

Hurricane Evacuation Plans for Texas Greyhound Tracks

Source: CCGP, GGP, & VRP as reported in September 2004 by the TGA

Corpus Christi has provided us their current plans that in place for anything Category 3 or higher.

Ralph Perez, Assistant Director of Security & Safety Officer, will be responsible for securing materials and supplies necessary for protecting track property, and for supporting and maintaining personnel on duty during hurricane emergencies. He will make sure that all track vehicles and generators are topped off with fuel and that all emergency equipment is tested on a regular basis. He will also hold hurricane preparedness meetings with security and maintenance personnel each year as hurricane season approaches. As a hurricane approaches this area and landfall is anticipated within 24 hours, the track will be closed down with all personnel with the exception of designated emergency personnel being relieved of duty and sent home.

The Safety Officer will have predetermined plans for who and how many emergency personnel are to remain on duty for the duration of the emergency. The selected emergency crew will consist of Security and Maintenance personnel.

When the Hurricane Warning is announced and hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours, immediate evacuation of the greyhounds will begin. The evacuation will be the responsibility of the dog owners who should have prearranged plans for hurricane shelters. All personnel will be required to vacate the kennels.

Anything less than a category three (3) storm, if a kennel owner wishes to remain housed in the kennel building in order to protect his greyhounds and care for the them, they may do so, Category 3 and above, the city will require evacuation of the entire area...everyone much comply with a mandatory evacuation notice. No matter what the storm strength, we will abide by the Corpus Christi Emergency planning orders.

~~~~~  
**Valley Race Park** also has Emergency Protocols in place for hurricanes and are in the process of revising all other Emergency plans according to manager Huw Williams

~~~~~  
Gulf Greyhound Park has provided us with this Mission Plan that is currently in place.

The purpose of this Storm and Flood Emergency Plan is to provide for maximum safety of the greyhounds and their caretakers. Gulf Greyhound Park officials, kennel owners, kennel trainers, and TxRC personnel have formulated what they feel is the best policy for both greyhounds and their human caretakers.

***Important Facts:**

~The elevation of the kennel compound is 19' at its lowest and 21' at its maximum. The kennel buildings are built up from these elevations.

~The kennel buildings are built to hurricane specifications including hurricane strapping for the roofs.

~An electrical generator that supplies only the kennel compound is ready for use in an emergency situation. There is enough fuel stored to run it for 72 hours with no power loss to any kennel building.

~Water is readily available from a nearby water tower or from a 640' water well on site.

~Most hurricanes occur during August or September, which are the hottest months of the year.

~According to a study done by the Corps of Engineers, the worst possible scenario would be having the storm come ashore in such a way that the brunt of the winds and storm surge would come up through Galveston Bay causing a back flow of water resulting in rains not being drained properly. This study does not take into effect the actual topography but assumes a flat topography. The site of GGP might possibly suffer flooding in a Class IV hurricane assuming the worst possible scenario. However, this flood would be less than 1' of water.

~The main route of evacuation from GGP would be IH 45 through Houston. This route will be very congested and require a lengthy time to reach the appropriate site to weather the storm. Most kennels do not have air conditioned trailers which could result in loss of greyhound lives due to heat stroke.

~The kennels do not have the capacity to move 60 greyhounds on a short notice. Also, they don't have a satisfactory place to house the animals.

The recommendation of this Preparedness Plan is to keep the greyhounds and essential personnel in their respective kennels during hurricanes. The safety of the essential personnel and greyhounds is the most important factor in this recommendation.

***BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The kennel facilities are adequately constructed to withstand a Class 5 storm.
2. The elevation of the compound would result in minimal flooding if at all.
3. Readily available emergency power and water makes the kennels a desirable location to weather the storm.

A long slow evacuation in un-air conditioned trailers would result in more loss of dogs than staying in their kennel buildings.