

Are You Too Complacent with Hurricanes?

By Joseph Parish

Are you troubled about a hurricane striking your region of the nation? Are you concerned for your safety and that of your family in the event a rouge hurricane walks its way up the eastern seaboard? If you think it won't happen to you at this time you are not alone.

The National Hurricane Survival Initiative has revealed that most coastal inhabitants have become too complacent with the moderately calm hurricane season that America had in previous years. Americans who live in hurricane at risk states should get better equipped for the upcoming hurricane season. According to a poll conducted by the NHSI the residents of at least nine different coastal states have shown a total disregard for the hazards associated with potential hurricanes. This is likely the result of past year's quiet hurricane seasons. Even those residents of Florida have indicated that one in three families have not developed a disaster survival plan or even have a survival kit.

It is not just in Florida either, from Virginia to Texas 45 percent of the people do not feel they are exposed to any hurricane, tornado or flooding danger. 47 percent of those people polled have no survival kits created while another 13 percent state they would refuse to evacuate if ordered to do so.

Americans who dwell in hurricane vulnerable locations should be urged to prepare in advance for any possible foul weather during the upcoming season. One must prepare before the arrival of the hurricane and not at the time it gets to your location. Every family, business and community should feel the need to get properly prepared and be ready for any such emergency.

During the survey, it was revealed that seventy-four percent of the homeowners had taken no special precautions to make their homes hurricane proof with another 36 percent admitting that they have not developed a family disaster plan. In the state of Florida alone 44 percent of the people that reside in a direct hurricane path have indicated that they would refuse to evacuate if instructed to do so.

The results of the NHSI poll provide the elements necessary for the various public education campaigns relating to hurricane preparedness. The data is utilized by the various non-profit partners such as the National Emergency Management Association and the Salvation Army when determining area needs. I have continually stressed that we must remain vigilant and take the proper preparations necessary to protect our families and assist our neighbors to get ready for a potential hurricane.

The hurricane's destructive nature from the past remains a constant reminder that it merely takes one powerful hurricane to make a bad season.

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