

Ready or Not ??

The Atlantic Hurricane season officially opened right on time on Sunday, June 1st, 2009 and extends thru November 30th. So, ready or not, we're 'in season' here on the Texas gulf coast. In your forecast future look for Ana, Bill, Claudette and more to follow.

Disaster takes many forms, some without prior warning or notice.

By now, you should have made your family plan, or updated your plan from last year as situations change. Make sure that your personal family plan is comprehensive and covers every member of the family. Account for the whereabouts of each member, wherever they may be. In the event your home is impacted by the event, have an alternate assembly point, with a distant backup for insurance. Reduce your plan to written format and make sure that each family member has a copy.

Designate a safe room in the house in the event that you have to shelter in place. Have the necessary supplies to insure that your designated shelter has duct tape and plastic sheeting to render it air tight if needed.

Designate an out of area contact person for you to notify in the event that you are forced to evacuate.

Build a kit so you can survive in place at least three to seven days. Plan for one gallon of potable water per person along with non perishable packaged and canned food. Make sure you have a manual can opener and devise a method to heat and warm the foods selected. You should also have medications, personal toiletries, insect repellent, a portable radio, flashlight and batteries and extra clothing. Each family member should have their own personal kit.

Stay informed during an actual emergency by having an accessible source of information. AM radio KTRH 740 and KUHF 99.7 FM are the area's primary emergency alert system stations, NOAA weather radio and our local designated VHF 147.000 + (Pl 103.5) repeater are also reliable sources for information.

If directed to evacuate, be sure to turn off water and electricity at their main switch point. Know your evacuation route and plan for a designated destination.