

news **FLASH**

Summer 2000

Vol. 1 No. 5

FLASH PARTNERS

Organizations and individuals who share a dedication to mitigation excellence.

Building Officials Association of Florida
FEMA
Federation of Manufactured Homeowners of Florida
First Floridian
Florida's American Red Cross Chapters
Florida Department of Community Affairs*
Florida Department of Insurance
Florida Division of Forestry
Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Florida Insurance Council*
Florida Select
Institute for Business & Home Safety*
Nationwide*
NOAA/National Weather Service
State Farm Insurance Companies*
USAA*

* FOUNDING PARTNERS

FLASH STAFF

Leslie Chapman-Henderson
Executive Director
lhenderson@flains.org

Traci Buzbee
Outreach Director
tbuzbee@flains.org

Kelly Wilkes
Program Specialist
kwilkes@flains.org



Dedicated toll free home safety hotline, 1-877-221-SAFE

Florida Better Prepared than Ever for Hurricane Season

By Joe Myers



During my 26-year tenure in emergency management, I have seen the coordinated partnerships between the private sector, private non-profit and

government agencies evolve into a team that works together to serve the disaster victim.

The Department of Community Affairs' partnership with the Florida Alliance for Safe Homes stresses the importance of pre-disaster education and mitigation programs. While the emergency management community has always embraced mitigation and prevention efforts, FLASH provides the public with valuable tools and information to make their homes disaster resistant.

The 2000 legislative session provided critical emergency preparedness measures that will help further our ability to respond and recover from future disasters. The first initiative is Mobility 2000, a

group of transportation projects that will support emergency evacuation efforts. Also, the legislature approved a bill that now provides critical dollars to retrofit local shelters. Some \$18 million will be made available to help retrofit local buildings to increase shelter capacity and safety. We will now examine the use of community colleges and universities as shelters. In addition, for the first time in history, a unified building code that will help make homes more disaster resistant was passed. Finally, the DCA is partnering with contractors and construction trades to educate them and raise their awareness about disaster resistant techniques which can greatly enhance family safety during a hurricane or a tornado.

Through these continued partnerships, we can continue to work together to ensure Florida is a safer place to call home.

Joe Myers is the Director of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management. His e-mail address is: joe.myers@dca.state.fl.us

FLASH LINKS

FLASH Interactive – www.flash.org

The FLASH Web site is full of useful tips on how to best prepare for the upcoming hurricane season, which begins June 1 and runs through November 30.

- www.redcross.org - Red Cross
- www.floridadisaster.org - Florida Division of Emergency Management
- www.nws.noaa.gov - National Weather Service

Hurricane Season 2000 Forecasters Predict



"A major storm coming in anywhere in the Houston area, the Gold Coast of southeast Florida or the Long Island-New York area, because of the high populations, will do catastrophic damage. It's possible we could get a storm that could do \$50 to \$75 billion in damage."

WILLIAM GRAY, HURRICANE FORECASTER



William Gray

Weather experts have predicted an above-average hurricane season this year, with storms expected to be stronger and longer lasting than usual.

The outlook by federal forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is for 11 tropical storms, seven of which will become hurricanes, three of them major.

The La Nina effect in the Pacific Ocean, the same condition that influenced the 1999

FLASH FACTS

Know the Difference Between Watch and Warning

The National Weather Service can usually provide 12 to 24 hours of advance notice when a hurricane is approaching.

A **hurricane watch** is issued whenever a hurricane becomes a threat to coastal areas. Everyone in the area covered by the watch should listen for further advisories and be prepared to act promptly if a hurricane warning or evacuation order is issued.

A **hurricane warning** is issued when hurricane winds of 74 miles per hour or higher, or a combination of dangerously high water and very rough seas, are expected in a specific area within 24 hours. Precautionary actions should begin immediately.

When a hurricane warning is issued you should:

- Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered to do so.
- Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, etc.
- Fill sanitized containers with fresh drinking water.
- Turn your refrigerator controls to the coldest setting to allow food to keep longer if you should lose electricity.
- Evaluate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.
- If evacuating, leave early – possibly in daylight.
- Leave mobile homes in any case.
- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.
- Hurricane shelters will be open for people who have no other place to go. Do not leave your home for a shelter until government officials announce on radio and/or TV that a particular shelter is open.



