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.

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. Deblie

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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Aventura Office 19200 West Country Club Drive 3rd Floor Aventura, FL 33180 Phone: 305-936-5724 Fax: 305-932-9664

Washington, DC Office

118 Cannon H.O.B Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-7931 Fax: 202-226-2052

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
- **D** 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
- **D** 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

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

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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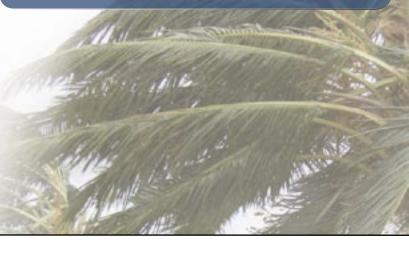


Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz 118 Cannon H.O.B. Washington, DC 20515

Official Business



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



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