

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

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For Immediate Release

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EFFORTS MADE TO CLEAR FLOODED & ABANDONED VEHICLES FROM STORM AFFECTED AREAS ***Governor Abbott approves easing rules to add needed Vehicle Storage Facilities***

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott has approved a move to increase the number of needed storage lots in the state’s storm ravaged areas so that abandoned and flooded vehicles can be cleared and recovery can continue.

During this recovery period additional storage lots may now be established without the same usual requirements for fencing, lot surface, lighting and signage.

Governor Abbott suspended requirements to certain statutes and rules relating to physical conditions necessary for establishing a licensed Vehicle Storage Facility (VSF). This action supports the ongoing recovery of flood damaged vehicles left in Hurricane Harvey’s wake.

Tow companies performing a nonconsent tow are required to take the vehicle to a VSF. Since Hurricane Harvey’s landfall the vast number of destroyed vehicles along the Texas Gulf Coast area has created a shortage of storage space in VSFs. The governor’s suspension allows licensed VSFs to utilize additional temporary lots to store the flooded and abandoned vehicles.

The concerned technical requirements include:

- 85.1000 Technical Requirements – Facility Fencing Requirements;**
- 85.1001 Technical Requirements – Storage Lot Surface;**
- 85.1002 Technical Requirements – Storage Lot Lighting;**
- 85.1003 Technical Requirements – Storage Lot Signs**

Licensed VSF owners or controlling persons must notify TDLR of their need and intention to use additional lots. TDLR’s Customer Service is available to assist or answer questions between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CDT at 1-800-803-9202. Owners or controlling persons will need to provide the following information:

- TDLR Vehicle Storage Facility license number
- Temporary lot address and location

The temporary suspension is in effect for the following counties:

Angelina, Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Colorado, Comal, DeWitt Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kerr, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, San Jacinto, Sabine, San Patricio, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Willacy, and Wilson.

Consumer or licensee questions about the additional lots can be sent to CSTowing@tdlr.texas.gov

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