

Hurricane Harvey Relief

Situation Report — August 29, 2017

Samaritan's Purse has a disaster relief unit set up at Faith Family Church in Victoria, Texas—the same town in which our first disaster relief unit was deployed in 1998.



STRATEGIC UPDATES

- Samaritan's Purse is deploying all five of our disaster relief units to Texas.
- Two disaster relief units are already set up at Lighthouse Churches in **Victoria** and **Portland**, one is deployed to **Santa Fe** to focus on the Galveston area, and two units are staging in East Baton Rouge and will deploy to **Houston** as soon as the city is declared safe for relief work.
- Volunteers in Victoria, Texas, began assisting homeowners today, while volunteers in the Rockport/Portland area will head out into nearby communities tomorrow.
- Our initial work will involve tarping roofs and cutting up downed trees and tree limbs. Once the floodwaters recede, we will begin the process of removing mud and water-damaged items from homes.
- The storm is expected to remain along the Gulf Coast, inundating the region with a year's worth of rain in a matter of days.
- Rivers will crest in the coming days, which will flood many more homes.

The Storm Lingers

More than 11 trillion gallons of rainwater have flooded Texas thus far, with forecasters expecting an estimated 25 trillion gallons of rain by the time the storm dissipates. Houston is reporting more than 48 inches of rain, marking the most precipitation ever received in the contiguous United States. The metropolis remains a disaster zone where authorities are still focused on search and rescue operations.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott activated the entire Texas National Guard—roughly 12,000 soldiers—and the Pentagon has put an additional 30,000 National Guardsmen from other states on alert, in case further assistance is needed.

"This is a landmark event for Texas. Texas has never seen an event like this." — FEMA Administrator Brock Long

More devastation is expected as local rivers and levees crest and flood this week. On Tuesday, August 29, the levee at Columbia Lakes was breached, prompting an emergency tweet from Brazoria County officials: "GET OUT NOW!"

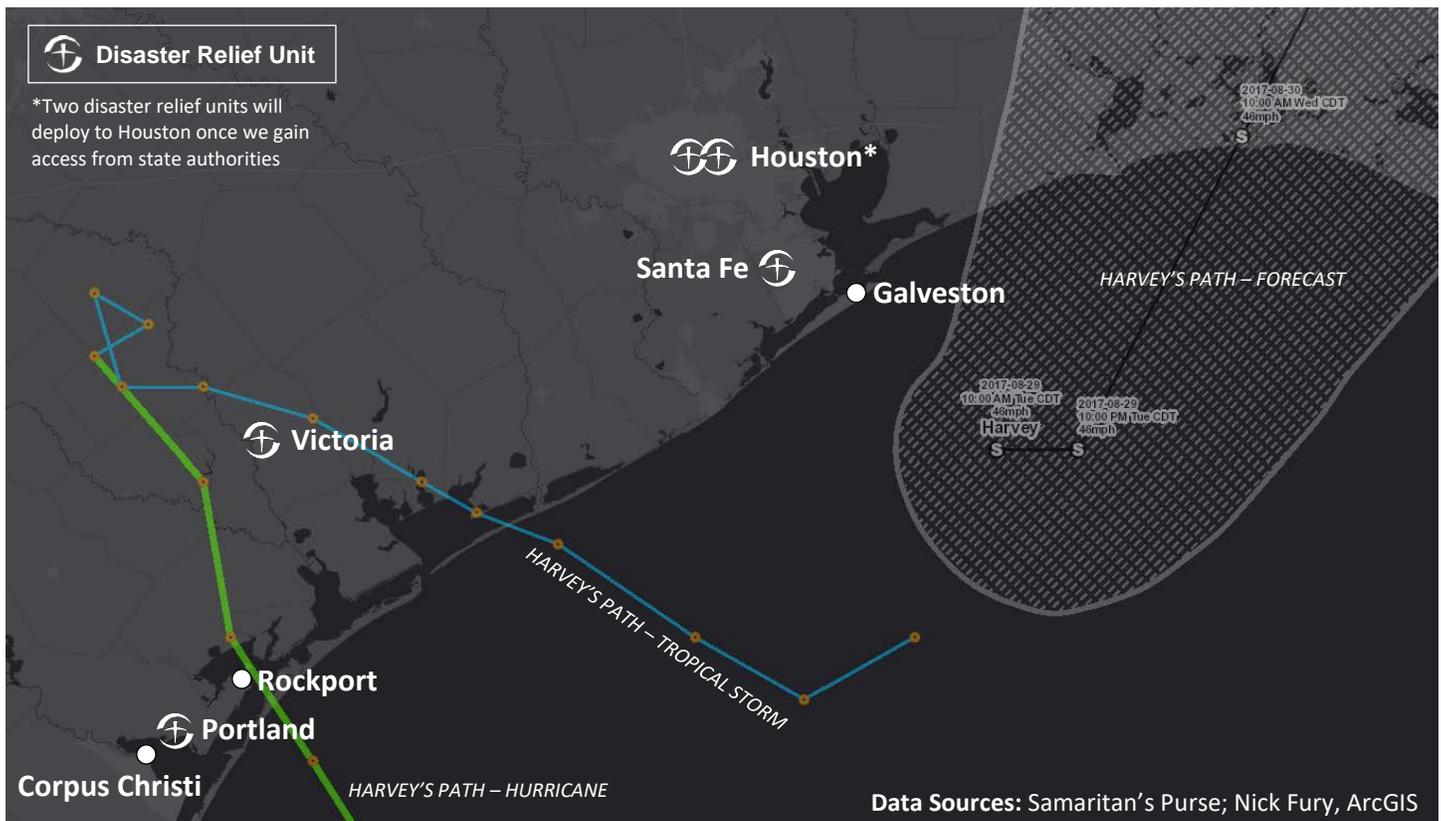
Over the next few days, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is expecting the remains of Hurricane Harvey to cause further devastation as extremely heavy rain, catastrophic flooding, tropical storm force winds, and isolated tornadoes inundate Texas and Louisiana.

Responding With Everything We Have

Franklin Graham has approved the deployment of all five of our U.S. disaster relief units to southeastern Texas. Stocked with emergency relief equipment and supplies, these units are being strategically positioned along the affected coast to help communities that are bearing the brunt of the storm system.

Already, our dedicated volunteers are at work in Victoria—helping homeowners place tarps on damaged roofs, cut and remove fallen trees, and clear out debris. Tomorrow, volunteers in the Rockport/Portland area will head out into the affected communities to bring relief and hope.

As the storm slowly passes, Samaritan's Purse will work its way into the Galveston/Santa Fe area and eventually Houston, where we are planning to set up two disaster relief units.



HOW TO HELP

PRAY

- Please pray for safety for those still in the path of the storm, and for emergency response services as they rescue people in life-threatening situations.
- Please pray for our staff as they prepare to work in devastated communities.

GO

- We anticipate needing many volunteers to help homeowners affected by Hurricane Harvey.
- Please check [SP Volunteer Network](#) for the latest information.
- For questions about volunteering, please call the Victoria worksite at 1-361-484-5437 or the Rockport/Portland worksite at 1-361-445-2645.

GIVE

- Designate *Hurricane Harvey Relief* (014024) on any gift.
- Visit our [website](#) or call 1-800-528-1980.