



NEWS RELEASE

WWW.HCOEM.ORG

COUNTY JUDGE Ed EMMETT
DIRECTOR

Date: June 28, 2010
Subject: 2-1-1 Transportation Assistance
For Immediate Release

Contact: Francisco Sánchez, Jr.
Public Information Officer
(713) 881-3100

HARRIS COUNTY OFFICIALS ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS TO REGISTER WITH 2-1-1

(Harris County, TX) Emergency officials are reminding residents with special health care or transportation needs to register with the state's transportation registry if you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane.

Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible:

- If you have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- If you cannot drive and cannot arrange transportation.
- If you do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

Local emergency managers will make every attempt to evacuate someone who does not have the ability to evacuate themselves, as long as the person is in a surge zone. In the event of a hurricane entering the Gulf, individuals should pay close attention to local media to determine when and how evacuations will take place. If someone needs specialized transportation and has not been contacted, 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Specialists will have referrals for those callers at the appropriate time.

Another reason for the registration process is to give local emergency planners a better idea of the numbers of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. It is essential that all individuals have a personal plan concerning evacuation needs that includes family, friends, or neighbors who may be able to assist them.

It is critical that you begin now to make your evacuation plans, prepare an emergency kit and learn the evacuation routes. This should be done well in advance.

Operators answering the phones at 2-1-1 and 877-541-7905 for the hearing impaired are prepared to help you register now, before a hurricane strikes.

Hurricane Preparedness Tips on the Web:

Harris Co. Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management: www.hcoem.org.

Texas Division of Emergency Management: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.Ready.gov.

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org.

###