

# Hurricane Awareness 2010

Hurricane season is just around the corner. The City of La Porte encourages you to get prepared by following 3 simple steps:

## Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit

When a hurricane is approaching, you may have little time to prepare. You may need to survive on your own for an extended period of time. Local officials and relief workers will be on scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, & telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer.

That is why it is important to prepare an emergency supply kit that can be used whether you plan to stay or evacuate. Store the supplies in an air-tight container that can be easily moved. Check and update your supplies every six months.

For a list of additional supplies, visit [www.lpoem.org](http://www.lpoem.org).

- Water: one gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days
- Food: a three-day supply of non-perishable food and can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio & a NOAA Weather Radio w/ tone alert & extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, & bank records
- Medications, prescriptions, & medical equipment
- First aid kit
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Pet food, water, and pet supplies

## Create a Family Disaster Plan

Use the following guidelines to help your family plan for hurricane season:

- Keep your gas tanks full during hurricane season.
- Compile a list of telephone numbers that includes emergency contacts, family members, and other important numbers, such as your family doctor.
- Homeowners and renters should make an inventory of all the items in their homes. An inventory can help provide proof of personal property loss after a disaster.
- Identify ahead of time where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places: a family member's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter. Keep telephone numbers to these locations on hand, as well as maps to each location.
- If you will need assistance during an evacuation, contact the La Porte Senior Services Center at 281-470-9897 or dial 2-1-1.
- If you are a pet owner, include a plan for your pets in your family disaster plan. When considering where to stay during an evacuation, check ahead of time to make sure the location is pet friendly.
- Visit [www.lpoem.org](http://www.lpoem.org) to download a sample Family Disaster Plan.



## Stay Informed

It is important for you to stay informed before, during, and after a hurricane.

- Learn about the different hurricane evacuation routes. Visit [www.lpoem.org](http://www.lpoem.org) to view the Hurricane Evacuation Map.
- Learn about the City of La Porte's local emergency plan.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio and battery-powered radio to stay informed throughout the event.
- Monitor local radio and TV stations for updates before & after the storm. Updated information will also be posted at [www.laportetx.gov](http://www.laportetx.gov).
- The Office of Emergency Management uses social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace, to keep our citizens informed. Visit us at [www.lpoem.org](http://www.lpoem.org) for links to these sites.
- Updated information will be posted on the La Porte Citizen's Hotline at 1-866-642-4153.
- The City will notify you once an evacuation order has been issued through local media and the La Porte public notification system, Connect-CTY. It is important that you register your cell phone number so you will continue to receive updates once you have evacuated. Visit [www.laportetx.gov](http://www.laportetx.gov) and click on "Connect-CTY Sign Up" to register.

## National Weather Service to Use New Hurricane Wind Scale



NOAA's National Weather Service will use a new hurricane scale this season called the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The scale keeps the same speed ranges as the original Saffir-Simpson Scale for each of the five hurricane categories, but no longer ties specific storm surge and flooding effects to each category.

Changes were made to the Saffir-Simpson Scale because storm surge values and associated flooding are dependent on a combination of the storm's intensity, size, motion and barometric pressure, as well as the depth of the near-shore waters and local topographical features. As a result, storm surge values can be significantly outside the ranges suggested in the original scale.

Storm surge forecasts will continue to be included in hurricane advisories and statements issued by the National Hurricane Center and local National Weather Service forecast offices. Visit [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for more information.

### 2010 Southeast Harris County Hurricane Preparedness Workshop

Saturday, May 22, 2010

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pasadena Convention Center

Booths will include representatives from the American Red Cross, Harris County Precinct Two, La Porte Office of Emergency Management, National Weather Service, and more.

A special presentation on the 2010 hurricane season will be given at 2:00 p.m. by Tim Heller, Chief Meteorologist for Channel 13.

**Event is free and open to the public.**

Free hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided by the Southeast Regional LEPC, while supplies last. Many door prizes will be given away throughout the event.