FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

PKS Police Bulletin

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

2022 hurricane season

The 2022 hurricane season is almost upon us, which is almost impossible to believe. As I have said for years, 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 my family for a hurricane in the days leading up to landfall because of my responsibilities in Pine Knoll Shores. This makes preparation all that more important for me. Here are some of the things that I do *now* to prepare my home and family for a hurricane:

- I purchase enough bottled water to make sure that my family has enough 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. Many of the generator failures after Hurricane Florence were 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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• I review and check with the emergency evacuation locations that my wife and I have

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POLICE

During February, there were 24 911 hang-ups; 10 alarm activations; 1 animal call; 3 larceny calls; 4 damage to property calls; 3 breaking and entering calls; 6 disturbance calls; 18 assist Fire/EMS calls; 5 assist other agency calls; 116 traffic stops; 28 citations issued, which included 1 stop sign/stop light, 18 speeding, 5 registration/inspection, 6 license revoked/expired, 7 other traffic violations, and 2 drug violations. There were 28 beach patrols, 6 bike patrols, 498 business checks, 553 foot patrols, and 125 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 62 training hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During February, responders handled 12 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 7 false alarms, 1 hazardous condition and 4 good intent calls. Personnel participated in 584 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.



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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE ISSUE Fri., April 15 May Fri., May 13 June Mon., June 13 July Fri., July 15 August Mon., Aug. 15 September Fri., Sept. 16 October Fri., Oct. 14 November Fri., Nov. 11 December Thurs. Dec. 15 January 2023

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

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