

Collaboration of Public Health TB Laboratories: Prioritizing Testing Amid Natural Disasters and a Pandemic

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Disasters Experienced

Stuck MGIT 960 drawer

Hurricanes & Flooding

Winter Storm



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MGIT Drawer Malfunction



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- Set Calendar Reminders for Maintenance
- Train staff to open/close drawers gently and to notice and report any resistance
- Utilize second instrument for repeat testing
- Drastically delayed testing
- Notify submitters of delayed results

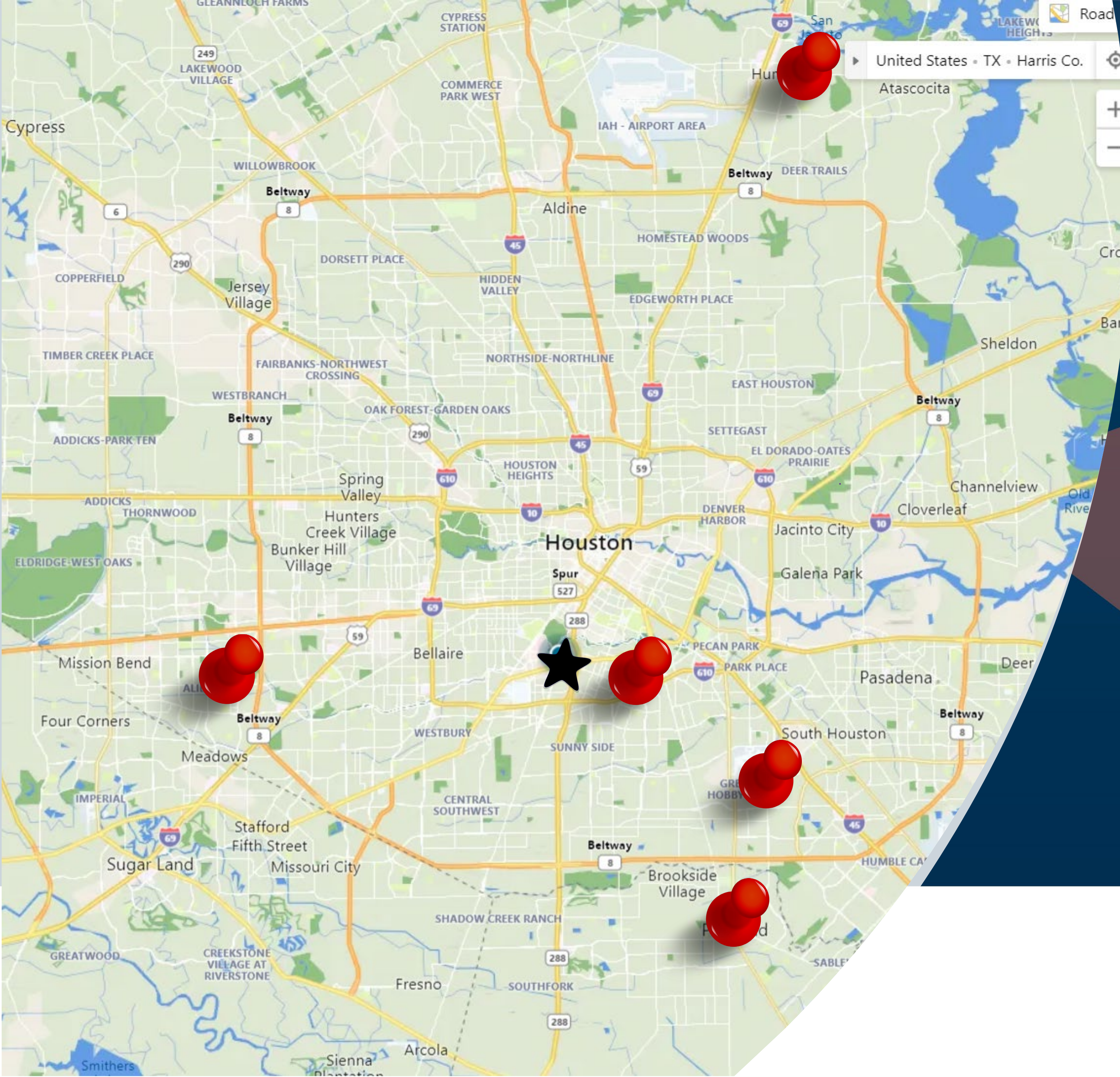
Major Flooding Events



MEMORIAL DAY 2015

TAX DAY 2016

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018



Distance lab
staff travel to
work



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How do we Prepare?



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- **Cover all equipment with heavy duty plastic**
- **Ensure backup power connections**
- **Elevate as much as possible**
- **Contact submitters**



How do we Prepare?

- **Set all ASTs**
- **Reseed ASTs**
- **Postpone send outs**
- **Track deliveries**





Impact of Disasters

Delayed Testing

Delayed Treatment



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Lessons Learned



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-
- **Minimize testing delays**
 - **Check on upcoming deliveries**
 - **Constant communication**





Thank You !

