



Hurricane Harvey Information

From [National Hurricane Center Tropical Cyclone Report on Hurricane Harvey](#) (emphasis ours)

1. **“Harvey was the most significant tropical cyclone rainfall event in United States history, both in scope and peak rainfall amounts,** since reliable rainfall records began around the 1880s. 60.5 inches of rain fell...While the peak rainfall amounts were exceptional over Texas, the areal extent of heavy rainfall is truly overwhelming, literally and figuratively... **it is unlikely the United States has ever seen such a sizable area of excessive tropical cyclone rainfall totals as it did from Harvey.”**
2. Harvey spun off 52 tornados: 22 in Texas, 11 in Mississippi, 7 in Louisiana, 6 in Tennessee, 5 in Alabama, and 1 in Arkansas. *Thank God all were relatively weak and caused little damage and no casualties.*
3. Harvey is responsible for at least 68 direct deaths in the United States, all in Texas, and indirectly responsible for 35 deaths (103 total).
4. **“The damage caused by Harvey’s flooding was catastrophic** over a large area of southeastern Texas. Over 300,000 structures in that region were flooded, with up to 500,000 cars reported flooded as well. An estimated 40,000 flood victims were evacuated to or took refuge in shelters across Texas or Louisiana. **FEMA reported that about 30,000 water rescues were conducted during Harvey.”**

From Environmental Integrity Project’s [Hurricane Harvey Pollution Releases](#) map and dataset:

1. 72 reported incidences to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center of oil and gas spills on land or water; it’s impossible to know how many smaller spills went unreported. This also does not include air pollution spills, as in the case of releases of toxic fumes. *Pray for those people, wildlife, and ecosystems affected by reported AND unreported spills.*
2. Extremely high waters flooded storage tanks, drums, and containers at private and state facilities, causing oil, gasoline, methane, asphalt, various wastewaters containing methylacetate and methanol, phenol, glycerin, stormwater, sewage, and unknown substances to escape into front yards, marshes, rivers, roads, lakes, bayous, canals, and harbors.
3. Of the 72 spills that were reported, only 27 recorded an amount: over 113,000 gallons of crude oil, 540,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline, 20,000 gallons of produce water, and 100,000 gallons of glycerin spilled in Texas. The other 45 reports had no amount data.

From the New York Times, a [report](#) on airborne pollutants released due to Harvey that includes several maps.

1. 4.6 million pounds of airborne pollutants released that exceeded state limits in the seven days between 8/23 and 8/30

From Bloomberg, an article on the Arkema chemical plant explosion that sent 15 police officers to the hospital for smoke inhalation:

1. “The incident underscored the risks confronting the industry after dozens of chemical plants shut down in the path of the storm from South Texas to Louisiana...The massive industrial centers also deal with complex chemical processes that pose hazards from lethal explosions to toxic spills when things go wrong. The danger is greatest when plants are shutting down and starting up.” See NYT article map above that identifies the pollutants released *upon shutdown or startup of plants due to Harvey*.
2. Chemical plants are built with hurricanes in mind, but are not equipped to deal with 1,000+ year flooding events like Harvey; some facilities are more than 60 years old.

From The Atlantic, an article titled “[How Schoolchildren Will Cope With Hurricane Harvey](#)” (emphasis ours)

1. Week(s) of school closures at the very beginning of the academic year affected hundreds of thousands of students.
2. “According to experts, the chaos and emotional upheaval brought on by extreme events can have an especially negative impact on children. **Tropical storm Harvey has put students in its path at a greater risk for symptoms of anxiety and depression than they’d otherwise be—not to mention illness and injury.** And because schools are closed, **some children aren’t getting the nutrition they need**—the vast majority of students in Houston Independent School District, for example, receive free or subsidized meals, and the district offers free lunches to all students regardless of income at most of its schools. The closures also threaten to exacerbate “summer slide”—kids’ tendency to lose some of the academic gains they’d made the previous school year—and to reduce the amount of time children can dedicate to learning during the new school year.”
3. “**Researchers are seeking to better understand the impact natural disasters have on kids and their educational outcomes in large part because it’s a reality with which growing number of children are having to cope: Three times as many natural disasters occurred from 2000 to 2009 than from 1980 to 1989, with scientists attributing 80 percent of the increase to climate (rather than geophysical) change.”**

[Nearly 2,000 pets became homeless due to Harvey.](#)

