Talking Trash

Solid Waste Management Department
Monthly Newsletter

August 2009 Edition

City of Houston, Bill White, Mayor
Solid Waste Management Department, Harry J. Hayes, Director

Weathering the Storm

by Daniel Hinojosa

With the approaching anniversary of a storm that introduced my family to BBQ grilled pizza, since we are in the midst of hurricane season, now is as good of a time as any to reflect and make a few preparations to be ready for another major storm. As most of us in the department are designated City of Houston essential personnel, we as Solid Waste Management employees are the ones to answer the call to action when the city's disaster recovery plan is placed into action. Since there are no winds and storm surges approaching, this is a good time to make sure our personal lives are in order so that we may respond to our duties with comfort knowing that our loved ones are well taken care of. Be sure to provide your supervisor with current and up to date emergency contact information.

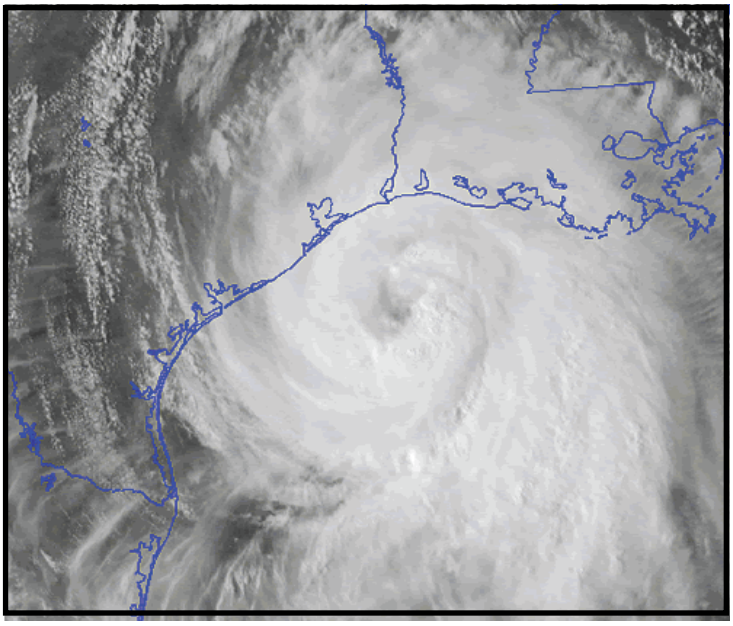
Here are a few steps from the KTRK website, that you can follow to make sure you are ready to weather the storm.

Before a tropical storm or hurricane threatens, use this checklist to prepare your home before the storm arrives.

- Car tank filled with gasoline
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid supplies and prescription medications
- Sterno, charcoal, lighter fluid, and matches or a lighter
- Candles and matches
- Flashlight, battery-operated radio and a two-week supply of batteries
- Bottled water, electrolyte drinks and cooler with gel packs
- Hammer, nails, masking tape, plywood and plastic for quick home repairs
- Clean up supplies - pails, mops, brooms and rakes
- Non-perishable food items, eating utensils, plates, cups and a manual can opener
- Protective clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes

When a tropical storm or hurricane threatens, use this checklist to prepare your home before the storm arrives.

- Purchase the recommended emergency supplies
- Monitor weather reports for updated information
- Store enough drinking water to last several days
- Bring your pets indoors
- Clear your yard of any loose or unsecured objects



- Tape or board windows to reduce the risk of broken glass
- Get extra cash. ATMs may be out of order after a severe storm
- Keep your car fueled and ready to go
- Leave your home if asked to evacuate

During a tropical storm or hurricane, use this checklist to protect your home and family.

- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- Keep supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.
- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions.
- If in a mobile home, check tiedowns and evacuate immediately.
- Store valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers on the higest level of your home.

*Beware the eye of the storm. Live power lines, rising water and unstable trees and structures continue to be threats despite the temporary calm.

Solid Waste Safety Facts

With Lois Mc Adams

Transfer Station Safety Rules

1. Speed limit is 5 miles/hour.
2. All visitors must sign in.
3. Stop before pulling onto scale.
4. All vehicles are subject to random inspection.
5. No scavenging.
6. Must wear hard hats, high visibility safety vest and safety glasses on the tipping floor.
7. Must follow all instructions from spotter.
8. Must stay in vehicle except on the tipping floor.
9. Do not use tipping floor as a restroom.
10. Must close all doors and lower beds before leaving the tipping floor.
11. Must use lockout/tagout while cleaning behind the blade (Park truck on the side of the road).
11. Do not blow horn inside the building.
12. No smoking on tipping floor.
13. Use of cell phone is prohibited while operating equipment.
14. No left turn onto Westpark. Right turn only.

