

# PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE – HURRICANE SEASON AWARENESS

As we arrive at the peak of Hurricane Season, the threat of hurricanes and other storm related threats become greater. In preparing for an emergency situation, the City of Bushnell works with the Emergency Operations Center for Sumter County to ensure your safety. The Sumter County Emergency Management office (EOC) is charged with the safeguarding of life and property during a countywide emergency. The EOC brings together key agencies such as: law enforcement, fire rescue, public works and other governmental agencies to facilitate your safety and the possible sheltering of evacuees. During emergency situations, such as the threat of a hurricane or the aftermath of a tornado, the EOC would be activated.

## **Advance Planning for a Hurricane should include:**

- Have your disaster supply kit ready - gather important documents and store in a waterproof container.
- **Keep your storm kit on hand and make sure it is up to date – copy vital documents and place in your kit.**
- Make arrangements for your pets. **The only shelter that allows Pets is South Sumter High School. For suggestions check with your veterinarian, the Humane Society of Sumter County 793-9117 [Disaster Animal Response Team]**
- Have an emergency communications plan.
- **In case family members are separated from each other, have a pre-arranged place to meet. Ask an out of state relative or friend to serve as a "family-check-in-contact". Make sure all family members know the name, address and phone number.**
- **Learn the location of the shelters in your area and become familiar with the designated evacuation routes - in advance - of the storm. Shelters will be opened after hurricane warnings are announced for your area. Listen to your radio and TV for information.**
- Stay informed - Listen to your weather radio, AM-FM radio and TV for the latest watches and warnings.

## **KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.....**

- **HURRICANE CONDITIONS** - winds of 74 mph or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas.
- **HURRICANE WATCH** - A threat of hurricane conditions expected for the area within 24-36 hours. If you plan to evacuate, leave as soon as possible.
- **HURRICANE WARNING** - Hurricane conditions are expected in 24 hours or less. If mandatory evacuation is ordered, all residents must leave immediately. Beware of the "calm eye" of the storm, violent weather will return.

The City of Bushnell makes every effort to ensure the safety of our citizens before and after a storm or emergency situation. The Public Works Department is responsible for clearing streets of debris. The Utilities Department is responsible for electrical safety and water/sewer plant operation. The Administration office assists with calls and is the hub for information exchanged between citizens and the various city departments. The Sumter County Sheriff's Department ensures the safety of the community. All these departments work together to make every possible effort to ensure your safety.

**Visit the Sumter County website for Emergency Management for more information:**

**<http://sumtercountyfl.gov/>**

**Go to Government and look under Departments for Emergency Management.**

*If you have any questions regarding hurricane preparedness, please do not hesitate to call the City of Bushnell at 352-793-2591. Sumter County Emergency Preparedness Guides are available at Bushnell City Hall.*