



## **Filing Receipt**

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**Control Number - 56822**

**Item Number - 108**



City of Friendswood  
Department of Emergency Services



Fire Marshal's Office | Emergency Management | Emergency Medical Services

August 30, 2024

English Barksdale  
Deputy Executive Director, Public Utility Commission of Texas  
PO Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711

Subject: **Project No. 56822**, *Investigation of Emergency Preparedness and Response by Utilities in Houston and Surrounding Communities Request for Information to Local Governments*, dated August 2, 2024

Dear Deputy Executive Director Barksdale:

The City of Friendswood's response to the questions are below, indicated in blue.

Point of Contact:

Brian Mansfield  
Director of Emergency Services and Emergency Management Coordinator  
281-996-3335  
[bmansfield@friendswood.com](mailto:bmansfield@friendswood.com)

**LG 1-1**

Do you perform your own hurricane or major storm drills? If you do not, please provide a brief explanation of what your jurisdiction would need to start conducting these drills. If you do, please respond to the following questions:

- a) How often do you conduct a drill? When did you last conduct a hurricane or major storm drill?  
*Annually. June 4, 2024.*
- b) Please describe the drill and provide information concerning the category of hurricane drilled and any conditions used in the drill.  
*Emergency Operations Center operations during a Level 1 - Full Activation.*
- c) Does your drill change? If so, how did your drill change from the last time you conducted a drill?  
*Yes. The capabilities exercised, participating entities, and scenario changed from previous drills.*
- d) If you used one, please provide the name(s) of any third-party vendor used to assist or conduct the hurricane or major storm drill.  
*Not Applicable.*
- e) Please provide the name(s) of departments in your jurisdiction that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.

Facilitator: Emergency Services.

Participants: City Attorney, Manager, City Secretary, Communications, Community Development, Court, Engineering, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Library, Parks & Recreation, Police, and Public Works.

- f) Please provide the name(s) of other local governments and any local, community, or county organizations that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.

Participant: Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department

- g) Please provide the name(s) of any trade organization that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.

Not Applicable.

- h) Please provide the name(s) of any utility company that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.

Not Applicable.

**LG 1-2**

Did AEP, CenterPoint, Entergy, TNMP or other electric, water, or sewer utilities request your participation in their 2024 hurricane or major storm drill? If yes:

- a) Please provide the name(s) of the requesting utility.  
CenterPoint Energy.
- b) Please provide the date of the drill.  
June 6, 2024.
- c) Please provide information concerning the category of hurricane drilled and any conditions used in the drill.  
Participant.
- d) Please describe in detail your role and level of participation in the hurricane or major storm drill. In your response, please indicate the role played by individual city or county services.  
Participant.
- e) Did you participate in a post-drill review with the organizing utility? If yes, please describe the post-drill review and what feedback you provided.  
No.

**LG 1-3**

If known, please provide the date the Texas Department of Emergency Management contacted you concerning the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

May 2024 Derecho: Not Applicable.

Hurricane Beryl: July 8, 2024.

**LG 1-4**

If known, please provide the date your electric service provider contacted you concerning the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

May 2024 Derecho: Not Applicable.

Hurricane Beryl: Texas New Mexico Power, July 8, 2024. CenterPoint Energy, July 8, 2024.

