

DESPP OFFERS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Families and Businesses reminded to be prepared

(MIDDLETOWN, CT)-With the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season beginning tomorrow, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) is reminding Connecticut residents and businesses to be prepared. "Tropical Storm Irene reminded us all that hurricanes and tropical storms do impact Connecticut and individuals and businesses need to be prepared," said Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner Reuben F. Bradford. "Every home and business should have a basic emergency plan that can be used for any emergency".

"I urge residents to know what potential risks your community and neighborhood may face, such as storm surge, flooding, road or bridge closures", added Commissioner Bradford. "Carefully monitor the media and promptly follow instructions from Public Safety officials as a storm approaches."

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30; the principal threat period for Connecticut is from mid-August to mid-October.

"I recommend that all Connecticut residents take three simple preparedness steps: Get a kit, make a plan, and stay informed," said State Emergency Management Director William J. Hackett. "With last year's storms still fresh in our minds, personal preparedness is essential."

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection offer the following preparedness tips:

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☑ One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ☑ At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ☑ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
 - ☑ Flashlight and extra batteries
 - ☑ First aid kit
- ☑ A whistle to signal for help
- ☑ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☑ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☑ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ☑ Local maps
- ☑ Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Family Emergency Plan

☑ Identify an **out-of town contact**. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

☑ Be sure every member of your family **knows the phone number** and has a cell phone, **coins**, or a **prepaid phone card** to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get a hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.

☑ Teach family members how to use text messaging. Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.

Subscribe to **alert services**. Many communities/states now have systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails to let you know about severe weather, road closings, local emergencies, etc. In Connecticut, go to www.ct.gov/ctalert to register for alerts. For more information on Hurricane preparedness go to www.ready.gov.

