

INTERNATIONAL

Harvey lashes Texas with torrential rain

● Rescue attempts mount while concerns increase over flooding in many areas

Agency Staff
Rockport

Tropical Storm Harvey lashed central Texas with torrential rains on Sunday, unleashing "catastrophic" floods after the megastorm – the most powerful to hit the US since 2005 – had left a deadly trail of devastation along the Gulf Coast.

The storm has caused at least two deaths since making land-fall late on Friday as a category four hurricane, pummeling the town of Rockport outside Corpus Christi with sustained winds of 215km/h, the National Hurricane Centre said.

One person was killed when their house caught fire in the Rockport area, local officials said. And in Houston, a woman drowned when she left her car that had stalled in high water, local media reported.

"Cannot emphasise enough how much flooding there is on roadways you are endangering yourself and our first responders by being out," Houston police chief Art Acevedo wrote on Twitter.

Harvey slowly weakened as it advanced, ripping off roofs, flipping mobile homes and leaving hundreds of thousands of people in the dark on the Gulf Coast, home to some of the US's most important oil refineries.

The National Weather Service issued more than a dozen tornado warnings overnight for southeast Texas, including several in the Houston area.

Forecasts show Harvey



The force of nature: A man walks past a business that was left damaged after Hurricane Harvey hit Rockport, Texas on Saturday. /Reuters

hovering over the shore for the next few days, dumping dangerous amounts of rain.

In Houston, a city of 2.3-million, the streets turned into fast-moving rivers, with officials warning residents to stay home.

Hobby International, one of the city's two airports, announced that all flights were cancelled "due to standing water on runways", while George Bush International was operating at limited capacity.

Officials said their 911 phone system was overwhelmed with emergency calls, mostly from stranded motorists.

Texas governor Greg Abbott said at least 50cm of rain had fallen in some areas.

"Our primary concern remains dramatic flooding," he

told reporters. The governor visited a shelter for coastal evacuees in the state capital Austin and handed out food, describing the damage to homes and property as sheer tragedy.

"Some of them had their homes moved down. Some of them will not have a place to return to. It is our job to make sure they will be taken care of," the governor said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said there should be no illusions about the long-term effects.

"This is going to be an unprecedented long and frustrating event for the state of Texas," director Brock Long told MSNBC. "The recovery from this disaster is going to be years," he said.

Emergency services were struggling to make headway as the rains continued to pour down, although the US Coast Guard managed to airlift at least 20 people and a dog to safety.

President Donald Trump, aware of the damage to George W Bush's presidency for his tardy response to Hurricane Katrina, said he was closely monitoring relief efforts from Camp David in Maryland.

"We are leaving nothing to chance. City, State and Federal Govs. working great together!" Trump tweeted after a teleconference meeting with his cabinet to discuss the emergency operations.

About 1.5-million people have moved into the coastal Texas region since 1999. /AFP

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50cm of rain was estimated to have fallen in some areas, flooding roads.



Insurer MMI released a better-than-expected trading update as the market closed on Friday, warning that its diluted core headline earnings per share are expected to drop as much as 5% for its 2017 financial year. Page 11



CALL FOR REGISTRATION OF GAS ACTIVITIES IN TERMS OF SECTION 28 OF THE GAS ACT, 2001 (ACT NO.48 OF 2001)

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) is a regulatory authority established as a juristic person in terms of Section 3 of the National Energy Regulator Act, 2004 (Act No. 40 of 2004). The Energy Regulator's mandate is to regulate the electricity, piped-gas and petroleum pipelines industries in terms of the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 (Act No. 4 of 2006), Gas Act, 2001 (Act No. 48 of 2001) and Petroleum Pipelines Act, 2003 (Act No. 60 of 2003).

Section 28 of the Gas Act requires owners of operations involving the following activities to register such operations with the Energy Regulator:

1. production of gas;
2. importation of gas;
3. transmission of gas for own exclusive use; and
4. small biogas projects not connected to the national gas pipeline grid.

The Energy Regulator accordingly invites all owners of operations involving any of the abovementioned activities to register such operations with the Energy Regulator as required by the Gas Act.

Applications for registration of the abovementioned activities must be made in accordance with section 28 of the Gas Act, read together with rule 14 of the Gas Act Rules, 2009 using the form prescribed in Annexure G of the Rules (available on NERSA's website at www.nersa.org.za under Legislation>Piped-Gas> Piped-Gas rules (Annexure G page 75 of 88)). Any request for confidential treatment of information contained in the applications must be made in accordance with rule 4 of the Rules.

The applications (i.e. completed forms with supporting documentation) for registration must be sent to NERSA:

- by registered mail to: PO Box 40343, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0007;
- hand delivered at: Kulawula House, 526 Madiba Street, Arcadia 0083, Pretoria; or
- emailed to: pipedgas@nersa.org.za

Enquiries may be directed to Mr Thulebona Nxumalo at 012 401 4600.



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