



FEMA

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Press Release

FEMA URGES ALL RESIDENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON

BOSTON – Hurricanes are among the most dramatic, damaging and potentially deadly weather events. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is urging residents of New England's coastal communities to be prepared for the upcoming hurricane season. The force of hurricane winds alone can cause tremendous devastation, toppling trees and power lines and undermining weak areas of buildings.

Past hurricane seasons have illustrated that the consequences of seasonal and coastal flooding can be devastating, and the greatest potential for loss of life related to a hurricane is from the storm surge. Storm surge is simply water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level to heights impacting roads, homes, and other critical infrastructure.

Craig Fugate, one of our nation's most seasoned, knowledgeable, and capable emergency managers is now our FEMA Administrator. He has extensive experience working with state and federal partners, as well as communities to address preparedness and response.

Emergency management does not begin and end with FEMA – it involves all levels of the hurricane response team including our other federal partners, state and local governments and officials, and most importantly the general public. Fortunately, individuals and communities can take some measures to prevent and offset hurricane damage through preparedness measures.

FEMA is working closely with our partners to prepare for the 2009 Hurricane Season, but it is also imperative that the public does all they can to be prepared. In fact, the emergency response team – composed of our federal partners, state and local governments and officials – will only be as successful as the public is prepared.

While FEMA and its partners are preparing for the next emergency, it is critical that families and communities do all they can to prepare as well. This includes having a plan in case of an emergency. What will your family do? Where will you go? Where will you meet if you are separated? Being prepared not only means having a plan, but also having an emergency response kit with supplies to support you and your family for 72 hours.

And, in the event of an emergency, after you have secured your family, do one more thing, check on a neighbor.

We all have a stake in emergency preparedness, and the outcome of the next disaster will be defined by this preparedness.

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