



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. While much of the damage incurred in a hurricane is caused by wind, there is a lot of damage that can be done by flooding. By routinely following the tips below you can help reduce neighborhood flooding whether it is as a result of a hurricane or simply a seasonal rain shower.

The first step in reducing your chance of flooding is to understand the connection between yard waste, litter and storm drains. Here are some key points to remember and act upon:

- **Storm water and everything it carries with it goes to the waterways untreated.** Many people are unaware that trash, leaves, twigs and other pollutants that are in the streets or blown into the drainage ways during rains are washed directly into our bays, creeks and rivers without being treated at all. Debris can easily clog the drainage inlets or pipes and cause flooding.
- **Use trash receptacles that have secure lids and keep them closed.** In a windy location like Corpus Christi, we need to use garbage cans that have secure lids and keep them closed to prevent debris from flying away. Loose trash along streets at your home or business should be collected and secured in a container before it has a chance to enter the storm water drainage system.
- **Blow grass trimmings back onto the yard.** Grass is full of nitrogen that can help lawns stay healthy if mulched and left on the yard. When it is allowed to get into the drainage system it can block water flow. Make sure the grass from your lawn stays at your house either as mulch, in compost or swept up for disposal.
- **Be aware of drain locations when setting out brush trimmings.** Typically high winds are present during heavy rains. Brush and tree trimmings that have been placed on the concrete top of a drainage inlet or in the bottom of a roadside ditch are almost sure to

clog the drainage capacity at your home or business. Place brush for collection as far from inlets as possible to help save your home from flooding. During hurricane warnings, have tree trimmings taken to the J.C. Elliott Transfer Station to be mulched to prevent flying debris from damaging your home or clogging the adjacent drainage systems. For more information about the J.C. Elliott Transfer Station, visit <http://www.cctexas.com/?fuseaction=main.view&page=362> .

- **Educate your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers about keeping streets and storm drains clean.** Help others understand that we have two sewer systems; the sanitary sewer system is collected and treated while the storm drainage system drains directly to the waterways taking everything collected in the streets or placed or blown into ditches. Make a special effort to find and tell someone who does not know this to help keep our bays clean and help reduce flooding.

There are several things you can do in advance to limit the amount of debris that enters the storm drains in your neighborhood.

- Trim and remove any dead or damaged tree limbs well in advance of a hurricane entering the Gulf of Mexico. Trim limbs that overhang your house and place all yard debris in an appropriate location for pickup by City staff or, better yet, take it directly to the J. C. Elliott Transfer Station. For more information on the transfer station, go to <http://www.cctexas.com/?fuseaction=main.view&page=362>.
- Check your yard, household and garage for any household hazardous waste and take it to the City's J. C. Elliott Transfer Station for proper disposal.
- Take a look at your yard and identify any loose items that could be blown around during a hurricane. Have a plan on how to secure them. If you have a garage, plan to put as many loose items in your garage as possible in the event of a hurricane.

Here's a list of websites that could prove useful in helping you prepare for a hurricane:

NOAA Tropical Storm website link: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/tropicalwx/tropical.php>

City's Emergency Management website: <http://www.cctexas.com/eoc/>

Golden Triangle Weather Page website: <http://www.ih2000.net/ira/bmt-wth.htm>

NOAA's National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>