



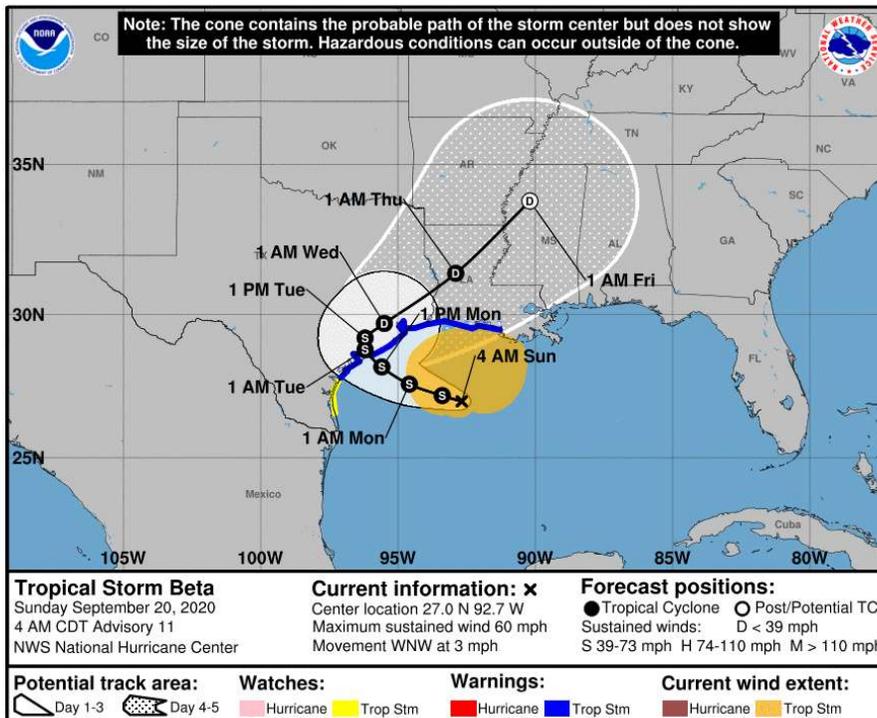
Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	20-0014 September Tropical Weather
Date	September 19, 2020
Time	0800
Operational Period	September 19 - September 20, 2020
Report Number	1

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	2,3,6
DDCs Active	17, 20

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: Tropical Storm Beta is now moving west-northwestward toward the Texas coast.



Summary of 4:00 AM CDT Information
Location 27.0N 92.7W
About 205 mi SE of Galveston Texas
About 295 mi E of Corpus Christi Texas
Maximum Sustained Winds 60 mph
Present Movement WNW OR 290 Degrees at 3 mph.
Minimum Central Pressure 997 MB / 29.44 inches

A slightly faster motion toward the west-northwest is forecast to occur during the next couple of days, followed by a slowdown and a turn to the north and northeast Monday night and Tuesday. On the forecast track, the center of Beta will move toward the coast of Texas and will likely move inland Monday or Monday night.

Watches and Warnings

- The Hurricane Watch from Port Aransas to High Island, Texas has been discontinued.
- The Storm Surge Watch between Baffin Bay and Port Aransas, Texas has been discontinued.
- The Tropical Storm Watch south of Port Mansfield, Texas has been discontinued.

Summary of Watches and Warnings in Effect:

A Storm Surge Warning is in effect for:

* Port Aransas, Texas to Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana, including Copano Bay, Aransas Bay, San Antonio Bay, Matagorda Bay, Galveston Bay, Sabine Lake, and Lake Calcasieu

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for:

* Port Aransas Texas to Morgan City Louisiana

A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for:

* Port Mansfield to Port Aransas Texas

Storm Surge: The combination of a dangerous storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline. The water could reach the following heights above ground somewhere in the indicated areas if the peak surge occurs at the time of high tide:

- Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, LA to Ocean Springs, MS including Vermilion Bay, Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, and Lake Maurepas 1-3 ft.
- Port Aransas, TX to Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, LA including Copano Bay, Aransas Bay, San Antonio Bay, Matagorda Bay, Galveston Bay, Sabine Lake, and Calcasieu Lake 2-4 ft.
- Baffin Bay, TX to Port Aransas, TX including Corpus Christi Bay and Baffin Bay 1-3 ft
- Mouth of the Rio Grande to Baffin Bay, TX...1-2 ft

The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast in areas of onshore winds, where the surge will be accompanied by large and dangerous waves. Surge-related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle, and can vary greatly over short distances. For information specific to your area, please see products issued by your local National Weather Service forecast office.

