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**Subject:** FEMA Hurricane Harvey Private Sector eBrief - Sept. 20, 2017 Issue  
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**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Ken: Below is today's PS eBrief. Please send to "all hands" for the JFO.



The banner features a dark blue background on the left with the text "Hurricane Harvey Private Sector" in white, and "eBrief" in a blue box below it. On the right, there is a white silhouette of a city skyline with buildings and a flag, and a group of people below it. The FEMA logo is in the bottom right corner.

Sept. 20, 2017	<p><b>In this issue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="#">Check debris for hazards, recyclables before moving</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Texas Governor suspends trucking regulations to aid Irma relief</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Four more Disaster Recovery Centers opening up across Texas</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Should you buy flood insurance</a></li></ul>
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## Check debris for hazards, recyclables before removing

Large volumes of debris are generated following natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods. FEMA and the State of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have developed guides for who qualifies for debris removal, as well as for managing and disposing of debris associated with the cleanup of areas affected by these events.

For instance, given the unprecedented impacts of Harvey, FEMA determines it is in the public interest to allow removal of storm-generated debris from industrial and commercial establishments and houses of worship in Texas cities and counties for "eligible applicants," where such debris is located on the public rights-of-ways. This exception for such debris will be limited to one pass, after which these establishments must be notified that no additional debris should be placed on public rights-of-ways. Any subsequent removal of such debris will not be reimbursable.



Additionally, hazardous materials should be separated from all other debris for proper disposal, and construction and demolition waste may be recyclable – including all materials that that result from demolition of buildings and other structures, including:

- drywall
- wood
- roof shingles and other roofing material
- metal
- concrete, bricks and stones

Visit the [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) website and search for “debris removal pamphlets, graphics and information” (available in several languages) for both homeowners and business owners.

The [State of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](http://www.state.tx.us) also has a list of “do’s and don’ts” for debris removal in the state. Before removing debris from your home, private road or business, find out the best ways to dispose of the items.



## [Texas Governor suspends trucking regulations to aid Irma relief](#)

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued [a proclamation](#) Sept. 19, 2017, suspending laws and regulations related to interstate trucking through the state of Texas. This suspension will allow commercial vehicles to travel more quickly and deliver aid to states directly affected by Hurricane Irma.

[“Texas remains united with Florida and other states impacted by Irma as we all begin to rebuild together after these devastating hurricanes,”](#) said Governor Abbott. [“Just as I have pledged to do all I can to help Texas recover, I will also make sure recovery efforts in other areas are not hindered by burdensome regulations. I pray that all those affected by Irma have a swift recovery, and I thank all those who have helped Texas in our time of need.”](#)

[This suspension of laws and regulations will be coordinated through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and the Texas Department of Public Safety.](#)



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## Four more Disaster Recovery Centers opening up across Texas

Four State of Texas/FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers opened Sept. 19, 2017: one in Newton County in the city of Orange; one in Harris County in the city of Houston; one in Matagorda County in Bay City; and one in Waller County in the city of Brookshire.

Disaster recovery centers offer in-person support to individuals and businesses in 39 counties included in the Texas federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent floods.

Recovery specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the State and other agencies will be at the centers to talk about assistance and to help anyone who needs guidance in filing an application. **All four new centers are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily.** The new centers are at the following locations:

- **Bay City Civic Center**, 201 Seventh St., Bay City TX 77414
- **Brookshire Volunteer Fire Department**, 910 Gresham Road, Brookshire TX 77423
- **Church Without Walls**, 5725 Queenston Blvd., Houston TX 77084
- **Deweyville Senior Citizen Center**, 43435 State Hwy 87 S, Orange TX 77614

The SBA's disaster assistance employees are committed to helping businesses and residents rebuild as quickly as possible. SBA representatives are available to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program and help business owners and residents apply to SBA. For information on SBA disaster assistance, call 800-659-2955, email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visit [www.SBA.gov/disaster](http://www.SBA.gov/disaster). Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339.

[Disaster Recovery Centers](#) are accessible to people with disabilities. Centers have assistive technology equipment allowing disaster survivors to use amplified telephones, phones that display text, amplified listening devices for people with hearing loss, and magnifiers for people with vision loss. Video Remote Interpreting is available and in-person sign language is available by request. The centers also have accessible parking, ramps and restrooms.

If possible, homeowners, renters and businesses should register with FEMA before visiting a recovery center. Eligible residents may register for assistance the following ways:

- Online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Phone 800-621-3362 (voice, 711/VRS-Video Relay Service) (TTY: 800-462-7585); multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish)
- Via the FEMA app, available for Apple and Android mobile devices. To download visit: [www.fema.gov/mobile-app](http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app)

Homeowners, renters and businesses in Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzalez, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Jacinto, Refugio, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Waller, Walker and Wharton counties may be eligible for help.



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## Should you buy flood insurance

There are two more months of a very active hurricane season and there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective. Keep in mind:



**A FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistant Specialist helps a couple Sept. 16, 2017, at a Disaster Recovery Information Fair in Houston, Texas. FEMA has a total of 31 fixed and mobile Disaster Recovery Centers across Texas to help with hurricane recovery. For a complete list of DRC locations, visit us at [www.fema.gov/DRC](http://www.fema.gov/DRC).** (FEMA photo by Steve Zumwalt)

- Most standard homeowner's policies do not cover damage caused by flooding.
- Historically, less than 50 percent of flood events result in a federal disaster declaration with FEMA grants for homeowners and renters, and FEMA grants for individuals will not cover all losses.
- As a result of Hurricane Harvey, more than 86,000 flood-insurance claims were filed by Texas business owners, homeowners and renters who had NFIP policies.
- Policyholders have already received more than \$359 million in advance payment for damages from Harvey; but many people did not have flood insurance.

You can buy flood insurance by contacting your insurance company or agent. For an agent referral, call 800-427-4661 or visit [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program).

Policyholders whose Harvey-damaged buildings were insured by National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may be eligible for additional insurance funds to cover the cost of one or any combination of the following four activities that help reduce future flood damage:

- Elevate your building above the flood level required by your community.
- Relocate to a new site, preferably out of the floodplain.
- Demolish the building.
- Dry flood-proof the building (primarily non-residential).

Your insurance carrier and community building department can help you determine your Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) eligibility and the documentation you will need. You should obtain all necessary permits prior to repairs or rebuilding to ensure compliance with local codes. Find information on repairing and rebuilding at [www.fema.gov/Texas-disaster-mitigation](http://www.fema.gov/Texas-disaster-mitigation).



***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).***