Most Likely to be Hit by a Busy Hurricane Season

hurricane season, remains in place, according to D. James Baker, director of NOAA.

“For this reason, we expect we’ll have another major economic impact on the United States,” he said.

Professor William Gray of Colorado State University, predicts an even busier season, with 12 named storms, eight hurricanes and four intense hurricanes.

In terms of probability of landfall, Gray and his team of meteorologists forecast that the U.S. Atlantic Coast, including Florida, have a 52 percent chance of being hit by one or more major storms – Category 3 to 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with winds above

100 mph. The Gulf Coast faces a 40 percent probability of one or more landfall major hurricanes. The chances of one or more intense storms coming ashore somewhere along the entire U.S. coast, from Texas to the Canadian border, is 71 percent.

“With buildup of coastal areas, especially in the southeast United States, and with the shift toward a multi-decadal pattern of a stronger Atlantic thermohaline system and more landfalling major storms, I think we’re going to see more hurricane damage than we’ve ever seen in this country.”

Hurricane Season 2000: The ABC's of Protecting Your Family and Home

ANCHOR

- Bring anything from the yard inside that could become windborne. Ask neighbors to do the same.
- Replace gravel/rock-landscaping material with fire-treated shredded bark to reduce damage.
- Trim and anchor down foliage.
- Make sure your home has a wall-to-foundation (anchor bolts/re-bar) connection.

BRACE

- Bolt all doors with foot and head bolts with a minimum one-inch bolt thrown length.
- Reinforce the garage door and tracks with center supports.*
- Brace all gable end framing with horizontal and vertical beams.

* Approximately 80 percent of residential hurricane wind damage starts with wind entry through garage doors.

COVER

- Cover all large windows and doors – especially patio doors – with securely fastened, impact-resistant shutters with proper mounting fixtures, or replace them with impact-resistant laminated window and door systems, if feasible.
- Make sure all doors and windows are properly caulked and/or weather-stripped.
- Install roof covering that is rated for hurricane force winds.

STRAP

- Harness any free-standing fixtures in your yard.
- Strap rafters/trusses to walls with hurricane straps/clips.

Storm Names for 2000

Storms are named to prevent confusion when more than one is active at a time. The names are chosen by a committee of the World Meteorological Organization and intended to represent the ethnic makeup of the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

Alberto

Beryl

Chris

Debby

Ernesto

Florence

Gordon

Helene

Isaac

Joyce

Keith

Leslie

Michael

Nadine

Oscar

Patty

Rafael

Sandy

Tony

Valerie

William

Hurricane Kit Checklist

✓ Get a 2-week supply of these items

✓ Make your kit portable if you live in an evacuation zone

✓ Items in bold should go in an evacuation kit

- Alarm clock (battery-operated)
- Baby food and supplies**
- Battery-operated radio and/or TV
- Batteries for several days
- Blankets and pillows**
- Bleach (without lemon or additives)
- Butane lighter
- Canned and dry food
- Cans of gas and oil
- Cash, credit cards**
- Cell phone
- Changes of clothes (one set for everyone in family)**
- Cooler for water
- Driver's license**
- Eating and cooking utensils
- Emergency cooking facilities (grill or camp stove)
- Extra pet food
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit
- Flashlights (for everyone in the family)
- Fuel up the car
- Gas for grill (fill up tank)
- Glasses or contact lenses
- Heavy shoes
- Important phone numbers**
- Ice chest
- Insurance information**
- Lightweight folding chairs/cots**
- Medicines and prescriptions**
- Non-electric can opener
- Pots and pans
- Portable cooler
- Sleeping bags**
- Soaps, shampoo and toiletries**
- Sponges and paper towels
- Toys (to occupy children)**
- Valid ID**
- Valuable papers**
- Water purification tablets
- Water jugs (7 gallons of water per person)



Florida Alliance for Safe Homes - FLASH, Inc.

1430 Piedmont Drive, East

Tallahassee, FL 32312

www.flash.org

Toll Free 1-877-221-SAFE

FLASH is a non-profit, public-private coalition.