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HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1ST
ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES FAMILIES TO GET A PLAN

The six month Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1st, and the St. Johns County Health Department/Florida Department of Health recommends that all families establish a disaster or emergency plan.

“Now is the time, if you haven’t already, to get your plan together for what you and your family would do if disaster strikes,” says Dawn C. Allicock, M.D., M.P.H. Director and Health Officer of the St. Johns County Health Department. She continues, “Hurricane impacts are not limited to the coastline; strong winds and flooding rainfall often pose a threat across inland areas along with the risk for tornadoes. That is why it is important to be prepared.”

Here are the following steps you can take to establish a family disaster plan:

EVALUATE:

- Identify potential threats in your community, such as the location of flood prone areas, power plants and hazardous chemicals.
- Discuss how natural and man-made threats could affect your family.
- Evaluate your property’s vulnerability to hazards, such as storm surge, flooding and wildfires.
- Check your insurance coverage.

PREPARE:

- Identify the safest areas of your home for each threat. In many circumstances, the safest area may not be your home, but elsewhere in your community. During times of evacuation, you will be given instructions on evacuation routes.
- Specify escape routes from your home and places to meet (rally points), such as a Neighbor’s home, a school or a public location.
- Make a plan for evacuating the area if required.
- Designate an out-of-area contact (friend or family member) so that each of your immediate family members has the same single point of contact. Plan to have at least two means of communication, (e.g., e-mail, phone and cell phone).
- Make a plan for your pets should you need to evacuate. Most shelters will accept service animals.
- Have your family emergency information accessible, including important family documents such as prescriptions and insurance information.

***Our Mission:** Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.*

***Our Vision:** A healthier future for the people of Florida.*

***Our Values:** - Integrity; Commitment to Service; Respect; Excellence; Accountability; Teamwork; Empowerment –*



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Public Health
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Making a Family Plan – continued

- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911. Make sure any cell phones are fully charged.
- Assemble and maintain a disaster supply kit. A battery-powered weather radio equipped with a special alarm tone feature is a vital tool. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out the special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area.
- For more information about a disaster supply kit, visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org or www.redcross.org.

MONITOR & ACT:

- When a disaster occurs, listen to news sources for information and instructions.
- Evacuate or seek medical attention quickly if instructed by authorities. If you can not obtain information, determine as best you can if you are in a danger area.
- Whether you stay or evacuate, don't panic. Follow your family plan.

For further information, please contact the St. Johns County Health Department at 904-825-5055, or visit www.FloridaDisaster.org. Additionally, the Florida Emergency Information Line is 1-800-342-3557.

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