



**A Message from
Broward County Mayor
Lois Wexler**

It's that time of year again! Hurricane season in South Florida and yes, it is time to get prepared for whatever nature may bring our way. Broward County has a new director of the Emergency Services Management Division. Charles "Chuck" Lanza is the former Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Chief and former Director of Emergency Management for Miami-Dade County; he comes to us with a lot of experience and knowledge.

Once a hurricane warning goes into effect, the Broward County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opens and is staffed around the clock with personnel whose charge is to keep the County up and running. Every city has a representative in the EOC to inform the county of crucial areas that may need immediate assistance. There are people monitoring the needs of police and firefighters, schools and hospitals, hurricane shelters, transportation services, road closures and human services such as providing food and water to the elderly, disabled, or shut-ins.

It is critical that **you** take the necessary steps to insure the safety of your family before a hurricane strikes. Of utmost importance is creating a plan of action.

Broward County encourages you to be "Ready, Set, Safe" during the hurricane season. That means get **ready** for a hurricane before it occurs, get **set** for the storm once it hits and develop a plan ahead of time to stay **safe** after a storm.

A hurricane plan should include measures that you will take to secure your home and property. This includes checking your hurricane shutters or obtaining the necessary materials you will need to secure your home. Do you need your trees trimmed? Have you checked the roof and structure of your home to make any needed repairs? Do you have a supply of food and items you may need to get you through a severe storm. Your family plan should include instructions as to where you will go should you have to evacuate. You may choose to meet at a family member's home who lives outside of the affected area or at a specific hotel. As a last resort, you can go to a hurricane shelter. Take the time to identify the hurricane shelter which will be nearest to you in the event that you will need to seek shelter there. You also need to make

plans, in advance, for the special needs of the elderly or disabled who may depend on you for help and assistance. Don't forget to make plans for your pets!

Broward County's Vulnerable Population Registry allows people who are disabled, frail or have health issues to register in advance with their city so that emergency workers may plan a better response following a hurricane or other emergency. To register, call the Broward County Call Center at 954-831-4000, TTY 954-831-3940 or your city's emergency management agency.

During and after a hurricane you must stay indoors and monitor the news media for vital information. WIOD-610 AM news radio is Broward County's emergency operations media partner. Once our Emergency Operations Center is activated, they will be carrying all of our news conferences live and will bring you up-to-date information throughout the duration of the storm. It's always a good idea to have a portable radio and batteries included in your hurricane preparation plans.

For more information on putting together a hurricane plan of action or items that should be included in your hurricane survival kit please go to www.broward.org/hurricane.

Of course if you have any questions or comments please call me at 954-357-7005 or e-mail me at lwexler@broward.org

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