

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

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TDLR INTRODUCED EMERGENCY RESPONSE AS HARVEY INTENSIFIED

AUSTIN – As Tropical Depression Harvey intensified in strength and was rapidly growing into Hurricane Harvey, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) was already preparing an emergency towing response for the storm’s impending landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast. By September 5 more than 700 emergency tow operator licenses and 27 new company tow licenses had been issued.

“Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented devastation to Texas. TDLR and its employees wanted to aid their fellow Texans in any way they can so we quickly activated an out-of-state emergency consent towing provision for the areas affected by Harvey,” states TDLR’s executive director, Brian Francis. “By creating an online license application, out-of-state tow operators were able to quickly become licensed and assist first responders to expedite recovery and cleanup efforts.”

In 2008 Hurricane Ike devastated the Houston area and hundreds of out-of-state tow operators arrived in Texas to assist in the recovery effort. TDLR staff created an online emergency tow license application to ensure the operators were working with a proper license. Seven years later the application was tested again during the December 2015 North Texas tornadoes disaster.

“To further assist emergency tow operators, TDLR sent notice to all Texas vehicle storage facilities reminding them to accept their emergency tow operator license, emergency consent tow truck permit, and emergency consent tow company license as identification for vehicle pick-up or drop-off. This is the same as with any regular Texas consent tow license,” explains Francis. “TDLR is in this recovery for the long-haul. As long as the Harvey recovery lasts, we pledge to continue to do whatever is in our power to assist affected Texans and the people aiding them.”

TDLR regulates thirty-two programs and encourages consumers to visit the TDLR webpage and click on “Search Licensees” to confirm the service provider they hire during the recovery phase is licensed in the State of Texas. Visit www.tdlr.texas.gov for more information.

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