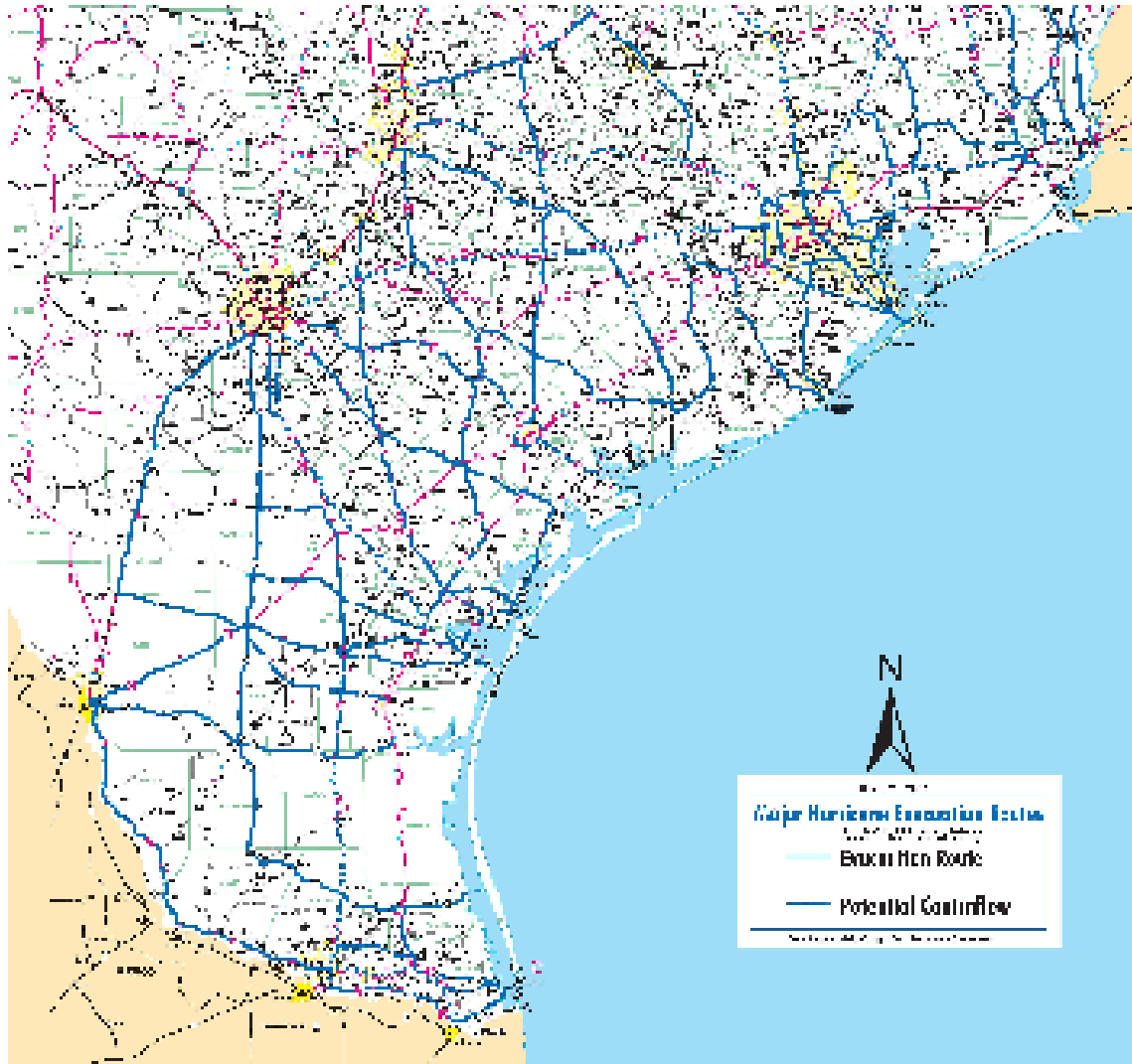


# Evacuating to Safety

## All Coastal Areas



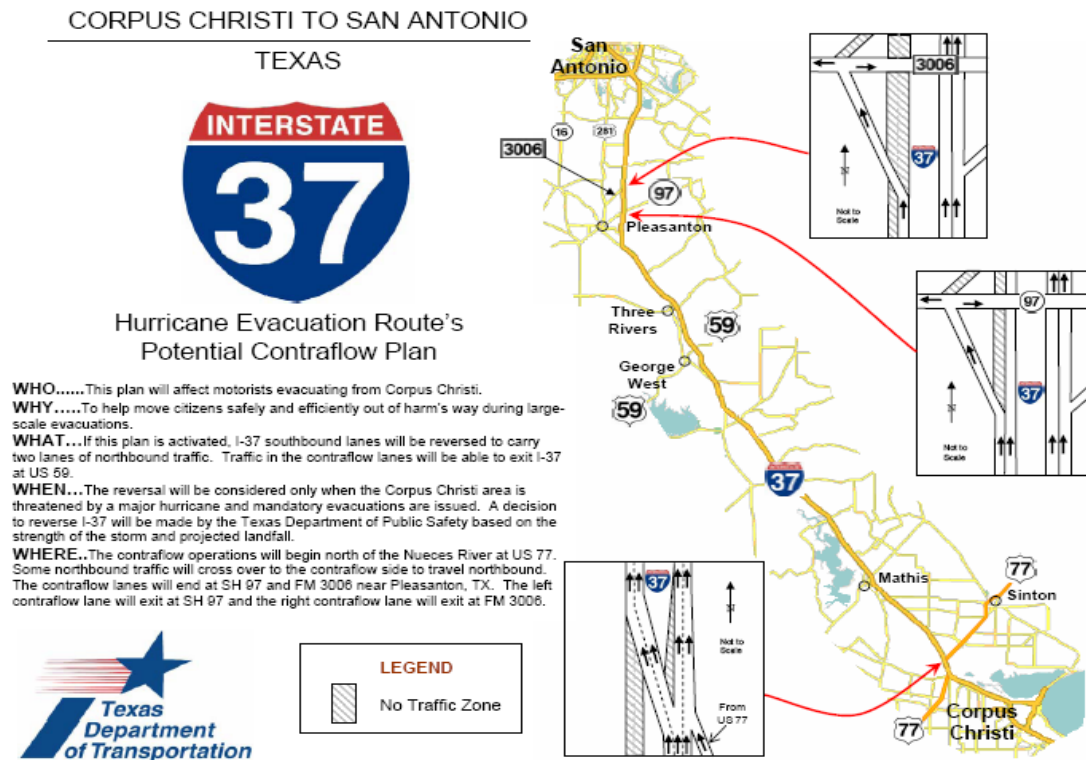
## Preparing to Evacuate

- Find out if your home is in an evacuation zone by viewing evacuation zone maps or by calling 2-1-1 and speaking with an operator.
- If you live along the coast, keep your gas tank full and have a family plan.
- Ensure your vehicle is ready for the trip and you have packed your [emergency kit](#).
- Know your evacuation routes and take a map with you.
- Your mayor or county judge will make the call for your jurisdiction to evacuate.

- Local officials will stagger the evacuation to keep traffic moving. Wait your turn to leave.
- Secure your home before leaving. Take your pets with you.

