Six years later, we must remain vigilant in efforts

My fellow residents:

We’ll be observing the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina this month, and with the quiet storm season we saw last year, that feeling of complacency may be creeping into some households. This is fatalistic thinking. This is not time to let your guard down.

The authorities responsible for making predictions on how many storms we may see in a given year say that this year will be an above-normal hurricane season.

NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, has said that we can expect:

- 12 to 18 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which:
  - 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including:
    - 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher)

NOAA says there’s a 70 percent likelihood that these numbers will occur, and they also say that data indicates we’ll see more than the seasonal average of 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

The key thing that we remind you each year at this time is to prepare. Have a storm plan for your family that answers key questions (See “Think ahead” on Page 2, and “Before Hurricane Approaches” on Page 6). Have a plan for your business. Make sure everyone in your family or your co-workers are aware of the plan and the role they play in that plan.

Communication is the key to any plan. In city government, public safety is one of our basic responsibilities to you. In the case of storms, our role is to inform you of the everyday steps you should take to prepare for storms or inclement weather, and as the threat approaches we communicate to you the best information we have when we have it. With that information, you can make an informed decision on what is best for you and your family. As many longtime residents know, the information we pass along to you is usually in the form of advice or recommendations; in extraordinary cases, when it becomes clear that life-threatening conditions are imminent, you can expect to see mandatory evacuations being ordered.

The information in this newsletter is designed to help you about what you should be doing now, and what you should be doing when a storm threatens. I ask you do your part to prepare. God bless you and God bless Biloxi.

August 2011

Mayor A.J. Holloway and
the Biloxi City Council:
George Lawrence • William “Bill” Stallworth
Lucy Denton • Clark Griffith • Tom Wall
Edward “Ed” Gemmill • David Fayard

The story of a lifetime

Cable One will air the city’s award-winning documentary “Katrina & Biloxi” on Aug. 29, the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina striking the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The cable company is showing the 50-minute documentary to all of its Mississippi Gulf Coast customers as a public service, to help remind residents about the dangers of storms and flooding. Read more about the annual cablecast and find out how you can get your own commemorative DVD and photo album on Page 4.
Do you have flood insurance?

Some homeowners may have been required to buy flood insurance when they obtained a mortgage or home-improvement loan. However, in many cases, these policies cover only the structure and not your possessions. You can protect your home and contents through the National Flood Insurance Program, in which the City of Biloxi participates. Local insurance agents can sell a flood-insurance policy separate from your homeowners or windstorm policy. Anyone can get – and everyone should have – flood insurance. These policies are regulated by the federal government. Any agent can sell a policy and all agents must charge the same rates, which are set nationally. Your rates will not change even if you file a claim. There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective. Contact your insurance agent to determine what type of coverage you have.

Local insurance agents can sell a flood-insurance policy separate from your homeowners or windstorm policy. Anyone can get – and everyone should have – flood insurance. These policies are regulated by the federal government. Any agent can sell a policy and all agents must charge the same rates, which are set nationally. Your rates will not change even if you file a claim. There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective. Contact your insurance agent to determine what type of coverage you have.

Think ahead on evacuations, storm shelters

One of the toughest decisions that residents may have to make on when a storm approaches is whether they should evacuate their property and possessions for either a local shelter or out-of-town accommodations. Depending on the severity of the storm, that decision can be made for those in low-lying areas; local authorities may order a mandatory evacuation. In Biloxi, as many as six hurricane shelters can be activated in times of peril, but residents need to be aware of several factors if they are considering seeking refuge in a shelter.

The decision to open a shelter is usually based on the intensity of a storm and where it is expected to make landfall. Local Emergency Management leaders make the decision to open shelters in coordination with the American Red Cross, and the public is notified through the media. In many cases, elementary schools are used for shelters, which are manned by Red Cross workers and public safety officers. And the shelter sites can vary from year to year and storm to storm. “The category of storms and the direction they are coming from are just a couple of the considerations when determining which shelters will be used,” Biloxi Emergency Management coordinator Sgt. Milton Houseman of the Biloxi Police Department says. “Things like tides are also a consideration, so the locations of shelters and when they are activated are made on a case-by-case basis.”

