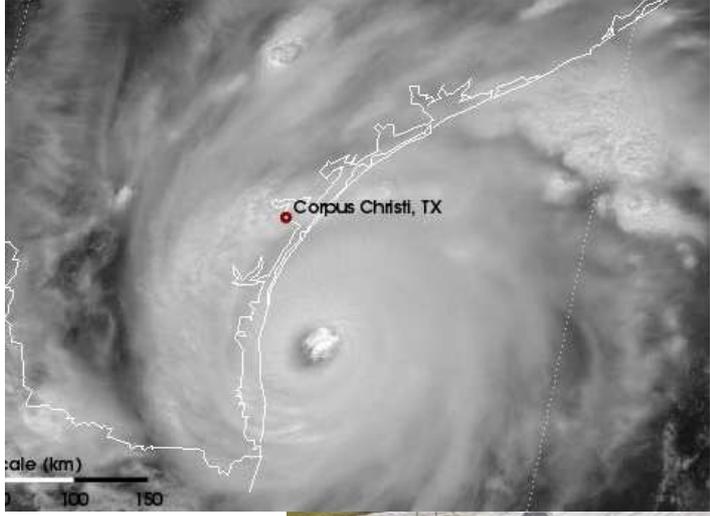


Nueces County Hurricane Reentry Plan



To be inserted as a Tab to Appendix 3, Annex E

APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

This Plan is hereby approved and is effective immediately. This Plan supersedes all other Plans. Various Resolutions support this Plan and its participants TO BE MAINTAINED BY EACH BELOW SIGNATOR. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE GIVEN 60 DAYS NOTICE INTENT TO WITHDRAW.

Nueces County Judge _____ Date: _____
Judge Samuel L. Neal

City of Bishop _____ Date: _____
Mayor Victor Ramos

City of Corpus Christi _____ Date: _____
Mayor Joe Adame

City of Port Aransas _____ Date: _____
Mayor Keith McMullen

City of Robstown _____ Date: _____
Mayor Rodrigo Ramon

Other:
Department of Public Safety _____ Date: _____
Captain Rhonda Lawson, THP

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- ATTACHMENT 3: Required Agency Credentials**
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1. AUTHORITY

- a. Government Code 418.108 Local Evacuation Authority
- b. Government Code 418.050 Phased Reentry Plans
- c. Coastal Bend Regional Coordination Plan to Catastrophic Incidents- Coastal Bend Regional Hurricane Reentry Plan Annex

2. PURPOSE

To establish countywide reentry procedures for use in the event of a direct hurricane impact when a mandatory evacuation order has been issued and remains in effect to maintain continuity of government and provide for the safe and orderly return of citizens into the impacted area(s). This plan is intended to complement the Coastal Bend Regional Hurricane Reentry Plan Annex to the Coastal Bend Regional Coordination Plan to Catastrophic Incidents maintained by the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and the Regional Response Working Group.

A key component of continuity of government preparedness planning includes deliberate plans to ensure the continuation of essential functions through a wide range of incidents and requires a collaborated and concerted effort to coordinate provisions for federal, state, and local governmental entities, private sector, public sector, volunteer organizations active in disaster (VOAD) and agencies that provide critical services to assist first responders in the execution of their duties and those in direct support of critical infrastructure/key resources.

To promote and facilitate the timely reentry of essential response and recovery personnel, governmental officials, property owners, business owners, media, etc, to speed the recovery of affected jurisdictions within Nueces County and its economy, and to provide uniform guidance following a hurricane impact **for personnel who may require early reentry and access into the impacted area prior to the retraction of the local evacuation order.**

3. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Acronyms:

CBCOG	Coastal Bend Council of Governments
CI/KR	Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource
DDC	Disaster District Committee
EMD	Emergency Management Director
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
JIC	Joint Information Center
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PIO	Public Information Officer
POD(s)	Point(s) of Distribution
RSA	Resource Staging Area

VOAD Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Definitions:

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR)- The infrastructure and assets vital to national security, governance, public health and safety, economy and public confidence. The following subjects make up the critical infrastructure: Agriculture/Food, Water, Public Health, Emergency Services, Defense Industrial Base, Telecommunications, Energy, Transportation, Banking and Finance, Chemical and Hazardous Materials, and Postal and Shipping.

