



NEWS RELEASE
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**HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY URGES ITS RESIDENTS TO BE READY
AS TROPICAL STORM ALEX GAINS STRENGTH**

*Housing Authority providing families, elderly, persons with disabilities,
and other residents hurricane preparedness tips as the storm approaches*

HOUSTON—As Tropical Storm Alex moves toward the Gulf Coast the Houston Housing Authority is closely monitoring the storm's path and working to prepare thousands of its families, elderly and other residents.

"Although Tropical Storm Alex is not expected to strike Houston at this point, it is a good reminder that we all need to be ready during hurricane season" said Timothy Seckinger, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of the Houston Housing Authority. "We are urging residents to monitor the local forecast because it is still unclear exactly where Tropical Storm Alex will make landfall."

The Houston Housing Authority is urging residents to prepare by offering the following hurricane preparedness tips which are useful at any time during the hurricane season:

- 1. Prepare a 72-hour emergency kit.** Stock up on at least a 3-day supply of water and canned goods, battery-operated radio, flashlights and extra batteries, and other necessities. Don't forget to store more special-need items such as medications, baby diapers, and contact lenses, and a first-aid kit.
- 2. Make a plan and discuss it with your family, employer, and property manager.** The decision to evacuate or not should be planned in advance and discussed with family members, work supervisors, and property managers. Houston Housing Authority residents are asked to fill out forms at property management offices to indicate if they plan to evacuate, and to report any special health needs and update emergency contact information.
- 3. Call 2-1-1 to register for evacuation transportation if needed in case of a disaster.** The helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help individuals in need of evacuation help, especially persons with disabilities.
- 4. Securely store outdoor furniture, hanging plants, garbage cans, toys, and other items on porches or balconies.** Severe storms bring strong winds that can launch outdoor items in the air, possibly harming people or damaging cars and homes.
- 5. Write down direct phone numbers to emergency responders.** 9-1-1 should be called first in case of an emergency, but 9-1-1 operators may be overloaded in case of a disaster. Keep a list of phone numbers to the nearest fire stations, law enforcement units—whether HPD, sheriff or constables—to reach them directly if needed.

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes to more than 55,000 people throughout Houston. The agency and its affiliates own and operate 25 housing communities with

more than 6,500 units for families, elderly and other residents. More information about HHA can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

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