

Hurricane Ike Executive Summary



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HURRICANE IKE IMPACT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hurricane Ike study region included 8 counties:

- **Brazoria**
- **Chambers**
- **Galveston**
- **Harris**
- **Jefferson**
- **Liberty**
- **Orange**
- **Tyler**

Capturing the total economic impact of a hurricane or other severe storm is challenging. The most commonly used assessment is based on property damages, which is only one aspect of financial loss. This study focuses on the long-term economic impact from loss of sales and tax revenues in communities and the personal stories of the recovery of communities.

When Hurricane Ike hit the Texas Coast in September 2008, it resulted in the 3rd costliest storm in U.S. history with property damages estimated to be \$29 billion. Assessing property damage only tells part of the story. The total economic impact of a storm is far greater due to the loss of infrastructure, businesses, residents and tourists that can devastate a community's economic base. To examine the true economic impact of Hurricane Ike, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration partnered with the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) to study the ongoing economic impact of an eight county region consisting of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Orange and Tyler.

The Hurricane Ike Impact Report provides in depth analysis of these 8 counties considering both quantitative and qualitative losses to the region. To determine the quantitative impact on the region, TEEX

engaged Texas A&M University's Agricultural Economics Department to develop the Disaster Impact Model (DIM). The DIM utilizes statistical inputs, available tax data, from Texas State Comptroller's Office to quantify economic losses during the 12 month period following Hurricane Ike.

TEEX's report aims to focus future federal investment to the region through identified gaps and needs. TEEX reviewed available literature,





Case studies have been developed to highlight areas of resilience and adversity following Hurricane Ike:

- K-12 Education
- Vital Records
- City Planning
- Agriculture
- Preservation
- Residential
- Tourism

post disaster reports and conducted primary research strategies to collect missing data.

To complete TEEX's understanding of the impact of Hurricane Ike, research activities were conducted at the local and county levels. Interviews and surveys were conducted with subject matter experts, and a wide variety of local, county and regional officials representing members of Texas Task Force One, members of the Public Works Response Team, TEEX Urban Search and Rescue, city mayors, emergency management coordinators, county judges, city administrators, public works officials, economic development managers, school district personnel, business owners and residents.

These interviews were incorporated into case studies to tell the stories of recovery and lessons learned in preparation, during and the aftermath of the storm. The data collected through the Disaster Impact Model and primary and secondary research has been analyzed and compiled into this report and the Storm Resource website located at www.thestormresource.com.