Disaster District Committee (DDC)- The DDC consists of a Chairperson (the local Highway Patrol Captain) and representatives of the state agencies and volunteer groups represented on the State Emergency Management Council with resources in the district. The DDC Chairperson, supported by committee members, is responsible for identifying, coordinating the use of, committing, and directing state resources within the district to respond to emergencies.

Emergency Management Director (EMD)- The Chief Elected Official (Mayor/Judge) of each jurisdiction is designed as the EMD. The Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) is the legally appointed designee of the EMD to carry out the day-to-day functions and responsibilities of the jurisdictions emergency management program.

Immediate Mass Care- A series of resources assembled to provide for the distribution of food, water, ice and emergency medical services in an impacted area until such time as the Resource Staging Area (RSA) and Points of Distribution (PODs) are established and the 911 system is reactivated.

Point of Distribution (POD)- An area selected and operated by a local government as temporary staging for distribution of basic commodities to citizens following a disaster. PODs are continuous drive through sites at which the public does not get out of their vehicle; rather they drive through the site where volunteers load resources into vehicles and the public can obtain information.

Reentry- The process of allowing appropriate agencies and vendors access to damaged areas affected by hurricane-related hazards. Reentry marks the transition from the response phase through landfall and prior to the recovery phase of the disaster. It includes the effort to restore continuity of government and critical infrastructure/key resources to support the community.

Repopulation- The process of returning evacuees from shelters in host communities that did not self evacuate. This will occur only after the mandatory evacuation order has been lifted and general population has been allowed to return to the impacted area.

Tier Definitions:

- a. Tier 1 personnel include Reentry Teams conducting **search and rescue (SAR) and security force operations**. Immediate and unrestricted access will be granted to SAR agents including local Fire/EMS, law enforcement, Texas Military Forces and emergency response agencies in support of efforts in the affected area. Tier 1 personnel are typically uniformed and are in clearly identified emergency response vehicles.
- b. Tier 2 personnel include Reentry Teams conducting **immediate mass care and damage assessment**. Tier 2 personnel should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials.
 - i. CI/KR and utilities assessment personnel must be permitted immediate access to ensure essential services, such as water, power and communications, are restored and infrastructure is intact. Municipal utilities and public works personnel are included as well as private organizations active in assessment of major industrial facilities.
 - ii. Official damage assessment teams may include Federal, State and local officials and are required to possess official agency identification credentials.
 - iii. Immediate mass care is typically provided by recognized state agencies such as Texas Military Forces and limited state VOADs such as American Red Cross, Texas Salvation Army and Texas Baptist Men. Most other disaster relief workers are classified as Tier 3.
 - iv. Other personnel at the discretion of the local Emergency Management Director.
- c. Tier 3 personnel include Reentry Team personnel conducting **restoration of essential services, point of distribution (POD) and other support operations**. Essential services include power, infrastructure, public works, wastewater/water and utility repair and restoration. Tier 3 personnel should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials.
 - i. Relief workers will be needed to provide food and other supplies for first responders and people that did not evacuate the impacted area (s).
 - ii. Health care agency personnel, which may include hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and dialysis centers. Credentialed volunteer health professionals possessing valid identification may be included.
 - iii. Insurance agents and adjusters.
 - iv. Reentry of key business operations and media in the impact area may be delayed until major routes are open and the threat to public safety subsides. The local Emergency Management Director will make the decision when to permit business operators into the impacted areas based on an overall evaluation of the situation. An example of businesses that may be allowed reentry as Tier 3 include those that have far reaching impact on recovery such as grocery stores, fuel providers, pharmacies, banking institutions and other “big box” providers (i.e. Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowes).

- d. Tier 4 personnel include **business operators not allowed reentry under Tier 3 and residents of the impacted area**, at the discretion of the local Emergency Management Director. Tier 4 operators and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate agency credentials and/or proof of residency as appropriate. A non-inclusive list of approved proof of residency documents is contained in Attachment 4.
 - i. Other local, state and federal officials requiring reentry may be granted access based on mission and safety considerations.

4. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

- a. This plan acknowledges that not all citizens have been required to immediately leave the area defined by the evacuation order. The local EMD issuing the order has also defined who has been allowed to stay and has made provisions to ensure their safety to the extent possible. These individuals may include essential government personnel, first responders and limited private organizations in direct support of critical infrastructure/key resources. These individuals and organizations are considered self sufficient and remain in the evacuation area with the understanding that regular and customary access to emergency services does not exist. These individuals and organizations are to be directly coordinated with the local EOC and Office of Emergency Management.
- b. Industry personnel engaged in refining/production shut down operations should be afforded the opportunity to complete these operations for the safety of all personnel and help ensure limited environmental impacts. These companies may need to hold staff over to complete this process even after the mandatory order is issued however companies are to ensure their employees are afforded enough time to evacuate prior to the onset of tropical storm force winds (except for those organizations participating in the evacuation exemption program).
- c. Immediately following landfall of a catastrophic hurricane, a rapid and orderly movement of essential personnel and services into the impact area is essential to aid in rapid recovery. Reentry will occur in a **“tiered approach”** based on key roles in restoring normal operations after the disaster. Events that occur within the specific jurisdiction and/or geographically defined evacuation area will dictate, based on local needs and variable factors, what personnel will potentially need access into the affected area. Safety with regard to public health, travel accessibility, hazardous materials mitigation and rescue operations will be paramount and of crucial importance in determining who is allowed reentry.
- d. Security control points will be established to restrict entry into the impact area as directed by the EMD. The Texas Department of Public Safety will assist in execution of this task at the request of the EMD under the direction of the Disaster District Chairman. However, local jurisdictions will be required to maintain the lead in this effort to the extent possible to avoid conflicts.
- e. Recommended standard security control point procedures are included in Attachment 5 for use as applicable.

- f. Agencies, organizations and companies with a priority need to enter the area to perform essential services or restoration should coordinate the request with the local Emergency Operations Center and to the extent possible, the local Office of Emergency Management prior to hurricane season. Any false or inaccurate information provided may be grounds for refusal of the request.
- g. The State Operations Center will also be coordinating reentry operations for applicable organizations in support of local response actions as allowed by law. Agencies, organizations and companies whose request is determined to meet the criteria for entry by the State Operations Center will be coordinated through the local DDC. Updated applicable plans are to be posted on the Texas Division of Emergency Management website as they become available.
- h. Except in the event of an emergency evacuation, those individuals granted access to a restricted area should depart through the same entry point to ensure accountability and safety of personnel working within the restricted area.
- i. In the event information indicates an entry letter or tier credential is misused, the letter or credential will be immediately confiscated by law enforcement authorities and returned to the issuing agency.
- j. This plan incorporates known best practices along the Texas Gulf Coast following the responses the Hurricanes Rita (2005) and Ike (2008).

5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

- a. All personnel shall operate utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles and follow the locally established Incident Command System in the impact area. This effort will be coordinated through the local EOC.
- b. Personnel traveling in groups through security control points should all possess the same level of credentialing or greater. Individuals not meeting the requirements for reentry will not be allowed entry. Additionally, family members and friends will not be allowed entry.
- c. All personnel working in the impact area shall carry proper agency credentials on their person at all times and should be aware of locally established curfews and area restrictions. Required documentation is outlined in Attachment 3 of this document.

Local Government

Provide timely updates on status of evacuation and reentry orders to the County EOC, DDC and 211. The Public Information Officer (PIO) appointed by the EMD, working through the Joint Information Center (JIC) if established, will have the primary responsibility for public information for the jurisdiction represented and will disseminate information regarding the reentry check-point process and methods for gaining reentry. Additional information will be provided to the public regarding general safety measures and any additional specific information deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the returning citizens. The JIC will be coordinated with the appropriate EOCs and DDC.

DDC/State

Maintain updated and accurate accounting of local evacuation and reentry orders.

6. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The EMD will issue evacuation orders and ensure timely and accurate information is disseminated.
- b. The County EMC will maintain this plan, ensure appropriate approvals are obtained and oversee local implementation of established procedures as outlined in Attachment 7. Process requests for Evacuation Exemption and Tier 2 designation letters and prepare for signature as appropriate.
- c. The City EMC(s) will oversee local implementation of established procedures as outlined in Attachment 7. Process requests for Evacuation Exemption and Tier 2 designation letters and prepare for signature as appropriate.
- d. Law Enforcement will provide general support for implementation of this plan and ensure compliance with evacuation orders as appropriate.

7. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

The Nueces County Office of Emergency Management agrees to provide administrative services necessary to coordinate this agreement to include notification to participants of new signatories or withdrawals. Also, all participating jurisdictions will be provided with a current list of contact information for all participants.

8. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- a. Recommended changes to this plan should be forwarded to the Nueces County Office of Emergency Management for consideration. As needed, this plan will be updated accordingly. To the extent possible, this plan should become part of the jurisdictions state approved Annex E (Evacuation).

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT 1: Tier Definitions Quick Reference

ATTACHMENT 2: Evacuation Order Exemption

ATTACHMENT 3: Required Agency Credentials

ATTACHMENT 4: Proof of Residency

ATTACHMENT 5: Security Control Point Procedures

ATTACHMENT 6: Emergency Contact Information

ATTACHMENT 7: Implementation Plan

ATTACHMENT 8: Sample City/County Resolution

ATTACHMENT 1: Tier Definitions Quick Reference

The intent of this reentry policy is to assume immediate and unrestricted access to both Tier 1 & 2 personnel as soon as the responding agency feels it safe to begin operations in the impacted area however this policy implementation will be event dependent given numerous unknown variables. The final decision will remain that of the EMD.

Responding organizations reenter at their own risk acknowledging that many unknown hazards may still exist that have not yet be identified by local officials. The local Incident Commander will have the responsibility to make determinations where personnel may further be restricted within defined areas in the impact area as outlined in the appropriate City/County Emergency Management Plan. Additionally, organizations entering an impacted area are subject to the check-in procedures established by the local Incident Commander.

Tier 1- Search and rescue (SAR) and security force operations

Tier 1 personnel are typically uniformed and are in clearly identified emergency response vehicles. These organizations are not required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter however should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

- SAR agents include local Fire/EMS, law enforcement, Texas Military Forces and other State and/or Federal emergency response teams such as Texas Task Force One/Two.

Tier 2- Immediate mass care and damage assessment.

Tier 2 personnel should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials. Personnel in this category are expected request Tier 2 reentry authorization prior to hurricane season and should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

- CI/KR and utilities assessment personnel must be permitted immediate access to ensure essential services, such as water, power and communications, are restored and infrastructure is intact. Municipal utilities and public works personnel are included as well as private organizations active in assessment of major industrial facilities.
- Official damage assessment teams may include Federal, State and local officials and are required to possess official agency identification credentials.
- Immediate mass care is typically provided by recognized state agencies such as Texas Military Forces and limited state VOADs such as American Red Cross, Texas Salvation Army and Texas Baptist Men. Most other disaster relief workers are classified as Tier 3.
- Other personnel at the discretion of the local Emergency Management Director.

Tier 3- Restoration of essential services, point of distribution (POD) and other support operations.

Essential services include power, infrastructure, public works, wastewater/water and utility repair and restoration. Tier 3 personnel should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials. These organizations are not required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter however should be prepared to provide proof of deployment

orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

- Relief workers will be needed to provide food and other supplies for first responders and people that did not evacuate the impacted area (s).
- Health care agency personnel, which may include hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and dialysis centers. Credentialed volunteer health professionals possessing valid identification may be included.
- Insurance agents and adjusters.
- Reentry of key business operations and media in the impact area may be delayed until major routes are open and the threat to public safety subsides. The local Emergency Management Director will make the decision when to permit business operators into the impacted areas based on an overall evaluation of the situation. An example of businesses that may be allowed reentry as Tier 3 include those that have far reaching impact on recovery such as grocery stores, fuel providers, pharmacies, banking institutions and other “big box” providers (i.e. Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowes).

Tier 4- Business operators not allowed reentry under Tier 3 and residents.

Tier 4 operators and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate agency credentials and/or proof of residency as appropriate.

