

## Now is the Time to Prepare for All of Florida's Weather

The 2010 Hurricane Season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and the National Hurricane Center and NOAA have predicted we should expect “active to extremely active” hurricane season. This forecast issued by NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center a division of the National Weather Service. NOAA is predicting:

- 14 to 23 Named Storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:
- 8 to 14 Hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher) of which:
- 3 to 7 could be Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of at least 111 mph)

“The main uncertainty in this outlook is how much above normal the season will be. Whether or not we approach the high end of the predicted ranges depends partly on whether or not La Nina develops this summer,” said Gerry Bell, Ph.D, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. “At present we are in a neutral state, but conditions are becoming increasingly favorable for a La Nina to develop.” (*Source: NOAA News 5/27/10*)

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is committed to serving as an educational and information resource for the residents of our Region and beyond. The Emergency Preparedness staff of the Council remains highly involved in tracking storm activity and remaining in constant contact with national, local and regional weather sources.

All of Northeast Florida residents are urged to have a “Hurricane Plan” in place before season begins. Residents need to know where your evacuation route is, how to obtain information about the route and when to evacuate should the order be given.

The NEFRC has provided links on our web site to assist in developing a plan and to educate residents about Florida’s weather including hurricanes, tornados and severe thunderstorms associated with the tropical season.

We have provided a link to each of our Regions Counties to Emergency Management web site for localized assistance, such as **Code Red**, a subscription emergency notification system what will call residents in the event of a potential or pending emergency. Residents will need to subscribe to the service from their county Emergency Management web site. Select [Emergency Management](#) for a link to your county EM site.

Use the Four **Pillars of Preparedness** to protect yourself and your family:

**Get a Plan** – The Florida Division of Emergency Management has prepared an interactive guide that will help you develop an Emergency Plan for your household or Family. The Florida web site can be found by selecting [\*\*GET A PLAN\*\*](#)

**Be Informed** – The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along our coastal areas than in previous years. This is due to advancements in tracking forecasts and experience. To learn more select [\*\*NOAA\*\*](#)

**Get a Kit** – It is important to get your hurricane supplies or kit well in advance of a storm. At a minimum you should have food and water for at least five to seven days. For detailed information select [\*\*Get a Kit\*\*](#)

**Be involved** – There are a number of opportunities to volunteer at the local and State level. Most counties have created a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) program teaching various life saving and response elements for your local community. Check with your local Emergency Management Director for more information. NOAA also offers a volunteer program as a Storm spotter / Observer. For additional information select [\*\*Volunteer@NOAA\*\*](#)

Looking Beyond the 2010 Hurricane Season:

Besides having a plan for each season, residents of northeast Florida are encouraged to take steps to make their homes more “hurricane resistant.” The My Safe Florida Home is a web site to homeowners who are interested in learning how to “harden” their homes against elements of tropical storms. For additional information select [\*\*Harden my Home\*\*](#) and/or [\*\*Strengthen my Home\*\*](#)