TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Hurricane Experts Guide

Compiled by the Division of Marketing & Communications
Expert Areas

1. Important Online Resources and Contacts
2. How Hurricanes Form
3. Structural and Water Damage to Offshore Structures
4. Environmental and Ecosystem Effects of Hurricanes
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6. Personal, Societal and Social Aspects of Hurricanes
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The 2018 hurricane season begins June 1 and Texas A&M University has nearly 40 faculty experts available to discuss every aspect of hurricanes from early formation, recovery and resilience and more until the season ends Nov. 30.

In this guide, media will find important information for not only experts, but research institutes, helpful web based tools, databases and a central point of contact for Texas A&M University inquiries regarding hurricane preparedness and response.
Important Online Resources and Contacts

TEXAS TASK FORCE ONE
An elite, highly trained and highly specialized group trained in disasters and terrorism. It can be mobilized within hours and is equipped to remain on 24-hour duty for days at a time.

Contact: Jeff Saunders (979) 458-6800 | jeff.saunders@teexmail.tamu.edu

THE TEXAS COASTAL PLANNING ATLAS
Detailed geographic information that assists in providing guidance in decision-making, policy, and planning for Texans living in this 18-county coastal region.

BUYERS B-WHERE
Enter a street address and receive a graphic and statistical risk assessment for a specific property. Comprehensive, easy to understand information delivered on-the-fly will provide a critical resource for existing and future property owners interested in making sound and safe investment decisions.

TEXAS EXTENSION DISASTER EDUCATION NETWORK (EDEN)
The Hurricane Resources website is available to the public. The site has links to information about both preand post-storm needs. Topics include general safety, food, people with special needs, health issues, restoring the home, financial recovery, and care for trees, pets and other animals, and septic systems.

Contact: Andy Vestal (979) 862-3013 | t-vestal@tamu.edu
Joyce Cavanagh (979) 845-3850 | jacavanagh@tamu.edu

HAZARD REDUCTION & RECOVERY CENTER
Established at Texas A&M University in 1988, the HRRC is an interdisciplinary collaborative effort focused on hazard analysis, emergency preparedness and response, disaster recovery, and hazard mitigation. Researchers study the full range of natural disasters and technological hazards.

TEXAS COMMUNITY WATERSHED PARTNERS PROGRAM (TCWP)
The TCWP provides education and outreach to local governments and citizens on the impacts of land use on watershed health and water quality.

DIVISION OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Members of the news team can assist in seeking additional experts and fielding additional questions from media. tamunews@tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON
How Hurricanes Form

JOHN NIELSEN-GAMMON
Regents Professor of Atmospheric Sciences,
Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Nielsen-Gammon serves as Texas State Climatologist and is an expert on severe storms, how hurricanes form, the history of Texas hurricanes, rapid formation of hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and the history of severe storms and hurricanes in the past 100 years.

Contact: (979) 862-2248 | n-g@tamu.edu

TIM LOGAN
Instructional Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Sciences
Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Logan is an expert in severe storms, the formation of storms and lightning, and the damage caused by severe storms and hurricanes.

Contact: (979) 845-2004
tlogan52@tamu.edu

COURTNEY SCHUMACHER
Professor of Atmospheric Sciences,
Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Schumacher is an expert in tropical meteorology, large mesoscale convective systems, radar meteorology, and mesoscale-climate interactions.

Contact: (979) 845-5522
cschu@tamu.edu

ROBERT KORTY
Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences,
Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Korty is an expert on how hurricanes affect oceans and how climate affects hurricanes.

Contact: (979) 847-9090
korty@tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON

Structural and Water Damage to Offshore Structures

JEAN LOUIS BRIAUD

University Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University College of Engineering

Briaud is an expert in erosion and “scour,” the remains of buildings damaged by seawater. He also is proficient in how water sweeps away materials or bridges and soil compaction in levees.

Contact: (979) 862-2248 | briaud@tamu.edu

RICK MERCIER

Professor of Engineering, Texas A&M University College of Engineering

Director, Offshore Technology Research Center

Mercier is an expert in off-shore drilling platforms, hurricane damage to oil rigs or any deep water off-shore structure, and oil rigs cut off from production.