If you think you may seek refuge in a shelter, some points to consider:

- Bring enough food and water for at least the first day. Bring your own blankets and other personal needs. Cots cannot be guaranteed. No pets, firearms, alcohol or tobacco products are allowed.
- Public transit systems – buses and taxis – will stop operating when sustained winds reach 35 mph.
- If you have an infant, bring an adequate supply of diapers and formula.
- If you or a member of your family is on a special diet, bring the necessary food.
- If you are on prescription medication, try to have a two-week supply of medication.

If you're thinking about evacuating, be familiar with evacuation routes. Traffic may be delayed by bridges opening to marine traffic. Bridges, by the way, will not open for marine traffic when sustained winds reach 35 mph.

It’s illegal to sweep clippings into the street

One of the biggest causes of flooding in the city – blocked storm drains. These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the city is making citywide to drainage systems. Piling leaves at the curb or sweeping trimmings into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city’s storm drains. Either bag the leaves for pickup or compost them. A stopped-up storm drain or ditch cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property or your neighbor’s property.

Chances are, you’ve seen it done or even done it yourself: You cut your lawn, rake up the trimmings and pile them near the curb in front of your home. Or, you’ll sweep the trimmings into the street, where you hope they’ll be carried away by the wind.

These two scenarios result in one of the biggest causes of flooding in the city – blocked storm drains. These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the city is making citywide to drainage systems. Piling leaves at the curb or sweeping trimmings into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city’s storm drains. Either bag the leaves for pickup or compost them. A stopped-up storm drain or ditch cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property or your neighbor’s property.

It’s actually a violation of city ordinance to dump any material into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams or waterways. (Sec. 9-1-15, Code of Ordinances, 1992). If you see anyone dumping debris into storm drains, ditches, culverts or streams, please contact the Public Works Department at 435-6271 or online at r Sullivan@biloxi.ms.us, or the Code Enforcement staff in the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at dking@biloxi.ms.us.
Homeowners with damaged structures in a flood zone will be required to make sure their homes fully comply with flood regulations before the city can issue a building permit for repairs, according to FEMA regulations.

Community Development Director Jerry Creel said "Failure to comply with the codes will result in significant higher flood insurance rates for everyone," Creel said, "and, frankly, insurance rates will end up increasing for all property owners.”

In 2009, Biloxi’s flood insurance rating improved from a 7 to a 6. Biloxi residents, even those covered under the wind pool, are eligible for flood insurance discounts of up to 20 percent, thanks to the city’s enforcement of flood-zone regulations and its continuing efforts to educate the public about how to minimize the threat of storms and flooding.

You can see an online map showing flood zones in Biloxi at biloxi.ms.us. You may also contact floodplain manager Rick Stickler at rstickler@biloxi.ms.us or at 435-6270.

The flood zone map is also available at the Community Development Department on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard or at the Woolmarket Fire Station on Woolmarket Road.

Major repairs to flood-zone homes may trigger code issues

This 1980s FEMA graphic, which was originally distributed to Biloxi residents in December, 2005 illustrates the implications that homeowners face when making repairs to homes that pre-date the Flood Insurance Rate Map. In short, if your substantially damaged home is in a flood-prone area of the city and if your repairs did not include bringing the structure into compliance with current flood elevations, you face significant increases in the cost of your flood insurance. You can see the flood-prone areas of the city in the map on Pages 6 and 7 of this mailout. A larger version can be viewed online at biloxi.ms.us or at any city facility.

You can take steps now to protect your property against flooding

There are some steps that you can take now to prepare your property against flooding. One option may be “retrofitting,” which is altering your home to eliminate or reduce flood damage.

A few things to consider:

• Elevate your building so that flood waters do not enter or reach any susceptible portions.

• Construct barriers out of fill or concrete between your building and flood waters.

• “Dry flood proof” your non-residential building, which entails modifying the structure and relocating contents to lessen the damage caused by any flood waters that enter your structure.

• Sandbagging is a short-term measure that can also be helpful.

