

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 3, 2013 “Natural Disaster Preparedness”

This past week, I had a chance to reflect on the importance of preparation for natural disasters. Families, businesses, and hospitals alike need to do their best to get ready for the unpredictable, ever changing North Texas weather.

At the Emergency Preparedness Summit and Fair that I held this past Saturday, I was reminded that as Texans we need to do our best to handle the wide spectrum of weather disasters. In the past, Texans have seen how vulnerable our state is to a number of natural disasters. From floods to hurricanes, fires and tornadoes, we've seen the worst of it.

Beyond our Texas borders, our country has also faced terrifying weather catastrophes. Most recently, Hurricane Sandy took and destroyed the livelihoods and wellbeing of many in the hurricane's path. Hundreds of thousands of homes were flooded from the frightening winds and towering waves. Hospitals also suffered from failed building structures and power supplies.

On Tuesday, I spoke with a large group of hospital administrators. We talked about the need to prevent hospital malfunctions during catastrophes like Hurricane Sandy. By updating the life safety code standards at hospitals, the likelihood of failure during an unpredictable storm will significantly decrease. Keeping our hospitals in good condition will prevent further harm and in fact, save many lives.

I hope that families, businesses, and hospitals will continue to prepare for the impulsive forces of nature. As a physician I'm always filled with pride when I hear about the heroics of doctors and nurses who saved patients from a flooded Intensive Care Unit. But would it not be better if these situations did not occur in the first place? I'll continue to work with our community and the federal government on creating better and safe standards and a better and safe future for our country.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information about this issue and for other issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website at burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family and keep them safe, and as always, may God bless Texas.