## Evacuation Maps

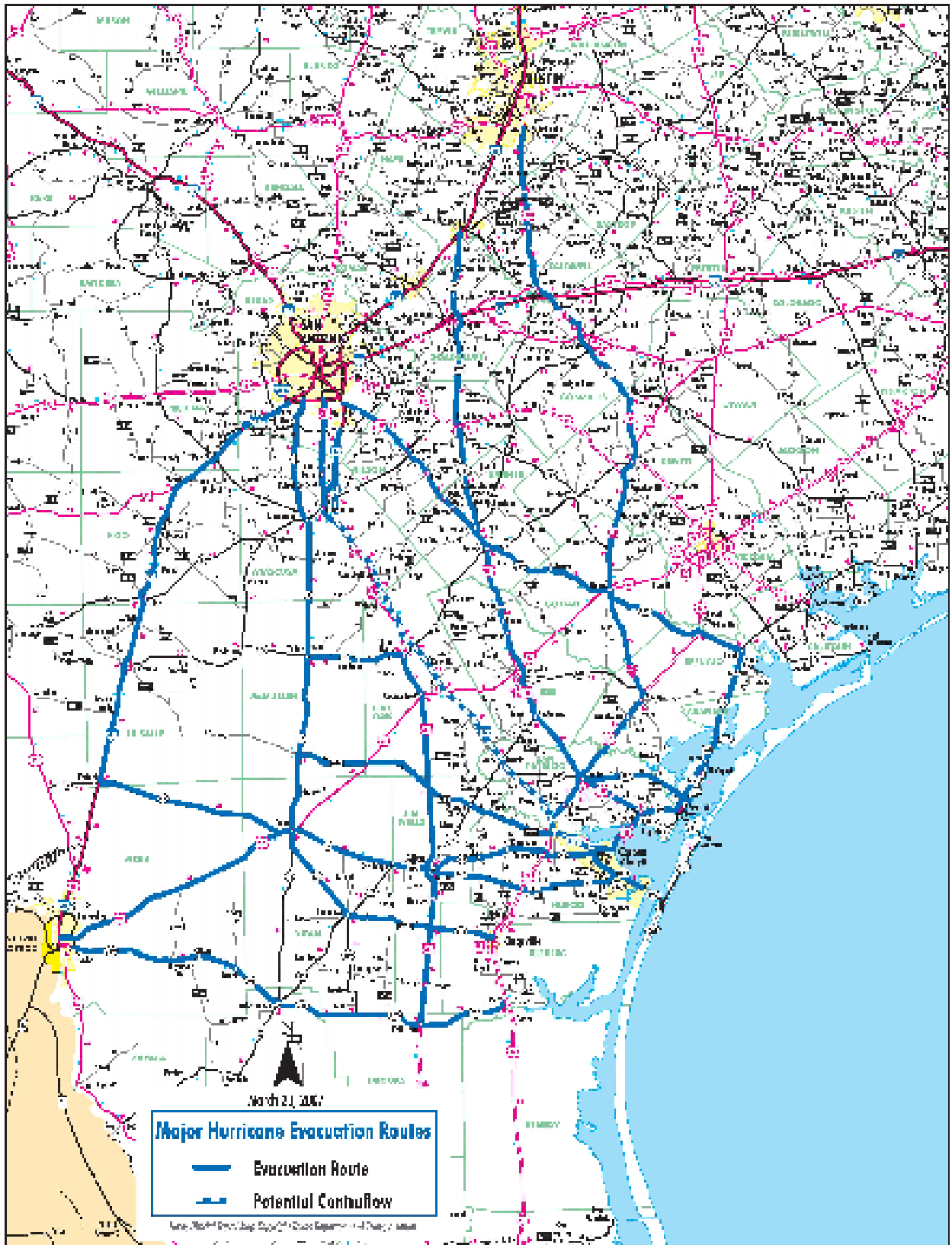
The Texas Department of Transportation has published the following printable tri-fold evacuation guides. Choose and download the one for your area.



