



Victoria County, TX

2017 Hurricane

Physical Address:

1st Baptist Church
78 Leonard Ave South
Bloomington, TX 77951

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 261
Bloomington, TX 77951-0261

Telephone/E-Mail:

717-682-2935 (Office)
717-413-5349 (Project Director)
victoriacounty@mds.mennonite.net

Directions:

From Houston: US-59 / I-69 S to TX-185 toward Bloomington. Slight left onto Frontage Road. 1st Left onto TX-185/FM--404. Left onto Johnson/FM-616. 3rd Right onto Leonard Ave

Location

Victoria County is located about 135 miles southwest of Houston, Texas. The population is approximately 87,000 residents with about 25% of the population speaking Spanish as a first language. The climate is humid and sub-tropical, with hot summers and mild winters. The area is known for its farms and ranches, as well as oil production, both of which have been major industries since the 1930s.

Disaster

Hurricane Harvey reached tropical storm status on August 17, 2017 and continued to develop and intensify, becoming a category 3 hurricane that finally dissipated on September 3, 2017. It was the costliest natural disaster ever on record in the U.S. and the first major hurricane to make landfall on U.S. soil since 2005. There were 91 confirmed deaths and more than 300,000 people were left without electricity. Many people were displaced and thousands of homes were destroyed or sustained major damage.

MDS

Weekly volunteers will be staying in the annex building of the church, which has been divided to make bunkrooms for volunteers. The office, dining, and restrooms are all in the church, with a shower trailer right outside. MDS will be focusing on repair work from hurricane and flood damage. Mosquitoes are prevalent here and it is recommended that volunteers bring insect repellent and sunscreen.

Transportation Options

It is the responsibility of short-term volunteers to plan, schedule, and pay for their transportation to and from the project in Victoria County. If you choose to fly in or take a bus, you will need to be sure to arrange for transportation from the station to the project, as MDS is not able to pick up weekly volunteers. If you have questions about this, please call the Volunteer Placement Coordinator at 800-241-8111.

- The Victoria Regional Airport is the closest airport, only about 9 miles away. This is a small airport where volunteers can make connecting flights to Dallas Fort Worth Airport. Rental cars are available through Avis (800-352-7900) and Enterprise (855-266-9289).
- Greyhound has a bus station in Victoria, Texas about 10 miles from the project site, and can be reached at 800-231-2222.