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**ARE YOU FINANCIALLY PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON?  
Hurricane Planning Should Include Key Financial Steps**

HOUSTON – May 24, 2007 – With the start of hurricane season in the Gulf Coast region and numerous national experts predicting a very active season, many Houston area residents are taking this opportunity to develop a hurricane plan. However, in addition to stocking up on the necessities of water, canned goods and batteries, residents should also take the time to ensure their financial needs will be taken care of in the event of a hurricane.

“Financial planning tends to be one of the most overlooked aspects of hurricane preparation, despite its critical importance to resuming daily life tasks following a storm,” said John Tipton, retail administration manager, Amegy Bank of Texas. “By working a few easy items into your hurricane plan, you can potentially alleviate a lot of anguish after a tropical storm or hurricane strikes.”

There are several steps that residents can take immediately—before a storm is even formed—that can help provide financial stability in the event of a disaster. First, gather your account information from your financial institutions and place it in a waterproof bag or container to have ready in the event of an evacuation. Be sure that you include the contact phone number and website address of each financial institution. For important paperwork that you do not need to take with you, consider establishing a safety deposit box at your bank.

Take advantage of direct deposit offered by your employer or for your Social Security payments. In the event that mail service is disrupted or roads are unsafe to travel, money can still be deposited into your account without interruption. Another option is to consider enrolling in online banking. Many banks including Amegy Bank today allow you to pay bills, transfer funds and monitor your account transactions online, which can be helpful in the event you have evacuated to another city or state.

“In today’s age of electronic access, you can conduct your banking business from almost anywhere, which can prove to be extremely helpful during a hurricane or natural disaster,”

explained Tipton. “However, you do need to be certain that you have accurate login and password information for all of your accounts and that you take that information with you in the event of an evacuation.”

If a hurricane is approaching the Houston area, visit your local banking center or an ATM well in advance of the storm making landfall and withdraw enough cash to cover critical expenses for three to five days. This is especially important in the event that power is lost, which would cause ATM and credit cards not to work. It may also be helpful to pay any bills that are due soon to ensure they reach the payee in time.

While it's easy to focus on other aspects of hurricane preparedness, concentrating on organizing your finances can prove to be invaluable in the event a storm hits.

### **About Amegy Bank of Texas**

Amegy Bank of Texas is one of the fastest growing banks in Texas. With assets of more than \$10 billion, local decision making and a history of relationship banking, Amegy has the resources to serve leading Texas companies as a source of capital as well as provide efficient and effective treasury management, international and investment services. The Bank, with more than 75 locations in the greater Houston, Dallas and San Antonio metropolitan areas, specializes in small business banking as well as private financial management and trust services for families and individuals, and retail and mortgage banking services. Amegy is a part of the Zions Bancorporation (NASDAQ: ZION) collection of great banks.

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