

# HURRICANES, MAJOR DISASTERS, COASTAL PROTECTION AND RAPID RECOVERY IN TEXAS AND GULF COAST REGION

THC - 2017  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



**Texas Hurricane Center**  
for Innovative Technology

(<http://hurricane.egr.uh.edu>)

Conference and Exhibition  
Sponsored by

**Texas Hurricane Center for Innovative  
Technology (THC-IT)  
&  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
University of Houston**

**August 4, 2017**

University Hilton  
University of Houston  
Houston, Texas 77204-3902

## Conference Registration

The Conference is presented in a one day concentrated format to update the community, emergency managers and suppliers who play an important role in hurricane and other disaster preparedness, loss mitigation and rapid recovery. Well known and influential speakers will provide valuable information to the conference attendees. Complete and return the registration form with the registration fee before July 28, 2017 for an advanced registration discount. Registration fee includes admission, lunch, coffee breaks, and free hotel parking. Registration and attendance will be limited to the first 150 registrants.

For Hotel Reservations call (832) 531-6300 or 1-866-327-1161 and ask for THC-2017 Hurricane and Other Disaster Conference Rate.

## Top Reasons To Attend:

- (1) Be informed about the latest plans and procedures in preparing for hurricanes and other major disasters in number of major Gulf coast cities.
- (2) Network with state, city and county emergency managers, engineers, suppliers, consultants, researchers, educators, scientists, students and exhibitors.
- (3) Presentations include debris management, preparedness, loss mitigation, evacuation, coastal protection, transportation issues, rapid recovery and new technologies that could influence your operations.
- (4) View research posters from many Gulf Coast Universities and attend the reception.
- (5) Houston is easily accessible from anywhere in the U.S.

For conference information or to reserve exhibition spaces call **Dr. Vipul** at (713) 743-4278.

## REGISTRATION

Advanced Registration (by 7/28/2017)	\$150.00
At-Door Registration	\$165.00
Student Registration*	\$ 85.00

Exhibitor^	\$300.00
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(A reception is planned in the exhibit area)

^One person has free registration

\*Current I.D. and School Registration;

Please make check payable to THC-IT/UH  
and mail it to:

Conference Registration

THC-IT/Dept. C&EE

University of Houston

Houston, TX 77204-4003

(Attn: Dr. C. Vipulanandan (Vipu))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
(office use only)

For more information

Phone: (713) 743-4278; Fax: (713) 743-4260

Email: [CVipulanandan@uh.edu](mailto:CVipulanandan@uh.edu)

## About the Conference

A one day Conference and Exhibition is being organized by the Texas Hurricane Center for Innovative Technology (THC-IT) on "Hurricanes, Major Disasters, Coastal Protection and Rapid Recovery in Texas and Gulf Coast Region" at the University of Houston on August 4, 2017. The presentations will include current preparation plans for the entire Gulf Coast including Texas counties and cities for the 2017 hurricane season and other disasters. Special feature of this conference is the four panel discussions on hurricane issues, other disasters, coastal protection and debris management. After the technical sessions, a reception will be held starting at 2:30 p.m. with invited state, city, county and industry leaders in the exhibit area to facilitate networking. The conference fee also includes lunch, coffee breaks, reception and parking. Earn 5 PDH by attending the entire conference.

### List of Distinguished Speakers

#### **Session I: (8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.)**

**Jack Steele**, "HGAC Regional Preparedness and Related Issues," Executive Director, Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, Texas, Keynote Speaker.

**Karun Sreerama**, "Management of Critical Infrastructures in the City of Houston Before, During and After Disasters," Director, Public Works and Engineering Department, Houston, Texas, Keynote Speaker

**David Casebeer**, "Managing Storm Impacts at Port Houston Ship Berths," Project Manager, Port Houston, Houston, Texas.

**Hurricane Forecasting, Bill Read**, Former Director, National Hurricane Center- NOAA, Texas, A & M University, Galveston, Texas.

#### **Session II: (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)**

##### **Panel 1: Emergency Management and Recovery**

**Moderator: Daniel Wong**, Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (20 to 25 min. presentations)

**John R. Flanagan and Howard Hilliard**, "The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management and Department of Public Works and Engineering Emergency Management, Preparation and Response," City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

**Michelle Havelka**, "Natural Disasters: Before and After the "Storm", Homeland Security Coordinator, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Austin, Texas;

**Opportunities for Infrastructure Improvements, Travis Mays**, "Rostan Solutions Inc., Valrico Florida. **Emergency Response at ExxonMobil, Brian Hansen**, Exxon Mobil, Spring, Texas.

##### **Panel 2: Major Disaster Recovery and Coastal Protection Issues**

**Moderator: Rafael Ortega**, Aurora Technical Services, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (20 to 25 min. presentations)

**Cynthia Hudson**, "Long Term Recovery - Helping Texas Rebuild," Grant Manager, Texas General Land office, Austin, Texas;

**Sharon Manzella Tirpak**, "Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study," Deputy Chief Project Manager, USACE-Galveston District, Galveston, Texas.

**Michael Shannon**, "Overview of the Texas City Hurricane Levee," County Engineer, Galveston, Texas.

**Andrew Molly and Kira Smith**, Maintaining Consumer and Regulator Confidence in Drinking Water Following Natural Disasters – A look back at the City of Houston's response before and after Hurricane Ike, City of Houston, Houston, Texas

##### **Lunch Break, Exhibition & Research Posters**

Posters on current research from **Various Universities along the Gulf Coast Region**. **Companies** participate in the **Exhibition**.

**12:00 to 12:15 p.m. County Judge, Matt Sebesta**, "The Disaster Management in Brazoria County " Brazoria County, Texas.

**12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. State Rep. Dennis Paul**, "Issues Related to Disasters in Texas, State of Texas Representative-District No. 129, Seabrook, Texas.

**12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Nim Kidd**, Disaster Related Challenges in Texas" Chief of Texas Department of Emergency Management, Austin, Texas.

#### **Session III: (1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.)**

##### **Panel 3 : Coastal Modeling, Monitoring and Debris Management**

**Moderator: C. Vipulanandan**, Houston, Texas.

Panelist (15 to 20 min. presentations)

**Surge Suppression Achieved by Different Coastal Spine (Ike Dike) Alignments, Bruce Ebersole, Thomas Richardson, and Robert Whalin**, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

**The Status of the Ike Dike/Coastal Spine, William Merrell, Leonard Waterworth, Samuel Brody, and Cherie Coffman** Texas A & M University, Galveston, Texas.

**Lessons Learned From Disasters and Large Woody Debris Management, C. Vipulanandan**, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

##### **Panel 4: Advance Technologies for Maintenance and Monitoring**

**Moderator: Gino Lim**, Chair of Industrial Engineering, University of Houston, Houston

Panelist (20-25 min. presentations)

**Frank Ciaccio**, "Emergency Management in Houston Airports," Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Houston, Houston, Texas.

**LNG Shipping and Offshore Pipeline Damage Assessment Problems Near Port Houston, Jeeyoung Cho and Maryam Hamidi**, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas.

**Advanced Technologies for Safety and Security, Gino Lim and Seon Kim**, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.

#### **RECEPTION: (2:30 - 3:30 p.m.)**

A reception will be held in the Exhibit area (food and drinks). In addition to conference participants, number of cities, counties and industrial leaders will be invited to participate. This is a good opportunity to network and several of door prizes are waiting for you.

#### **Professional Development Hours (PDH)**

Earn up to 5 hours of PDH by attending the conference. Certificates will be issued after the conference.

"Innovation through Research and Education"