

## STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

**SUBJECT: Hurricane Gustav**

**SITUATION REPORT # 4**

**DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, August 28, 2008, 5:00 p.m. through  
Friday, August 29, 2008, 5:00 p.m.**

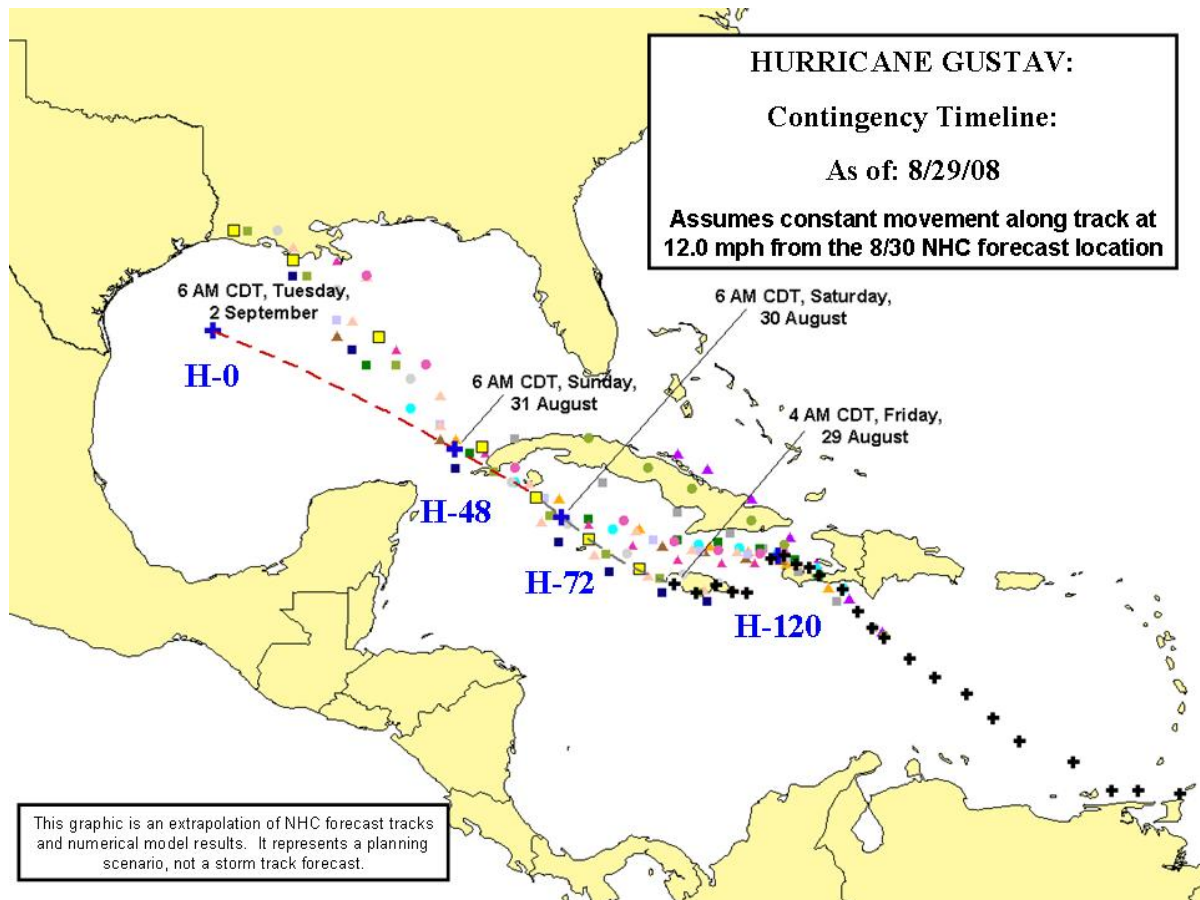
**CURRENT PRIORITIES - Prepare For:**

1. Coordination and Control Operations
2. Evacuation Operations
3. Shelter and Mass Care Operations
4. Re-entry Operations

