PROTECT WHAT MATTERS℠

LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

June 2024
Volume FY24 Issue 9

Purpose

The National Guard (NG) Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terroristic hazards.

Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

EMERGENCY
Fire-Police-Ambulance
911

Michael Green 504-278-8031
LMD Emergency Management Program Coordinator
michael.s.green39.nfg@army.mil

1LT Damilola Babalola 318-290-5869
LTC-P EM Manager
damilola.i.babalola.mil@army.mil

Peter Knight 504-278-8011
Jackson Barracks AT/ EM Manager
peter.d.knight2.nfg@army.mil

Chris Letendre 225-319-4667
GWLC EM Manager
christopher.a.letendre.nfg@army.mil

CPT Jason Medcalf 318-299-4151
Camp Minden EM Manager
jason.a.medcalf.mil@army.mil

LA National Guard Joint Operation Center 888-278-8748

GOHSEP 225-925-7500

American Red Cross 1-800-RED-CROSS

Federal Emergency Management Agency 1-800-621-FEMA

National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

LANG EM WEB PAGE:
http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

June has been named as National Hurricane Preparedness Month. Our main focus for this month's bulletin will be on hurricanes.

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1 and runs through Nov. 30, although storms have been known to arrive earlier in the year and depart later. Forecasters are in agreement that the six-month season, are predicting a above-normal hurricane activity this year —predicts a 10% chance of a near-normal season, an 85% chance of an above-normal season and a 5% chance of a below-normal season. 17 to 25 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 8 to 13 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 4 to 7 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher).
Now is the time to dust off your Family Emergency Plan to ensure you know where to go if you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation routes to take, put together a go-bag, and make a family communications plan.

The best time to prepare is before the event happens. Always Remember, "Be Prepared".

Michael Green
Emergency Manager Program Coordinator
michael.s.green39.nfg@army.mil

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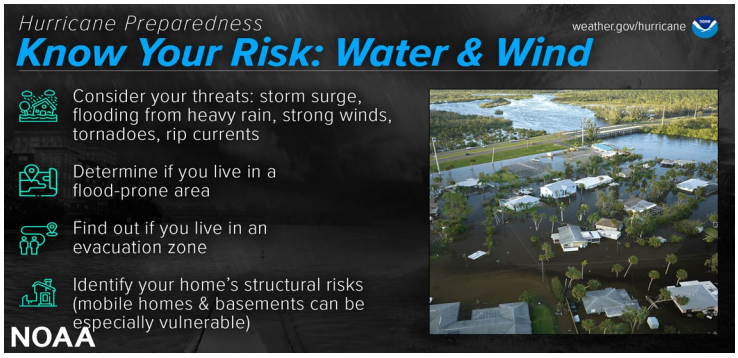
Know Your Risk Where You Live

Find out today what types of wind and water hazards could happen where you live. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Impacts from wind and water can be felt hundreds of miles inland, and significant impacts can occur regardless of the storm's strength. Know if you live in an area prone to flooding, if you live in an evacuation zone, and identify any structural weaknesses in your home.

Consider Your Threats

While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and tropical depressions also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones (which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.



Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by winds swirling around the storm, and historically has caused the largest loss of life in hurricanes. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, which can submerge entire areas, cause structural damage to buildings, and wash out roads. Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.

Flooding from the extreme amounts of rain a hurricane can bring has also proven to be very deadly, both over an extended period of time as well as very short-term flash flooding. Homes and businesses could flood, and flooded roads could make travel and evacuations difficult, as well as being a potentially deadly hazard to those in vehicles or on foot. Floodwaters can also contain harmful bacteria, chemicals, wildlife and other dangerous objects. Extreme rain from hurricanes can even flood areas that aren't normally prone to flooding. Flooding can happen hundreds of miles inland and can persist for several days after a storm.

Hurricane-force winds can cause damage to homes and other buildings, ranging from moderate to catastrophic depending on both wind speed and structural integrity. Wind damage can lead to large areas with power and communications outages, as well as uproot trees and make roads impassable due to debris. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes. Mobile homes are especially vulnerable to wind damage.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce **tornadoes**. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall.

Waves from distant storms can produce deadly **rip currents and rough surf** on beaches very far away. Good weather at the beach itself does NOT mean the ocean is safe. Even storms more than 1,000 miles away can cause impacts.

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Why Should I Not Focus On The Category Alone?
The Saffir-Simpson Scale is a wind scale that uses WIND only to estimate potential damage. Unfortunately, this scale does not tell you about ALL of the impacts that a hurricane can produce. It does not tell you how much rain will fall or how high the storm surge may be. It does not tell you anything about potential impacts from tornadoes or rip currents. It also does not give you information on how large the storm may be, or anything about the storm's movement. In fact, water accounts for 90% of direct deaths from tropical systems, both from storm surge and flooding rain. Please keep this in mind this upcoming season. Pay attention TO ALL of the impacts from a storm and not just the category. Remember that Hurricane Florence was "just" a category 1 when it made landfall along our coast.

Determine if you live in a flood-prone area
Anyone living in a flood-prone area is especially vulnerable to hurricane impacts. Find out today the flood risk for your area and plan accordingly. If you don't live in a flood zone, that doesn't necessarily mean you're safe - extreme rain from hurricanes can bring floods even to areas that aren't prone to flooding.

- Floodsmart.gov: Understanding Flood Zones
- NOAA's Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper

Find out if you live in an evacuation zone

Determine if you live in a storm surge evacuation zone. This can tell you about your vulnerability to storm surge, and will be imperative when it comes time to develop an evacuation plan.

- HurricaneStrong: Find Your Evacuation Zoneoffsite link
- Know Your Zone NC: Learn Established Evacuation Zones For Eastern North Carolina

Identify your home's structural risks
Find out if your home has any weaknesses that could prove deadly in a hurricane. Are your exterior doors and garage door hurricane proof? Do you have storm shutters? Some aspects of your home can be strengthened to help withstand hurricane impacts, and some can not. Mobile homes are especially vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, and basements are especially vulnerable to storm surge and flooding.

When Is Hurricane Season?
The most active months for tropical systems in North Carolina are August, September and October. However, hurricanes have impacted our state as early as May and as late as November! The peak tropical activity usually occurs in a six-week period from mid-August to late September, during which time our state can experience multiple hurricanes or tropical storms within weeks of each other.

Additional Resources:
NHC Storm Surge Hazard Maps

HURRICANE TRACKING MAP