

HURRICANE HARVEY HAD A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON HOUSTON

FLOODWATERS WERE CONTAMINATED

- **Viruses and bacteria:** Millions of gallons of untreated sewage overflows occurred. Doctors report increases of stomach issues and skin infections because of contact with flood waters.
- **Toxic Pollutants:** Water from flooded refineries and superfund sites, commercial and industrial facilities, and common household chemicals from under the kitchen sink were swept up and spread with the flood waters.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS WERE RELEASED

- Ninety incidents were reported in the greater Houston-Galveston region involving more than 700,000 gallons of pollutants released into water and on land, and more than 38,000 pounds of air pollutants.
- Waste sites were flooded and some leaked hazardous materials.
- The San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site was damaged by Harvey and has released dioxin into the River. Dioxin is the name used for a group of highly toxic chemicals that can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, damage to the immune system, and can interfere with hormones.

MOLD IN HOMES IS AN ONGOING DANGER TO HEALTH. Exposure to mold can cause:

- Respiratory problems, such as wheezing, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath
- Infection
- Eye irritation (itching, burning, watery, or reddened eyes)
- Coughing or throat irritation
- Skin rashes or irritation
- Headaches
- Fatigue

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SITES ARE DUMPSITES

- Storm debris put on the curbside will be sent to temporary debris management sites. These dumpsites may contain hazardous waste and should not be located near homes or schools.
- Storm debris may give off gases like hydrogen sulfide that smells bad and can be harmful to your health. Avoid contact with storm debris.

Lone Star Legal Aid's environmental justice team provides free legal help to low-income people and communities. We can provide specific information about environmental hazards and Harvey's impacts in your neighborhood.

Contact for more information: 713-652-0077 ext. 8108.

www.lonestarlegal.org