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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLTGov@scstatehouse.gov  
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Subject: Hurricane Harvey and Energy: What You Need to Know

August 30, 2017

## Hurricane Harvey and Energy: What You Need to Know

Dear Kevin,

The thoughts of the nation are with Texas as the state grapples with the devastating impacts of Hurricane Harvey. Protecting those in the path of flooding remains the top priority, and the efforts of Texans and volunteers from around the country to help their neighbors show America at its best.

The natural gas and oil industry is focused on the safety of our workers and their communities, and we've taken numerous steps [before and throughout the storm](#) to protect workers, secure infrastructure and ensure environmental protections.

We've [compiled information](#) to address common questions and concerns about the impact on energy infrastructure and supply and to explain the actions the industry is taking to ensure the safety of our facilities and surrounding communities. As the storm continues, you can find [this FAQ](#) and updated information on our blog, EnergyTomorrow.org:

### **What could be the impacts on the industry?**

Refineries in the area remain shut down as flooding continues to impact transportation routes and modes throughout the area. The Texas Gulf Coast region is a center of oil and natural gas activities in the U.S. and the

### **Industry Standards Reflect Commitment to Safety**

Safety is a core value of the oil and natural gas industry – safety for workers, communities near active operations and the environment. Commitment to safety is the foundation for API's almost 700 standards covering all segments of industry operations, including natural disaster preparedness and recovery. [Learn more about the industry's standards program and its effectiveness in maintaining safe operations.](#)

stabilized. They will then account for their personnel and address any outstanding needs before performing damage assessments and [beginning the restoration process](#). As facilities are assessed for damage, determinations will be made for prudent and environmentally safe ways to bring refineries, infrastructure and other assets back online. Hurricanes in 2005 and 2008, as well as Superstorm Sandy in 2012, prompted federal and state governments to take action to increase supply and ease distribution challenges by exercising the authority to waive certain fuels and transportation requirements during these extreme and unusual events.

#### **What is the storm's potential impact on gasoline prices?**

With significant events, such as hurricanes, that cause temporary refinery shutdowns, there is the potential for fuel prices to be affected at the pump in the short term. Storms and other big events (such as wars and other occurrences) can impact prices, potentially resulting in significant price swings. Ultimately, prices are set by [supply and demand](#) and may be influenced by perceptions about future supply and demand. Individual retail operators establish prices at their stations, and all retail operators should conduct business in a legal and ethical manner. Nationwide, current inventories of crude oil and refined products are relatively high, and these supplies could help offset storm-related disruptions to both. While issues may arise if infrastructure constraints restrict access in any region, these high inventory levels could help offset supply disruptions that may be caused by the storm.

As the situation continues to evolve, you can find updates at API's [hurricane information](#) page, [energytomorrow.org](#), and [energy.gov](#). And please consider joining API and our member companies in donating to the Red Cross, United Way or other charitable organizations providing storm relief.

Sincerely,

**Jack Gerard**  
President and CEO  
API

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