

- Checkpoints- Facilitate the passage of large volumes of vehicles per operational period.

- In addition to establishing a perimeter and providing access control points, law enforcement may provide:
  - Roaming spot checks
  - Curfew enforcement
  - Convoy escorts
  - General law enforcement services
Reentry Documentation

Should answer the following questions...

- Who are you?
- Who do you work for?
- Why are you here?
- Who can I call to verify?

1-800-VERIFY
Tier ER: Credentials

Public Sector:

1. State recognized ID
2. Employee ID
3. If not local, deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area.
Tier 1: Credentials

Private Sector:

1. State recognized ID
2. Employee ID
3. Tier 1 Letter
Tier 2: Credentials

All other essential employees

1. State recognized ID
2. Employee ID
3. Employer authorization letter
Tier 3: Proof of Residency

Proper identification for resident access should include one or more of the following:

- State recognized ID
- Utility bill
- Mortgage deed
- Property tax documents
- Any document with an address.
Nueces Co. Enhanced Tier 1 Letters

- Online registry
- Tied to mass notification system
- Event specific with expiration
- Secure information sharing
- Real time revocation & updates
- Field verifiable
- Vehicle Placard - New 2016!
Reentry Request Forms

- Available at: www.co.nueces.tx.us/emergency
- Mail to local Office of Emergency Management
  - The County Judge will approve letters for companies performing business in the unincorporated areas of the County, the other communities that are signatories to the County Emergency Management Plan (Agua Dulce, Bishop, Driscoll & Petronila), as well as, those with county-wide responsibility such as utility companies and “big box” stores like HEB.
  - Each City Mayor will have the responsibility to approve letters for companies performing business within the City limits of their community.
Reentry Contact Information

- **Nueces County**
  - Cities of Agua Dulce, Bishop, Driscoll, and Petronila and all unincorporated areas
    - Danielle Hale: 361-888-0513 / danielle.hale@co.nueces.tx.us

- **City of Aransas Pass**
  - Lynn Pearce: 361-758-5301 / lpearce@ap-police.com

- **City of Corpus Christi**
  - Billy Delgado: 826-1100 / billyd@cctexas.com

- **City of Port Aransas**
  - Rick Adams: 361-749-4111 / radams@cityofportaransas.org

- **City of Robstown**
  - Chief Ricardo Gonzalez: 361-387-2522 / rfd@cityofrobstown.com

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