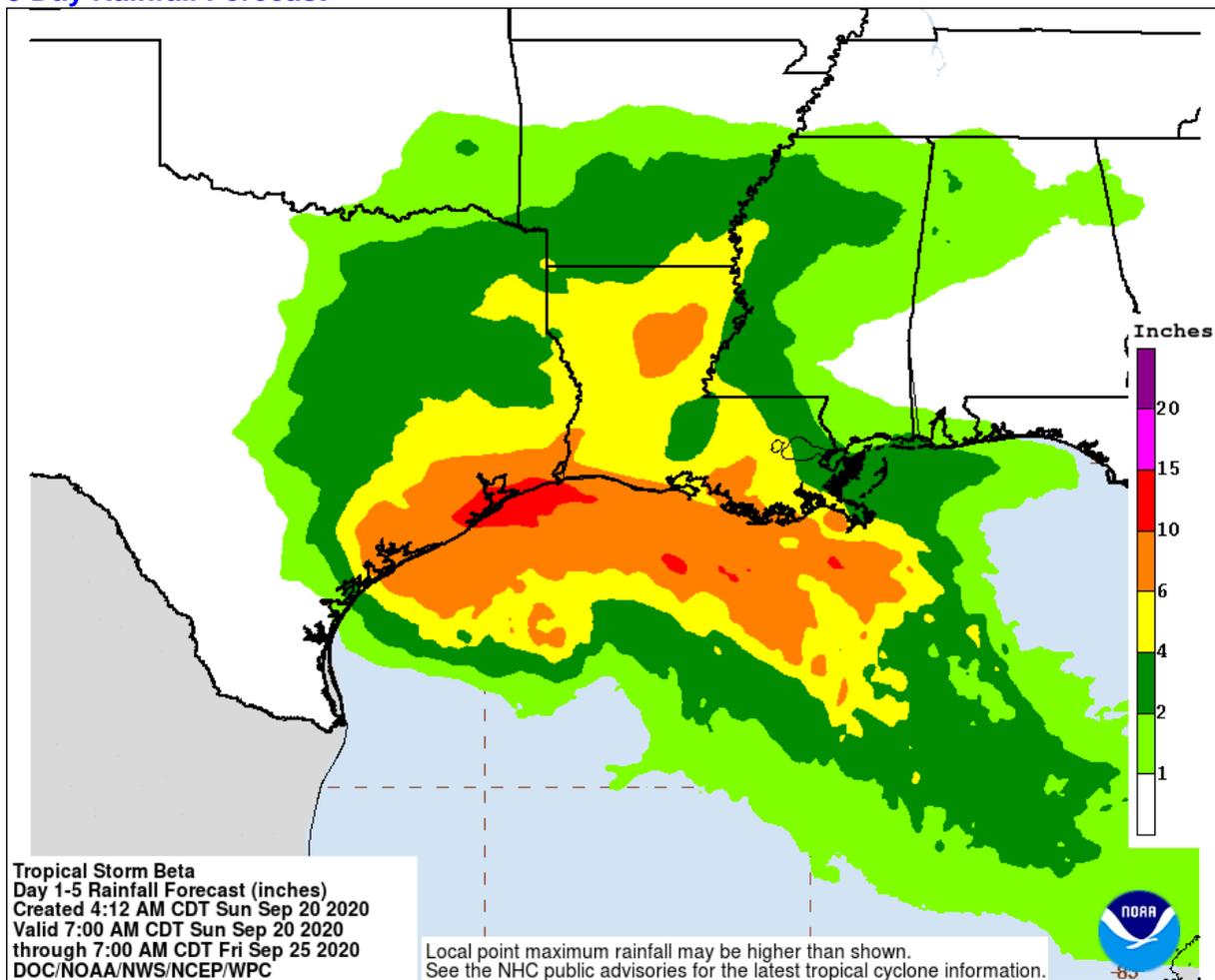
Wind: Tropical storm conditions are occurring in the tropical storm warning area along the southwestern Louisiana coast and will spread westward to the warning areas in Texas late today through early Monday. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the tropical storm watch area along the south Texas coast on Monday.