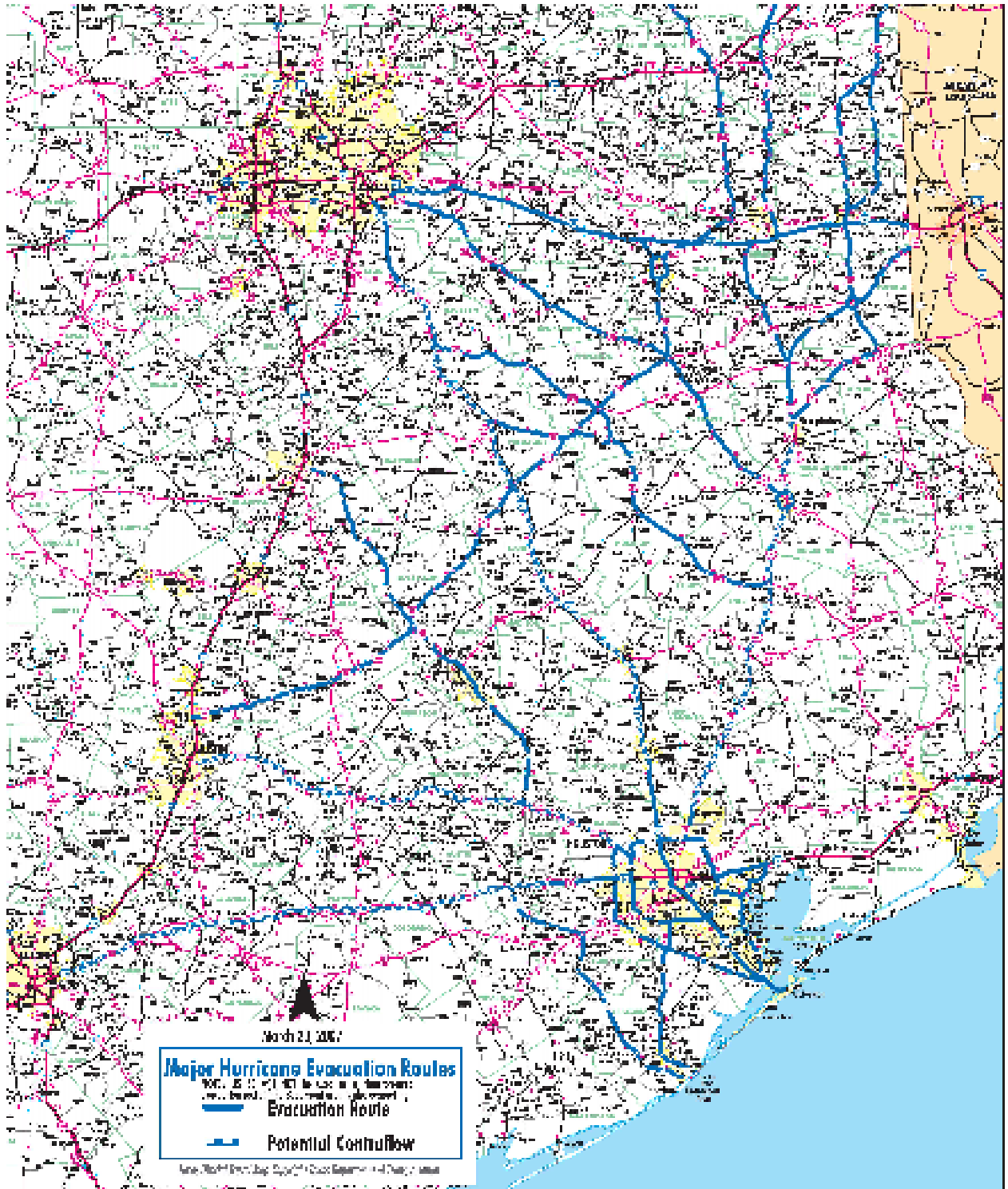
- 
- [IH 45 ½ Houston to Dallas](#) (2 pages / 138 KB)
- [IH 10 ½ Houston to San Antonio](#) (2 pages / 128 KB)
- [US 290 ½ Houston to Austin, Bryan, College Station, Waco](#) (2 pages / 112 KB)
- [US 59 ½ Houston to Nacogdoches](#) (2 pages / 100 KB)
- [IH 37 ½ Corpus Christi to San Antonio](#) (2 pages / 117 KB)

