



Disaster Preparedness Newsletter

September, 2008

Volume 1, Number 1

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Join Our List

Send E-mail to
DisasterPrepare@yahoo.com

Special Needs for People with Disabilities

Those with disabilities or other special needs often have unique needs that require more detailed planning in the event of a disaster. Consider the following actions as you prepare:

- Learn what to do in case of power outages and personal injuries.
- Consider getting a medical alert system.
- If you use an electric wheelchair, obtain a manual wheelchair for backup.
- Teach those who may need to assist you how to operate necessary equipment.
- Store back-up equipment (mobility, medical) at your neighbor's home, school, or workplace.
- Arrange for more than one person from your personal support network to check on you during a disaster.
- If you are vision impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing, plan ahead for someone to convey essential emergency information to you.
- If you use a personal care attendant, check to see if they can provide services in a shelter.
- If you live in an apartment, ask the management to identify accessible exits and access to all areas designated as emergency shelters. Ask about plans for alerting and evacuating those with sensory disabilities
- Have a cell phone with an extra battery.
- Have a hand-powered weather radio.



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High Wind Safety Precautions *Before Hurricane Season*

- Find out if your home meets current building code requirements for high-winds.
- Protect all windows by installing commercial shutters or preparing 5/8 inch plywood panels.
- Reinforce all garage doors so that they are able to withstand high winds.
- If you do not live in an evacuation zone or a mobile home, designate an interior room with no windows or external doors as a “Safe Room”.
- Trim dead wood and weak or overhanging branches from all trees. Consider landscaping materials other than gravel/rock.

High Wind Safety Precautions *As the Hurricane Approaches*

- Residents of mobile homes should relocate to a nearby safer structure once local officials issue a hurricane evacuation order for their community.
- Once a hurricane warning is issued, install your window shutters or plywood panels.
- When a hurricane warning is issued, secure or bring inside all lawn furniture and other outside objects that could become a projectile in high winds.
- Listen carefully for safety instructions from local officials, and go to your designated “Safe Room” when directed to do so.
- Monitor NOAA weather radio.
- Do not leave your “Safe Room” until directed to do so by local officials, even if it appears that the winds have calmed.

What Can I Do To Prepare? *12 Tips that Save Lives*

1. Construct a Disaster Plan.
www.my.fit.edu/~jtrifiletti
2. Prepare a Disaster Kit.
3. Prepare a First Aid Kit.
4. Identify Shelters close to your home. Determine which ones accommodate special needs and service animals, if needed.
5. Make a decision ahead of time about which Hurricane Category to avoid by moving to a shelter or safer area.
6. Obtain a state map, and draw an evacuation path on your map.
7. Make plans for your pets.
8. Stockpile plenty of food and drinkable water in case you need to “shelter in place.”
9. Stockpile a 3-month supply of your medicines.
10. Fill your vehicles with fuel.
11. Withdraw plenty of cash (banks may close and ATM machines may not be working).
12. Charge your cell phone and obtain an extra battery.



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Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

- **Tropical Storm** — winds 39-73 mph
- **Category 1 Hurricane** — winds 74-95 mph
No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.
- **Category 2 Hurricane** — winds 96-110 mph
Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.
- **Category 3 Hurricane** — winds 111-130 mph
Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.
- **Category 4 Hurricane** — winds 131-155 mph
More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.
- **Category 5 Hurricane** — winds 156 mph and up
Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.

Hurricane Winds

Most homes are built to withstand 120 mph winds. **Mobile homes are not!** Hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water, underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen poles may cause considerable disruption.

Hurricane Storm Surge

Hurricanes can produce widespread torrential rains. Floods can be deadly and destructive.

Hurricane Category	Storm Surge
Category 1	4 - 5 feet
Category 2	6 - 8 feet
Category 3	9 - 12 feet
Category 4	13 - 18 feet
Category 5	Above 18 feet

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Florida T.S. Fay Statistics

BY JIM ASH • FLORIDA TODAY • August 23, 2008

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Division of Emergency Management released the following statewide statistics for Tropical Storm Fay at 5 p.m. The storm continues to batter the Big Bend area and tornadoes have been spotted in Southern Jefferson County:

Deaths — 11.

Homes damaged — 1,075, with 364 of them suffering minor damage, 556 suffering major damage and 155 destroyed.

Shelters — There are 658 people seeking refuge in 30 shelters across the state, including 62 in Brevard; 5 in Leon; 1 in Gadsden; 9 in Jefferson.

Without power — About 90,024 customers throughout the state, including 13,558 in Leon; 3,744 in Jefferson; 2,548 in Gadsden; 262 in Madison; 1,042 in Wakulla; 41 in Escambia.

National Guard — There are 331 National Guard troops deployed across the state.

Cost — The cost of the state response has been put at \$6.1 million so far, although the number is expected to rise.



Agency for Workforce Innovation

Tallahassee, FL — The State of Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation today received a National Emergency Grant (NEG) of up to \$20 million, with \$8 million released initially. Under the direction of Governor Crist, the Agency applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for the NEG on August 22, to address the growing needs of those affected by Tropical Storm Fay.