Today's model runs clearing portray Gustav as a very unpredictable and dangerous storm. The inconsistency of the models as we approach critical decision windows (H-72 to H-36) create a high degree of uncertainty with respect to a more defined impact area and the need to pre-position critical resources to insure successful evacuation of Special Needs Citizens. What is consistent with Gustav is the clear prediction that it will be a major hurricane event (Category 3-5). Additionally, models are also indicating a trend for Gustav to make landfall, move inland and stall. This is extremely concerning given it could not only make landfall as a catastrophic hurricane, but create the conditions for a potential second catastrophic event with a stalled major rain event. Given these uncertainties the State of Texas will take the following actions: Increase the bus availability to the maximum capacity of 1350; Highly recommend that evacuating jurisdictions which have critical care facilities in surge zones take immediate steps to move critical care patients to pre-arranged facilities; Expand the Fuel Operations Group area of priority to include an area from Corpus Christi to Beaumont/Port Arthur; Begin air evacuation operations of medical special needs citizens in specific areas as early as Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>; Develop Multi-Area SAR Plan vs. a Specific/Point SAR Plan.

**CONTINGENCY TIMELINE: Changes/Adjustments From Previous: Times have changed.**

- a. H-120: Occurred at 4:00 AM, Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- b. H-72: Occurs Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, Time: 6:00 AM
- c. H-48: Occurs Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, Time: 6:00 AM
- d. H-36: Occurs Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, Time: 6:00 PM: Critical Goal To Have Special Needs Evacuations completed.
- e. H-0: Occurs Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Time: 6:00 AM. Arrival of Tropical Storm Winds.



**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS: NEW:**

- f. Contingency planning must now occur for a potential strike along the entire Texas Coast Line, with emphasis from Corpus Christi to Beaumont/Port Arthur.
- g. Pre-deployment of resources now uncertain given latest track and cone of error and the expanded area of operation.
- h. Evacuation of Special Needs Citizens as soon as feasible must occur.
- i. Landfall Upper Texas Coast: Port Lavaca to Beaumont/Port Arthur: Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Time: 10:00 PM
- j. Landfall Lower Texas Coast: Port Lavaca to Brownsville: Tuesday, September 2d: Time: Midnight.
- k. Gustav enters the Gulf as a Category 3 Hurricane. Landfall as a Category 4 /5 Hurricane.
- l. Gustav stalls after landfall and a second catastrophic incident occurs from an extended rain event.

**ACTIONS:** Texas now brings the full capability and capacity of the state to the highest level of readiness.

**SUMMARY:** State of Texas now prepares for the strike of a Category 4 Hurricane somewhere along the Texas Coast on or about Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**1. CURRENT SITUATION:** Governor Perry has declared a state of disaster as a result of Hurricane Gustav posing a threat of imminent disaster along the Texas Coast in the counties of Angelina, Aransas, Austin, Bee, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Colorado, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jasper,

Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Liberty, Lubbock, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Potter, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Smith, Starr, Tarrant, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Waller, Walker, Webb, Wharton and Willacy beginning August 27, 2008, and continuing. Governor Perry has also requested a Declaration of Emergency from the President of the United States for the same counties which was approved this afternoon.

At the request of the State of Louisiana, Texas is making preparations to shelter 10,000 Louisiana residents. These residents will be housed in shelter locations of Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock, San Angelo, San Antonio, and the Dallas Fort Worth Metro area.

A Hurricane warning remains in effect for the Cayman Islands and the Western Cuban Provinces of Isla De Juventud, Pinar Del Rio, La Habana and Ciudad De La Habana. A Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect for Jamaica and for the Central Cuban Provinces of Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego De Avila, Camaguey and Granma.