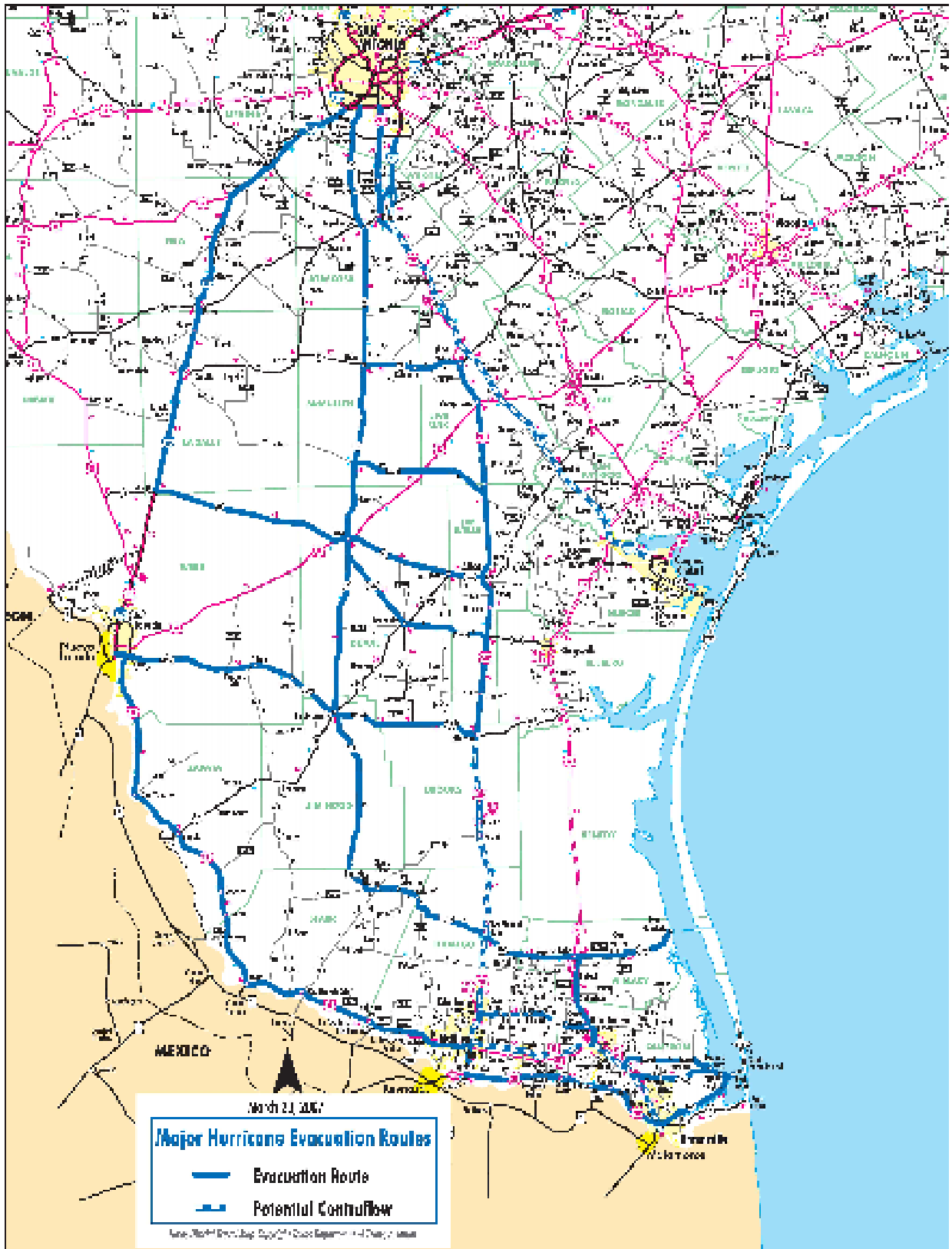
The Texas Department of Transportation has published Maps of Major Hurricane Evacuation Routes that cover the following Texas coastal areas:

