



## GOVERNOR'S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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**Main Message: Learn the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning and be prepared to take action**

### **Key Talking Points:**

- Hurricanes are nature's most powerful storms. They are extremely unpredictable and extremely dangerous. It's critically important to monitor TV and radio broadcasts -- and NOAA weather radio -- as storms approach.
- Learn what you should do during a hurricane watch and what you should do when a hurricane warning is issued.
- Hurricane season begins June 1 and lasts through November 30. An average of six dangerous hurricanes per year threaten the United States.
- August, September and October are the most dangerous months for hurricanes in Texas.
- A hurricane watch is issued when a hurricane is about 36 hours away from landfall. A hurricane watch means your family should begin following the disaster plan. Anything that requires extra time, towing a boat or leaving a barrier island, should be taken into account.
- A hurricane warning is issued when the storm is 24 hours away from land and when winds reach 74 mph or greater. It's too late to leave after tropical storm force winds reach your area because it is not safe to be outside.
- A tropical storm watch is issued when a storm system is 36 hours away from land and a tropical storm warning is issued when the storm is 24 hours away.
- Hurricanes represent the greatest weather threat to Texas. But slower moving tropical storms can be just as deadly. In 2001, Tropical Storm Allison flooded Harris County with 36 inches of rain and killed 22 people.