

Lake Houston Area Damages As a Result of Hurricane Harvey

In the Lake Houston area, as a result of Hurricane Harvey:

- At least eleven people died.
- FEMA received more than 16,000 claims from residents and 3,300 from businesses.
- Harris County Flood Control documented more than [5,500 damaged structures](#) in the Humble and Kingwood areas alone. Note: One structure, such as an apartment complex, might include hundreds of people or multiple businesses.
- One year after the flood, only half of the residents who flooded were back in fully repaired homes.
- City of Houston estimates Lake Houston area damages to be “in the billions.”
- Growth rate in Humble ISD slowed from 6% to 1%.
- City of Houston estimates Lake Houston area tax revenues were reduced 20-30 percent.
- Humble ISD documented \$97.5 million in damages to four facilities.
- Kingwood High School closed for 7 months; 4000 students had to be bused to another high school more than an hour away the entire time. Repair costs topped \$60 million.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began an emergency \$70 million dredging project that covered just two of thirteen miles surrounding Kingwood. Sixteen months after Harvey, the project was 20% complete.
- 44 percent of all Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce businesses were adversely affected (100% of Kingwood businesses within certain areas up to 1.5 miles from the San Jacinto River).
- Union Pacific Railroad had to replace its bridge, disrupting northbound rail traffic for weeks.
- TxDOT had to replace part of the I-69 bridge for more than \$20 million. All northbound I-69 traffic in and out of Houston was delayed hours each day for 10 months.
- Memorial Hermann’s new 45,000 sf Convenient Care Center in Kingwood was destroyed days before opening. Repairs took 15 months.
- Lone Star College lost 6 of its 9 buildings in Kingwood. The school won’t be fully operational until mid-January of 2019. Repairs cost taxpayers \$60 million.
- Kingwood’s library closed for more than eight months.
- Two local parks were inundated with sand; some dunes exceed up to 15 feet in height. Repairs cost approximately \$400,000.

The amount of damage directly attributable to sand mining is impossible to determine. However, the Army Corps of Engineers determined that blockages such as the one below exacerbated flooding.

