



**TXGDEM**

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



## **Hurricane Ike Orphan Drum Program**

### **EPA and hazardous waste**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps retrieve, and safely dispose of, hazardous wastes that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Among these threats are orphan drums. Currently, EPA is picking up orphan drums and containers displaced by Hurricane Ike.

### **What is an orphan drum?**

Orphan drums – and tanks – are containers that may contain hazardous substances such as propane, industrial chemicals, and unknown substances.

### **Where are orphan drums located?**

Orphan drums can be found everywhere – including yards, fields and alongside roadways.

### **Why are orphan drums dangerous?**

Orphan drums may contain hazardous substances that are harmful to human health and the environment. Orphan drums may be leaking unknown substances and contaminating local air, water and soil.

### **What should I do if I discover an orphan drum?**

Above all, do not open, touch the contents or remove the orphan drum! Report its location to the EPA Hurricane Ike Orphan Container Hotline at **1-800-671-6022**.

### **What happens to an orphan drum once the EPA retrieves it?**

At the location, EPA personnel will:

- Assess the orphan drum container
- Transfer it to another container if leaking
- Ship to a hazardous waste facility for final disposal

Visit EPA's hurricane website: <http://www.epa.gov/hurricanes>