

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE KLICK

HOUSE DISTRICT 91

FORT WORTH
HALTOM CITY
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS
RICHLAND HILLS
WATAUGA

ONLINE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

## **HURRICANE HARVEY**

Wednesday morning, August 23, Harvey was a broad area of low pressure, not even a tropical depression, just entering the gulf of Mexico; Friday evening, August 25, Harvey made landfall near Rockport as a Category 4 hurricane. Last Thursday morning, forecasters were predicting isolated maximum rainfall amounts of 25 inches; some areas have now had over 50 inches of rain.

Since Saturday morning, I, along with many of my colleagues, have participated in daily internal briefing calls by the emergency management division of DPS to get real time updates of on-the-ground conditions. I want to applaud our state agencies and local officials on their response to this catastrophic event. Lessons have been learned from previous disasters and additional loss of life has been prevented through their implementation.

Tarrant County opened two emergency shelters for evacuees at the beginning of the week. They are managed by the City of Fort Worth and Red Cross Personnel. Those who have and will be arriving here are from some of the hardest hit areas and may be in our area for several weeks to come (flooding will continue for a while).

I want to encourage those of you who can to donate financially to one or more of the organizations helping on the ground, such as the <u>American Red Cross</u>, <u>The Salvation Army</u>, <u>Texas Baptist Men</u>, <u>Samaritan's Purse</u>, etc. If you would like to make a non-monetary donation, please check what items are needed at the time of the donation and give only those. While it may not feel as personal to write a check or click a 'donate now' button, it can be the most beneficial for those needing assistance. Money can be used to purchase whatever is needed at the time and helps the local economy recover.

Volunteers will be needed in the days and weeks ahead. The Fort Worth shelters' website will be updated regularly with their needs. If you have free time and are able to help clean up in hard hit areas, the American Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse are looking for volunteers. Due to the outpouring of support, it may take a little time for these organizations to reach out to you, but please be patient. This is a long term clean-up effort and will need people for weeks to come.

## **STAY CONNECTED!**

### **DISTRICT OFFICE:**

6851 NE Loop 820, Suite 230 North Richland Hills, TX 76180 (817) 281-0079

## **CAPITOL OFFICE:**

Capitol Room <u>**E2.904**</u> PO Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768 (512) 463-0599 (512) 463-0751 Fax

### EMAIL:

Stephanie.Klick@house.texas.gov

### WEBSITE:

House District 91 Home Page

#### DISASTER RELIEF

If you or someone you know was affected by Hurricane Harvey, you can apply for FEMA disaster assistance at: www.disasterassistance.gov

## TX HURRICANE CENTER

Additional hurricane assistance and information can be found at: www.gov.texas.gov/hurricane

## UNSUBSCRIBE

If you no longer wish to receive email newsletters, please respond to this email with the word 'UNSUBSCRIBE' in the subject line.

## NO FUEL SHORTAGE

There is not a fuel supply shortage. Here are the numbers from Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton:

- The entire world consumes 100 million barrels of refined fuel a day
- The United States refines 18 million of those 100 million barrels
- Texas refines 6 million of those 18 million barrels
- About 3 million barrels of production is currently offline or at reduced capacity due to Harvey

Even if these refineries are offline for a month (which in unexpected as some are already restarting), that's only 90 million barrels total of reduced production. Currently, we have 230 million barrels of gasoline in storage in the United States right now. As you can see, there is not a supply shortage!

While there are stations in DFW that are currently out of gas, several of them that were out yesterday have been refueled as of this morning. We are experiencing some supply distribution disruptions due to unusually high demand. The state and federal governments have approved waivers to correlating rules and regulations to allow expedited delivery schedules in Texas, so fueling stations can be refueled faster than normal.

It is estimated that within a week, gas stations will be completely back to full fuel supply levels. If you have several days' worth of fuel in your vehicle, waiting to refuel for a few days will help ensure fuel for those who are out currently. We have an artificially induced run on fuel; anything you can do to safely delay fuel purchases will help us get out of it much more quickly. If you are in need of fuel, instead of driving around looking for an open station, call ahead to the station, or check out <a href="http://tracker.gasbuddy.com">http://tracker.gasbuddy.com</a>.

## SAFE AND WELL

There is a website run by the Red Cross, <a href="www.safeandwell.org">www.safeandwell.org</a>, which allows Hurricane Harvey survivors to register themselves as 'safe and well' so people outside of the area can have peace of mind if they are unable to get through via other methods of communication. Friends and family can search by name *and* either 1) phone number or 2) address to find survivors. If you have a relative or friend you have not been able to contact from the affected area, check the website to learn if they have been able to mark themselves as safe.

## **ROAD CONDITIONS**

Anytime you are heading out and want to check the current road conditions, visit <a href="www.drivetexas.org">www.drivetexas.org</a>. Information on road closures, construction, and other incidents affecting the flow of traffic are provided as accurately and up-to-date as possible. Due to damage sustained during flooding, some bridges and roads will be closed for repairs for an extended period of time. Finally, if you ever see water across the road: Turn Around, Don't Drown.

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