

# TLDR Hurricane Harvey Emergency Towing Needed!

## Emergency Tow Licensing: Hurricane Harvey

Under authority of Chapter 86, Texas Administrative Code, TDLR Executive Director Brian Francis has activated emergency tow provisions for the disaster areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. These emergency provisions will help expedite recovery and cleanup efforts and allow more tow operators to assist our fellow Texans in their time of need.

The disaster areas include the following Texas counties identified in Governor Greg Abbott's updated disaster proclamation effective August 27, 2017: Angelina, Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Burlison, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Colorado, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kerr, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, San Jacinto, Sabine, San Patricio, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Willacy, and Wilson.

## Emergency tow license applications are now available from TDLR:

- **Emergency Consent Tow Operator License.** [Apply online.](#)

To be eligible, you must:

- complete the online application;
- hold a valid driver's license issued by a state in the United States;
- pass a background check; and
- pay the consent tow operator license fee of \$100.
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An emergency consent tow operator must carry this license at all times when performing tow operations, and must allow TDLR and law enforcement personnel to inspect their tow truck at any time. See [Requirements for Emergency Consent Tow Operator License](#).

- **Emergency Consent Tow Truck Permit.** Call 800-803-9202. To receive an emergency consent tow truck permit, your tow truck must be affiliated with a TDLR-licensed tow company. See [Requirements for Emergency Consent Tow Truck Permit](#).

If your tow truck is already affiliated with a TDLR-licensed tow company, the company can simply add your vehicle information to their account online using the online TOOLS system and print out the permit (also referred to as a "cab card"). If your tow truck is *not* affiliated with a TDLR-licensed tow company, you must apply for an emergency consent tow company license in order to receive the emergency consent tow truck permit.

- **Emergency Consent Tow Company License.** Call 800-803-9202. TDLR's licensing team will expedite your emergency consent tow company license application over the phone. You can also add your tow truck(s) during this process to get your emergency consent tow truck permit (cab card). Note: the tow

company application process requires that your insurance company file your insurance information using TDLR's online TOOLS system. See [Requirements for Emergency Consent Tow Company License](#).

**Notice to all Vehicle Storage Facilities in a declared disaster area:** All emergency consent tow operator licenses, emergency consent tow truck permits, and emergency consent tow company licenses must be accepted as identification for vehicle pick-up or drop-off at your facility, just as any regular consent tow license would.

**For questions or help, please email [CStowing@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:CStowing@tdlr.texas.gov) or call TDLR at 1-800-803-9202 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

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**All tow truck operators must be licensed.** There are three different types of tow operator licenses: the Incident Management Tow Operator License, the Private Property Tow Operator License, and The Consent Tow Operator License. Tow truck operators need to choose only one designation. The Incident Management License allows a driver to perform incident management towing, private property towing and consent towing. The Private Property License allows private property towing and consent towing. The Consent Towing License only authorizes consent towing.

**Incident Management (IM) and Private Property (PP) Towing Operators** are required to be certified by the [National Drivers Certification Program of the Towing and Recovery Association of America](#), [AAA-Texas](#), [Towing and Recovery Association of America](#), [Texas Towing and Storage Association](#), [Southwest Tow Operators Association](#), [TOWS \(Training of Wrecker Services\)](#), or the proctored program from [WreckMaster, Inc.](#) Currently these programs are the only acceptable certification programs. TDLR does not provide certification classes or certifications. Additional certification programs may be approved in the future. Certification must be obtained **before** drivers are eligible for an IM or PP license. Applicants for the Consent Towing License do not need to be certified.