



A Message from Mayor Wax

It's Sunday evening and I've spent a full day assessing the situation in Rockport. As you know, there is widespread damage, unbelievable debris, and no utilities or public services.

We're fortunate to have significant assets from the state and federal government to assist with clean-up, search and rescue efforts and so many of the things that need to be done before it's safe for residents to return.

Safety is our most important concern and that is why we're asking people NOT to return. Power lines are down causing major difficulties in traversing the roads. As mentioned earlier, there are no water or sewer services although personnel are working diligently to increase the pressure in the hopes of restoring water to portions of the City.

The City's Natural Gas Department is checking the system for leaks, as there have been numerous areas affected. Until these are capped, we ask that no new generators be powered up as they pose a significant risk and may cause further damage if there is a gas leak nearby.

In talking to the National Weather Service, I was told that the worst is over and that there will not be any significant rain events. This is GOOD news is that we will be able to start rebuilding sooner rather than later. However, there will still be significant rain in the Victoria Crossroads and other areas in which many of our citizens have chosen to evacuate.

I spoke to AEP and they provided me with some important information that I wish to share. There are two aspects of getting the power back on. The first is the infrastructure, which has to be totally rebuilt. Once that is done, they will be able to power up the transmission lines to provide electricity. They've already started work in Corpus Christi. In my estimation, it will be 2 – 3 weeks before we have power in Rockport.

The 200+ individuals who sought refuge at Live Oak Elementary have been taken to a location outside of Rockport that can provide them with the essential services that are not present in Rockport. If any of our evacuated residents wish to visit a shelter rather than return to Rockport, they should call the Emergency Manager of the County in which they're currently located. This can be done by calling the NON-emergency number to the area's dispatch center.

A reminder that we are under a curfew from 7 pm – 7 am. National Guard, Rockport Police, Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement officials will pull you over.

The support we're getting from emergency personnel throughout the state is overwhelming. And, more help keeps coming from Oklahoma, Missouri, Georgia and more.

We need to emphasize, once again, that this IS NOT the time to return. Let us do our jobs and make it safe for you. Please don't be part of the problem.