

# Hurricane Ike Impact Report: Orange County



Texas Engineering Extension  
Service

Knowledge Engineering

800-541-7149

[KE@teexmail.tamu.edu](mailto:KE@teexmail.tamu.edu)

# HURRICANE IKE IMPACT REPORT

## ORANGE COUNTY SUMMARY

### Economic Impact

Overall economic impact to Orange County is estimated to be \$365 million.

\$116 million estimated lost in the retail sector.

\$372 million in estimated losses to the industrial sector

The total economic impact (loss) to Orange County from Hurricane Ike is estimated to be \$364.9 million. Numbers are based on the Disaster Impact Model's accumulation of loss in sales during the four quarters (2008 Q4 – 2009 Q3) following Hurricane Ike. Already considered the most costly storm to make landfall in Texas, Hurricane Ike's true economic impacts to the region continue to be analyzed. Orange County's retail trade sector was impacted the hardest, experiencing an estimated \$116 million in losses alone.

### Impact Report

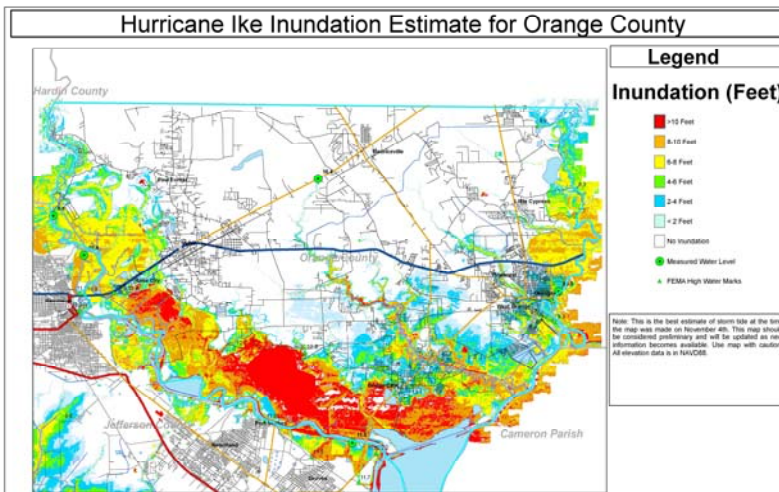
#### COUNTY INFORMATION

Orange County is located in the deep southeast portion of Texas and is part of the "Golden Triangle", an area of Southeast Texas lying between the cities of Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange. The county is bounded to the east by the Sabine River, which forms a portion of the Texas-Louisiana border, to the southeast by the Gulf of Mexico, and to the west by the Neches River. Today Orange County is home to 83,022 residents (2008) whose primary sources of employment come from petroleum refining, paper milling, rice farming, fishing and shrimping.

#### Hurricane Ike

Orange County, along with other deep east Texas counties, has endured multiple hurricanes during the three year span from 2005 to 2008. Prior to Hurricane Ike, Orange County had traditionally experienced the dry side of hurricanes, primarily suffering damages from severe winds.

Hurricane Ike made landfall with **Category 2** winds and **Category 4** water surges. The entire city of Orange, which is the county seat, experienced flooding ranging from 6 inches to 15 feet.



Orange County, located 80 miles east of where Hurricane Ike made landfall, was flooded by a 22 foot storm surge.

### Federal Funding

\$68,469,446.01 in Individual Assistance grants

\$55,159,610.29 in Housing Assistance grants

\$13,309,835.72 in Other Needs Assistance grants

\$41,527,994.23 in Public Assistance grants

\$96,882,800.00 in U.S. Small Business Administration loans

### County Impacts

According to the Disaster Impact Model developed by Texas A&M AgriLife the estimated economic impact to Orange County for the 12-month-period following Ike was \$364.9 million. Among the 29 industry sectors evaluated in Orange County, the retail trade sector suffered the greatest loss, \$116 million.

Despite being 20 miles inland, Orange County's deepwater ports, supported by the Neches and Sabine River, provided pathways for Ike's 22 foot storm surge to create the worst flood ever documented in Orange County. The city of Orange sustained serious flood damage to its entire area, and several government buildings near the port were devastated, costing the county an estimated \$5.1 million in administration losses.

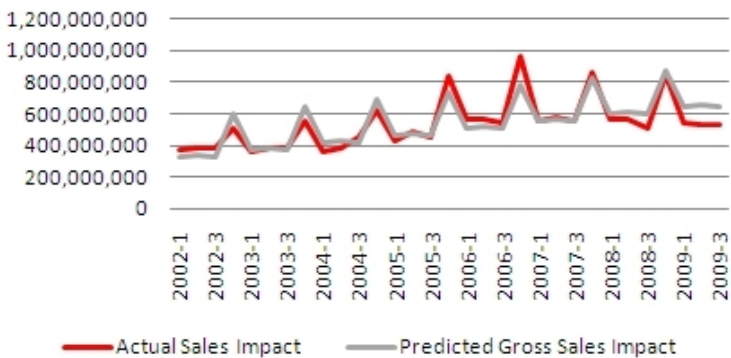
Orange County also experienced the disaster regions most significant loss of capacity to intermediate care facilities, with an 88.5% reduction. The loss reduced Orange County's overall capacity from 0.6 to 0.1 beds

per 1,000 people, well below the state average of three beds per 1,000 people.

The hurricane also caused significant damage to the schools of Orange County. Ike flooded the Head Start Center in the West Orange-Cove Consolidated Independent School District in Orange County. Bridge City ISD high school was inundated with flood water, leaving 2,550 students displaced.

Debris was also a major problem following the storm with the cost of debris removal for Orange County alone exceeding \$20.5 million.

### Orange County Economy-wide Ike Impact



After Hurricane Ike (2008 4Q – 2009 3Q), Orange County experienced on average a 14% per quarter reduction in gross sales for four quarters following the storm. Total losses to the county are estimated at \$364.9 million due to off-setting from the gains experienced by the service sector.