

TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS RESPONDS WITH DISASTER RELIEF AFTER HURRICANE HARVEY

TEXAS GULF COAST -- After Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas Gulf Coast, Texas Disposal Systems was prepared to respond as one of the most qualified resource management companies to serve their fellow Texans.

With a wide network of resources, including mobilized collection and roll off trucks, portable restrooms and shower trailers, expertise in cleanup processes and a willingness to help their neighbors, TDS provided immediate and continuing disaster relief for their fellow Texans. Since Harvey hit, TDS has been providing services throughout the Gulf Coast, stretching from Laredo to Columbus to Katy.

“Because TDS is an integrated company we were able to quickly respond in several ways,” said Ryan Beard, sales supervisor at TDS. “This is the hardest Texas has ever been hit and our experience uniquely qualified us for this relief effort.”

One of those qualifications comes with the ability to quickly get trucks and manpower to storm-rocked areas such as Refugio, Rockport and Port Aransas. TDS partnered with grocery chain H-E-B to provide shower trailers, portable restrooms, generators, solid waste containers and other equipment to give residents a safe place to clean up.



A TDS generator sits in front of a H-E-B in Port Lavaca. Generators from TDS helped H-E-B response teams keep operations running.

“About 5,000 people have come through for help in one week,” said Omar Garza, operations manager at Refugio’s H-E-B store. “They’ve lost most, if not all, of their homes. They’ve been thankful for the opportunity to have a place to get a hot shower.”

Garza noted the importance of having H-E-B stores open in affected communities, particularly during rebuilding efforts. Along with Refugio, TDS has partnered with seven stores throughout the Gulf Coast to provide equipment to help run relief stations, and at times, the ability to run the store.

“Without the TDS generators, we wouldn’t have the store open,” Garza said.

Beyond portable restrooms and shower trailers, TDS is helping in clean-up efforts around the state. In Victoria, where TDS operates a compost facility, more than 200,000 cubic yards of space was cleared to process downed trees and damaged greenery. Through composting, TDS was able to help divert storm debris from the landfill and turn it into a beneficial product.

Additionally, TDS is helping our existing serviced communities pick up after Harvey. TDS is partnering with cities such as Columbus to run cleanup operations and collect debris from flooding and high winds. Having the ability to remove and process debris has been critical to storm relief, noted Donald Warshack, city manager of Columbus.

“I would think that cleanup efforts have been fantastic so far,” Warshack said. “We’ve been running six roll off containers a day.”

Cleanup efforts, including routine scheduled collection of solid waste, is a critical function of returning a community back to full strength, according to disaster relief experts.

Jennifer Schwenke, operations manager at TDS’ Weimar facility, praised her staff for finding ways to service neighborhoods on regular routes as quickly as possible following flooding and storm damage in the region.

“We’re Texans helping Texans,” Schwenke said. “For some of these people, this is about being able to pick up their lives and get back to some sort of normalcy.”

She said her teams have been working overtime to collect waste and find alternative routes to get around damaged roads and bridges. Through social media channels, TDS continually communicated schedule updates and cleanup efforts to keep residents informed.

Across the company, TDS has been finding ways to serve Texas and provide disaster relief. From working with school districts in West Houston to having employees deploy with the National Guard, TDS is impacting change in local communities. TDS is also beginning to work in other disaster areas, such as regions of Florida heavily affected by Hurricane Irma.

In response to Irma, TDS sent four shower trailers to contractors of the National Guard and Air Force in Homestead, Florida. Additionally, TDS began construction of customized laundry trailers to be used as a base camp for the Florida National Guard in Key West. The trailer was completed within 48 hours and sent over the course of a weekend from Texas to Florida.

For TDS, disaster relief and site services are a critical business unit that shows how TDS is more than just a waste provider. The company sees opportunity to be different from the industry standard, and help those who are in need.

“These are communities that we’ve been serving for several years,” Beard said. “But to anyone who needs our help, we’re doing everything we can.”



A resident of Columbus, Texas, looks on at TDS cleanup efforts in Columbus. TDS provided roll-off containers and solid waste collection following the floods and strong winds in the area.