

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**

**FROM MAYOR DAVID RUTLEDGE:**

Good Morning, Bridge City. I trust you had a safe night. Here's the status as I know it at 8:00 AM:

**WATER**

**COW BAYOU**

The water level of Cow Bayou continues to slowly recede. Until it drains the basin upstream, we will continue to have high levels.

**SABINE RIVER**

The Sabine River continues to receive water from Toledo Bend Reservoir; however, the flow rate remains steady with no plans at this time to change. If there will be a change, I will inform you of that as well when I hear it. The release rate is only about one-third of the rate of the Spring of 2016, and Bridge City saw negligible effects from that release. The main effect for us will be only that it will slow down the on-going draining of Cow Bayou.

**NECHES RIVER**

Over on the Neches, it is still receiving water from upstream reservoirs. This mainly affects Vidor, Rose City, and Pine Forest in Orange County and somewhat Beaumont. Because of the Sabine Lake and the marshes in our area dissipating this extra flow, its effects on us should be negligible as well.

So water-wise, we're in pretty good shape (except it's receding too slowly for me!)

**ELECTRICITY**

Many areas of the City have already gotten electrical power restored. Some have not (me included), but Entergy is working hard to get the rest of us powered-up. Next time you see one of their crews, shake their hands, offer them water, tell them "thanks". They deserve that for all they do.

**FOOD & FUEL**

Supplies are limited right now all over the area. Our local businesses are trying to get more coming our way. If people want to donate things, we'll be opening a "donation station" as soon as we get electricity.

Tell them we need non-perishables foods and household cleaning supplies. It's a matter of the major roadways opening more as water recedes. For us, a little patience will be a virtue.

### **GOLDEN TRIANGLE MEDICAL FACILITIES**

Facilities are very limited at this time. If you need medical assistance, please call 911.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Our police department is working really hard to ensure your safety. The laws and rules they enforce are designed with all our citizens in mind. If an officer wants you to do something different than what you want to do, please comply with his instructions. It may seem inconvenient to you, but he is asking to try and keep all citizens safe. Instead of disagreeing, extend your hand, offer a cup of coffee or drink of water, and give the officer a big "thank you". Please respect the barricades on the roads and don't push water on your neighbors.

Remember the curfew is in effect from 8 PM to 6 AM. If you are out during this time, expect a visit from one of our officers. This is for your safety and the safety of your neighbors.

### **CITY SERVICES**

#### **WATER AND SEWER**

Our water and sewer plant are up and running and fully functional. If you experience any problems with water or sewer, please call the City offices at 409.735.6801.

#### **GARBAGE**

I know we didn't get garbage service this week, but the landfill has been underwater and inaccessible. As soon as that changes, we'll let you know what to do. We have a few roll-off boxes located at the Public Works yard at 220 Nitsche that are available for disposing your household garbage. No building materials accepted.

#### **CLEAN UP DEBRIS**

Many folks have already begun to clean out their houses. We ask that you pile your debris on the "house" side of your front ditch. DO NOT place this in the ditch or on the side of the road. We don't want to impede emergency vehicles that might need to get to your neighbor, nor do we want to block

the drainage the next time it rains. We have a "grapple" truck that can reach across your ditch and pick it up, so please pile it on the "house" side of the street. Also, please don't pile this around or near your gas meter.

That's the update I have for you this morning. I'll try my level best to update you daily on the status of our City.

If you feel the need to copy and paste any of this letter to other, please copy it in its entirety. That prevents misleading or inaccurate information from getting caught in the rumor mill. If you didn't read it here, it's a rumor.

So take care of your family and friends, and help your neighbors. When you finished that, offer to volunteer and assist others. We got through Ike by doing this, we'll get through Harvey the same way - together, as one City, as one big 8,000 member family.