

Community Flood Resiliency Task Force

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Resiliency Hub Basics



Introduction

Resiliency Hub Basics

- Problem: Storms, power outages, & a hidden danger
- What is a Resiliency Hub
- Key Elements of a HubWhy Resiliency Hubs?
- Why Resiliency Hubs?
- Resiliency Hub Network
- What Resiliency Hubs Don't Do
- Resiliency Hubs in Houston

The Problem

Storms, Power Outages, & a Hidden Danger

- The Obvious Problems with Storms & Power Outages:
 - Home damage, businesses shut down, major life disruptions
- The Hidden Problem: **Deaths after the storm/power outages**
 - Power Outages have become one of the leading causes of disaster-related death in the Gulf Coast region.
 - Examples: 19 of 31 deaths in Hurricane Laura (Aug 2020); 700 deaths in Texas alone in Winter Storm Uri (Feb 2021); and 30 of 36 deaths in Hurricane Ida (Aug 2021).
 - **Most deaths happen 5 to 7 days after the storm**
 - **Why? heat stress, unpowered medical equipment, unattended vulnerable people**



What is a Resiliency Hub?

- A Resiliency Hub is a **Facility** owned and operated by an existing **Organization** which provides a **space** and **relief services** to a community during a storm and/or power outage.
 - **Facility:** A church or other actively-used building
 - **Organization:** Church; non-profit; union; individual home
 - **Space:** Heated/cooled; powered by solar; kitchen facility
 - **Preparation:** Org maintains data on neighborhood, including Vulnerable populations, and resources to tap into.
 - **Relief Services:** water; food; power; first aid; transportation
- Known as **Community Lighthouses** in Louisiana, where there are over 20 already statewide.

▸ Key Elements of Resiliency Hub

- **Facility/Space:** Large or small heat/cooled area; solar powered (also gas generators)
- **Organization:** Financially-viable organization with a willing and able volunteer group
- **Planning/Preparation:**
 - Canvas neighborhood (identify vulnerable community, other relief resources in area to team with)
 - Maintain inventory of relief supplies
 - Keep active list of volunteers for before and during storm

Resiliency Hubs Key Elements



The Space



Power



Organization and Preparation

Why Resiliency Hubs?

- Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Vulnerable Community Known
- Immediate Relief
- Possible Transportation
- Communication Hub
- Resource Hub



What Resiliency Hubs Don't Do

- Replace Large Centralized Relief Centers
- Cost Tax-Payer Money
- Provide Permanent Relief or Housing

Resiliency Hubs in Houston

Current Hub Status

- Existing:
 - Hub Homes:
 - West Street Recovery organization maintain 6 home hub homes in NE Houston and 1 in SE Houston
 - Hub homes are a small version of Resiliency Hubs often in individual's homes
 - County Facilities: Harris County maintains multiple facilities with independent power (gas-powered generators), which are similar to Hubs.
- TMO:
 - Funded and Started: New Pleasant Grove (Kashmere Gardens)
 - Others in Planning: Bay Area UU; First UU
 - More Churches willing with funding



Resiliency Hubs in Houston

Future Possibilities

- Possible Inclusion in Flood Resilience Plan:
 - Profile Current Resiliency Hubs
 - Provide a “Hub Network Plan”
 - Coordinate Existing Hubs
 - Propose Network which “fills gaps” in vulnerable areas
- Offer funding options
 - County Funding: County Candidates’ Officials Commitment
 - Private Foundations
 - Take advantage of “solar deals”

Questions

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