August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to All!

SHELIA HARVEY	8/2	NE	CLYDE WILLIS	8/11	SW	SIMRON WILLIAMS	8/21	SW
BOBBY LEWIS	8/3	SW	RUSSELL COLE	8/11	NW	DERONE DAUPHINE	8/21	NE
JANICE SANDERS	8/3	SE	CHRISTOPHER HUBERT	8/11	NW	VIRGIL ANDERSON	8/22	SW
CLIFTON HATCHETT	8/3	NE	JASON POLLARD	8/11	SW	ELZIANA JOHNSON	8/22	DT
JUAN RODRIGUEZ	8/4	NE	BRUCE BANKS	8/13	SE	ANTHONY HOWARD	8/22	NW
WILLIE PRESTON	8/4	NE	MARIA BROWN	8/13	NE	MICHAEL BOOKER	8/23	NE
JOHN MCQUEEN	8/4	NE	RAPHAEL BROWN	8/13	DT	RONALD ALLEN	8/23	NE
KENNETH MOSHAY	8/5	SE	WILLIE WHITE	8/14	SW	THI VO	8/23	NW
JOSEPH WILLIAMS	8/6	SE	BRADLEY LEWIS	8/15	NW	MICHAEL CREEGAN	8/24	SE
GODFREYOSBORNE	8/7	NE	GLENN BAILEY	8/15	SW	SANTOS HENRIQUEZ	8/24	SW
RICHARD JONES	8/8	NE	NATHAN TAYLOR	8/15	NW	ROBERT AMOS	8/24	SE
G MOORE	8/8	SE	CHARLIE LEE	8/15	DT	EMILIO FUENTES	8/25	SE
RAYMOND MOUTON	8/8	NE	JOHNNY KEYS	8/15	NE	BARRY SMITH	8/25	NW
MANUEL MARTINEZ	8/9	NE	SHAHIDA AHMAD	8/18	DT	PATRICK OVERSTREET	8/25	NE
PERRY MOORE	8/9	SW	JOHN POTTS	8/19	SW	MELISSA STEELE	8/26	DT
RICHARD NGUYEN	8/9	NE	CHARLOTTE MIDDLETON	8/19	DT	MARK PHALESBURGH	8/26	SE
LARRY UPSON	8/10	NW	SHEVANDA AMBOREE	8/19	NE	RODERICK PATTERSON	8/26	SW
KENDALL MCKENZIE	8/10	NE	VAN GLASS	8/20	NE	THOMAS MITCHELL	8/26	SW
CHARLES SMITH	8/11	SW	EDDIE WILSON	8/21	NW	ANTHONY JONES	8/27	NE

Employee Productivity Program

You, our city employees, are our greatest asset. Nobody knows your business like you do. That's why we want to hear from you about how we can make the jobs you do better and more efficient. We want your suggestions, and we want to encourage and recognize those ideas that promote and improve efficiency, economy, quality and safety.

To make it easier, we have created the Employee Productivity Program (EPP), which allows qualified City employees to contribute money-saving ideas and if implemented your suggestion may qualify for a monetary award.

There are two ways to submit your suggestion:

1. Fill out an EPP form through your department EPP coordinator, Marina Joseph. Your department representative will submit the form on your behalf.

Or

2. Submit your suggestion online: Go to the city's intranet at http://choice.cityofhouston.net and click on the Employee Productivity Program link. You will need an active City of Houston e-mail address to complete the form.

You can also find a complete description of the program at http://choice.cityofhouston.net/epp/index.html.

SAVE THE DATES!

The Great Solid Waste Mgmt.
Dept. Cook-Off - 9/26
Family Fun Day - 10/24

CITY OF HOUSTON MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL SEEKING APPLICATIONS

Mayor Bill White has announced that the 2009-2010 Mayor's Youth Council is now taking applications. Interested applicants are invited to apply online at www.houstontx.gov/houstonyouth. Deadline is midnight, Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

Applicants must be high school students, who reside or attend school in the City of Houston, generally between the ages of 14 and 18, demonstrate strong interest in gaining knowledge about city government and promoting discussion on youth related issues.

The Mayor's Youth Council emulates the Houston City Council with a chairperson (mayor), city secretary, nine district and five at-large council positions and their accompanying aides.

Applications are now being accepted and are due by midnight on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. Incomplete applications will not be considered. A panel of youth and adult advisors will review the applications and invite qualified candidates for a personal interview. Decisions will be announced in mid-September.

For more information please contact, Cameron M. Waldner at 832.393.0971 or cameron.waldner@cityofhouston.net