



As recovery efforts continue in Texas, wildfires are raging out west and with Hurricane Irma now bearing down on Florida, the VA and DoD officials have asked us to share this important department and Federal Agency information for service members, Veterans and families who are, or may be impacted.

1) TRICARE has updated its website to include specific information for those who are or are about to be impacted by Hurricane Irma and are working through the recovery from Hurricane Harvey:
https://tricare.mil/Resources/DisasterInfo/DisasterAlerts/09_05_17_PuertoRico_FL_Irma
https://tricare.mil/Resources/DisasterInfo/DisasterAlerts/08_24_17_Texas_Harvey

Additional TRICARE resources include:

Information to consider BEFORE an emergency occurs
<https://tricare.mil/Resources/DisasterInfo/BeforeDisaster>

Information to consider AFTER an emergency occurs
<https://tricare.mil/Resources/DisasterInfo/AfterDisaster>

Tricare Contact Information

TRICARE North Region
Health Net Federal Services, LLC
1-877-TRICARE, (1-877-874-2273)
www.hnfs.com

TRICARE South Region
Humana Military
1-800-444-5445
www.humana-military.com

TRICARE West Region
UnitedHealthCare Military & Veterans
1-877-988-WEST, (1-877-988-9378)
www.uhcmilitarywest.com

2) Specific Information for Impacted Service Members and Families: Local installation commands are the primary source of information for affected members and families. They should frequently check their installation website and Facebook pages for information specific to their area.

In addition to local resources, these national links provide vital information on preparedness and recovery:

DoD Disaster Preparedness

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/National-Preparedness-Month-2017/source/GovDelivery/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/preparing-your-family-for-emergencies>

FEMA

<https://www.fema.gov/>

<https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-irma>

NOAA

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

National Readiness Campaign

www.Ready.gov

DoD News Related to Hurricanes Irma and Harvey

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Archive/Tag/98280/hurricane-irma/>

https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0817_hurricane-harvey/

For our Veteran community, The VA has published helpful information at these links:

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/hurricane-irma/>

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/hurricane-harvey/>

3) Military Aid Societies are the official Military Service charities that assist our service members and families in times of need:

Army Emergency Relief

<https://www.aerhq.org/> Phone number: 866-878-6378

Air Force Aid Society

<https://www.afas.org/> Phone Number: 703-972-2650

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

<http://www.nmcrcs.org/pages/disaster-relief> Phone Number: (800)-654-8364

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA)

<https://www.nvoad.org/> Phone Number: 800-881-2462

4) Other Ways to Help (DoD endorsement/solicitation not intended)

From the FEMA Website (www.fema.gov/hurricane-irma): "To help people affected by the storm [cash donations and volunteering], visit the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster webpage for a listed of trusted organizations."

<https://www.nvoad.org/>

The Corporation for National and Community Service has information for those who wish to volunteer

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/focus-areas/disaster-services/hurricane-irma>

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/focus-areas/disaster-services/hurricane-harvey>

National Readiness Campaign also has information on how to volunteer.

<https://www.ready.gov/get-involved>

5) The Department of Veteran Affairs has a host of resources to assist Veterans:

Veterans Benefits | Veterans Benefits Administration

Veterans Home Loans

Natural Disasters Guidance for VA Borrowers: <https://go.usa.gov/xXctH>

Special Relief Following a Natural Disaster: <https://go.usa.gov/xXrJU>

Find VA circulars concerning:

- Current Disaster Guidance
- Forbearance Requests
- Moratorium on Foreclosures
- Late Charge Waivers
- Credit and VA Reporting
- VA Home Loan Information

VA Home Loan Management: <https://go.usa.gov/xXctJ>

Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 4 PM (ET), (877)827-3702

Direct Home Loans for Native Americans: <https://go.usa.gov/xXctS>

VA Guaranteed Home Loan Program: <https://go.usa.gov/xXcz3>

Specially Adapted Housing Grant: <https://go.usa.gov/xXczc>

Gateway to Benefit Information:

eBenefits: <https://ebenefits.va.gov>

Veteran Students

Beneficiaries using:

Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill) or Chapter 35 (Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program): As long as the enrollment was submitted prior to the incident, no further action is necessary to receive continued payment.

Beneficiaries using:

Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty), 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill -Selected Reserve), or 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP): Continue to verify attendance until further notice as if the school did not close; doing this will ensure that payment is not affected.

Education Call Center: Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 7 PM (ET) (888)442-4551

Regional Benefits Office Locator: <https://go.usa.gov/xXczx>

Student Attendance Verification: <https://go.usa.gov/xXcJR>

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Employment Assistance:

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E): www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab

Federal Benefits Book

Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors: <https://go.usa.gov/xXaWy>

Debt Management Center

Repayment, Offsets, Hardships, and Waivers: <https://va.gov/debtman>

Pension Benefits Disaster Procedures:

If you cannot receive your Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Pension or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) VA has resources to assist:

Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 9 PM (ET), (800)827-1000

Or visit your local VA Regional Benefits Office to request a paper check.

Burial & Memorial Benefits | National Cemetery Administration

Burial Benefits: <https://go.usa.gov/xXctR>

National Cemetery Scheduling Office: www.cem.va.gov

8 AM - 7:30 PM (ET) (800) 535-1117

Military Funeral Honors: www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh

24 Hour Contact, (877) 645-4667

Health Resources | Veterans Health Administration

Veterans Crisis Line/Mental Health Hotline: www.veteranscrisisline.net

24 Hour Contact: (800)273-TALK, Option 1 to speak to someone NOW! Text: 838255

VA Services for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans: www.va.gov/homeless

24 Hour Contact: (877) 4 AID VET

VHA Health Benefits Enrollment Eligibility:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 8 PM (ET), (877) 222-VETS

Veterans Health Administration: www.va.gov/health

VA Medical Center Locator: www.va.gov/directory

My HealtheVet: www.myhealth.va.gov

Caregiver Support: www.caregiver.va.gov

Women Veterans Health Care: www.womenshealth.va.gov (855)VA WOMEN

Assistance Outside of VA

Federal Disaster Assistance: www.disasterassistance.gov

Disaster Assistance by Federal Agency: go.usa.gov/xXcJU

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance/assistance-by-federal-agency>

Disaster Recovery Center Locator: go.usa.gov/xXczA

<http://asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/home.htm>

American Red Cross Disaster Relief & Recovery: www.redcross.org/get-help

State Emergency Management Agencies: go.usa.gov/xXczs

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

The Department's Fourth Mission:

Ensure Preparedness to Provide Services and Protect People and Assets Continuously and in Time of Crisis

Update your address? Let us know!

On-line: <https://go.usa.gov/xXr8W>

By Phone: (800) 827-1000

Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 9 PM (ET) By Mail: VA Form 20-572
Request change of address/Cancellation of Direct Deposit

Search for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on Social Media

Facebook: VeteransAffairs, VeteransBenefits, VeteransHealth

Twitter: DeptVetAffairs, VAVetBenefits, Veteranshealth