- LG 1-5** Were you contacted by any water or sewer utilities concerning Hurricane Beryl? If so, please identify the utilities and provide the date the utility(s) contacted you.  
City of Friendswood operates its own water and sewer utilities.
- LG 1-6** To the best of your ability, please provide a timeline of communications between local officials and the utility(s) identified in Staff 1-4 and Staff 1-5 concerning the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.  
May 2024 Derecho: Not Applicable.  
Hurricane Beryl: Texas New Mexico Power, Ongoing from July 8, 2024. CenterPoint Energy, Ongoing from July 8, 2024. City of Friendswood operates its own water and sewer utilities.
- LG 1-7** Do you consult or coordinate with utilities about storm hardening within your jurisdiction or help to identify utility infrastructure that needs to be repaired before the start of the hurricane season? If yes:
- a) Please identify the utilities you consulted or coordinated with in 2023 or 2024 and the approximate date you last consulted or coordinated with them.  
Texas New Mexico Power, May 7, 2024. CenterPoint Energy, June 6, 2024.
  - b) Please describe the extent of your consultation or coordination.  
Discussions.
  - c) How often do you consult with utilities about electric distribution and transmission equipment (e.g., powerlines, poles, reclosers, transformers) with regarding strategy or prioritization of repairs and replacement of equipment?  
Annually.
- LG 1-8** Please provide a list of local ordinances, protocols, or policies concerning transportation of heavy equipment through your jurisdiction.  
Not applicable.
- a) For each of the identified ordinances, protocols, or policies, what is the typical turn-around time from receipt of a request to issuance of a permit?
  - b) Please describe, at a high level, the permitting process for the identified ordinances, protocols, or policies.
  - c) For each identified ordinance, protocol, or policy, provide the length of time the obtained permit remains valid and enforceable.
  - d) Did your jurisdiction waive compliance with any of these ordinances during either the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl? If so, please identify which ordinances were waived and for how long the waivers remained in effect.
- LG 1-9** Please identify any specific issues that stand out to you concerning the deployment of mobile generation facilities during the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.  
Not Applicable.

- LG 1-10** Please provide a list of local ordinances, protocols, or policies concerning vegetation management, including any restrictions on the size of utility easements or utility rights-of-way. City of Friendswood Design Criteria Manual, 2021 with updates.
- LG 1-11** Please provide a description of any process by which an electric or telecommunications utility may petition the local government to remove dead or damaged trees or branches near, but not within, a utility easement or utility right-of-way.  
Contact City of Friendswood to request removal.
- LG 1-12** Please provide a list of local ordinances, protocols, or policies that require a property owner to remove dead trees on their property.  
Sec. 14-322. - Dangerous buildings, structures and nuisances defined.
- a) Does your jurisdiction have an individual or group that oversees any program related to these ordinances, protocols, or policies?  
Yes, Community Development Department, Code Enforcement Division.
- b) How often are properties inspected for compliance with the identified ordinances, protocols, or policies? Please include the date and zip codes for any inspections conducted from January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.  
Properties are inspected: during the permitting process, after receiving a rezoning or replatting request, after receiving a change of occupancy or change of tenant occupancy form, and after receiving a specific complaint.  
Dates unavailable, throughout 77546.
- c) Do you coordinate with utilities about the results of these inspections? If yes, please indicate the last date and nature of such coordination that occurred before July 8, 2024.  
Yes, if necessary. Date unavailable.
- LG 1-13** Do you have a trained arborist on staff? If yes, please describe and define their duties before and after a major storm event.  
No.
- LG 1-14** Do you maintain a list of critical infrastructure (e.g., telecommunication systems, police stations, water or sewer facilities), medical and eldercare facilities (e.g., hospitals, in-patient treatment facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities), or community centers and organizations (e.g., churches, homeless shelters, schools, daycares) within your area? If yes:
- a) Did your jurisdiction share this information with TDEM or any utility(s) before, during, or in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl?  
Yes.
- b) Did any utility request the information? If yes, please list which utility(s) requested this information and the date the information was requested.  
Yes, Texas New Mexico Power and CenterPoint Energy. Dates unavailable.
- LG 1-15** Were you involved in any discussions with any utility(s) or TDEM concerning prioritizing restoration of critical infrastructure or critical care facilities for purposes of determining how

mobile generation facilities would be deployed in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl?

No.

If yes:

- a) Please identify which entities participated in these discussions.
- b) Please describe the discussion(s) with each of the entities.
- c) Please state whether, in your opinion, the identified entities followed the guidance or guidelines you provided concerning the deployment of mobile generation facilities in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl.

**LG 1-16** Describe the level of communication between you and any utility(s) before, during, and in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl.  
Communications with Texas New Mexico Power and CenterPoint Energy are conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

**LG 1-17** If known, please identify the percentage of homes and businesses in your area that have a smart electric meter connection.  
Unknown.

**LG 1-18** If known, please identify the percentage of homes and businesses in your area that have a smart water meter connection.  
100%.

**LG 1-19** Please provide any additional information that may be helpful to this investigation.

Respectfully,

Brian Mansfield  
Director of Emergency Services and Emergency Management Coordinator