



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Post Ike questions and answers from the GLO

1. Q: Will there be a moratorium (temporary suspension) by the Commissioner of the GLO on removal of structures and repair of houses on the public beach following Hurricane Ike?

No. Many of the provisions of the moratorium issued in 2004 are now incorporated into Section 15.11 of the beach/dune rules, and are covered under the emergency rules issued on September 13, 2008, which are in place until January 10, 2009. Since many of this provision are already in place, the Commissioner does not need to issue a moratorium at this time.

2. Q: Will I be authorized to repair my house (not on the public beach)? How can I get approval for repairs?

Yes, but you must contact your local government to get an emergency authorization for repairs or a beach/dune permit for new construction.

3. Q: What actions will the GLO take to (remove debris, allow repair of revetments, geotextile tubes, etc.)? (In front of my house, around my house)

The majority of geotextile tubes on the upper coast were damaged or destroyed, but the GLO is evaluating all of the projects and may require removal of some of them that are badly damaged or too far seaward to be effective. Local governments may implement shore protection projects, and the GLO is working with local officials to determine the scope of these projects. Individuals are not allowed under emergency or normal permitting processes to construct shore protection projects.

4. Q: How can I determine if my house is on the public beach (determine the line of vegetation)?

At this time the beaches are in state of flux, and the GLO cannot accurately determine the line of vegetation (LOV) in all cases. Commissioner Patterson has suspended the enforcement against houses that may encroach the public beach to allow time for the beaches to stabilize and the vegetation to recover from the inundation. The GLO is working expeditiously to conduct digital topography mapping and beach surveys to help in the LOV determinations. If your house is standing in water or within 200 feet of mean high tide, there may be additional restrictions on what repairs are allowed. Please contact the Texas General Land Office or your local government for more information.

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5. Q: Will the GLO take emergency actions to conduct beach renourishment following Hurricane Ike?

Yes, both the Texas General Land Office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan for emergency projects in response to Hurricane Ike. Information on these projects will be available on our web page, www.glo.state.tx.us in the “Hurricane Response” link.

6. Q: What is the status of the proposed rules following Hurricane Ike?

Due to the massive recovery efforts ongoing and significant alteration of the Beach/Dune system, the Commissioner has withdrawn the proposed changes to the beach dune rules, including those related to building setback lines, until further notice.

7. Q: Where can we place the sand that is deposited on the rights of way? What debris should be removed before we place the sand back on the beach?

All activities associated with sand removal and cleaning must be coordinated with the local governments. The GLO maintains sand removed from the rights of way may be placed back in the beach/dune system, but it must be free of large debris, hazardous materials, or anything that may pose a public health and safety risk.

8. Q: Can I fill in my lot with clay material instead of sand?

All fill should be beach quality sand. The emergency dune restoration rules provide for clay core dunes covered with sand if the project is located landward of the line of vegetation.

9. Q: What does more than 50% destroyed mean?

The GLO does not determine the percentage of damage for your home. To acquire this determination, you should contact your insurance provider, your local government engineering department, or FEMA.

10. Q: Is the state going to take my house?

The Commissioner is temporarily suspending enforcement of the Open Beaches Act while the beaches are in a state of flux. The GLO is working with local governments to address any homes that may encroach on the public beach and pose a health and safety risk.

Q: How long does it take for the beach/dune system to recover?

Storm recovery varies with the severity of the storm. The more severe the storm surge, the longer the recovery period. It usually takes at least one full growing season for dune vegetation to reestablish. Due to the duration and height of the storm surge from Hurricane Ike, much of the sand lost may not return to the system. Some sand was washed over the barrier islands and Bolivar Peninsula, and the height of the surge may have also carried some of the sand offshore beyond the “depth of closure” – the area of offshore sand that feeds the beaches.

11. Q: Who should I contact for information?

A list of contact information for various agencies is attached.

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