# Corpus Christi

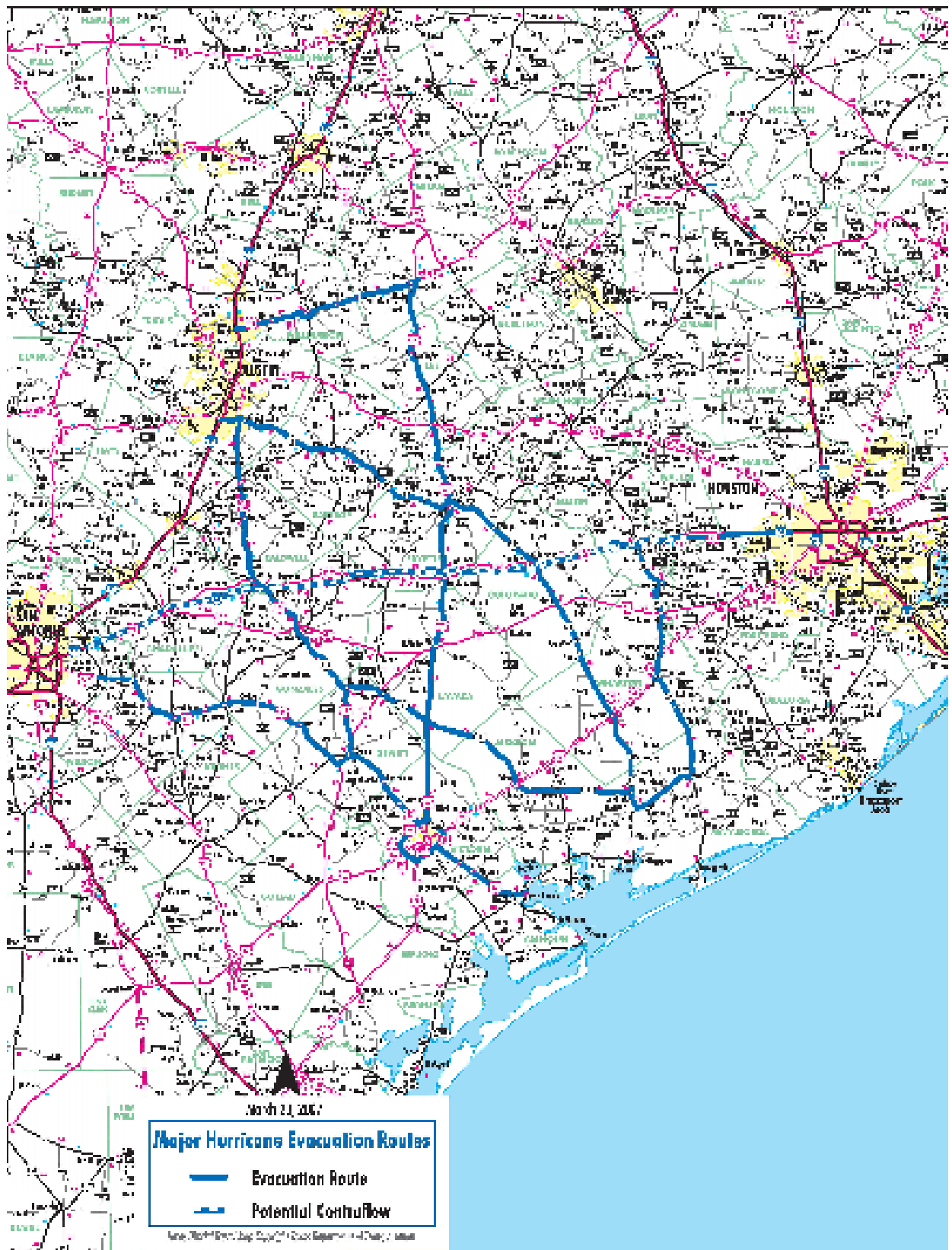


# Houston





# Yoakum



## Along the Way

- To view road conditions on Texas highways, visit TxDOT's [Road Conditions web site](#).
- Tune in: Listen to local radio or television for evacuation information.
- Take only one vehicle to help lessen congestion and fuel demand.
- Don't trailer boats or campers. If you need to get them away from the coast, leave earlier.
- Don't carry extra fuel. It's dangerous.
- Carry an [emergency kit](#) in your car.
- Motorists should turn off their ignition when stopped for a long time in traffic.

