

Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



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After the Storm

Hurricane Harvey prompts early launch of Texas Sea Grant's Community Resilience Collaborative (CRC)



"Hundreds of Texas communities cannot afford to hire their own city planner. The CRC gives these communities access to a no-cost resource and links them to the best available science." - Pamela Plotkin, Director of Texas Sea Grant



After the Storm

As Hurricane Harvey approached the Texas coast and the rain began falling, [Texas Sea Grant](#) mobilized to help address immediate needs of coastal communities—establishing a [recovery resources webpage](#), sharing life-saving information via social media and funding rapid research. As severe storms will continue to threaten Texas' communities and economies in the future, Texas Sea Grant is increasing its efforts to help communities develop more robust and long-term plans and practices that will increase their resilience.

These efforts include the launch of the [Community Resilience Collaborative \(CRC\)](#), a research- and extension-based program that provides planning assistance to coastal communities that suffered impacts from Hurricane Harvey, particularly those that are low-capacity, low-resource and underrepresented.

The CRC's efforts have been recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the agency's [Mitigation Best Practices Portfolio](#). One of the most popular CRC resources highlighted in FEMA's Best Practices is the [Texas Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Natural Hazards](#), which includes general information about tropical storms and describes ways to build or retrofit a home to make it more resistant to wind and rain.

Since Harvey, Texas Sea Grant staff have already distributed about 7,500 copies of the handbook to 30 FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers and 7 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension county offices around the state, and to the FEMA Joint Field Office in Austin.

Read more about Texas Sea Grant's Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts in the Spring 2018 issue of *Texas Shores*.

FEMA Mitigation Best Practices - CRC Highlight (PDF download)

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