• The City of Biloxi is home to many reputable, licensed building contractors who are qualified to make repairs for you. However, after each storm, a number of transient contractors sets up temporary shop in our community. The City of Biloxi is home to many reputable, licensed building contractors who are qualified to make repairs for you. When you employ a contractor, make sure you verify their qualifications and experience.

• Those with other questions can call the Community Development Department at 435-6280 or e-mail building@biloxi.ms.us.

Need More Info?

• To read FEMA’s answers to frequently asked questions about repairing significantly damaged properties in flood zones, visit biloxi.ms.us.

• To read FEMA’s "Homebuilder's Guide to Coastal Construction," which provides technical guidance and recommendations concerning the construction of coastal residential, visit biloxi.ms.us.
Coast Transit Authority is reminding residents in need of emergency storm evacuation transportation to sign up now.

"It is always best to have your own plans in place, but we are available to provide assistance to the citizens of Harrison County if they need it."

CTA is managing the evacuation transportation program for Harrison County and will be providing transportation assistance for out-of-town evacuations, to local shelters of last resort, and shelters for pets and their owners.

Residents are advised to sign up now if there is a chance they will need evacuation transportation. You should register with Coast Transit Authority immediately to make sure you are on the list to receive assistance.

The number to call is 896-8080. Spanish speaking operators are available. CTA also needs to know as soon as possible of any special medical or other needs to those being transported.

Transportation to a pet shelter will be provided for dogs, cats, and birds only. The pets must be in carriers that can be lifted and loaded by the pet owner. There will be no assistance for loading and unloading pets.

The Harrison County Emergency Management Agency and the Humane Society of South Mississippi are providing a pet shelter, but the pet owners must accompany the pet during transportation and stay at the same shelter with their pets.

Only two carry-on items per person will be allowed on the buses, either two bags or one bag and one pet carrier.

There will be no exceptions.

"It is critical that you go ahead now and make preparations to leave if an evacuation is called," Coggin said. "You should prepare the items you must have to leave in order. So that you can leave quickly and you should have pet carriers in hand ready to use if you intend to take a pet. And, you should register immediately if you think you could require our assistance."

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**Take a free ride**

Coast Transit urges needy to register now for emergency evacuation transportation

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**You can get free how-to info on preparation and construction**

Need more information about flood preparation and construction? The city has assembled a wealth of free how-to booklets about steps that you can take to minimize damage from storms and flooding.

The books are available at these locations:

- Community Development Department, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Municipal Building, 435-6260.
- City Hall Lobby, Lameuse Street.
- Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, Pass Road
- Biloxi public libraries (Lameuse Street, Poppy's Ferry Road, Division Street and Pass Road).
- Woolmarket Fire Station, 8479 Woolmarket Road.

You can also contact the City's Building or Code Enforcement divisions online at biloxi.ms.us/communitydevelopment.

For detailed info on building permits and construction requirements, contact the Building and Code Enforcement divisions at the Community Development Department, 435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us. Those planning work in a flood-prone area should contact floodplain manager Rick Stickler at rstickler@biloxi.ms.us or at 435-6270.

You can obtain a number of helpful emergency preparedness brochures online at FEMA's website (www.fema.gov) or from the National Hurricane Center (www.noaa.gov).

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**Storm, disaster info can be kid stuff, thanks to website**

It’s never too soon to begin the education process about storms and the damage they can cause, and a host of educational activities especially for children are now available online.

The Flood and Storm section of Biloxi’s web site (http://biloxi.ms.us) includes a direct link to FEMA for Kids, which features Herman, "the spokesman" and kid-style information on how to be prepared for disasters and how you can prevent disaster damage.

Parents and teachers will find a number of family or classroom activities for groups.

To see the FEMA for Kids site, visit http://fkm.hq.dhs.gov/summer2006.

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**Federal agencies encouraging residents to use direct deposit**

In those critical days after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Treasury Department worked with the Social Security Administration to get displaced Social Security and other federal benefit checks to recipients, as quickly as possible. But those who already were using direct deposit had immediate access to their funds from virtually anywhere, thanks to ATMs and financial institution networks.