This National Emergency Grant will provide:

- **Local Humanitarian Assistance** — NEG funds will be used to support Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) and related community outreach in the affected areas. These type activities include staff for distributing vital supplies such as food, water, and shelter. Aid may be administered through public and community organizations and will compliment the response activities of the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other relief organizations.
- **Emergency Jobs Program** — NEG funds will provide jobs for an estimated 6,500 local citizens to help in the clearing of debris on public property and lands, and will address other clean-up issues related to Tropical Storm Fay. Regional Workforce Boards will operate the programs in the affected areas, and citizens are able to apply directly for the jobs at local Disaster Recovery Centers.

**For jobs in your area,
contact your local
Workforce Board.**



For information about "Disaster Preparedness Newsletter" contact John Trifiletti at DisasterPrepare@yahoo.com

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Florida Requests Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Tallahassee, FL – Pursuant to Governor Charlie Crist’s request for public assistance, the State of Florida’s Agency for Workforce Innovation has submitted a request for more than \$6-million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL).

These funds will be used to aid workers in Brevard, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Volusia, and Hendry counties who have lost jobs or businesses as a result of Tropical Storm Fay. Additional funding may be requested for other counties, as further damage assessments are made.

DUA is a federally funded program that assists individuals who become unemployed as a direct result of a declared disaster and who do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits. The program also covers self-employed individuals, owners and workers of farms and ranches, as well as fishers and others who are not normally covered by state unemployment compensation.

Although many workers will be covered by the state’s regular unemployment compensation program, those not covered may apply for DUA. The Agency for Workforce Innovation oversees the administration of the DUA program in Florida and works closely with the U.S. Department of Labor and state/regional workforce boards.

DUA applications must be filed no later than September 27, 2008

To be eligible for either the regular state unemployment compensation program or DUA, an applicant must be a legal Florida resident. To be eligible for DUA benefits, an individual must have exhausted all entitlement to any regular state unemployment benefits and must have been working in or residing in a county for which the disaster has been officially declared. DUA benefits are available to unemployed individuals for up to 26 weeks from the date of the disaster declaration. The 26-week assistance period for Tropical Storm Fay ends February 21, 2009.

Federal regulations provide that the unemployment of an individual is caused by a disaster if the individual: (1) becomes unemployed as a direct result of the disaster; or (2) is unable to reach the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster; or (3) was scheduled to begin work and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the disaster; or (4) has become the major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of the disaster; or (5) cannot work because of an injury caused directly by the disaster. **Applications for DUA may be filed:**

Online: www.fluidnow.com / **Telephone** 800-204-2418, M-F 8 AM to 5 PM EDT / or by **FAX** 850-921-3938

Individuals may also obtain information about applying for DUA at any Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in the state.

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ILRC Presents 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference for Persons with Disabilities

JACKSONVILLE, FL - July 18, 2008. The Independent Living Resource Center of N.E. Florida (ILRC) hosted the 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference for Persons with Disabilities on July 18, 2008. This free Conference was sponsored by ILRC, City of Jacksonville, and Brooks Rehabilitation, Inc. Approximately 500 people attended the conference at the Prime Osborne Convention Center, including Mayor John Peyton and Senator Steve Wise. Mayor Peyton delivered a Proclamation, and Senator Wise made the opening remarks. The overwhelming majority of attendees were persons with disabilities and their caretakers.

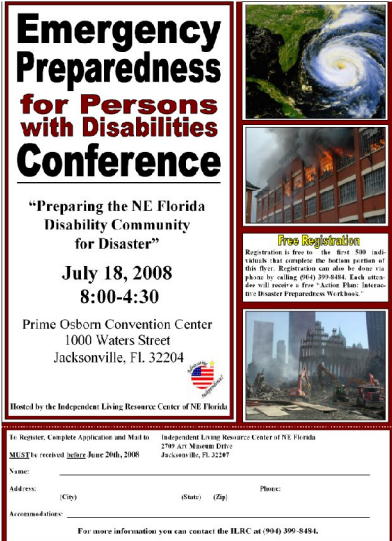
The keynote speech was delivered by Chip Wilson, Statewide Disability Coordinator for Emergency Services, and former Board President of ILRC.

The morning was devoted to the Action Plan Workbook and completing a 10-page *Disaster Plan for Disabled Individuals* document for each individual. Ann-Marie West of American Red Cross led the participants through completing the Disaster Plan activity. Copies of the Action Plan Workbook (supplies are limited) may be available from ILRC (904) 399-8484. The 10-page *Plan for Disabled Individuals* is available for download at John Trifiletti's website: <http://my.fit.edu/~jtrifiletti> (then click on Action Plan).

During lunch (provided) Matt Motko, Executive Director of ILRC introduced the EPC Task Force Members comprised of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies including American Red Cross, ILRC, Brooks Rehabilitation, Duval County Health Department, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and City of Jacksonville. Much appreciation to Beth Meyer and Tyler Morris of ILRC for their leadership of the EPC Task Force to organize the Conference.

