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## **WASTE MANAGEMENT ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL STORMS AND SECURE GARBAGE AND TRASH**

**Houston – September 10, 2008** – Waste Management encourages residents of Victoria, Jackson, Matagorda, Wharton, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston and Harris Counties to take the following precautions to secure any trash and other objects in preparation for Hurricane Ike:

- **Secure garbage and recycling containers.** Residents should place empty containers in a location away from open spaces.
- **Bundle and tie down all loose trash, such as tree limbs or wood planks.** Place these materials in a location where the debris cannot become hazards to homes and automobiles in high winds.
- **After any strong storm, separate household garbage, such as food, diapers and regular household waste, from debris caused by high winds, hail and rain.**

“Waste Management implemented its hurricane response plan as soon as this storm became a threat to the area. We are in consistent communication with local officials and will work tirelessly to collect all household garbage and trash. We request that residents assist us as we move through neighborhoods efficiently and safely and take the necessary steps to secure garbage and recycling containers,” said Lisa Doughty, spokesperson for Waste Management.

Waste Management will continue to collect household garbage and trash, as well as recycling, according to an area’s designated schedule until a mandatory evacuation is issued. After the storm, Waste Management will restart curbside garbage and trash collection immediately on the streets that are passable. The company will expand its routes to additional areas as more streets become clear of debris and other impediments.

## **CONSUMER INFORMATION – SEPARATING HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE AND STORM DEBRIS**

As families return to the areas affected by Hurricane Ike, Waste Management strongly recommends that **all residential customers separate their household garbage, such as food, diapers and regular household waste, from debris created by the storms and their aftermath.** We ask that customers bag their household garbage and place it at the curb. Storm debris, including refrigerators, household appliances, bags of clothing, tree limbs, carpet and carpet padding, and wood fencing, should be placed in a separate pile or piles.

Separating household waste from storm debris will allow Waste Management employees to collect your household garbage more quickly and safely, helping prevent foul odors and safety hazards that would be created by mixing your household garbage with storm debris. The separation is also necessary to allow Waste Management to collect household waste and to permit others to collect storm debris in accordance with arrangements made by counties/parishes and municipalities with contractors independent from Waste Management.

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