

2008 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz

June 1st marks the beginning of another active hurricane season, scheduled to last through the month of November. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has projected a 65% chance that the Atlantic hurricane season will be above normal this year, continuing the overall trend of active hurricane seasons. It is vital that all Floridians take the predictions seriously and begin to prepare for storms.

Taking early precautions, as well as having a recovery plan, is of paramount importance to minimize damage during hurricane season. Each household and business should devise a plan of action detailing where to go if there is a hurricane, especially for those who are in need of special assistance. These plans should not be postponed until danger is imminent.

Listed on the right is a valuable hurricane preparedness checklist. Important telephone numbers to help you and your family be prepared for this hurricane season can be found on the reverse of this checklist. You may tear off this card and keep it for reference.

Debbie

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact my district offices at: 954-437-3936 or 305-936-5724.

www.house.gov/wassermanschultz

Contact my offices:

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Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Hurricane Preparedness Checklist:

- Inventory your home possessions and review your insurance policies
- Assess your home for vulnerable areas: roof, windows, garage door, landscaping
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Fill up your car's gas tank
- Emergency contact phone numbers
- Fire extinguisher
- Clean containers to store drinking water (1 gallon per person per day)
- 3-day supply of food (canned and dried goods are best)
- Manual can opener
- Hand tools: hammer, nails, ax, knife, pliers, handsaw, screwdrivers
- Electric drill with screwdriver bits to install bolts for window protection
- Unscented household bleach to purify water (8 drops per gallon of water)
- Soap and plastic container
- At least one flashlight per person with spare batteries
- Spare batteries for other needs
- Battery-operated radio with weather band
- First-aid kit: bandages, gauze, scissors, petroleum jelly, antiseptic spray, hydrogen peroxide, antacids, aspirin, thermometer, rubbing alcohol
- Extra prescription medicine
- Copies of important documents
- Matches (wooden ones are best)
- Disposable eating utensils and plates
- Hygiene and personal care items
- Whistle or air horn
- Gas grill or Sterno stove with extra fuel (*Do not take gas grills indoors*)
- Large trash bags / 100 feet of rope or cord
- Tarp, canvas or anything for a roof repair



Working to reduce the impact of storms on our communities:

In the 2008 Budget, I was able to secure \$11.3 million in federal funding for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. This money will fund research to improve our understanding of windstorms, their impact on structures and communities, and how to reduce these impacts.

Important Numbers



Courtesy of
Congresswoman
Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Florida Emergency Information Line
(activated during an emergency).....(800) 342-3557

BROWARD COUNTY

American Red Cross.....(954) 763-9900
Animal Care & Regulation(954) 359-1313
Broward County
Hurricane Hotline(954) 831-4000
**Broward Emergency
Management Agency**.....(954) 831-3900
Special Needs Registry
and Shelter – Broward.....(954) 537-2888

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

American Red Cross.....(305) 644-1200
Miami-Dade Animal Care
and Control(305) 884-1101
Miami-Dade Building
Code Compliance(305) 375-2901
**Miami-Dade County Office
of Emergency
Management**(305) 468-5400
Miami-Dade Emergency
Evacuation Assistance
Program.....(305) 513-7700
Special Needs Hotline/
Registry – Miami-Dade(305) 513-7700
Special Transportation
Services.....(305) 630-5300

**For police, fire or medical assistance
during an emergency, please dial 911.**

**For the most current weather information,
visit the National Hurricane Center's web
site at: www.nhc.noaa.gov**

**To contact FEMA, the Federal Emergency
Management Agency, please dial
1- (800) 621-3362.**

Hurricane Recovery

- **Remember to always take safety precautions** when re-entering your home. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home. Avoid downed or dangling utility wires. Metal fences may have been energized by fallen wires. Be especially careful when cutting or clearing fallen trees as they may have power lines tangled in them. If there has been flooding, have an electrician inspect your home or office before turning on the breaker.
- **Make temporary repairs** to prevent further weather-related damage. Don't make extensive permanent repairs until after the claims adjuster has been to your home and assessed the damage.
- **Call your insurance agent or insurance company** to file a claim.
- **Remember to save receipts for additional expenses** that you may incur such as lodging, repairs or other supplies.
- **Prepare for the adjuster's visit.** Be sure to keep copies of lists and other documents you submit to your insurance company. Also, keep copies of whatever paperwork your insurance company gives you.

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Official Business



Debbie met with local, state, and federal emergency management officials to discuss South Florida hurricane preparations.

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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
M.C.
PRSRT STD