



Harris County Appraisal District News Release

For additional information contact Jack Barnett, Communications Officer, 713-957-5663

September 2, 2017

Hurricane Harvey Damage Report Feature Now On Harris County Appraisal District App

Houston — Harris County homeowners who have any type of property damage from Hurricane Harvey can now report that damage to the Harris County Appraisal District through the district's upgraded app.

The upgraded app allows residential property owners to report flood, tornado or roof damage electronically.

“The appraisal district can use this information to identify the most damaged neighborhoods and properties to help the homeowner next year when the property is reappraised January 1 by possibly reducing the value because of existing damage or ongoing repair work,” said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

The upgraded app gives the homeowner options to quickly identify whether the damage was on the home or garage and provides an event damage report that lists options for the amount of water, an estimate of damage caused by a tornado or roof leaks and a section for fire damage. When the homeowner is ready to submit the report, they take a photo of the front and back of their driver's license to verify the property owner's identity. The app will prompt the user to allow access to the camera.

“We started to develop this app last week when we heard of the approaching hurricane,” Altinger said. “This is a revolutionary advance in property assessment, and we are the only appraisal district in the world that has it available for our property owners.”

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The appraisal district already had an existing app for iPhones and Androids that provided information to property owners and allowed them to submit exemption applications and request their iFile number, which is needed to file a protest. Searching for the address or phone numbers automatically triggers elements on the phone, which would then load maps for directions or prompt the phone to dial a number.

“This upgrade is another example of how we are continuing to make it easier and more convenient for property owners to work with the appraisal district.” Altinger said.

The new HCAD app is available to download for free through the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store, but it requires an iPhone 4 or an iPad 3 or beyond. If you already have the app, you can update it to reveal the new damage report feature.

The appraisal district also has set up a special phone line for property owners to report Hurricane Harvey damage at 713.812.5805, or they can email that information to help@hcad.org . Please provide your name, address, phone number and account number, if you have it, along with the number of inches or feet of water you received.

About HCAD

The Harris County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas established in 1980 for the purpose of discovering and appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit within the boundaries of the district. The district has more than 1.8 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately \$575 billion. The appraisal district in Harris County is the largest in Texas, serving approximately 500 taxing units, and one of the largest appraisal districts in the United States. For further information, visit www.hcad.org.

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