## Fuel

- During hurricane season, coastal residents should never operate their vehicles with less than half a tank of fuel.
- Motorists should fill their tanks before evacuating.
- TxDOT has worked with the private sector (Texas Oil and Gas Association and the Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association) to assure maximum-possible fuel availability during an evacuation.
- Should fuel supplies become low, evacuees should look for TxDOT signs indicating key fuel locations.
- TxDOT courtesy vehicles will be patrolling major evacuation routes.

## Key Telephone Numbers

- The number to call for road conditions on state highways is 1-800-452-9292.
- If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- For information on evacuation routes, shelters and special needs transportation, call 2-1-1.

## Where to Go

Decide early where you will go when a hurricane threatens and make preparations. Your general objective should be to move away from the coast and well inland.

- If you want to stay at a hotel or motel, make reservations as soon as possible. If you've previously stayed somewhere that was satisfactory, call that place.
- For major cities, the local Convention and Visitors Center can usually provide you information on hotels and motels; many Convention and Visitor Centers can also be accessed through the Internet. In smaller towns, the local Chamber of Commerce can generally tell you what accommodations are available locally.

- If you plan to stay with family or friends, call them in advance so they may plan for your arrival. If your plans change, be sure to inform the person with whom you intended to stay so that they don't worry.
- Let your family and friends know where you can be reached.
- Make sure you choose an alternative destination in the event you are unable to get to your first choice.

## **Shelters**

Public shelters provide temporary housing for evacuees. Most shelters do not have beds or cots, so you will probably be sleeping on the floor. So pack as if you were going camping. Bring:

- Sleeping pads or air mattresses
- Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person
- Robe & shower shoes
- Books, cards, games and QUIET toys for children
- Note that alcoholic beverages, weapons, and drugs are not allowed in public shelters.

## **Re-Entry**

- Return only after the all-clear is given for your area.
- Do not venture onto roads until you have been advised that they are passable and safe.
- TxDOT will post staggered re-entry maps on [TexasOnline.com](https://www.texas.gov)

# Getting Assistance for Special Needs

## Call 2-1-1 If You Need a Ride

If you are a Texan who lives in an evacuation zone and you require special assistance to evacuate during a storm including the elderly, people with disabilities, or those who simply will need a ride call 2-1-1 to register for a ride. Information can be provided in almost any language including Spanish. Assistance also available for emergencies, food, housing and shelter, education, legal, childcare, physical and mental health, financial assistance, and transportation.

Operators have been specially trained to take your basic, confidential information so that you can get to safety when a storm threatens the coast. Register well in advance of a storm by calling 2-1-1 (in Texas), or 1-888-312-4567 TODAY.

After a storm [Register for Disaster Assistance](#) with the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#). Register for aid to help FEMA direct the necessary resources to you and your area.

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the speech and hearing impaired

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## Tips for Texans with Disabilities or Special Healthcare Needs

Create a support network by making a list of family, friends, co-workers, personal attendants, service providers and others who can be part of your [emergency plan](#). Choose at least three people in each location where you spend time, such as home, school and your workplace.

Work with your support network to create a personal [emergency plan](#) not only for hurricanes but for all hazards that can impact your community, from a neighborhood fire to a major disaster of any kind. You should have a different plan for places you spend time regularly: home, work or school. Remember to include strategies you already use to deal with power outages, or transportation delays or breakdowns.

Learn about emergency exits in your school or office building and be sure you have at least two ways to get out of your home in an emergency. Discuss emergency exits and plans with officials in your school or workplace.

If local officials call for a hurricane evacuation, consider whether you want to shelter with friends and family, and how that would work for you. Also consider how a shelter designated for the public would meet your needs.

Make sure you and members of your support network have a list of contact information for everyone in the network, along with names of your doctors and other service care providers.

