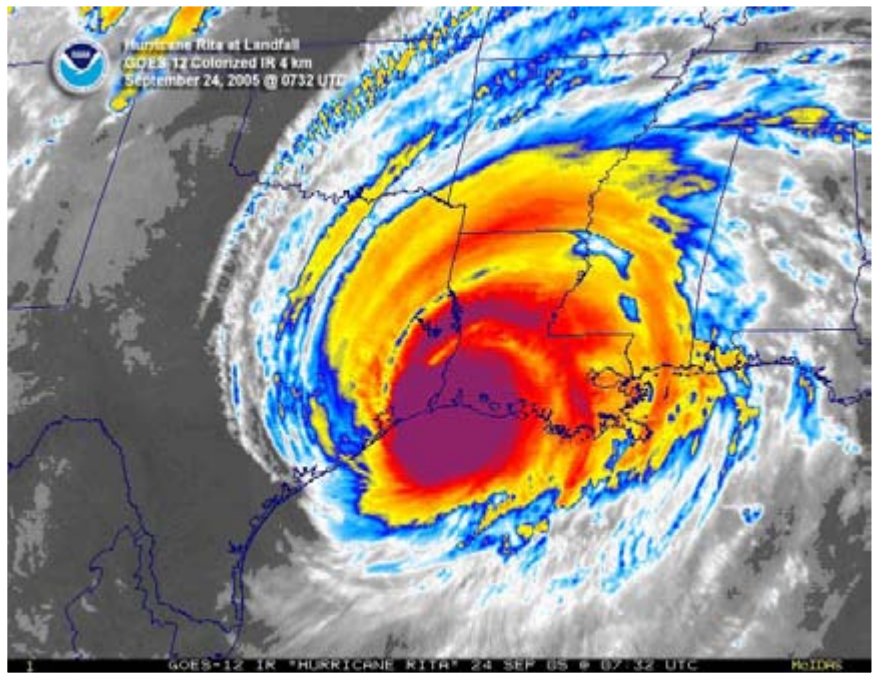


# After the Storm



A Presentation Given by:  
**Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert**

# Katrina, then Rita

- Within weeks the entire Eastern Texas Gulf Coast, including Fort Bend County, was almost simultaneously impacted by Major Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



# The Gulf Coast Responded to Katrina



# Katrina Has Had A Lingering Impact

After Welcoming Evacuees, Houston Handles Spike in Crime - Population Swell Fills Apartments and Strains Police Force

By Sylvia Moreno

Washington Post Staff Writer  
Monday, February 6, 2006; Page A03

HOUSTON -- The southwest corner of this city is one sprawling low-rise apartment complex after the next, a once-hot real estate area that died with the 1980s oil bust only to be reborn in the '90s as a low-income, high-crime neighborhood. Now it's Katrina turf.

# Rita Missed Fort Bend, The Evacuation Didn't



The mandatory evacuation of residents from Gulf Coast counties on September 21<sup>st</sup> created the emergency in Fort Bend County.



On September 22, Governor Perry implemented several contra flow lanes to better move those evacuating the region

# Fort Bend Response

- Provided food, water, shelter, and gasoline
- Assisted victims with travel and accommodations
- Assisted stranded motorists
- Evacuated hundreds out of danger including the Richmond State School
- Worked with multitude of local, state, and federal agencies to provide premium service



# The Real Disaster Was Just East of Us



High tides in Lake Charles



Strong winds extend far inland to severely damage this property





Debris from neighborhoods that were completely taken out



Numerous homes were lost while others were severely damaged



# Key Challenges Identified

## I. Interagency Cooperation

- There is a need for improved communications between Emergency Management personnel within the 13 county region
- Evacuations of those with Special needs is a Priority
- Food, water, gasoline availability, stranded vehicles must be pre-positioned.

## II. Interoperable Communications

- Need for continued growth of the regional radio system

## III. Continuity of Operations

- Need to secure alternate power supplies (i.e. generator).
- Need for offsite hosting for critical infrastructure such as Web EOC

# Key Challenges (Cont'd)

## IV. Agency Representation in EOC

- Maintain presence of trained volunteers
- Implement Hospital Liaison to avoid hospital closures
- Implement Utilities Liaison (Water and Power)

## V. Training and Exercise

- Full Compliance with National Incident Command System
- Continuation of annual local exercises
- Participation in annual statewide hurricane exercises



# Steps for Regional Improvement

1. **TASK FORCE**: Governor Perry's Task Force on Evacuation, Transportation, and Logistics identified numerous areas for immediate improvement with a focus on communications, evacuations, fuel availability, and transportation.
2. **REGIONAL RESPONSE**: Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria County Judges formed a Regional Evacuation and Response Task Force aimed at improving evacuation procedures and transportation alternatives.
3. **GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER**: The Houston-Galveston Region created the Unified Area Coordinating Committee represented by the 13 county region, and cities of Houston and Galveston.

# 2006 Forecast

## Could it happen again?

- **17** named storms and **9** hurricanes have been predicted for Hurricane Season 2006
- The prediction for 2006 is ***more active and intense*** than 2005 predictions
- **47%** *probability of a major hurricane landing from Florida to Texas*

# Smart Planning: What's It Mean to AWBD

- Hurricane Season began on June 1.
- Remember – Safety First – Always!
- Each Utility District is an Integral Part of Our Regional Infrastructure Network.
- Water is Number One Recovery Priority, Waste Water Number 2!!
- Don't Wait For the State or Federal Government to Act!
- Build in Plan Redundancy – And Have a Plan B and a Plan C!
- Make sure your operations staff drills at least annually!

# Smart Planning: What's It Mean to AWBD

- **Drinking Water is No. 1 Priority after a storm – Wastewater Treatment is a close No. 2!**
- **Don't Be Shy About Calling For Help!**
- **Keep Track of All Expenditures Throughout a Declared Emergency! You are eligible for reimbursement!**
- **Have a Reaction/Recovery Plan Worked Out in Advance – Involve Your Operations and Engineering team!**



# Recommended NIMS Training

- NIMS = National Incident Management System
- I Recommend All AWBD Directors Take the Basic Courses
- ICS 100 – *A Basic Introduction to NIMS*
- IS 700 – *A High Level Overview of NIMS*
- It's Free and On the Internet @  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>

# <http://www.txwarn.org>

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- TxWARN is a website supported by TAWWA, WEAT, TCEQ, TDEM and Others.
- The TxWARN program provides its member utilities with:
  - A standard omnibus mutual assistance agreement and process for sharing emergency resources among members statewide.
  - The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a disaster.
  - A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid programs.
  - A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.
  - New ideas from lessons learned in disasters.

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**QUESTIONS?**