

Hurricane Preparedness



Each year NOAA and the American Red Cross publishes a preparedness guide of tropical cyclones to help us prepare for such an emergency. You can download a copy of that guide at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/hurricane/resources/ TropicalCyclones11.pdf. This guide gives great information on the metrological terms associated with tropical storms and what to expect from those storms. Most importantly, it lists critical information about how to prepare for an incoming storm.

Guidelines each year prior to hurricane season:

- Determine safe evacuation routes inland
- Learn locations of official shelters

• Check emergency equipment such as flashlights, generators and battery powered equipment such as cell phones and your NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receiver.

• Buy food that will not spoil and store drinking water.

• Buy plywood or other material to protect your home if you don't have it.

• Trim trees and shrubbery so branches don't fly into your home.

• Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

• Decide where to move your boat if applicable.

• Review your insurance policy.

• Find pet friendly hotels on your evacuation route.

During the storm and when Pearland is in the warning area, you should:

• Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for official bulletins.

• Close storm shutters.

• Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered.

• Stay with friends or relatives at a low-rise inland hotel or at designated public shelter outside of the flood zone.

• DO NOT stay in a mobile home or manufactured home.

• Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.

• Take pets with you, but remember that most public shelters do not allow pets other than service pets for people with disabilities.

• Identify pet friendly hotels along your evacuation route.

If you are staying home to "hunker" out the storm:

- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and keep it closed.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane gas tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.

• Fill bathtub and large containers with water in case clean tap water is unavailable. Use water in bathtubs for cleaning and flushing only. Do NOT drink it.

• Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.

• Close all interior doors. Secure and brace exterior doors.

• If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first floor room.

• If you are in a multi-story building and away from water, go to the first or second floor and stay in the hallways or other interior rooms away from windows.

• Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Property Tax

Montgomery County Tax	
Conroe ISD	
Montgomery MUD #89	713-932-9011

Police & Fire

Emergency	
Montgomery Sheriff	
Pct. 3 Constable Office	281-364-4211
S. Montgomery Co. Fire Dept. Non-Emergency.	281-363-3473
Montgomery County EMS Non-Emergency	936-441-6243
Crime Stoppers	713-222-TIPS
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Texas DPS	713-681-1761

Utilities

Electricity (TXU)	800-368-1398
Electricity (TXU New Service)	
Electricity (Centerpoint)	713-207-2222
Gas (Centerpoint)	713-659-2111
Water/Municipal Oper. & Consulting	
Best Trash	
Street Light Outages	713-207-2222
Cable/Internet/PhoneCOMCAST	713-341-1000

Public Services

	201 (10 70 (0
Local US Post Office	281-419-/948
Toll Road EZ Tag	281-875-3279
Voters Registration	936-539-7843
Vehicle Registration	281-292-3325
Drivers License Information	936-442-2810
Montgomery County Animal Control	936-442-7738
Montgomery Chamber	281-367-5777
Conroe ISD	936-709-7751
Birnham Woods Elementary	281-863-4200
Cox Intermediate	281-465-3200
York Junior High	832-592-8600
Oak Ridge High	

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Bird Bath Bliss

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



The heat is on! Just like us, birds enjoy and need a clean drink of water and a cooling bath. You can do birds a great service by providing a birdbath where they can drink, bathe and preen. Here is some helpful information regarding birdbaths.

• Birds aren't going to swim in it so it doesn't have to be deep. They only partially submerge their bodies so the optimal depth is from 1 to 3 inches.

• The bottom of your birdbath should not be slippery. If it is, you can add small rocks to the bottom.

• Birds are attracted by moving water so if you want to attract a larger number of birds, you should consider purchasing one with that feature. If you already have a birdbath, you can purchase a piece to attach to it. There are also misters available for purchase.

• Your birdbath need not be fancy. Trust me, birds don't care. The color, shape and style is of little importance

• A dirty birdbath is hazardous to birds. Stagnant water can harbor unhealthy concentrations of bacteria that cause diseases. Stagnant water can also attract mosquitoes that may carry diseases dangerous to both humans and birds. There are numerous soaps and cleansers on the market but the best solution to keeping your birdbath clean is to mix nine parts water to one part vinegar. Chemicals found in commercial cleaners can strip birds of essential oils in their feathers. Scrub your birdbath with the solution and a brush and rinse, rinse, rinse. Be sure to refill the birdbath every couple of days. There are self-cleaning, self-filling units on the market, too, although you can expect to pay considerably more for those.

• In our part of the country, it doesn't get extremely cold in the winter but you can add a heater to the birdbath if you wish. Just search for birdbath heaters on the web.

TWRC Wildlife Center is admitting hundreds of baby birds right now and some are coming to us needlessly. When baby birds are old enough, they will leave the nest before they are able to fly. They will spend several days on the ground until their flight feathers develop. These birds are called fledglings. Before picking up the fledgling, wait and observe. In most cases you'll see Mom watching over them and feeding them. If you don't see Mom after a period of time, it's okay to rescue the bird and bring it to us for care. Do not attempt to feed it or give it water! Keep in safe and warm in a box and get it to us as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, you can call us at 713.468.8972. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 10am to 7pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 2pm.

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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Register for Local Kids' Running Team



The Northwest Flyers Track Club Youth Cross Country Team kicks off the fall season with a mandatory orientation meeting for parents and athletes on Monday, September 9th, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. (location TBA). Registration starts online on September 1st at www. northwestflyers.org. Practices are held at the Kickerillo-Mischer Reserve in Houston and at Spring Creek Park in Tomball.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a member program of USA Track and Field (USATF), the national governing body for track and cross country. The club is celebrating its 32nd year in the northwest Houston area. Ages 6 - 18 may participate in the team, and both beginners and experienced runners are welcome. Middle school and high school cross country athletes can also register, but should compete after their school cross country season is over.