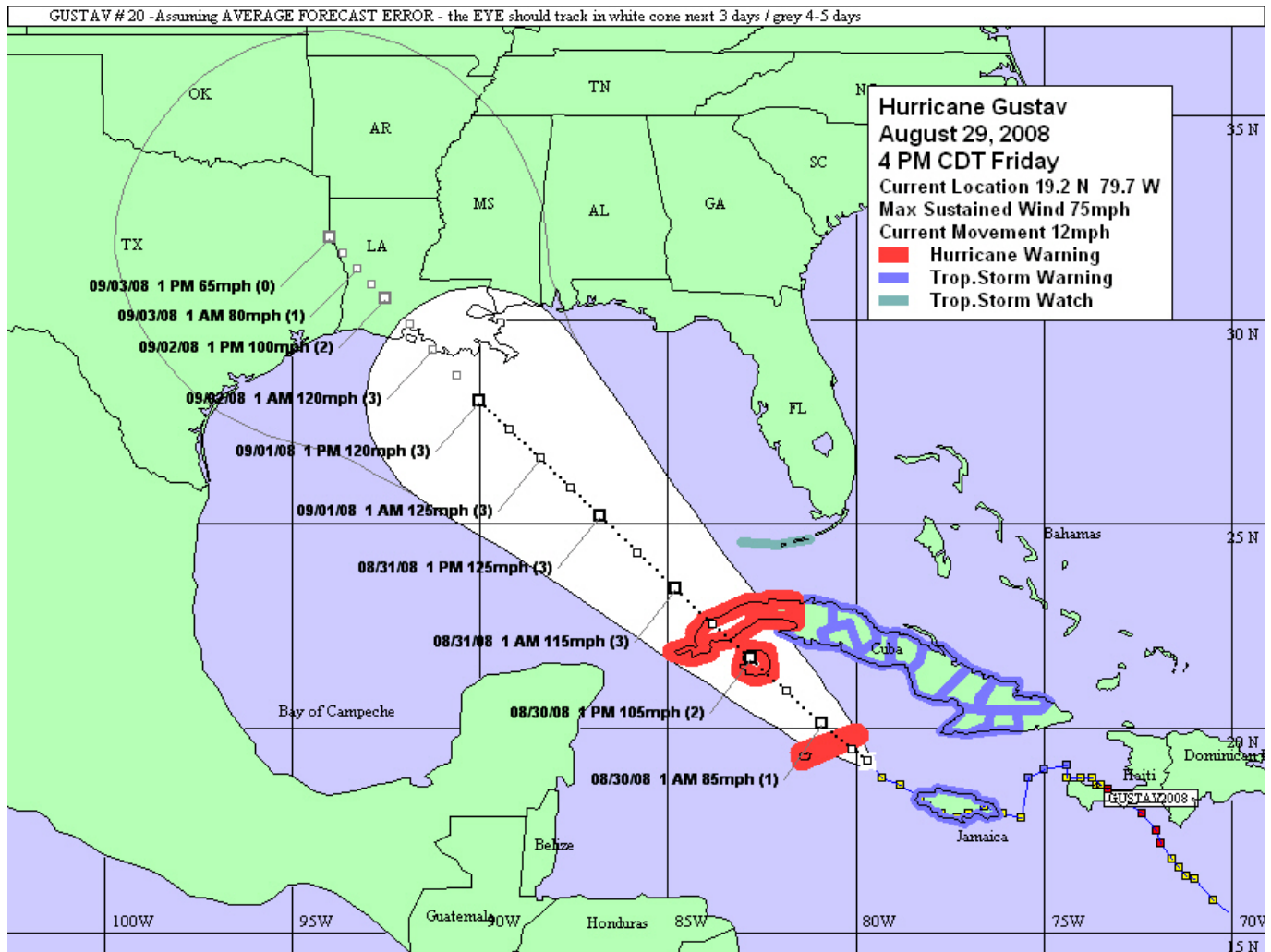
At 4:00 PM CDT, the center of Tropical Storm Gustav was located near latitude 19.2 north and longitude 79.7 west, about 100 miles east of Grand Cayman and about 380 miles east southeast of the western tip of Cuba.

Gustav is moving toward the northwest near 12 mph. A northwestern motion is expected to begin today and to continue on Saturday and Sunday. On this track the center of Gustav will pass near or over the Cayman Islands tonight, over the western portions of Cuba on Saturday and into the southern Gulf of Mexico on Saturday night or Sunday.

Data from an Airforce Reconnaissance aircraft indicates that maximum sustained winds are near 75mph with higher gusts. Strengthening is likely during the next couple of days. Gustav is expected to become a hurricane later today. Gustav could become a major hurricane before reaching western Cuba.

Tropical Storm Force winds extend outward up to 160 miles from the center.

The minimum central pressure just reported by the Air Force Reconnaissance aircraft was 980 mb or 28.94 inches of Mercury.



In preparation for possible impacts from Hurricane Gustav, the State Operations Center (SOC) began readiness conference calls on Tuesday, 26 August 2008 with Federal, State, private industry partners, volunteer organizations, and local jurisdictions. Twice daily conference calls are being conducted at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The following preparedness actions are being undertaken:

**Texas Department of Public Safety:** DDC Beaumont and DDC Corpus Christi are conducting conference calls and briefings to maintain situational awareness and to formulate activation timelines. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers are conducting safety inspections of commercial buses in advance of staging them for evacuations.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department TPWD State Parks will provide sheltering for evacuees of Gustav free of charge.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT):** TXDOT is displaying public service announcements on their dynamic message signs from Port Lavaca eastward to Beaumont/Port Arthur reminding Texans to fill up their vehicle tanks.