The afternoon consisted of seminars during three breakout sessions. Highlights of the afternoon seminars included:

- After the Storm is Over** - George Johnson and Ann-Marie West
- HUD Disaster Assistance** - Nancy Rivera-Wright and James H. Martin
- Financial Preparation and Recovery** - Angie Coleman-Rao
- Parenting / Education Children with Disabilities** - Dr. Mae Barker, Drs. Diane and John Trifiletti, Dr. Clint Van Nagel
- Service Animals / Pets Consideration** - Carol Chistopherson
- Shelter in Place vs. Evacuation** - Craig Smith
- National Weather Service** - Steve Letro
- Shelter Display and Information Florida Dept. of Health** - Kathy Barnett



Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities Conference

"Preparing the NE Florida Disability Community for Disaster"

July 18, 2008
8:00-4:30

Prime Osborn Convention Center
1000 Waters Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Hosted by the Independent Living Resource Center of NE Florida

Free Registration
Registration is free to the first 500 individuals that complete the Action Plan of this flyer. Registration can also be done via phone by calling (904) 399-8484. Each attendee will receive a free "Action Plan" Interactive Disaster Preparedness Workbook.

To Register, Complete Application and Mail to:
ILRC/FLA received July 20th, 2008
Independent Living Resource Center of NE Florida
2700 A/S. MURPHY DRIVE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

Name: _____
Address: _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) Phone: _____
Accommodations: _____

For more information you can contact the ILRC at (904) 399-8484.

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September is National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2008 is sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Plan](#). The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

Throughout September, Homeland Security will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. This year the focus of NPM is to encourage citizens to take important preparedness steps:

- **Get a Kit**
- **Make a Plan**
- **Be Informed**
- **Get Involved**

Join the Ready Campaign and our DHS partner Citizen Corps this September for the fifth annual National Preparedness Month (NPM). Register now to be a part of the 2008 NPM Coalition — visit <http://ready.adcouncil.org>.

Tropical Storm Hannah Death Toll Rises

There has been a sharp jump in the number of people known to have been killed when tropical storm Hanna struck Haiti earlier this week.

The police commissioner in the city of Gonaives said almost 500 bodies were found as flood waters receded.

He said a number of people were still missing and that the final figure could be even higher.

Earlier, officials said that at least 136 people had died as a result of the storm.

Meanwhile, a ship carrying 33 tons of relief supplies from the United Nations docked in Gonaives, and the UN said it would launch an appeal for emergency funds to help up to 600,000 Haitians still in need of help.

The mayor of Gonaives, Jean Francois Adolphe appealed for help.



Flooding from T.S. Hannah in Gonaives, Haiti

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7 Hurricane Myths and Misconceptions

Don't be fooled by these beliefs!

1. My area is under an evacuation order, but the weather looks great right now, so I can wait until the weather bad to evacuate.
Evacuation orders are based on the best available information and are issued early enough to provide people with time to get to shelters. Waiting until the last minute can leave you stuck in traffic and very vulnerable.
2. Only coastal areas are at risk from hurricanes.
A hurricane is not just a coastal event. The strong winds, heavy rains, tornadoes and inland flooding from weakening tropical systems can spread well inland and cause tremendous damage.
3. Hurricanes strike only during the official hurricane season of June 1 through November 30.
Hurricanes and tropical storms sometimes occur before or after the hurricane season. Tropical Storm Anna happened in April 2003. Hurricane Lili occurred in late December 1984. As late as January 2006, Hurricane Zeta (though no threat to land) loomed in the Atlantic Ocean.
4. Water stored in bathtubs and sinks is a good source of drinking water if the public water supply is interrupted or contaminated.
Water stored in bathtubs and sinks should never be used for drinking or for bathing young children. You can use water stored in bathtubs and sinks for tasks such as flushing the toilet or washing the floor or clothing. Over time, lead can leach from the glaze in bathtubs and sinks into water stored in them.
5. I live in an evacuation zone. Why do I need a plan? When the evacuation order comes down, I'm going to go to an emergency shelter.
Emergency shelters are safe places to ride out a hurricane, but they are not the most comfortable. They will be crowded and noisy. Many shelters will not accept pets. Now is the time to ensure that you have a family disaster plan and have taken protective measures such as preparing hurricane shutters, bracing garage doors and the like - before a storm approaches.
6. Opening the windows on the side opposite the wind will relieve the air pressure and not explode my house.
The best way to keep your home safe is to keep the wind OUT! Studies have shown that opening a window can increase the amount of damage done by wind. When a hurricane threatens, keep your home sealed up tight.
7. My mobile home will be tied down and braced and be a safe place to ride out the storm.
A mobile home is NEVER a safe place to weather a hurricane. In fact, once a mandatory evacuation is ordered, all mobile home residents, in all evacuation levels, are required to leave their dwellings, no matter how well secured they are.