

# Healthcare Coalitions in the State of Texas

The Healthcare Coalitions (HCC) are built from various agencies in our communities. Hospitals; Emergency Medical and Fire Departments; Local and County Emergency Management; Local, Regional and State Health Departments; Mental Health Agencies, Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities all collaborate and coordinate together in order to plan for disaster response. The goal within the HCC's is to identify and address critical infrastructure and key resource allocation planning that decreases the vulnerability of the healthcare delivery system.

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# State of Texas Pink Vest Project

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Evacuation Vests for DADS  
Licensed Nursing Homes and  
Assisted Living Facilities

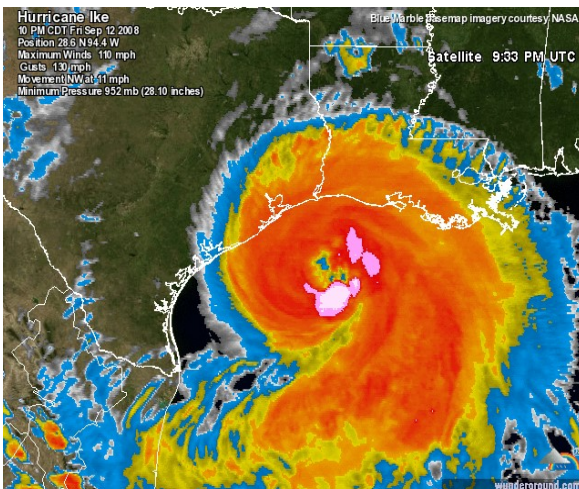


Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council

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# History of the Pink Vest Project

September 13, 2008 Hurricane Ike devastated the coast of Texas. Ike was a category 2 storm with winds sustained at 110mph. Initial landfall was near Galveston, TX. FEMA declared 34 counties disaster areas, 15 counties were under mandatory evacuations, and there were 74 deaths.



During these evacuations it was realized that patient tracking, particularly in Long-Term care (LTC) facilities, was severely lacking. LTC evacuations from the Houston area were being sent to other counties in Texas, many of those patients were with no medical records and unsure of where they were going.



LTC residents/patients typically have functional needs and/or need staff supervision at all times. Unfortunately, during the evacuation process LTC patients were blending in with all of the other evacuees and in turn being “lost” in the crowd.

It was determined that we need to be able to track and have visibility of our special needs populations.

## Why Pink Vests?

It’s simple actually. The Pink Vests are easy to see in a large crowd and there is a clear pocket on the front for the Patient Face Sheet and Medication Reconciliation Sheet.

