



CITY OF MADISON

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DATE: August 1, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Hurricane Season

TO: Citizens Information

1. June 1, 2024 was the beginning of the 2024 Hurricane Season. The season will last until early to mid-November. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its National Weather Service (NWS) will be providing a prediction for possible storms during mid- May 2024. Further information will be provided as information is discovered.
2. As we reflect on the past hurricane seasons, we are not immune to the disasters that place us in harm's way. Hurricanes and severe weather forecasts should never be taken lightly. Provided is some helpful information for you and your family's use that may assist you in making preparations now, as opposed to waiting until the 11th hour.
 - A. At the notification of severe weather or hurricane conditions, stay tuned to radios or local television stations for updates.
 - B. You can voluntarily choose to have your home or mobile communications devices connected to the Code Red notification system through the Emergency Operations Center, by calling 973-3698. You will automatically be notified of all inclement weather conditions.
 - C. Develop a plan as an employee and one for your family. Be sure that everyone that you are responsible for is aware of your plans. Please consider these suggestions and actions to be included in your plan:
 - (1) A rule of thumb," If a catastrophic storm is inevitable and you reside in a mobile home, the advice is to evacuate."
 - (2) Collect homeowner's insurance, life insurance policies, birth certificates, vehicle registrations/insurances, other important papers, keys, dry matches or a lighter and seal them in a water proof receptacle as best you can.
 - (3) Take pictures of home furnishing, valuables and other items covered under your homeowner's insurance policy.
 - (4) Establish a primary and secondary route to exit your dwellings in the event that you become stranded.
 - (5) Establish a precedence on evacuating and a follow the leader format. No one should wander from the group.

- (6) Know where your electrical breaker panels are located and how to access them.
- (7) Be aware of downed power lines, treating all of them as if they were live.
- (8) Beware of sharp objects both inside and outside of your dwelling.
- (9) If evacuating during the hours of darkness, make sure that you use portable lighting to establish a safe route.
- (10) Do not drive across roadways that are flooded

D. Evacuation from your dwellings is strictly voluntary unless state authorities make it mandatory. Once given the status and updates on storm conditions, you are advised to heed all warnings. If you are unsure of whether you want to evacuate or not, do not let indecision have an impact on your deciding to stay or go. Once the storm reaches a certain level of sustainability, first responders will be extremely limited to provide rescue operations, if at all, depending upon the severity. Please be aware of and brief family members on the following:

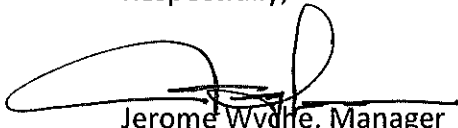
- (1) The Central School is designated as the authorized shelter for Madison County as it has been retro-fitted to withstand storms up to category five.
- (2) If you have family members that have special needs or have critical medical conditions that requires special handling, please register them now with the Madison County Health Department. The number for the Health Department is (850) 973-5000.
- (3) Should you decide to evacuate to the Central School for shelter, please be advised that it is limited in capacity.
- (4) You must be prepared to enter the shelter, space providing, and be in possession of items that meet yours and your family's basic needs, as well as other necessities for your expected level of comfort. You must bring your bed pallets/sleeping bags/coverings, cots etc.
- (5) The sheltering facility will provide food and foodstuff however, you should be prepared to supplement your own needs, i.e., fruit, nutrient bars, etc.
- (6) Always have a back-up plan to shelter in a safe location, if you feel that you and your family chooses to evacuate. Consider sheltering with family members or friends, which may include departing the area identified for impact. If necessary, that may mean leaving the county or state.
- (7) Should you decide to evacuate, be prepared to board up doors, windows and areas made of glass.
- (8) Safeguard and remove privately owned weapons, storing them in a safe location. Maintaining serial numbers of your weapons is also critical in the event that they come up missing.
- (9) Move all of your furniture away from windows or glass doors and lock your dwelling.

- E. Preparation for evacuation should be taken seriously. that is why is it critical to begin early. If you make early preparations for your family, then you have less worry about their welfare. **These are some helpful hints for family evacuation and personal evacuation.**
- (1) Have a bag/back pack of clothing already packed for every family member, with enough clothing to last at least five days. Include light or fluorescent pieces of clothing for each family member. It makes identification easier for responders, if necessary, during the recovery stage.
 - (2) Write down the names of your closest relatives or friends, including telephone numbers, in the event of an emergency and keep them in your sealed receptacle.
 - (3) Pack all required and necessary medication and make a listing of it in the event you require an immediate refill. It is a good practice to keep adequate supply of medication on hand.
 - (4) Pack all necessary hygiene items, including wash cloths and towels.
 - (5) Pack an operational flashlight and have spare batteries available.
 - (6) Always keep your cell phones fully charged and bring along a phone charger.
 - (7) Portable radios are almost antique, but, if you have one, bring it along and have spare batteries.
 - (8) During power outages, ATM machines may be inoperable.
 - (9) Consider having cash on hand in denominations that are easily handled for exchange purposes, i.e., no \$100 bills. Based upon the needs of your family, have at least three to four days of cash on hand.
 10. If you have small children, consider bringing along a toy or something for children's comfort
 11. Begin purchasing foodstuff that can be easily be prepared for consumption, i.e., canned fruit, meats, soups, pastries, cookies, juices, bread, etc.
 12. Have specific foods and food requirements for young children, including similac and other nutrients.
- F. Should you decide to shelter in place at your quarters or dwelling, please consider these tips:
- (1) Always keep your automobile filled with no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a tank at all times.
 - (2) Fill all available gasoline containers and store them in a location away from your quarters.
 - (3) Consider parking your automobile in an open area, as opposed to parking under trees.
 - (4) If you plan on using an emergency generator, please consult with your power provider and receive accurate instructions before installing and

activating. Power surges have been known to be fatal, especially when fixtures are improperly installed.

- (5) Remove mirrors and other glass fixtures from walls that may become airborne sharps.
 - (6) Consider disconnecting all electrical pieces of equipment/appliances that are not life supporting.
 - (7) If you utilize candles for supplemental lighting, make sure that you stabilize them and place them on a metal surface.
 - (8) If storm intensity and impact is evident, always seek safety at the lowest point in your dwelling, i.e., bath tub or other similar areas. Consider covering all members with blankets, etc.
- G. Persons whose dwellings or property may be subject to flooding should consider getting sandbags if you need them. Sandbags and sand can be filled and picked up at the Emergency Operations Center in Madison, located next door to the Senior Citizens Building on Harvey Greene Drive.

Respectfully,



Jerome Wyche, Manager
City of Madison