

Hurricane Preparedness Week 2012

National Hurricane Preparedness Week 2012 occurs this week from May 27th-June 2nd and serves as a reminder to all of us to prepare ourselves for the upcoming 2012 hurricane season. **Hurricane season officially begins this Friday, June 1st and runs until November 30th.** Here in Southeastern Louisiana many of us understand the value of being prepared ahead of a storm. Furthermore, as one of the organizations within our community that works with our citizens on a daily basis, we are asking for your help. Below you will find information on how to prepare yourself, your family and your clients for hurricane season. By working together, we can ensure that everyone has the information they need to be prepared this year.

Prepare for Hurricane Season in 3 simple steps:

1) Build a kit

FEMA recommends having the following items in case of an emergency:

- Water: 1 gallon/person/day for 3 days
- 3 days of nonperishable food and can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- NOAA Weather Radio
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- 1 week supply of medications
- Important papers

This link provides instructions for building an emergency supply kit:
<http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>

2) Make a Plan

Your family may be in different places when an emergency occurs, so it is important to make plans:

- Know where will you evacuate to and how to get there.
- Have an out-of-town contact.
- Know your child's school and your workplace's emergency plan
- Have a predetermined neighborhood meeting place.

For storms Category 2 or below, know how to shelter-in-place without electricity or running water.



3) Be Informed

Know the hazards your community is subject to including:

- Likely road closures due to localized flooding
- How many hours prior to a hurricane contraflow begins
 - St Bernard and Plaquemines Parish: 50 hours
 - Jefferson and Orleans Parish: 30 hours

Remember that all of Region 1 will be placed under a **mandatory evacuation order** for a Category 3 hurricane or above.

For more information see the [Louisiana Hurricane Survival Guide](#)

Community Involvement

Because our population is so extensive and diverse, the Office of Public Health relies on our community-based organizations to assist in distributing health and safety information to our citizens. The following are some suggestions of ways you can inform your clients about the upcoming hurricane season:

- Place educational information in your office or reception area
- Insert an article or insert into your regular newsletter with information on necessary steps to prepare for hurricane season
- Have the Office of Public Health give a hurricane preparedness training at an upcoming meeting or event
- Encourage your employees to speak with clients their about their plans for hurricane season during the months of June and July and encourage developing plans collaboratively

While our citizens unfortunately have a lot of experience in coping with hurricanes, reminders and tips are always helpful at the beginning of hurricane season. As the Community Preparedness Outreach Coordinator, I am always willing to work with our community organizations to prepare our citizens. **Feel free to contact me for informational brochures, newsletter inserts or training opportunities at karri.hobaica@la.gov.**