

# Important Information for Residents of Bolivar Peninsula

## **Galveston-Port Bolivar Ferry:**

Access to communities on the Bolivar Peninsula via the Bolivar Ferry is not available to the general public due to unsafe conditions at the landings in Port Bolivar. The Texas Department of Transportation estimates it could be 3 – 6 months to complete repairs and resume normal transport operations.

## **Rollover Pass Bridge:**

The bridge over Rollover Pass along Highway 87 has been damaged and currently has only one lane open to passenger vehicles no wider than 12 feet. Law enforcement officials will be directing traffic at Rollover Pass. The Texas Department of Transportation plans to begin emergency repairs to the bridge which should allow 2-way traffic on the bridge in 2 – 3 weeks. Thereafter they will begin construction to restore the bridge. Construction efforts may continue for months to complete repairs.

## **Debris Removal:**

Galveston County has a contract with Crowder-Gulf for the removal of hurricane generated storm debris. The County Road and Bridge crews are currently clearing county roads. The Texas Department of Transportation has cleared State Highway 87 from High Island to Port Bolivar. However, Highway 87 remains treacherous and extreme caution should be used when traveling. As you begin to clean your property, keep in mind that the removal process will go faster if debris is properly separated. Construction debris (lumber, sheetrock, boards, etc.), woody/vegetative debris (tree limbs, branches, etc), white goods (appliances), household garbage, and all hazardous materials/chemicals should each be separated in distinct piles in the county right of way. Debris must be placed on the county right of way to ensure removal. The debris removal process will begin as soon as the logistical issues of access and transportation have been resolved.

## **Water/Sewer Services:**

Bolivar Peninsula Special Utility District has a goal of providing water to the west end of the peninsula in 60 days. Water has been restored to High Island. They will sequentially provide water down the peninsula, first to the Gulf Haven pumping station adjacent to Dirty Pelican Pier. They will install temporary flex pipe over Rollover Pass because the main line was broken. Water to subdivisions will remain shut off to maintain overall system pressure. They will be capping off service lines to individual homes throughout this process. The BPSUD has opened a temporary office site in Winnie adjacent to Winnie Feed and Supply at 524 FM 1406. Extended office hours will be announced within the next few days and the telephone number will be announced on the BPSUD website at: [www.bpsud.com](http://www.bpsud.com) once it is installed.

## **Electricity:**

Entergy is dedicated to restoration of power to the Bolivar Peninsula and may have power to High Island by late October. You will need to contact your provider to determine time frames for restoration to other areas. Entergy continues to inspect and troubleshoot their substations and equipment, and to mobilize additional resources in to our area.

## **High Island Independent School District:**

Officials with High Island ISD are continuing to make repairs to damages incurred during Hurricane Ike. They are confident that school will re-open in High Island. Tentative plans are to restore classes and student activities by October 6th. At this time, bus arrangements are being made so that HIISD students living in Winnie can be transported to the High Island School. Ice, water and MREs continue to be available in the High Island ISD football field parking lot. Additionally, tetanus shots, hand sanitizer, mosquito spray and basic first aid services are available at this location.

## **Permitting Requirements for Construction:**

Initially Three categories of Hurricane Ike structure damage will be used from the drive by damage assessment. This only applies to areas within the FEMA 100 year floodplain known as A or V zones.

Category:     1       No damage

Category: 2 Non-substantial damage (some damage)

Category: 3 Potential Substantial damage

Category 1: No action, Power will be released as requested.

Category 2: If it can be determined from the drive by that a structure has non-substantial damage the county will issue a permit for repair to pre Ike conditions and release permanent power. A permit will be required at no charge.

Category 3: If a structure is potentially substantially damaged (50% or more of market value-for uniformity GCAD value will be used for market value) a detail inspection has to be done to determine if in fact it is substantially damaged. If it is substantially damaged the homeowner will need to submit plans showing the structure will be reconstructed to the current elevation requirement. The flood plain elevation requirement varies depending on where the property is located. Due to the high number of category 3 structures it could take 3 to 6 weeks to complete the detail inspections for the Mainland portion of Galveston County.

All structures on Bolivar Peninsula will require a new Health District septic permit or Health District clearance before a building permit can be issued. If substantial damage didn't occur the structure will be classified as Category 2 and a repair permit will be issued and power released.

All GLO issues will need to be cleared before building permits can be issued for Bolivar Peninsula in areas within 1000 feet of mean high water.

All unincorporated areas of Galveston County not within the FEMA 100 year floodplain are not subject to the above rules and will not need a permit to repair or reconstruct and permanent electric power will be released if requested. These are known as B & C Zones.

**THE ABOVE RULES DO NOT APPLY TO BOLIVAR PENINSULA UNTIL THE COMMISSIONERS COURT DECIDES ON HOW AND WHEN THE INSPECTION & PERMITTING SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED TO THAT AREA.**

**FEMA Disaster Assistance:**

Everyone is encouraged to register with FEMA if you have incurred damages resulting from Hurricane Ike. You can register in person at a Disaster Recovery Center, on-line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), or by phone at (800) 621-FEMA (3362). Housing and hotel information are also available at their website. Answers to frequently asked questions regarding disaster assistance can be found at: [www.fema.gov/assistance/dafaq.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/assistance/dafaq.shtm).

**Missing Persons Information:**

For help finding a missing loved one or friend, check on-line at [www.safeandwell.org](http://www.safeandwell.org).

**For the most current information available, visit the Guidry News website at:  
[www.guidrynews.com](http://www.guidrynews.com)**