

Galveston Island to Implement New Environmental Alert Safety Program

Galveston Island, Texas- Starting in April of 2006 Galveston will be one of the first coastal cities in the nation to implement an environmental alert safety system. The system will use orange, triangular flags, to alert people in Galveston if the air quality possesses any potential threat.

If the air quality is found to be hazardous, an orange triangular flag will be raised at 26 lifeguard stands and seven freestanding stations from East Beach to 9 Mile Road. Signs that show an orange triangular flag and read: "Indicates an environmental warning for air and/or water quality. See notice for details," have been placed near the lifeguard stands.

The University of Texas Medical Branch, the Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees, and the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Beach Patrol have worked together to make the new Environmental Alert Safety Program possible. This system is a precautionary system to protect vulnerable populations such as children with asthma.

For current air quality, visit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality website at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/psi_rpt.