

# **KENNER HOUSING AUTHORITY**

## **HURRICANE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

### **PURPOSE**

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> thru November 30<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this plan is to outline the agency's process for decision making during a hurricane emergency.

### **PRE STORM PROCEDURE**

#### **ALERT MODE**

Once a tropical storm or hurricane has formed which could pose a threat to the region and the storm is given a name by the National Weather Service the Kenner Housing Authority (KHA) will be in alert mode, at which point the following will occur:

- 1) All maintenance personnel may be on on-call status until further notice, to be decided by the Executive Director.
- 2) The Executive Director may call a staff meeting when He/She deems necessary to decide staff work schedules.
- 3) From June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Director will monitor local news channels for any updates on Tropical Storm Developments.

### **STORM PREPAREDNESS**

While storm conditions and their outcomes are difficult to predict, it is anticipated that any storm with Tropical storm force winds or higher may result in personal injury or death, property damage, flooding, and or power outage.

May 27<sup>th</sup> - Send out Information to all tenants detailing: Jefferson transit evacuation map, radio frequency systems, and severe weather terms to know, hurricane measuring strength, shelter in place information, evacuation check list, and emergency contact information.

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Update all Resident's and Employees contact information

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Take inventory of all supplies on hand

### **COMMUNICATION**

The KHA may communicate pre-storm and post-storm updates to residents and employees, including information regarding office closures, return to work and emergency contact information through its website at [Kennerha.com](http://Kennerha.com)

## **HURRICANE EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

Evacuations may be ordered by the Governor of Louisiana or the Mayor of Kenner once force winds are projected to hit the Kenner area. Given the unpredictable movement of storms, and given the large population and limited road systems that is susceptible to flooding, the Executive Director may advise residents and employees to voluntarily evacuate before a mandatory order is given.

The KHA may issue an advisory notice to all resident when a hurricane is forecast or presents a danger to the Kenner area. This notice will instruct residents to secure their units, adhere to evacuation orders issued by the Governor of Louisiana and the Mayor of Kenner. In addition, the notice will inform residents that in the event of a mandatory evacuation order, the KHA **WILL NOT** have a shelter of last resort or provide management or maintenance services until the storm has passed and employees can safely return to work.

## **EMPLOYEE EVACUATION**

The Executive Director may release employees prior to the issuance of any evacuation orders issued. KHA property **WILL NOT** be designated as an official hurricane shelter.

## **SHELTER IN PLACE**

In the event that weather conditions do not require evacuation, KHA encourages both residents and employees to adhere to the following shelter in place procedures:

1. Stay indoors
2. Stay away from windows and glass doors
3. Keep televisions and radios turned to local news for updates on weather conditions
4. Have a backup plan to escape from flooding and wind damage
5. Have a hurricane emergency kit on hand
6. Remain in shelter until informed by local authorities that it is safe to move about
7. Have adequate supplies on hand

## **POST STORM PROCEDURES**

Following landfall of a storm, and after dangerous weather conditions are no longer a threat to the Kenner area and officials allow movement of people the following will occur:

1. Maintenance and office personal will conduct an initial assessment of each property, and provide a report to the Executive Director with photos when possible
2. The Executive Director will have the office staff prepare a report if needed for insurance claims. No damage equipment will be discarded until directed to do so by the Executive Director

## **APPENDIX**

## HURRICANE CONDITIONS AND WARNINGS:

The National Weather Service is responsible for issuing warning of hurricanes and tropical storms, which approach the U.S. mainland. As soon as there are definite indications that a hurricane or tropical storm is forming, the storm is given a name and the National Weather Service begins issuing "advisories". The advisories are issued frequently throughout the day and night and tell where the storm is, how intense it is, and its speed and direction of movement. If the hurricane moves toward the mainland, hurricane "watch" notices are included in the advisories and storm and hurricane warnings are issued. In addition, "bulletins" for press, radio and television are issued at frequent intervals to keep the public informed of the progress of the storm. Understanding the various warnings and storm conditions is critical to the decision-making process; particularly as it relates to the timing of such decisions. The following terms define the various warning types that may be issued by the National Weather Service, and will correspond with specific actions to be taken as outlined in the plan.

**Storm Warning:** Although "storm warnings" for coastal areas are issued for storms other than hurricane, when a "storm warning" is issued in connection with a hurricane it means that the hurricane is close enough to cause winds of more than 55 MPH (48 knots), but of less than hurricane force 74 MPH (64 knots), or alternatively, a combination of wind and/or waves and tides which will be dangerous.

**Hurricane Watch:** When a hurricane reaches such a position that it constitutes an appreciable threat to an area, that area is put on "hurricane watch". This means that there is no immediate danger, but the hurricane watch is issued for a coastal area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.

**Hurricane Warning:** As soon as it is expected that an area will feel the full effects of the hurricane (i.e. winds of 74 MPH (64 knots) and higher, or a combination of dangerously high water, very rough seas, and other critical conditions justifying an emergency action even with winds as low as 60 MPH), a hurricane warning is issued for that area. This means that all precautions should be taken immediately against the full force of the storm. It should be remembered that it is not the hurricane's eye, or center, which causes casualties and damage, but rather the high tides, strong winds and heavy rains which precede and surround the center. Hurricane warnings are seldom issued more than 24 hours in advance. Sometimes, in case of unusual or erratic hurricane movement, they may be issued only a few hours in advance of the onset of hurricane conditions.

The United States Coast Guard categorizes various hurricane threat conditions. These conditions are frequently referred to during the hurricane season. They are as follows:

**CONDITION 5:** An alert condition automatically set annually on June 1 that remains in effect through November 30.

**CONDITION 4:** An alert condition in which hurricane force winds are possible within 72 hours.

CONDITION 3: A readiness condition in which hurricane force winds are possible within 48 hours.

CONDITION 2: A warning condition in which hurricane force winds are possible within 24 hours.

CONDITION 1: A danger condition in which hurricane force winds are possible within 12 hours.

The National Weather Service rates hurricanes by their intensity, using a scale of one to five. The scale, which is outlined below, categorizes storms according to their sustained winds; the storm surges produced, and expected damage. For the purpose of this plan, KHA shall consider all hurricanes to be major hurricanes.

CATEGORY 1: Winds of 74 to 95 mph. Damage to shrubbery, trees, poorly constructed signs, and unanchored mobile homes. Low lying coastal roads inundated.

CATEGORY 2: Winds of 96 to 110 mph. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some wind and door damage. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Coastal roads and low lying escape routes made impassable by rising water 2 to 4 hours before arrival of hurricane.

CATEGORY 3: Winds of 111 to 130 mph. Large trees blown down. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed; large structures damaged by waves and debris.

CATEGORY 4: Winds of 131 to 155 mph. Shrubs and trees blown down, all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows, and doors. Complete failure of roofs of many small residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Flat terrain 10 feet or less above sea level flooded inland as far as six miles. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore.

CATEGORY 5: Winds greater than 155 mph. Shrubs and trees blown down; considerable damage to roofs of buildings. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of shore possible required.

A hurricane's intensity, speed, and direction can change quickly, so the threat to particular areas of the coast may also change quickly. Therefore, it is essential to regularly monitor radio and television newscasts for information and instructions whenever a hurricane is in the Gulf of Mexico.