All others not defined previously are considered “general population” and will be allowed reentry after the mandatory evacuation order has been lifted.

Any conflict at designated check points will be routed through the local Incident Commander and EOC as appropriate for resolution. The safety of personnel will be the ultimate deciding factor in ALL cases.

****Nueces County Tier 2 authorization letters will only be issued on a standardized and recognizable letterhead that has been mutually agreed upon.****

ATTACHMENT 2: Evacuation Order Exemption

In the event of an impending hurricane threat, the local Emergency Management Director issuing the mandatory evacuation order shall approve organizations allowed to remain in the impact zone. These organizations approved for exemption may include essential government personnel, first responders and limited private organizations in direct support of critical infrastructure/key resources. These individuals and organizations are considered self sufficient and remain in the evacuation area with the understanding that access to emergency services does not exist. This effort is to be directly coordinated with the local Emergency Operations Center.

Organizations requesting evacuation exemption should have a written plan to include provisions for adequate food, water, shelter and medical needs for a minimum of 72 hours post landfall. Additionally, these organizations should have back up power and emergency communications capabilities such as satellite phones and/or HAM radio.

All organizations authorized to be exempt from the evacuation order should be prepared to provide an updated list of personnel and the location that they will be sheltered to the EOC and/or Emergency Management Coordinator upon request.

Emergency services personnel will be conducting search and rescue activities immediately post landfall. Citizens that failed to evacuate must remain the priority however they also acknowledge that they must confirm the safety of those personnel considered exempt. For this reason, it is important for exempt organizations to report status to the EOC as soon as possible after landfall.

For purposes of this plan, all exempt personnel should also be classified as either Tier One or Tier Two Essential Personnel and carry appropriate credentials. Evacuation exempt organizations must be cognizant that exemption does not constitute the ability to roam freely in the post disaster environment. Established curfews and subsequent orders must be abided by all to ensure safety and security within the impacted area. Any questions regarding this issue should be directed to the local Office of Emergency Management or EOC.

****Nueces County evacuation exemption letters will only be issued on a standardized and recognizable letterhead that has been mutually agreed upon.****

ATTACHMENT 3: Required Agency Credentials

All personnel working in the impact area shall carry proper credentials and identification on their person at all times. Recommended agency identification/credentials are established as follows:

All

- State issued driver's license or identification card
- Proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

Governmental Employees:

- Agency Photo Identification.
- Designation of "essential" or "disaster personnel" should be prominently displayed.
- Local volunteer personnel such as fire department/emergency services district personnel should possess applicable locally recognized identification as appropriate.

(Local governmental and/or voluntary agencies lacking agency identification should contact the Coastal Bend Council of Governments for details regarding available identification solutions)

Private/VOAD Organizations:

- Agency identification with photo.
- Tier 2 Level Essential Personnel Authorization Letter and/or company designation letter detailing the employee essential function and to the extent possible defining the geographic area where work is to be performed.

Additional

- Employees performing work that requires special credentialing/licensing should be prepared to produce credentials as required by the certifying agency. (TCLEOSE, DSHS license/certification, TCEQ, etc.)

ATTACHMENT 4: Proof of Residency

Tier 4 operators and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate agency credentials and/or proof of residency as appropriate.

Proper identification for resident access should include one or more of the following:

- current state issued driver's license or identification card
- utility bill
- mortgage deed
- property tax documents
- or any governmental document which includes an address or other means that identifies the location of their property.

The City of Port Aransas has issued city identification cards to their citizens and essential personnel. Other jurisdictions may add similar requirements and will be added to this plan as made available.

ATTACHMENT 5: Security Control Point Procedures

Security control points will be established to restrict entry into the impact area as directed by the EMD. The Texas Department of Public Safety will assist in execution of this task at the request of the Emergency Management Director under the direction of the Disaster District Chairman. However, local jurisdictions will be required to maintain the lead in this effort to the extent possible to avoid conflicts.

The number of security control points will be determined by the local jurisdiction and will be event dependant. Staffing and equipment support may need to expand and contract as needed to accommodate the overall vehicle volume. Operational shifts and personnel staffing requirements should be clearly defined including adequate provisions for day and night operations. The operating hours and personnel requirements will be based on curfews and other factors.

