

Continued

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

# Begins

From A1

does from these storms can threaten even areas away from the coastline.

Two of the most important factors are to prepare for the risks and act on those preparations when alerted by emergency officials.

Here are some basic tips to be prepared in case of a tropical storm or hurricane:

\*Gather information-know if the area is an evacuation area. Assess the risks and know the property's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.

Understand the National Weather Service's (NWS) products, including meanings of the NWS watches and warnings.

\*Contact information-keep a list of contact information for reference including:

- \* Emergency management offices,
- \* County law enforcement,
- \* County Public Safety Fire/Rescue,
- \* State, County and City/Town Government,
- \* Local Hospitals,
- \* Local Utilities,
- \* Local American Red Cross,
- \* Local TV Stations,
- \* Local Radio Stations, and
- \* Your Property Insurance Agent

\*Know the risk analysis for the local area. Online hazard and vulnerability as-



There are a variety of dangers with hurricanes, including flooding.

assessment tools are available to gather information about risks. Check hazard risks with FEMA's map portal system found at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) portal.

\*Plan and take action. Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Families and friends may not be together when disaster strikes.

\*Put together a basic disaster supply kit and consider storage locations for different situations. Help community members do the same.

A basic disaster supply kit should include the following recommended items:

- \* Water, one gallon of wa-

ter per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation,

\* Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food,

\* Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both,

\* Flashlight and extra batteries,

\* First aid kit,

\* Whistle to signal for help,

\* Dust mask to help filter contaminated air, and plastic sheeting and duct tape to provide shelter in place,

\* Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation,

\* Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities,

\* Manual can opener for food,

\* Local maps, and

\* Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

\*Develop and document plans for the specific risks in the area. Have a family emergency plan ready for protection. Be sure to plan for locations away from the home as well. Prepare boats, and be aware of marine safety if near or on the water.

\*Follow guidelines to guard the community's health and protect the environment during and after the storm:

\* Review the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Health Considerations Before, During and After a Storm

\* Remember to follow the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) food and water safety regulations during a storm

\* Review the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) suggestions for health and environmental safety in disaster preparedness

\* Review the FEMA evacuation guidelines to allow for enough time to pack and inform friends and family if the need requires leaving home.

Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered. Consider personal protection

options to decide whether to stay or evacuate the home if not ordered to evacuate.

When waiting out a storm be careful, the danger may not be over yet....

Be alert for:

\* Tornadoes - they are often spawned by hurricanes.

\* The calm "eye" of the storm - it may seem like the storm is over, but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.

Wait until an area is declared safe before returning home. Remember that recovering from a disaster is usually a gradual process.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center says the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30, will most likely be more active than normal.

For the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, forecasters predict a 45 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 35 percent chance of a near-normal season and only 20 percent of a below-normal season.

Forecasters predict a 70 percent likelihood of 11 to 17 named storms, of which five to nine could become hurricanes, including two to four major hurricanes.

An average season produces 12 named storms of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

# Cautious

From A1

thinking about being more prepared," Sheriff Holley said. "Having said that, it is always vital for our citizens to prepare."

Sheriff Holley said it is important for adults to take the opportunity to teach children how to call 9-1-1.

"Obviously, we hope there is never a situation when an adult is injured during a storm and a child has to call 911, but it's important

they know how just in case," he said. "Teaching the children now will help them if they are ever in that situation."

Chief Lane said a good practice would also be to have an out-of-state resident or friend on standby as a family contact.

"After a disaster, there are times when it is much easier to call long distance, because they are not dealing with the same storm," he said. "Make sure

everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the contact person."

Chief Farmer cautioned residents to listen to instructions from emergency personnel and law enforcement.

"If there is an occasion where an evacuation is ordered, leave as soon as possible," he said. "Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges. The law enforcement community in Bertie

County will be doing everything possible to help guide citizens to safety if such an incident occurs."

Chief Farmer said it would also be important to let the family contact know where the family was going.

"Take the emergency supplies you have gathered with you," he added.

Sheriff Holley said during a storm it was important to listen to a battery-operated radio or television for official

instruction.

"If you stay in your home, stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors," he said. "If you are in a pre-manufactured or mobile home, it is probably wise to head to the shelter before the storm makes landfall."

He also reminded parents to make sure they kept their children close by in case of an emergency situation.

"Parents should keep their children at least in sight, if not arm's reach, during a storm," Sheriff Holley said. "It is important that if an emergency evacuation of the home occurs, parents have instant access to their children."

Perrytown Fire Chief Bud Lee reminded people to turn off all major appliances if electricity is lost during the storm.

"If the appliances are off, it will reduce the power surge when electricity is restored," he said.

Chief Lane said it is also important for

those who have to move around after a storm to follow marked detours.

"If a road is blocked off, there is a reason for it," he said. "It will mean there is some type of unsafe condition ahead, be that flooding or a tree down or something else. Please heed the signs and follow the detour."

Chief Farmer reiterated the importance of not driving at all, unless it was necessary.

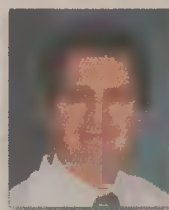
"We know everyone wants to get out and survey the damage to their own property or to that of their friends and neighbors," he said. "It is important that after a storm people stay off the roads and allow those who need to work to do so."

"There will be emergency crews, police officers, transportation workers, electricity workers and others out trying to restore order," he said. "The more they are allowed to work undisturbed, the quicker life can return to normal."

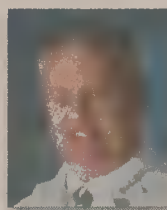
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