



# Storm & Flood Preparedness

2007

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU MINIMIZE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY

## Remember, it only takes one

Forecasters are expecting an active hurricane season this year – as many as 17 named storms, compared to the average of 9.6 each year – and as many as 10 of them predicted to become hurricanes.

That's the word from the National Hurricane Center and from William Gray, who has been researching tropical weather for more than 40 years and heads a research team at Colorado State University.



Of course, the modern-day highwater mark was 2005, a devastating season that had a record 28 named storms, 15 of them hurricanes and four of those striking the U.S.

For all for all of the forecasting technologies and methodologies, we'd best be served by remembering that it takes only one to cause catastrophic damage and loss of life.

The good news is that we have time to prepare and we know the steps to take in preparing for storms and flooding.

For the second year, we face different challenges in preparing for hurricane season. Thousands of our residents and volunteers are in vulnerable trailers or campers throughout our city. Although we've hauled off 99 percent of Katrina's debris, a significant amount of unseen rubble remains in storm drains underneath city streets, causing street flooding in even minimal rainfall.

And, of course, any mandatory evacuation would be restricted to two of the three operating bridges over the Bay of Biloxi.

Over the past 20-plus months, as we've dealt with the day-to-day issues of our recovery, we've also had to draft new plans of action and contingencies to address a host of issues.

This newsletter is part of the city's continuing outreach effort to educate residents about the dangers of storm and flooding, and help you minimize the threat to you, your family and your property. Although hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 each year, torrential downpours and flooding know no season.

As a resident of Biloxi, you have a responsibility to do your part. Read the stories in this newsletter. Heed the advice. Prepare a personal storm plan for you and your family, and consider contingencies to deal with an array of scenarios you may face.

As your mayor, I'm proud of the resolve and resilience that you and your fellow residents of Biloxi have demonstrated since Aug. 29. We've come too far and made too much progress – and we have too promising of future – to lower our guard at this point.

Finally, I've heard more than one person wonder aloud what we'd do if Biloxi and the Gulf Coast were threatened or struck by another storm. We'll do what we've always done. We'll prepare, we'll persevere and we'll prevail.

*God bless you and God bless Biloxi.*

A.J. Holloway  
Mayor  
May 31, 2007

### Biloxi City Council:

George Lawrence • William "Bill" Stallworth  
Charles T. Harrison Jr. • Mike Fitzpatrick • Tom Wall  
Edward "Ed" Gemmill • David Fayard

## The story of a lifetime

Cable One and the City of Biloxi will air "Katrina and Biloxi: A Story of Resolve and Resilience," the city's award-winning documentary, on Aug. 29, 2007, the second anniversary of the storm. For details, see Page 4.

# This storm season, don't be scared, be prepared

Mayor A.J. Holloway, aware that Biloxi residents are growing anxious about the 2007 hurricane season, has a familiar message: Don't be scared, be prepared.

Holloway, who prior to the storm season met with key department heads to review the city's storm-preparation plans, is advising residents to begin updating their personal storm plans.

"Now is the time to consider things like if you have to evacuate, where are you going to go? Do you have relatives upstate or in a neighboring state? Have you plotted your evacuation route and travel time? Have you made arrangements for the family pet? Do you have important papers in a secure location? Have you thought about the things that you'll need to secure in your yard? And, finally, have you checked your storm kit to make sure that you have the key items like a battery-operated radio with fresh batteries, emergency food and water, a non-electric can opener, and a first-aid kit?"

"These sound like a lot of questions to consider," Holloway added, "but if you go by the checklist, you'll get it all done and have the satisfaction of knowing you're prepared."

Holloway's advice comes as government forecasters are predicting a busier than normal hurricane season Tuesday. National Weather Service forecasters said they expect 13 to 17 tropical storms, with seven to 10 of them becoming hurricanes.

The forecast follows that of two other leading storm experts in anticipating a busy season. The likelihood of above normal hurricane activity is 75 percent, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

For its part, the City of Biloxi, in cooperation with other local emergency management authorities, again plans to issue evacuation recommendations and orders when storms threaten the area.

"Essentially," Holloway said, "the plan again this season is to ramp up the notices to the public. If Biloxi is in the probability cone 72 hours before landfall, expect to see a recommended evacuation announcement. If we're still in the probability cone 48 hours out, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for low-lying areas, which triggers the closure of casinos; and at 36 hours out, you can plan on seeing a mandatory evacuation."

Added the mayor: "We're aware that even a moderate storm would cause extensive damage given that our waterfront areas are still barren, and we're aware that thousands of residents are still in trailers, and that we're still without the Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridge, so it's important that everyone take the necessary steps now to be well-prepared."

## WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

Residents of Biloxi can plan on seeing a constant flow of information regarding weather bulletins and advice this hurricane season, as well as early warnings about storms. Here are key timelines to remember:

### 72 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to a recommended evacuation announcement.

### 48 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Zone A and low-lying areas. At this point, casino resorts are expected to close.

### 36 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Zone B.

### What you can do now

Don't wait until a tropical depression or hurricane is in the Gulf to begin preparing. There are steps you can take now. See the list on Page 6.

### More info

- To see evacuation zones and evacuation routes, see map on Page 2.
- Information also will be available via city e-news, and through a recorded message on the City of Biloxi Storm Info Line, which is at 435-6300.



Hurricane Katrina bearing down on the Gulf Coast