

OmegaDeltaPhi Fraternity, Inc.



In what is being hailed as a deluge of unprecedented strength, Hurricane Harvey has devastated parts of the Texas Gulf Coast. The historical flooding has displaced thousands of families. In response, Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster across thirty Texas counties. The brotherhood of Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc. extends its thoughts and prayers to all those affected.

Here are some very important safety tips:

- If a hurricane threatens your community and local officials say to evacuate, don't hesitate. We have many brothers who will open their doors to host you while the storm is in effect.
- If you are in need of emergency evacuation, call emergency rescue: 281-464-4851 (US Coastal Guard) and 2-1-1. You can also fill out this form – tinyurl.com/Harvey-evac and will add you to a map so rescuers can find you. Fill it out again to "Resolve" after you're safe.
- If you think you are in an area at risk of needing rescue, if possible, download the "Zello app" in advance and search for "Texas Search and Rescue" under Channels; may come in handy as a walkie-talkie type of service to notify people with boats of your need to rescue.
- Log where your fellow chapter or colony brothers will reside during this period, have contact information readily available.
- Download the FEMA app. The FEMA APP includes disaster resources, weather alerts, safety tips, and a new feature that will enable users to receive push notification to their devices
- Keep your devices charged up, so that you have a way of contacting family & friends and they have a way to contact you. One way of charging your phone is via your car.
- Don't drive once the heavy rain starts – there is a risk of causing or being involved in a car accident or getting stranded.
- Don't drive through high water, your vehicle will flood. "Turn Around Don't Drown"
- If you are going to wait out in the storm, fill up buckets and trash cans full of water in the case if you happen to lose power/water. The water can be used to flush the toilets.
- Check the local TV stations periodically for safe shelters

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Our entities near the Gulf Coast including Pi Chapter at the University of Houston, Alpha Rho Chapter at Texas Southern University and the University of Houston Downtown Colony, the Beta Pi chapter at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and the Alpha Mu Chapter at Texas A&M University Kingsville are all in communication with national leadership.

Nearby chapters that might also be affected due to possible flash flooding and other adverse weather include Prairie View A&M University colony, the Delta Chapter at Texas A&M University, the Eta Chapter at Sam Houston State University, as well as the Rho Chapter at Texas State University.

University administrators particularly in Houston, Corpus Christi, Huntsville, College Station, and Prairie View have all canceled classes for several days and are advising students to stay put until further notice.

The historic floods have created a dire situation in the fourth most populous city in America and its surrounding cities. Water rescues are taking place and evacuees are being relocated to high ground and to city and faith based organization managed shelters.

The brotherhood stresses the importance of unity and applauds the general public's displays of selflessness as neighbors help neighbors and assist in rescue operations or relief operations.

"It's times like this where we truly appreciate having a Brotherhood that is there for each other," National President Tony Pagliocco said. "Our prayers and thoughts are with those having to face this tragic event head on. We will be there for our fellow brothers and help them rebuild as best we can."

The National Executive Council is assessing opportunities for relief efforts for our displaced brothers as well as for residents of the Texas Gulf Coast. More information will be released as we gather a better picture of what the specific needs are in the areas deemed disaster zones.