



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY



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Heffernan
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MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

400 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5399
Tel: 508-820-2000 Fax: 508-820-2030
Website: www.mass.gov/mema

Kurt N. Schwartz
Acting Director

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CONTACT: Peter Judge, MEMA PIO
(508) 820-2002

PREPAREDNESS IS KEY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Threat of Hurricane Earl Reminds Families of Importance of Preparedness

FRAMINGHAM, MA – The potential threat of Hurricane Earl reinforces the importance that everyone take the proper preparedness steps. Now is a good time to take to heart the three steps being reinforced by the President, as he proclaimed September as ‘National Preparedness Month’: Prepare a Kit, Have a Plan and Be Aware.

“Every home and business should have a stocked basic emergency supply kit that could be used for any emergency, regardless of the time of year,” states MEMA Acting Director Kurt Schwartz. “Everyone should keep certain items around the house and workplace in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power” Each kit will be unique to each family, but should include a portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries, a supply of non-perishable foods, along with bottled water, a first aid kit, extra prescription medication, and extra food and supplies for infants and pets.

“All families should develop a ‘Family Emergency Communication Plan’ with an ‘outside the area’ contact to help ensure everyone is safe. You should reach out to your local authorities to learn about your community’s potential evacuation routes and the location of possible emergency shelters,” said Schwartz. “It is always important to familiarize yourself with your Community’s Emergency Plans before an emergency situation occurs.”

Also, develop a Disaster Supply Kit ‘Go Bag’, with essentials in case you must evacuate quickly.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and National Preparedness Month, go to www.mass.gov/mema and www.Ready.Gov. Continue follow MEMA updates on *Facebook* and *Twitter*.

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Region I
P.O. Box 116
365 East Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
Tel: 978-328-1500 Fax: 978-851-8218

Region II
P.O. Box 54
12-I Rear Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324-0054
Tel: 508-697-3600 Fax: 508-697-8869

Region III / IV
1002 Suffield Street
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: 413-821-1500 Fax: 413-821-1599