Contact: (979) 845-6000
rsmercier@tamu.edu

BRENT MCROBERTS

Research Assistant Professor of Geography, Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

McRoberts is an expert in power outage prediction modeling, which gives forecasts of how many utility customers will lose power during and after a hurricane.

Contact: (979) 845-6075
mcrobert@tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON
Environmental and Ecosystem Effects of Hurricanes

SHARI YVON-LEWIS
Department of Oceanography Head and Professor of Chemical Oceanography, Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Yvon-Lewis and is a chemical oceanography and biogeochemistry expert who has conducted extensive post-hurricane research in Galveston Bay and has a thorough dataset of Bay water quality data before and after the hurricane.

Contact: (979) 458-1816
syvon-lewis@ocean.tamu.edu

ANTHONY KNAP
Director, Geochemical and Environmental Research Group (GERG)

Professor of Oceanography, Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Knap is an expert in effects of contaminants on marine environments, ocean health and human health interactions. He also co-leads the Texas A&M Superfund.

Contact: (979) 458-9328
tknap@tamu.edu

JASON SYLVAN
Oceanography Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Sylvan is well-versed in the short-term and long-term effects of hurricanes on environments and ecosystems, including coral reefs.

Contact: (979) 845-5105
jasonsylvan@tamu.edu

LISA CAMPBELL
Professor of Oceanography, Texas A&M University College of Geosciences

Campbell is an expert in biological oceanography, phytoplankton ecology, harmful algal blooms and is well-versed in the effects hurricanes can have on ecosystems.

Contact: (979) 845-5706
lisacampbell@tamu.edu

ROBIN AUTENRIETH
Professor and Head of the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University College of Engineering

Autenrieth is an expert in water cleanup, environmental damage of waters from hurricanes and floods, and contaminated water and the many problems it poses.

Contact: (979) 845-2438
rautenrieth@civil.tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON

Hurricane Effects on Animals and Pets

BILL MOYER
Professor and Head of Large Animal Clinical Services, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Moyer was put in charge of converting Texas A&M’s Large Animal Hospital into special human needs hospital that served hundreds of elderly and special needs patients during Hurricane Rita and will take a similar leadership role if such plans are needed again.

Contact: (979) 845-9127 | wmoyer@cvm.tamu.edu

WESLEY BISSETT
Associate Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Bissett is an expert on displaced pets, pets relocating to unfamiliar areas, pets facing isolation and separation anxiety, etc.

Contact: (979) 845-3541 wbissett@cvm.tamu.edu

GARRY ADAMS
Senior Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Adams is well-versed on numerous public health issues, diseases stemming from disasters and treatment strategies for dealing with large numbers of injured or sick animals.

Contact: (979) 845-9816 gadams@cvm.tamu.edu

MURL BAILEY
Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Bailey is an expert on zoonotic diseases (those passed from animals to humans) and problems that can arise if this occurs.

Contact: (979) 845-5976 m-bailey@tamu.edu

DEB ZORAN
Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Zoran is an expert on displaced pets, pets relocating to unfamiliar areas, pets facing isolation and separation anxiety, etc.

Contact: (979) 845-2351 dzoran@cvm.tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON

Personal, Societal and Social Aspects of Hurricanes

ANGELA CLENDENIN
Instructional Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University School of Public Health

Clendenin has served as the public information officer for the Veterinary Emergency Team and has expertise in risk communication and emergency management.

Contact: (979) 436-0613
hshive@tamhsc.edu

NATALIE JOHNSON
Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University School of Public Health

Johnson studies the effects of air pollution on pregnant women and their babies, and she has looked at the effects post-hurricane emissions of potentially dangerous chemicals may have on this population.

Contact: (979) 436-0613
hshive@tamhsc.edu

STJEPAN MESTROVIC
Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts

Mestrovic serves as an expert in social order (or lack of it) and lawlessness in times of crises.

Contact: (979) 845-6121
mestrovic@tamu.edu

STEPHEN MAREN
Professor of Psychology, Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts

Maren’s research includes neural systems for emotion, learning, and memory as well as contextual regulation of memory encoding and retrieval, and fear, anxiety, and PTSD.