Rainfall: Through Thursday, Beta is expected to produce rainfall accumulations of 8 to 12 inches with isolated totals of 20 inches from the middle Texas coast to southern Louisiana, with 4 to 8 inches spreading northward into the lower Mississippi River Valley by mid-week. Flash and urban flooding is likely, as well as minor to isolated moderate river flooding.

Tornadoes: A tornado or two could occur Monday near the middle-upper Texas coast or the southwestern Louisiana coast.

Surf: Swells are increasing and reaching the coast of Texas and the Gulf Coast of Mexico, generated by a combination of Beta and a cold front entering the northern Gulf of Mexico. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

5 Day Rainfall Forecast



On September 18, Governor Abbott placed resources on standby along the Gulf Coast in anticipation of severe weather resulting from Tropical Storm Beta.

At the direction of Governor Abbott, the Texas Division of Emergency Management is rostering and prepositioning the following resources in preparation to support requests from local officials:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Texas Task Forces One and Two -Type 3 Urban Search and Rescue Team and Boat Squads.
- Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): Incident Management Teams and Saw Crews.
- Texas Military Department (TMD): High Profile Vehicle Packages.
- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) AMBUSs and Ambulance Strike Teams (AST).
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Boat Teams and helicopters with hoist capability to support water rescue operations.
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): High Profile Vehicles (HPV).
- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) – Texas Highway Patrol (THP): Search and Rescue (SAR) Aircraft with hoist capability and the Tactical Marine Unit (TMU).

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips during severe weather events:

Know types of flood risk in your area. [Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home](https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home)

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide [emergency alerts](#).

Build an emergency supply kit. For more information on how to build a kit, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>

Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. Get flood coverage under the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#).

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

Be extremely cautious of any water on roads or in creeks, streams, storm drains, or other areas – never attempt to cross flowing streams or drive across flooded roadways and always observe road barricades placed for your protection. Remember, Turn Around Don't Drown.

For more flood safety tips, [visit ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 16 – Houston: (Includes: Chambers and Harris Counties)

Chambers County: Chambers County issued a disaster declaration and a voluntary evacuation for low lying and flood prone areas on September 19.

Harris County: City of Seabrook issued a voluntary evacuation on September 19.
City of Nassau Bay issued a voluntary evacuation on September 19.

DDC 16 – Texas City (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties)

Galveston County: Galveston County issued a voluntary evacuation of the Bolivar Peninsula on September 19.

City of Galveston issued a voluntary evacuation of the West End and Low-Lying Areas on September 19.

City of Jamaica Beach issued a voluntary evacuation on September 19.

DDC 16 – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda and Wharton Counties)

Matagorda County: Matagorda County issued a disaster declaration and a voluntary evacuation.

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties)

DDC 20 is at activation level II.

Live Oak County: Live Oak County EOC is at activation level III.

Nueces County: Nueces County EOC is at activation level III. Padre Bali RV Park and IB McGee RV Park were evacuated.

City of Corpus Christi: Residents wanting to safeguard their homes and businesses from possible flooding associated with Tropical Storm Beta, can pick up free sandbags at two

different locations on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or until sandbags run out.

