

Hurricane Season '08

Less than three years ago, every American witnessed the devastation and destruction that can happen when individuals and governments are ill-prepared to respond and rebuild after a major catastrophe strikes. Since this hurricane season has already begun, it is imperative that we all do our best to prepare for what is expected to be an "above normal" storm year.

Since the haphazard response to Hurricane Katrina, federal, state, and local governments have made necessary steps to ensure that history does not repeat itself. David Paulison, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, have assured me that Florida and the nation have the necessary contingencies in place for this storm season.

However, disaster readiness should not solely lie on the shoulders of the government. Individuals must properly prepare themselves for the worst case scenario. Everyone should develop family disaster plans and create supply kits. I urge Floridians to stock up on potential life-saving items, like flashlights, radios, and batteries in the coming days. It also is important to follow local weather forecasts and heed any emergency hurricane warnings.

Below you can find links to both Federal and local websites that provide useful information to help protect your home, family and pets before, during and after a storm.

* Hurricane Preparedness Checklist * (PDF)

2008 Hurricane Preparedness Information

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[FEMA 2008 Hurricane Preparedness Website](#)

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[National Weather Service Hurricane Awareness](#)

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National Hurricane Center

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center

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Glossary of National Hurricane Center Terms

Federal and State Resources

- Florida Division of Emergency Management

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Tampa Bay Chapter of the Red Cross

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Small Business Administration Disaster Preparedness Guide

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Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Local Evacuation Levels

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Pinellas County

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Pasco County

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Hillsborough County

Local Emergency Management Offices

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Pinellas County Emergency Management

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Pasco County Emergency Management

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Hillsborough County Emergency Management

Storm Tracking

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- National Weather Service

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