Contact: (979)-458-7960 | maren@tamu.edu

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hshive@tamhsc.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERT ON
Beach Erosion

WILLIAM MERRELL
Professor and Head of the Department of Marine Sciences, Texas A&M University Galveston Campus

Merrell serves on the City of Galveston Hurricane Task Force. He is also an expert on beach and shoreline erosion, effects of hurricanes on the entire shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico and proponent of the “Ike Dike,” a coastal surge suppression barrier for the Houston/Galveston area, based on a similar project in the Netherlands.

Contact: (409) 740-4732 | merrellw@tamug.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON

Coastal Infrastructure and Ecosystems

SAMUEL BRODY
Professor and Head of Marine Sciences, Texas A&M University Galveston Campus
Brody directs the Institute for Sustainable Coastal Communities (ISCC) and the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS), headquartered at Texas A&M at Galveston. Brody helps conserve and protect the Texas shoreline, bays and waterways. He prepares coastal communities to absorb, adapt and respond to hurricanes, coastal storms and flooding.

Contact: (409) 741-4076
sbrody@tamu.edu

IGNACIO RODRIGUEZ-ITURBE
Distinguished University Professor and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station Distinguished Research Professor, Texas A&M University Department of Ocean Engineering
Rodriguez-Iturbe studies coastal ecosystems and the challenges they pose to coastal cities and communities.

Contact: (979) 845-3141
irodriguez@ocen.tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON

Warning Systems and Evacuation

JOHN COOPER

Associate Professor of Practice, Texas A&M University College of Architecture

Urban Planning and Outreach Coordinator, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center and the Center for Housing and Urban Development

Cooper’s areas of interest include principles of inclusive planning and plan quality. His research and outreach focuses on emergency management, disaster planning and mitigation with a primary focus on socially vulnerable populations and communities.

Contact: (979) 862-2272 | jcooper@arch.tamu.edu

WALTER GILLIS PEACOCK

Director, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

Professor of Urban Planning, Texas A&M University College of Architecture

His research has focused on evacuation, restoration and long-term recovery from disasters, disaster mitigation and resilience.

Contact: (979) 845-7853
peacock@tamu.edu

GEORGE O. ROGERS

Senior fellow, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

Director, Urban and Regional Science Graduate Program

Professor, Texas A&M University College of Architecture

His research has focused on warning systems, risk perception and sustainable development.

Contact: (979) 845-7284
grogers@tamu.edu
TEXAS A&M EXPERTS ON
Recovery and Sustainable Development

SHANNON VAN ZANDT

Director, Master of Urban Planning program
Associate Professor, Texas A&M University College of Architecture
Director, Center for Housing and Urban Development, and Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center fellow
Director, Master of Urban Planning Program

Van Zandt’s areas of interest include post-disaster housing recovery, social vulnerability, community resilience and hazards mitigation.

Contact: (979) 458-1233 | svanzandt@tamu.edu

SHERRY BAME

Professor, Texas A&M University College of Architecture
Fellow, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

Bame has a special interest in health systems planning and policy, environmental health, and health-related disaster planning, particularly related to 211 call centers and unmet needs.

Contact: (979) 845-8406
sbame@tamu.edu

ERIC BARDENHAGEN

Professor, Texas A&M University College of Architecture
Fellow, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

Bardenhagen’s interests include natural and cultural resource planning, natural hazards and disaster planning for national parks.

Contact: (979) 458-3414
bardenhagen@tamu.edu
Texas A&M Experts on Hurricanes, Marine Life and Seafood

Andrew Ropicki
Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Texas Sea Grant Marine Economics Extension Specialist

Ropicki can comment on assessments of storm impacts on fishing infrastructure (vessels, docks, processing equipment, etc.) and on sessile fisheries (oysters).

Contact: (361) 825-6210
andrew.ropicki@ag.tamu.edu

Laura Picariello
Texas Sea Grant Extension Fisheries Specialist Corpus Christi

Picariello has experience working with commercial fisheries, both in Texas and across the Gulf of Mexico.

Contact: (361) 825-6210
lpicadilly@gmail.com