**Texas Forest Service:** The Lone Star State Incident Management Team has been activated and is awaiting instructions for deployment. Five Type III local government teams, led by TFS personnel, have also been activated. TFS aviation personnel have been requested to Galveston Island to assist with the possible airlift of patients from the UTMB this weekend. Additional missions to support evacuations are pending for Hardin and Orange counties, as well as Beaumont, Houston, and Texas City. TFS is assisting with planning and resource tracking at the Corpus Christi, McAllen, and San Antonio District Disaster Councils. TFS has placed an agency representative in Austin and a support person to work

with the private sector teams in coordinating commodities distribution through the Points of Distribution. The U.S. Forest Service is working with FEMA and has placed personnel in the FEMA Region VI headquarters in Denton, in addition to several planning personnel at the State Operations Center in Austin.

**Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) (Comptroller of Public Accounts):** Review of emergency contracts for commercial bus support for potential evacuation and required fuel support.

**Texas Military Forces:** TXMF will be providing eight UH-60's, three OH-58's, four C130's and 5,000 soldiers for response and re-entry operations. The TXMF is continuing to move forces to support bus staging areas, ground evacuation hubs, temporary fuel points, air evacuations hubs and ground/air SAR operations. The TXMF is also planning in support of re-entry operations (Mass Care Strike Teams Resource Staging Areas and Points of Distribution).

**Texas Engineering & Extension Service/Texas Task Force One:** TX-TF1 has begun a partial activation and mobilization of Search & Rescue assets. The ESF-9 desk at the SOC is currently staffed. The teams will begin pre-staging in College Station today and will forward stage at the Reliant Convention Center starting Sunday evening August 31st. Currently coordinating with State and Federal agencies to ensure required support personnel and equipment are available and staged for this event.

**Texas AgriLife Extension Service:** AgriLife has activated 24 AgriLife Extension agents at county offices across the upper Texas Gulf Coast to begin assessing current crop maturity, harvest and yield conditions in to benchmark pre-storm conditions and improve post storm impacts when they meet with County USDA Emergency Boards to draft damage assessments. Public household and farmstead mitigation and recovery information are available at <http://texashelp.tamu.edu> <<http://texashelp.tamu.edu/>> .

**Texas Department of State Health Services:** DSHS has placed 120 ambulances on notice to support potential special needs evacuation from home health care or private health care facilities. They are prepared to support federal special needs shelters in Tyler and Bryan/College Station and will be ready to support the same in Waco and San Antonio. DSHS is activating medical staff and coordinating with federal medical staff to be staged in San Antonio.

**Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):** HHSC has contacted all of their private contractors and received an inventory of water and ice throughout the State. HHSC has contacted their Regional Disaster Coordinators and put them on standby. They have also provided one truckload of ice and one refrigerated trailer to Alamo Area Regional Command. Also provided four truck loads of water for buses at Alamo Area Region Command San Antonio.

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ):** TDCJ is making preparation to evacuate Gist and Leblanc units. There are approximately 3300 offenders. It is expected that evacuations would begin tomorrow if needed. Buses will be staged and ready by this evening, approximately 80 buses.

The Federal Correctional Complex, Beaumont, Texas' plan is secure and will shelter in place for the approaching Hurricane (Gustav). The Complex's guidelines and procedures in the event of an emergency involving a natural disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, tropical storm, or other predetermined natural disaster are preparation, response and recovery efforts to minimize the impact of the event.

**State Fuel Coordination Team:** State Fuel Coordination Team is activated to support possible evacuation and response requirements. The team is pushing fuel to coastal areas, evacuation routes and to areas with increased demand due to emergency preparations (fueling generators and equipment).

**Public Works Response Teams (PWRT):** Identifying nationwide available resources and are working with vendors to locate needed equipment. Three state PWRT's have been alerted statewide for possible deployment. Two resource teams will provide a logistic support and staging area. LNO staffing will start

tomorrow, and a 4 person research team is on standby. PWRT is coordinating with TCEQ for potential response.

**State Shelter and Mass Care:** The Salvation Army Mass Care Coordinator, The Red Cross Mass Care Coordinator and the HHSC ice and water coordinator have been provided a preliminary list of available USDA commodities. Mass Care agencies are working with the Texas Animal Health Commission on any animal issues.