Make sure you have alternate ways to communicate if phones are not working (such as an assigned meeting place, use of pagers, e-mail or other technology that does not depend on phone lines). In case telephones and cell towers are not operational, you may want to make a list of contact information on paper that you normally store in electronic devices.

For individuals who use relay services, there are several options: dialing 7-1-1 (nationwide - landline), captioned telephone (CapTel), Internet-enabled relay service (Internet Relay and Video Relay Service - Internet). Individuals who have wireless notebooks, pagers or PDA can call Internet Relay Services.

Ask yourself what resources you rely on regularly and determine how a hurricane, electric power outages, lack of air conditioning or refrigeration might affect your access and ability to use them. This checklist can help.

Do you use communication devices?

- Do you depend on accessible transportation to get to school, work, medical, appointments or to other places in your community?
- Do you receive medical treatments (e.g. dialysis) or self-administer treatments such as glucose testing and insulin shots on a regular basis?
- Do your medications need refrigeration?
- Do you need assistance with personal care?
- Do you rely on equipment depending electricity or other special medical equipment?
- Do you use mobility or daily living aids such as a walker, cane, wheelchair, scooter, bath safety or other bathroom products, dressing aids, drinking straws, etc.?
- If you have a service animal, do you know the plans in your city and state regarding service animals? Do you know what you will need to bring with your service animal; ½ such as food and feeding bowls, identification tags, veterinary contact information, and proof of vaccinations.

In addition to a basic [emergency kit](#), you may need the following items in your emergency kit:

Medical equipment and assistive devices (glasses, hearing aid, catheters, augmentative communication devices, cane, wheelchair, scooter, walker, dressing aids, oxygen, tubing, feeding supplies, drinking straws, etc.) Label each with your name and contact information. Be sure to have extra batteries and chargers

- List of model numbers or serial numbers of medical devices and equipment
- Medical alert tags or bracelets and written description of your disability-related or health care conditions
- Medications and copies of all prescriptions, including a list of the prescription name, dosage, frequency, doctor and pharmacist. Also consider if medications need to be refrigerated and if so, bring a cooler with an ice pack or other coolant system
- Special hygiene supplies such as absorbent pads
- Phone numbers and names of your physicians or other health care providers
- Supplies for a service animal including food, identification tags, proof of up-to-date vaccinations and veterinarian contact

## **Prepare Your Vehicle**

- Fill up with gasoline before you leave town. It's smart to keep your tank full during hurricane season.
- Check your vehicle's fluid levels and ensure there is adequate coolant in the radiator.
- Don't forget your tires. Check for proper air pressure because hot road surfaces are rough on tires. Be sure that your spare tire has air and that you have the proper equipment to change your

tire. Ensure you have a jack and lug wrench in your vehicle and know where they are in the vehicle. Your owner's manual should have instructions for changing tires and flats.

- Make sure to carry water and non-perishable food for you and your passengers in case you become stranded.
- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicles and use emergency flashers. Tie a white cloth on antenna or door handle and raise the hood.
- Carry a cell phone. You may need assistance. DPS help line is 1-800-525-5555 or \*DPS (on certain wireless carriers).
- Have a working flashlight and extra batteries in your vehicle.

## **Have an Emergency Kit**

Having emergency supplies on hand in easy-to-carry containers will serve you well no matter what kind of hazard or emergency you may face. Supplies should include:

- Non-perishable food
- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Cash (remember that ATMs may be unavailable)
- First-aid kit
- Prescription medications and copies of prescriptions
- Special medical items, such as eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Toilet paper and other personal hygiene products
- Photo identification
- Copies of important documents and records, information to process insurance claims. Maintain in a waterproof container.
- Battery-operated radio, flashlight, batteries, NOAA weather radio
- Road maps
- List of phone numbers of family and friends
- Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags
- Pet supplies
- If there is a baby, include formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications, baby wipes, and diaper rash ointment.
- If you have a disability or have special healthcare needs, you may require additional items.

Further Reading:

<http://texashelp.tamu.edu/002-protect/PreparingfortheunexpectedBook.pdf>