



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

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RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE AS TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 2011 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

TALLAHASSEE – State emergency management officials are urging all Florida residents to prepare for a potential hurricane or tropical storm impact as today marks the start of the 2011 Hurricane Season. Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are anticipating above-average tropical activity this year, with the formation of as many as 12 to 18 named storms and 6 to 10 hurricanes. Florida residents are urged to develop a family disaster plan and build a disaster supply kit before a potential tropical system may threaten the state.

“As we begin the 2011 hurricane season, I encourage all Florida residents to create a family disaster plan and build a disaster supply kit,” said Bryan W. Koon, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “Taking the time to prepare today can help keep you and your family safe if a hurricane or tropical storm threatens our state this season.”

State and local emergency management officials strongly suggest that all Florida residents develop a family disaster plan. This plan provides flexible guidance to help residents determine where to go if they are ordered to evacuate, how they will get there, how they will care for their pets, and other critical points. Residents should also make additional plans to ensure that family members, friends, and neighbors who are elderly or who have disabilities or special needs remain safe during an emergency. The Division of Emergency Management offers an online tool that walks users through the entire planning process at FloridaDisaster.org.

Residents should also build a disaster supply kit with enough water, food, medicines, and other resources to last each member of their family for three days. Floridians are also encouraged to store any important legal documents and insurance papers in their disaster supply kit as well. Further suggested items for a disaster supply kit include additional sets of clothing, pet supplies, and non-electronic games and entertainment. Maintaining a well-stocked supply kit is crucial, since it may take emergency responders up to three days to deliver resources to an affected community after a major hurricane impact.

Florida is the hurricane capital of the United States, with more hurricanes making landfall in Florida than any other state. During the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons, nine named tropical systems directly impacted the state, seven of which were hurricanes.

(MORE)

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The high winds and intense rains of hurricanes and tropical storms can cause catastrophic damage to homes, businesses, roadways, and other infrastructure.

The 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30. For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. Follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/flsert and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT.

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