



## COUNTY JUDGE Fort Bend County, Texas

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### **PRESS RELEASE**



## **Fort Bend County recognizes Hurricane Awareness Week**

With Hurricane Season just around the corner, The Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have designated **May 21-27, 2006** as Hurricane Awareness Week. In order to encourage citizens of Fort Bend County to participate in hurricane preparedness activities, County Judge Robert E. Hebert will issue an official Proclamation recognizing Fort Bend County's participation in Hurricane Awareness Week. Additionally, in an effort to promote countywide multi-jurisdictional preparedness, Hurricane Proclamations are being issued by the cities of Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Simonton, Sugar Land, and Town of Thompsons along with hurricane preparedness tips.

Judge Hebert is urging all Fort Bend County residents to start preparing early. "Last year, Hurricane Rita provided Fort Bend County with a wake up call. We were lucky that our County didn't sustain damage from the storm, but with store shelves empty of emergency supplies, limited gasoline, and our roads grid locked by evacuees from the entire Gulf Coast – we really learned the importance of preparing for a disaster early". Fort Bend County Emergency Management Coordinator, Jeff Braun, reiterated the need for preparedness. "Citizens can take three basic steps to prepare their families for the upcoming season – prepare an emergency supplies kit, make a plan for what you will do, and keep informed about hurricane and tropical storm forecasts," he stated.

Fort Bend County Departments have been preparing for what is predicted as another active hurricane season. In April, all critical county departments, along with the cities of Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford, Sugar Land, Meadows Place, Simonton and Missouri City participated in a Hurricane Exercise that focused on recovery efforts and debris management after a fictional "Hurricane Harley" passed through the County. Fort Bend County is also participating in and conducting an update of the County's Hurricane Traffic Management plan. Additionally, Emergency Management staff has been assigned to a Unified Area Coordinating Committee that will manage regional disaster issues such as last years' Hurricane Rita evacuation. "We are entering this hurricane season as prepared as possible thanks to last years true-life 'exercise' during Hurricane Rita", stated Jeff Braun, we again urge our citizens to do the same."