

# George R. Brown Convention Center Update

Houston is returning to normal after Hurricane Ike blew through the city last week. The George R. Brown Convention Center, location of the Halloween & Party Expo, withstood the storm and is fully operational. According to the Brown's General Manager, Luther Villagomez, "I am pleased to report that our facility weathered the storm with only superficial damage. No floodwater entered the building."

Similarly, the major downtown Houston hotels, including the hotels reserved for Expo attendees, also made it through the storm without any significant damage. Discovery Green, the beautiful park and entertainment district, located directly across the street from the Brown, was undamaged.

"Since Ike blew through, we've been in regular contact with our colleagues at the Brown Convention Center and at the hotels, both to lend our support and to check on the status of the facilities," says Jonathan Erwin, one of the Expo's organizers. "I'm happy to report that the Brown expects to be back to business as usual shortly, and that the hotels never ceased operating, even during the storm itself. One thing that we have learned this week is that the people we are working with in Houston are unflappable, competent, and tough."

Erwin added, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the residents of the coastal towns, such as Galveston, most impacted by the storm. We are aware that there are members of our industry who are among those affected, and we want to do everything we can to help them."

This map provides a perspective of Houston's location with respect to the coastal border.



## Photos taken September 15, 2008



Street-level view of G. R. Brown



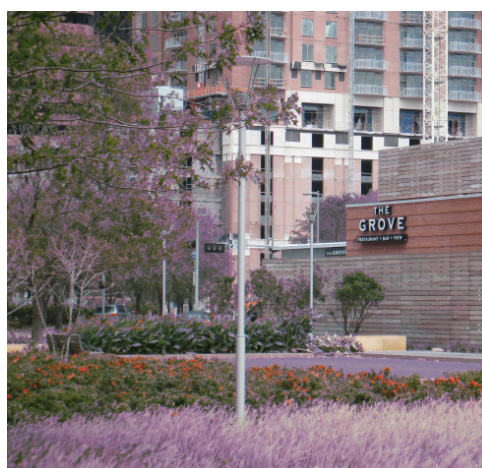
Skybridge from GRB to the Hilton



Hilton of the Americas



Hyatt Regency



Discovery Green Park View