

THE SKETCHLEY LAW FIRM, P. A.

Providing Compassionate Support & Guidance Through Elder Law & Guardianship

ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

June 2008

Atlantic Hurricane Season has begun and it is important to be prepared in case of a hurricane emergency. Be aware of the dangers posed by storms and have a plan set in advance to keep you and your family safe.

Atlantic Hurricane Season

Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30 according to NOAA – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Though hurricanes do occur outside that period, it accounts for more than 97% of tropical activity. Even Tropical Storms with lower wind speeds bring the threat of deadly floods and winds. Any storm watch or warning should be taken seriously.

Watches and Warnings

What is the difference between a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning? Hurricane Watches are issued when hurricane conditions are *possible* in the area, usually within 36 hours of issuance. A Hurricane Warning means that hurricane conditions are *expected* in the area within 24 hours.

Follow instructions from local officials during Hurricane Watches and Warnings. If you are ordered to evacuate, leave immediately for the safest pre-determined location.

Be Prepared

Every family should be prepared for a hurricane by making a disaster plan ahead of time. Before hurricane season starts, you should be aware of all evacuation routes and shelter locations. You should also prepare a hurricane emergency kit. Experts advise that emergency kits should contain at least 3-7 days of potable water and non-perishable food per person, as well as hygiene

essentials, important documents, flashlights, extra batteries, a battery or crank-operated radio, and other essentials.

Visit the National Hurricane Center at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> for a full list of recommended emergency items for Hurricane Season and tips on preparing your family's disaster plan.

Elderly and Disabled Family Members and Pets

In addition to basic emergency supplies and your family disaster plan, be sure to make special arrangements for pets and elderly or disabled family members. Keep a 2-week supply of prescription medications and keep special dietary needs in mind when preparing your hurricane emergency kit. Also consider medical support equipment – wheelchairs, oxygen, walkers, canes, feeding equipment, etc. as well as disposable incontinence supplies for your elderly or disabled family member.

Special Needs Shelters are available for individuals with special needs during emergencies. Sign up for your county's Special Needs Registry in advance. More Special Needs Registry information can be found at the Florida Department of Elder Affairs website, <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>.

Also be sure to include in your emergency kit a carrier, leash, muzzle (even if your pet is normally friendly and well-behaved), identification, food and water for your pets. Most shelters will not accept pets so make plans in advance to find a "pet-friendly" location in case of evacuation.

If you would like to arrange for one of our attorneys to speak to your group or organization about this topic, please contact Tracy Rouse at (850) 894-0152. Past newsletters can be found at www.sketchleylaw.com.



The Professional Center at SouthWood
3689 Coolidge Court, Suite 8
Tallahassee, Florida 32311

Telephone: (850) 894-0152
Facsimile: (850) 894-0634
(850) 297-2884

