

2021 Hurricane Season Readiness

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

The 2021 hurricane season is almost upon us, and the time to prepare for a hurricane is now, and not when the cone of uncertainty is pointing at eastern North Carolina. I have a strict pattern of activities that I follow every year at this point to ensure that my family is prepared. As you can imagine, I do not get much time to prepare my home and family for a hurricane in the days leading up to landfall because of my responsibilities in Pine Knoll Shores. This makes preparation all that much more important for me. Here are some of the things that I do now to prepare for a hurricane:

- I purchase enough bottled water to make sure that my family has enough water for at least seven days. Where I live, if the power is out and I do not have backup power, I am not able to run water.
- Like water, I purchase enough non-perishable food to make sure my family can eat for at least seven days. I only purchase food they would normally eat so nothing is wasted after hurricane season. I set the food and water aside and mark it "hurricane supplies" as a reminder not to eat or drink it.
- Since I have animals, I make sure I keep enough food for them to last the same period of time.
- I have the benefit of having a backup generator for my home, and I make sure to run it once a month for 15 minutes under load. Some generators failed after Hurricane Florence due to a lack of preventative maintenance, which includes running it under a load from time to time. If you do have a generator, make sure to consult with the company that installed it if you have any questions about what preventative maintenance you should be doing to make sure it is operational when you need it.
- I check my portable cell phone chargers, flashlights and a portable AM/FM radio to make sure they are working properly.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During March, there were 6 arrests; 47 911 hang-ups; 10 alarm activations; 14 animal calls; 1 larceny call; 1 damage to property call; 1 breaking or entering call; 11 disturbance calls; 23 assist Fire/EMS calls; 2 motor vehicle collisions; 7 assist other agency calls; 139 traffic stops; 40 citations issued, which included 7 speeding, 2 stop light/stop sign, 8 registration/inspection, 10 license revoked/registration, 18 other traffic violations, 8 drug violations and 3 criminal offenses; 22 beach patrols; 427 business checks; 694 foot patrols; and 105 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 257 training hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During March, responders handled 8 false alarms and false calls, 3 good intent calls, 17 rescue and emergency medical service incidents and 2 service calls. Personnel participated in 435 training hours.

REMINDER: Lock your doors, especially your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in sight. Report suspicious people or vehicles to dispatch (726-1911) so that the police can be notified. You are not "bothering" the police if you call to report something that doesn't look right. They prefer to assess the situation rather than find out after the fact that you had noticed something and didn't report it. Alert citizens are assets to the community.

The Shoreline

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE ISSUE

Wed., May 12	June
Wed., June 16	July
Wed., July 14	August
Fri., Aug. 13	September
Wed., Sept. 15	October
Wed., Oct. 13	November
Fri., Nov. 12	December
Wed., Dec. 15	Jan. 2021

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 15th of the month prior to desired issue
Articles always welcome.