

With only 10 days to the start of the 2007 hurricane season, the National Weather Service and the State of Virginia have designated this week, May 20-26, as Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week. Government and civilian forecasters are predicting that the 2007 hurricane season will develop up to 17 named storms in the Atlantic, with a 50 percent or greater chance that a least one major hurricane will hit the east coast.

Even when hurricanes make landfall in other states, they can still cause significant damage and loss of life in Virginia; in fact, some of the worst storms in Virginia's history were from hurricanes that made landfall in other states. Tropical Storms or depressions can be just as damaging or deadly as a hurricane. Hurricane Isabel was a tropical storm when it entered Virginia, and caused damage to 75 percent of the state, making it one of the costliest disasters in Virginia history.

The National Weather Service, Tropical Prediction Center web site at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> has a link to a variety of hurricane preparedness information for adults and children. Each day this week they will discuss a different preparedness subject including storm surge and high winds, inland flooding, the forecast process and steps to prepare and act in the event a hurricane impacts Virginia or the east coast of the U.S.

The State of Virginia's Department of Emergency Management web site at <http://www.vdem.state.va.us/> also contains excellent information concerning the low cost steps families can take to get ready. The site provides information for an emergency supply kit, an evacuation plan, and a family disaster plan to include pets.

Please share this information with all members of your command. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the number below or our Station Manager, Mr. Chris Kim at 806-7541.

Thank You

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