Distribution sites include Bill Witt Park, 6869 Yorktown Boulevard and the J.C. Elliott Transfer Station and Collection Center, Highway 286 and Ayers Street. Citizens will receive a maximum of ten (10) sandbags per vehicle. Drivers are asked to clear an area in the trunk of their vehicles for the sandbags. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, drivers and passengers should please wear face masks and remain inside their cars while they are being loaded.

For more information please contact the City's Call Center at 361-826-CITY (2489).

The City is restricting vehicle access to Gulf beaches due to dangerous conditions caused by Tropical Storm Beta as it approaches the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

Access road closures are effective immediately and remain in effect until Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. If the water has not receded, the restriction may be extended.

Restricted vehicle access locations are Gulf beach Access Roads 2, 3, 3A, Newport, Zahn and Whitecap. The National Weather Service advises dangerous beach conditions and rip currents. Pedestrians are allowed but not encouraged. Bay beach conditions include North Beach experiencing flooding and McGee Beach will be impacted by storm surge.

The current forecast of Tropical Storm Beta shows it continuing to move slowly towards the Texas coast today and tomorrow; forecast track remains unchanged but intensity is now forecast for a strong tropical storm. Regardless of path, this system is likely to produce heavy rain along the coast and a long duration coastal flood event with water levels near or higher than what was observed with Hurricane Hanna.

Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Beach Operations crews are reporting large swells, extremely strong rip currents, and flooding of area Gulf beaches. The public is urged to take precautions by staying off area beaches to not risk injury during the storm surge. Beach closures have been coordinated with the Texas General Land Office.

The latest forecast of Tropical Storm Beta can be found at the National Weather Service Website: <https://www.weather.gov/crp/>

City of Corpus Christi EOC is at activation level III.

San Patricio County: San Patricio County EOC is at activation level II.

DDC 21 – Weslaco (Includes: Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties)

Cameron County: The City of Brownville submitted a disaster declaration and letter to the governor on September 19.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 17 – Victoria (Includes: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson and Victoria Counties)

DDC 17 is at activation level II (Virtual)

Calhoun County:

City of Seadrift: The City issued a voluntary evacuation order on September 19.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff continuing receive and process disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as disseminating severe weather messages, preparing Snapshots and the State SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the alternate State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State’s Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners to assist with any unmet needs and resources.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): The TFS currently has six personnel committed to Tropical Storm Beta response to the Texas Division of Emergency Management. Response activities include Incident Management Team support, STAR processing, and situation reports.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): TPWD Emergency Management and Senior Leadership staff are closely monitoring Tropical Storm Beta and are prepared to support the State with TPWD personnel and resources to support a need at the State Operations Center and in the field.

AMBULANCES	BOATS	BUSES	AIRCRAFT	HIGH-PROFILE
				
0	91	0	1	36

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TFS	TFS/ ESF 4 Rep	1		Assigned	Austin/SOC
TFS	TFS EOC Support	3		Assigned	College Station
TFS	Planning Module	2		Assigned	DDC 21
TPWD	Game Wardens	26	26	Standby	Galveston/Houston
TPWD	Airboats		7	Standby	Galveston/Houston
TPWD	Shallow Draft Vessels		5	Standby	Galveston/Houston
TPWD	Drone Operators	4	4	Standby	Galveston/Houston
TPWD	ATVs		4	Standby	Galveston/Houston

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TPWD	UTVs		2	Standby	Galveston/Houston
TPWD	Game Wardens	43	43	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	Airboats		8	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	Shallow Draft Boat		6	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	Swift Water Boat		1	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	Drone Operators	4	4	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	ATVs		4	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	UTV		1	Standby	Corpus Christi
TPWD	Rescue Helicopter	3	1	Standby	Austin
TPWD	Game Wardens	116	116	Standby	Statewide
TPWD	Boats		48	Standby	Statewide
TMD	3 Ground Transportation Companies with High Profile Vehicles	72	36	Assigned	Corpus Christ, Victoria, Houston, and Huntsville
TEEX, Texas Task Force 1 and 2	8 Boat Squads	52	16	Assigned	Corpus Christi, Victoria, Houston, and Huntsville

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Readiness Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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