



**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HFD Prepares for Hurricane Season, Encourages Citizens to do the Same**

Hurricane season officially begins June 1. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts there will be 12 – 18 tropical storms, 6-10 hurricanes and 3-6 major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or greater.

In preparation for hurricane season members of the Houston Fire Department will ensure the readiness of booster trucks, rescue and evacuation boats and all equipment for operational. Station emergency generators will be checked and the station fuel tanks will be kept at the level specified by HFD guideline.

Each station also has hurricane kits and an emergency call back list information with member's home/cell numbers and addresses. Firefighters, particularly those live in Evacuation Zones, are asked to make preparations and have a plan to secure all belongings, relocate family members, and be self sustained for up to 10 days.

HFD encourages citizens to be prepared for Hurricane Season as well.

Develop a family communication plan. Identify a relative or friend in another state or city to serve as a contact in case family members are separated. Have a complete list of important phone numbers you may need in an emergency can be found at:

<http://www.houstonoem.net/go/doc/1855/239399>

Discuss what your family should do when a hurricane comes ashore or other severe weather is in your area and where you might evacuate to (shelter, hotel etc.).

If you know anyone who will need help evacuating in the event of a major storm or other event, please visit the following link to register that person with the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management at

<http://www.houstonoem.net/go/site/1855/> or register by calling 2-1-1.

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During a major weather event like a hurricane, you may be asked to evacuate your area using a zip code zone system. This system was set up to alleviate the massive traffic issues we experienced during Hurricane Rita by allowing a gradual and organized evacuation from the coastal areas inland. Information on hurricane safety including evacuation zones can be found at <http://www.houstontx.gov/hec/index.html> .

Don't forget about your pets. Many shelters will not take pets, so plan in advance what to do with them.

Prepare a disaster kit and place it in a portable container in case of evacuation.

There are six basics you should stock for your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and special items. Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. Possible containers include a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or a duffle bag. For a complete list of supplies please visit: [http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0\\_3\\_,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_3_,00.html) .

Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supplies kit in the trunk of your car. Replace your stored food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.

The City of Houston has prepared a comprehensive hurricane and disaster preparedness guide and a PDF version of this guide is available in many languages for FREE on website. To download your copy and for much more information please visit: <http://www.houstonoem.net/go/doc/1855/239345>

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