**Alamo Area Regional Command:** Will be providing a logistic support and staging area. A reception center has been established, for commercial buses. DPS safety inspections continue. Shelters for the general public and shelters for responders have been established and FEMA representatives are scheduled to arrive this evening.

**South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC):** Has set up an ambulance staging area and is coordinating with DSHS and the MACC for medical special needs evacuations.

**Deaf Link:** Will provide AHAS/AHAS-IN services for NOAA weather alerts affecting Texas. Disseminated Geo targeted AHAS emergency informational alerts for the City of Beaumont to educate/inform Persons with Disabilities about Assembly Sites Designated In Case of Evacuation. Initiated contact with TV stations within the affected areas to secure support for airing AHAS information/alerts for Texans with Disabilities. Successfully test connected with Deaf Link's Communication Center for Remote Interpreter Access to insure interpreter availability for any and all Press Conferences in the SOC.

**2-1-1 Texas:** is receiving and recording requests for assistance with evacuation to be provided to the local jurisdictions.

**Coach USA:** Activated up to 1300 commercial buses to support potential special needs evacuation requirements.

**Dallas County School District:** Provided 150 school buses to be used for evacuations.

**Texas Department of Family Protective Services:** DFPS issued instructions for offices and personnel in the vulnerable areas to protect agency assets, get critical equipment and records off the floor and evacuate as instructed. Communication protocols have been initiated to stay in contact with staff and clients. DFPS San Antonio Region 8 team is on stand-by to provide support to special needs shelter. The DFPS Evacuation Hotline will be activated Saturday morning and monitored by CPS Staff. The Hurricane section of the DFPS public website (<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us>) is updated. The section includes information for DFPS clients and staff. Information will include contact information for clients. In addition, protocols for staff to stay in contact with the agency will be included. Emergency plans for the affected areas have been updated with planned coordination for support from other areas of the agency if needed. DFPS sent out formal communications to Foster Families and residential facilities. Individual contact with foster families include advising them to follow their evacuation plans and notifying DFPS when they arrive at their destination.

**Baptist Child and Family Services:** A mobile 500 bed special needs facility is on standby to assist. A Medical Special Needs shelter is being established in Tyler.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** FEMA Region VI RRCC is operating 24/7 and all ESF representatives and partners are activated. The predesignated Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for Texas and the Region's VI Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) is co-located with DEM in Austin standing by ready to assist as necessary.

Local elected officials and organizations are identifying predetermined unmet needs to more effectively prepare for evacuations and other protective measures.

2. **AREAS AFFECTED BY EVENT:** Texas Gulf Coast – Primarily Jefferson, Hardin, Orange and Chambers Counties.
3. **RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES COMMITTED:**

State agencies, private sector partners, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster and local jurisdictions are identifying and inventorying all necessary assets to prepare for and respond to the potential for a major hurricane strike on the Texas Gulf Coast.

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Resources Committed</b>
Texas Military Forces (TMF)	7500 Personnel 8 UH-60's 3 OH-58's 4 C130's
Texas Task Force 1 (TTF1)	1 Search and Rescue Overhead Team 1 Joint Air Ground Coordination Team TTF1 Urban Search and Rescue Type 1 & 3 Teams 10 Swift Water Teams 6 Helicopter Specialists Liaison Officers ESF9 Search & Rescue (SAR) Coordination Center
Texas Task Force 2 (TTF2)	TTF2 Urban Search & Rescue Type 3 Team
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	120 ambulances
Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)	Preparing PSA on dynamic message signs
State Fuel Team	State Fuel Coordination Team
Public Works Response Team (PWPT)	Two resource teams to the State Operations Center
Alamo Area Regional Command	Logistic support and staging area
Coach USA	1300 Commercial Busses
Baptist Child & Family Services	1 500 bed Facility
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	10 Captains 7 Boat mates LE Communications Trailer 83 Game Wardens 14 Airboats 20 Riverboats 6 Fuel Trailers
Dallas School District	150 School Buses

4. **Evacuations:** None currently.
5. **COMMENTS:**

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is monitoring the situation and will issue additional reports as necessary. The SOC is activated at Level I (Emergency Conditions) to support Tropical Storm/Hurricane Gustav response operations. The SOC conducted conference calls at 10:30 a.m. and again at 4:30 p.m., today with local, State, and Federal agencies. The next conference call is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., on August 30, 2008.

**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 DEM Homepage at [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem)*

Jack Colley  
Chief, Emergency Management Division