

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Dorothy Lynne McGee**

McGee's interview was part of an exhibit at the Fort Bend County Museum entitled *Tropical Impressions* relating to experiences during a hurricane. Dorothy's first experience of a hurricane was in 2005 with Hurricane Rita. She and her children drove from Richmond to Cleveland, TX, through traffic gridlock to stay with her in-laws. Due to what they thought was a mandatory evacuation in Sugar Land, Dorothy's sister, along with her grandmother, fled to Huntsville. Dorothy's grandmother suffered a heart attack and died on the way.

Dorothy's second experience was much calmer when Hurricane Ike struck in 2008. She and her family sheltered at their home and prepared the best way possible.

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## Interview Summary

### Places / Businesses (in order mentioned in interview)

Cleveland, TX

Huntsville, TX

Kingwood, TX

Richmond, TX

Sugar Land, TX

### Events

While her husband stayed home to prepare the house for Hurricane Rita, Dorothy took her two small children to Cleveland to stay with her in-laws.

When Hurricane Ike hit, they sheltered at home and boarded the house windows and stocked food and water. Overall, they were better prepared for the worst and plan to be better prepared for future storms.

*[Editor's note: From the City of Sugar Land: No mandatory evacuation order was ever ordered for Hurricane Rita. State and regional officials issued a "recommended" evacuation notice to all of Southeast Texas because of the record winds and intensity of the approaching storm and the expected landfall in a large populated area following so closely on the heels of Hurricane Katrina's devastation less than 4 weeks earlier. Rita was the 4th most intense Atlantic hurricane on record and the most intense Gulf of Mexico hurricane ever recorded with winds reaching 180mph.]*