Public Advisory
Residents Encouraged to Prepare for Potential Effects of Hurricane Season

Based on notice issued by Municipal Affairs on August 26, 2011

Newfoundland and Labrador is currently in the height of hurricane season and potential systems could pose a threat to the province. As experienced through previous storms, residents are encouraged to prepare not only for the potential impacts, but also for the possible need to evacuate, for their personal safety. The potential for significant amounts of rain and storm-force winds means residents and communities must be diligent in emergency preparations to ensure their personal safety.

Tips for municipalities, commuters, and residents can be found in the backgrounder provided below.

If an emergency requiring assistance occurs, residents are reminded to contact their local fire department and/or police for assistance. If flooding occurs, residents should contact their municipality. Should communities become unable to cope with local emergencies, they may contact FES-NL for assistance.

Residents and officials should keep the following emergency numbers close at hand:

- RCMP – 1-800-709-7267 or 709-772-5400
- Newfoundland Power - 1-800-474-5711 or 1-888-491-5066
- Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro – 1-888-764-9376
- Fire and Emergency Services - Newfoundland and Labrador – 709-729-3703
- Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department – 709-786-6666
- Carbonear General Hospital and Ambulance Service - 709-945-5111

Residents are asked to exercise extreme caution as any dangerous system approaches and throughout the course of the event.

The latest information on Hurricane tracking can be found at: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/hurricane/track_e.html

More information on personal preparedness can be found at: www.gov.nl.ca/fes or www.getprepared.ca

Media contact: Cheryl Gullage, Public Relations Specialist

Fire and Emergency Services - Newfoundland and Labrador

709-729-0857, 631-9962 cherylgullage@gov.nl.ca

BACKGROUNDER

Storm Advice for Communities and Residents

Municipalities

FES-NL is engaging community officials throughout the province to ensure they keep apprised of the hurricane weather forecast and heed warnings and advisories as they materialize. Community leaders and town managers are also encouraged to check with their insurance companies to fully understand their policies and coverage for the impacts of wind and other potential impacts in such emergency situations. In addition, municipalities must be diligent in ensuring that all storm sewers, culverts, bridges, and drains are free from debris ahead of this system and that emergency personnel are aware and available should weather conditions warrant.

Residents

In advance of a Hurricane, residents should assess their individual situations to determine the steps they can take to ensure their safety and security.

Some important tips for individuals to keep in mind before and during storms of this nature:

- Know the risks in your specific region;
- Follow local weather forecasts throughout the next few days and heed warnings and advisories;
- Prepare and maintain an emergency kit – be ready to cope on your own for at least 72 hours, to allow first responders to help those in urgent need. Instructions on preparing a kit can be found at www.gov.nl.ca/fes/epw/readykitgo.html;
- Develop an emergency plan – keep in mind the specific requirements of any person in your household with a medical condition, mobility issues, or other special needs;
- Account for the needs of any household pets and ensure animals normally kept outdoors are safe from wind and rain;
- Be aware of all local emergency numbers;
- Understand your insurance policy and potential coverage for fire and emergency situations
- Ensure sump pumps are in working order;
- Keep all drains free from debris;
- Remove dead tree branches, which could pose a hazard or threat;
- Ensure all patio furniture, barbeque equipment and yard tools are secured to avoid potential damage in high winds;
- A reminder that cordless phones will not work in the event of a power outage;
- Should you notice downed power lines in your area, do not touch or attempt to move, but instead advise your utility provider immediately;
- If you become aware of flooding on streets or blocked culverts, contact municipal officials to advise them of the situation.

Commuters

In times of severe adverse weather, commuters should avoid travelling on roadways unless absolutely necessary.

Should travel be necessary, a few tips to keep in mind:

1. Ensure someone is aware of your travel plans and the time you anticipate arriving at your destination.
2. Also be sure to check in once your reach your planned target.
3. Be ready to pull over in a safe location should conditions become too intense to reach your destination.
4. An emergency preparedness kit should be assembled for your vehicle, including booster cables, a blanket, water, non-perishable food items (such as energy bars, which keep well in a vehicle), a flashlight, a battery powered or wind-up radio, poncho, first aid kit, multi-purpose knife and other essential items.