



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Hurricane Season Has Begun: Do You Have a Plan for Severe Weather?**

The 2010 Hurricane Season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and the National Hurricane Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have predicted we should expect “active to extremely active” hurricane season. NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, is predicting:

- 14 to 23 Named Storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:
- 8 to 14 Hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which 3 to 7 could be Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of at least 111 mph)

“The main uncertainty in this outlook is how much above normal the season will be. Whether or not we approach the high end of the predicted ranges depends partly on whether or not La Nina develops this summer,” said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. “At present we are in a neutral state, but conditions are becoming increasingly favorable for a La Nina to develop.” (*Source: NOAA News 5/27/10*)

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is committed to serving as an educational and information resource for the residents of our Region and beyond. The Emergency Preparedness staff of the Council remains highly involved in tracking storm activity and remaining in constant contact with national, local and regional weather sources.

All Northeast Florida residents are urged to have a “Hurricane Plan” in place. Residents need to know where your evacuation route is, how to obtain information about the route and when to evacuate should the order be given.

NEFRC has provided links on our web site, [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org), to educate residents about Florida's weather including hurricanes, tornados and severe thunderstorms associated with the tropical season, and assist in developing a plan. Also on this website are links to each of our Region's County Emergency Management Departments for local assistance.

"Code Red" is the newest tool that Northeast Florida residents have for staying informed of the latest emergency information. This is a free emergency notification system that will call residents in the event of a potential or pending emergency. This free service does require registration from your county's Emergency Management Department web site, which can be accessed via [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org).

Remember the four Pillars of Preparedness for protecting your household:

- Get a Plan;
- Be Informed;
- Get a Kit; and
- Be involved.

Besides having a plan for each season, residents of Northeast Florida are encouraged to take steps to make their homes more "hurricane resistant." "My Safe Florida Home" is a program that provides matching grants to homeowners who qualify to "harden" their homes against elements of tropical storms. Please contact the NEFRC for additional information on this program or preparing for severe weather emergencies.

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