FAMILY PREPARATION: PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY

- Know what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in your area and have an emergency kit pre-assembled.
- It is important to create a disaster plan and a checklist so that the entire family is prepared and informed in the event of a disaster or emergency. You may not always be together when these events take place and should have plans for making sure you are able to contact or find one another.
- Inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare, school, faith organizations, sports events and commuting.
- Refill prescriptions so that you always have a seven (7) day supply.
- Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- Know the difference between weather alerts, such as watches and warnings, and what actions to take for each.
- Learn about your community’s warning signals and frequently monitor television, NOAA radio, Internet and mobile apps.
- Listen to local officials and be ready to evacuate. Know your evacuation routes, emergency shelters and check-points. Notify someone out of the risk area.

GOT PETS?
Visit this website for information on pet friendly accommodations and travel tips: www.petfriendlytravel.com/pet_shelters

GOT PETS?
RedRover.org is a website that focuses on animals in emergency situations. “Bringing animals out of crisis and into care.”

IMPORTANT PAPERS INVENTORY
Create a personal file containing information about your possessions and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. Consider including copies of the following for each family member:

- Driver’s license(s).
- Vehicle registration and proof of insurance.
- Insurance policies (life, health, property).
- Medical and vaccination records including medicine or food allergies and other specific health conditions.
- Copies of prescription medicine labels.
- Birth and marriage certificates.
- Tax or other important business and personal records.
- Veterinary and vaccination records for pets and livestock.
- Photos of your home and possessions.

PREPARE, PLAN, STAY INFORMED.
FOR ST. TAMMANY STORM INFORMATION VISIT stpgov.org/disaster or call our automated line at 1-800-809-2300
SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER INFORMATION 985-898-3074
READY.GOV
The official website of the Department of Homeland Security.
FEMA.GOV
Federal Emergency Management Agency 1-800-346-FEMA
FLOODSMART.GOV
The official site of the National Flood Insurance Program. 1-888-379-9531
ST. TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF 985-898-2338
LOUISIANA STATE POLICE 985-893-6242 | “LSP from your cell phone
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911
Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to get to higher ground, the highest level of a building, or to evacuate.

**SHELTERING IN PLACE:**
**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

If you are advised by local officials to **Shelter In Place**, this means you should remain indoors and protect yourself from outside dangers (e.g., chemicals, weather hazards, etc.) until authorities give you an all-clear to come out. Make sure to do all of the following when you are advised to shelter in place:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Get your disaster supplies kit, and make sure your radio is working.
- Go to an interior room without windows that’s above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air. Using duct tape, seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told it is safe or you are told to evacuate.

**EVACUATION:**
**VOLUNTARY VS. MANDATORY**

A voluntary evacuation order may be issued when there is not yet a threat to lives, but when the threat might become real in the near future. Residents are advised to move to a safer location for their own safety. While residents are not advised to stay in the area, it is up to the individual to make the decision to leave.

A mandatory evacuation order may be issued when danger is imminent and life-threatening conditions exist. Individuals who refuse to evacuate under a mandatory order are solely responsible for their safety and their ability to escape life-threatening circumstances, as public services are suspended during this time. Any nonessential person found traveling through the area will be subject to arrest or escorted out of, and not permitted to reenter the area.

**KEY TERMS**

**PARISH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC):** The facility that provides coordination and control of all emergency response and recovery activities for the Parish during declared emergencies.

**WATCH:** Forecast issued in advance to alert the public of the possibility of a particular weather-related hazard (tornado watch, flash flood watch).

**WARNING:** Issued when a particular weather or flood hazard is imminent or already occurring (e.g., tornado warning or flash flood warning).

**CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL THREAT:** A threat that consists of chemical/biological material that has the potential to produce casualties in people, animals or damage plants.

**FLASH FLOOD:** A flood that occurs within a few hours (usually less than six) of heavy or excessive rainfall or dam or levee failure.

**STORM SURGE:** A rise of the sea level along the shore that builds up as a storm (usually a hurricane) moves over water.

**CONTRAFLOW:** A lane reversal altering the normal flow of traffic, typically on a controlled-access highway, to aid in an emergency evacuation.

**HEAT INDEX:** A measure of how hot it really feels when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.

**WIND CHILL:** A term used to describe what the air temperature feels like to the human skin due to cold temperatures and winds on human skin.

**BLACK ICE:** A glaze that forms on surfaces (especially paved surfaces) due to light freezing rain or melting and re-freezing of snow water, or ice on surfaces. It is dangerous precisely because it’s hard to detect in advance.

**KNOT(S):** Unit of speed used in aviation and marine activities. One (1) knot is equal to 1.15 mph.