Due to the regional applicability of security control points, the DDC will be a key coordinating entity.

Current evacuation and reentry orders are to be maintained at the DDC.

Recommended equipment for checkpoints:

- . Light towers
- . Barricades
- . Port-o-potties
- . Portable Message Boards
- . Mobile Command Post
- . Pop Up Tents
- . Rehab Items such as food, water and ice
- . Mosquito Spray
- . White Shoe Polish
- . Fuel

Area law enforcement agencies should continue to develop traffic control plans/procedures to support this task and may be added to this document at a later date as appropriate.

ATTACHMENT 6: Emergency Contact Information

Nueces County Judge Neal

Office of Emergency Management

Serving all unincorporated areas of Nueces County and the Cities of Agua Dulce, Driscoll and Petronilla

Danielle Hale, County EMC

Danielle.hale@co.nueces.tx.us

361-888-0513 Office

361-888-0487 County EOC

361-887-2206 EOC Fax

City of Bishop

Office of Emergency Management

Joe Carr, City EMC

carrjo@aol.com

361-584-2567 Office

361-584-2567 City EOC

361-584-3253 EOC Fax

City of Corpus Christi

Office of Emergency Management

Ernie Paiz, EM Specialist

ernestop@cctexas.com

361-826-1100 Office

361-826-1100 City EOC

361-880-3971 EOC Fax

City of Port Aransas

Office of Emergency Management

Scott Burroughs, City EMC

sburroughs@cityofportaransas.org

361-749-6241 Office

361-749-4111 City EOC

361-749-4723 EOC Fax

City of Robstown

Office of Emergency Management

Ricardo Gonzales, City EMC

Rfd@cityofrobstown.com

361-387-2522 Office

361-387-4262 City EOC

361-387-9353 EOC Fax

ATTACHMENT 7: Implementation Plan

The signatories to this plan will develop a local implementation process. City/County emergency managers will continue to work towards a county-wide solution however may not be available prior to the 2011 Hurricane Season, therefore, local communities should continue to work towards a local implementation process.

The County Judge will approve letters for companies performing business in the unincorporated areas of the County, the other communities that are signatories to the County Emergency Management Plan (Agua Dulce, Driscoll and Petronila), as well as, those with county-wide responsibility such as utility companies and “big box” stores like HEB.

Each City Mayor will have the responsibility to approve letters for companies performing business within the City limits of their community.

A record should be maintained for each of the businesses issued a letter and be maintained locally for future reference if needed.

Possible implementation options may include:

- online auto-fill form accessible through City/County website
- hand filled form accessible at City Hall/Courthouse
- manually entered database of entities being issued forms
- online portal for electronic submission/approval process
- WebEOC board to maintain data

ATTACHMENT 8: Sample City/County Resolution

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE NUECES COUNTY HURRICANE REENTRY PLAN.

WHEREAS, the communities of the Coastal Bend acknowledge the benefit of regional collaboration to prepare and respond to major emergencies and disasters; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code 418.108 provides for the ability of local Emergency Management Directors to mandate evacuations for the preservation of life and control ingress to and egress from a disaster area; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code 418.050 directs the Texas Division of Emergency Management to develop a phased reentry plan, this plan is intended to outline local requirements and compliment, not supplant local or state authority; and,

WHEREAS, these communities acknowledge the importance of common terminology to clearly articulate a collaborated message to their citizens, responders and other private and public partners; and,

WHEREAS, Each local government maintains its individual autonomy to call for local evacuations and allow for safe and rapid reentry as allowed by law, however, signatories to this plan will abide by the provisions to the extent possible given the incident in which it is applicable. And,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nueces County Commissioners Court adopts the Nueces County Hurricane Reentry Plan.

DULY ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS ON THE ???TH DAY OF ???, 2011.

SAMUEL L. NEAL, JR.
Nueces County Judge

MIKE PUSLEY
Commissioner, Precinct 1

JOE A. GONZALEZ
Commissioner, Precinct 2

OSCAR ORTIZ
Commissioner, Precinct 3

JOE MCCOMB
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

DIANA T. BARRERA, County Clerk
AUTHORITY