For more information contact Coach Chris Stewart at 832-874-7181 or milpa_alta@hotmail.com. Visit www.northwestflyers.org to get updates and learn more about the team.

TWSC Invites Singers to Perform with Them at Pavilion

The Woodlands Show Chorus (TWSC) will be participating



in two patriotic performances during the week of July 4th: first as the opening act for The Houston S y m p h o n y 's prestigious annual Star-Spangled Salute on Wednesday, July 3rd at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell

Pavilion, and second headlining at the Sunday Lawn Concert Series presented by Bernhardt Winery on Sunday, July 7th. To share the fun with more members of our community, TWSC is inviting women singers to join them in singing at one or both of these shows.

Since performance standards are high, interested women of all ages should attend TWSC weekly Monday night rehearsals at The First Presbyterian Church (Family Life Center Building) at 2727



N Loop 336 W in Conroe (directly across from the McDonald's). Weekly rehearsals will be held between May 13 and July 1 from



7:00 pm to 8:00 pm to help newcomers learn the music and perfect their performance. The songs will be wellknown patriotic numbers arranged

in 4-part a capella harmony. Although it is helpful, there is no requirement to read music.

Since its beginning in 2012 as the largest and fastest chartering chorus in Sweet Adelines International (SAI), this prodigious chorus has won its first four regional competitions with exceptionally high scores, and they competed well internationally in Baltimore, Las Vegas, and most recently last fall in St. Louis. TWSC is now feverishly working toward their next international competition in Louisville, KY in October, 2020. If you ask any member of this exciting chorus why she sings, she will tell you it is for the JOY – the joy of striving for excellence through consistent education, training and performance. It provides a strong purpose for her life outside of her family, work and daily routine.

The nearly 70 members of the TWSC anticipate that both performances will be fun for all who attend and will give women in our community an opportunity to make friends with others who enjoy singing as a hobby. Contact Shayna Stubblefield at info@ thewoodlandsshowchorus.org or 888-246-2313 for more details.

After these performances, TWSC will present it's own annual show, "TWSC Live, A Casual Evening of Red Carpet Entertainment, July 13, at Sts Simon & Jude Catholic Church in The Woodlands. It features the fun and fabulous SAI international silver medalist quartet, Viva! and is a wine and cheese (plus other refreshments) event with silent auction, door prizes and more! Doors open at 4:00 pm for refreshments with the show starting at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 adult, \$20 senior/children, and \$30 reserved. Group rates are also available by emailing tickets@ TheWoodlandsShowChorus.org or calling 713.688.6509.



Not Available Online



Millipedes



Millipedes are often mistaken for worms. While millipedes have elongated bodies similar to worms, they have lots of legs which worms lack. Millipedes have a long, cylindrical body, a pair of antennae and two pair of legs on each segment of their body. They often curl into a spiral as a way to protect themselves when threatened.

Millipedes live in moist environments such as soil, leaf litter, and compost piles, under mulch, rocks or wood. Millipedes most often feed on decaying organic matter, though some are carnivorous. They are not typically thought of as pests, but more of a nuisance although they may occasionally damage seedling plants by feeding on stems and leaves.

Large numbers of millipedes may move into structures after heavy rainfall or during periods of drought. If millipedes do wander indoors, they usually die quickly due to lack of moisture.

Tips to prevent millipedes from moving indoors:

• Move objects providing harborage (compost piles, firewood, stones) away from structures

 \bullet Create a band of gravel between the home foundation & landscape beds



- Adjust watering schedules if overwatering
- Turn mulch so it dries out

• Seal accessible areas where millipedes can move into the homearound doors & windows; pipe penetrations, etc.

• Ventilate crawl spaces to allow for air flow

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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FLOODING: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & FINANCES

In many areas, flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster—and it can happen here. Just one inch of water in your home or office can cost thousands of dollars in cleanup and replacement costs, including drywall, baseboards, floor coverings and furniture. You may think you're covered, but many homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flooding.

Here are several reasons to talk to an insurance agent now about flood insurance.

• There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.

• Coverage is relatively inexpensive.

• Renters can buy flood insurance .for personal belongings or business inventory.

• Basement coverage includes cleanup expense and repair or replacement of items such as furnaces, water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, freezers and pumps.

• You do not have to repay flood insurance benefits as you do with disaster-related assistance loans.

• You can receive payments for flood-related losses even if no disaster was declared.

Learn more about flood insurance at www.floodsmart.gov. There are things you can do to prepare your home and family now for flash floods:

• Make a family emergency plan. Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Write down your plan. Decide ahead of time where you will go if you have to leave and where family members will meet up. Identify an out-of-town emergency contact.

• Get supplies for an emergency kit. Start with three days' water and three days' packaged and canned food. Add a battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Store in waterproof containers with wheels or that you can lift so you can take them with you. For details about preparing an emergency kit, visit www.ready.gov/america/ beinformed/floods.html

• Stay informed about what could happen. During storm season, listen to local media for up-to-date reports on weather watches and warnings. Keep a battery-powered portable radio—with a NOAA weather band—handy in case the power goes out. Choose one.

Learn more about preparedness at www.ready.gov/america/ beinformed/floods.html.









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