



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RICK SCOTT
Governor

BRYAN W. KOON
Director

Dear Colleagues,

June 1st marked the first day of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, along with the State Emergency Response Team, have been busy with preparations. Following Florida's most active season in a decade, we drew from knowledge and lessons learned from the experience to exercise and enhance statewide planning for future tropical systems. We must remember that it only takes one severe storm to devastate a state, county, community, or family. This is why the Division places such heavy emphasis on our own preparedness and why we encourage everyone in Florida to do the same.

Now is the best time to prepare for a hurricane; before they begin approaching our shores. Thanks to the Tax Cut Package passed by the Florida Legislature and signed by Governor Scott, disaster preparedness is made even easier for Florida families and businesses this weekend. From June 2 through June 4, select disaster preparedness items will be sales tax free at retailers all over Florida. This allows Floridians to affordably build their own emergency response kits with important items including flashlights, lanterns, batteries, all-hazards weather radios, and generators. We encourage all Floridians to take advantage of this weekend to promote safety plans and practices in their own homes and communities.

If a storm impacts Florida this year, one of our primary goals will be the rapid restoration of local businesses that provide vital goods and services. Local elected officials and Law Enforcement Officers will work together to determine when an area is safe enough for individuals to return. At that point, individuals and businesses seeking to provide essential commodities and services to impacted areas will be allowed reentry by possessing and presenting to local officials: a valid government-issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport; Proof of Employment, such as Employer credentials or a letter on employer letterhead; and a Demonstrated Need to enter the area, such as a work order, inventory list, or employer authorization. Local officials know their communities and are well suited to facilitate a safe and timely reentry process. We look forward to working with local officials to ensure the safe and timely movement of necessary resources throughout the state. Disasters affect all members of the community and we must be prepared to work together to meet the needs of all citizens during an emergency. Businesses can receive updated information regarding the transportation and distribution of essential commodities during a state of emergency declared by the Governor by registering in advance with the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center at www.flvbeoc.org.

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS •

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As we move along through the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, our team will continue to keep all of our partners and fellow Floridians informed and prepared. Together, through effective preparedness and efficient response this Hurricane Season, we aim to ensure a more resilient Florida.

Best,

Bryan Koon,
Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management