

# Information for Congregations in Response to Houston Region Floods

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Houston experienced historic flooding on Monday April 18, 2016. The watershed system is still feeling the impact and in some places water continues to rise. The estimate is that 1,000 or more homes have been impacted in Harris County alone along with impact in the surrounding counties.

Watershed info: [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org) (Harris County Flood Control District)

Red Cross is operating several shelters in the area.

<https://redcrosstexasgulfcoast.wordpress.com/2016/04/18/red-cross-opens-shelters-across-state-of-texas/>

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

As areas become accessible, many organizations and government entities will be assessing the damage and organizing help. If appropriate, the Texas Governor's office will seek a federal disaster declaration.

Neighbors will begin to help neighbors and clean-up will begin.

Through Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, networks of congregations will coordinate together to maximize the efforts of volunteers and resources. u

For those most vulnerable and most impacted, non-profit entities will support Long Term Recovery efforts to bridge gaps in recovery.

## WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Red Cross needs volunteers to help staff shelters. They will train on-site. Visit [redcross.org/volunteer](http://redcross.org/volunteer) or call 713.313.5491.

CHECK ON vulnerable neighbors. Help them be aware of people that don't have the best of intentions. Disasters bring out the best in people but they also bring out the scammers. Voluntary agencies will **never** ask for money to provide relief.

CONNECT with the congregations in your area. The best response is the response that happens at the very local level, neighborhood by neighborhood.

SUPPORT your denominational or preferred disaster response organization efforts with your financial contributions. Recovery from major disaster is a long-term effort and resources to help make that happen are always appreciated.