That’s why the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks – through Go Direct – are urging Social Security check recipients who live along the Gulf Coast to switch to direct deposit. The recommendation, offered in light of devastating hurricanes, is aimed at ensuring citizens receive their federal benefits without disruption.

Go Direct makes it easy to sign up for direct deposit. People can sign up by calling the toll-free Go Direct helpline at (800) 333-1795 or by visiting www.GoDirect.org to sign up online. To learn more about Go Direct, visit www.GoDirect.org.

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**President Bush consoles east Biloxi residents in this image from the city-commissioned documentary ‘Katrina and Biloxi.’**

The City of Biloxi and Cable One will air “Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve and Resilience” on Monday Aug. 29, the fifth anniversary of the storm, to help educate residents about the dangers of storms and flooding.

Cable One will air the program Coastwide at 10:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Cable 13.

The 50-minute documentary includes video of the city before, during and after the storm and uses interviews with Biloxi leaders, residents and volunteers to tell the story of Biloxi’s encounter with Katrina, the worst natural disaster to ever strike the United States.

“This is a great story,” Mayor A.J. Holloway said of the documentary, “and I hope Biloxi residents and all residents of the Gulf Coast tune in so they’ll be reminded of just how great our community is, and how far we’ve come. The biggest thing people, though, is to heed the advice you’ll hear in this presentation: take storms seriously and prepare accordingly.”

The 50-minute documentary is part of a DVD produced by the city and Tom Nebel Productions, a firm that accompanied the Atlanta Fire Department to Biloxi in the aftermath of the storm. The DVD also comes with a 52-page full-color photo album that was produced by the city and The Ad Group, a Biloxi advertising agency.

The $85,000 investment has grossed nearly $350,000 for the city, with sales in 46 of the 50 states and around the globe. Online discounts are available at biloxi.ms.us.

The “Katrina & Biloxi” effort has won awards from the American Advertising Federation and the Public Relations Association of Mississippi.
Thousands of people turn to the Biloxi web site each day to find out details about upcoming city meetings, special events, issues of local interest, or to see the hundreds of online photos or hours of video.

But you don’t have to visit the web site each day for information. We can deliver it directly to your Inbox with Bmail, the city’s free e-news service. Thousands of Biloxi residents and interested followers from across the country already use Bmail to keep up with Biloxi’s progress. You should, too.

Just to go biloxi.ms.us and click on Bmail to sign up. It’s free. It’s all Biloxi. All the time. And pass the word to your neighbors, and friends and family across the country.
Plan an evacuation route.
- Contact the local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter, and ask for the community hurricane preparedness plan. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation routes and nearby shelters.

Learn safe routes inland.
- Be ready to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.
- Have disaster supplies on hand.
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Duct tape
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- sturdy shoes

Make arrangements for pets.
- Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons.
- Contact your local humane society for information on local animal shelters.

Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a hurricane.
- Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- Protect your windows.
- Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use 1/2 inch plywood – marine plywood is best – cut to fit each window. Remember to mark which board fits which window.
- Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before the storm.
- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.
- Check into flood insurance.
- You can find out about the National Flood Insurance Program through your local insurance agent or emergency management office. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before a new policy becomes effective.
- Homeowners policies do not cover damage from the flooding that accompanies a hurricane.

Develop an emergency communication plan.
- In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

(A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-16 hours.)
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outside antennas.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Review evacuation plan.
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place. Use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer. Use tie-downs to anchor trailer to the ground or house.

(A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions – winds of 74 mph or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas – are expected in 24 hours or less.)
- If officials indicate evacuation is necessary:
  - Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
  - Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.
  - Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
  - If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet, move it to a higher floor.
  - Take pre-assembled emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
  - Lock up home and leave.

Check the hurricane track.
Stay tuned for more storm information

The National Weather Service monitors hurricane and storm activity, and issues official bulletins to local and regional TV and radio stations. Since television coverage may be interrupted by power outages, you should also have a battery-operated radio to follow emergency advisories. It is vital that you monitor these weather broadcasts, especially as a storm approaches.

Additionally, the City of Biloxi relays vital information on a regular basis through its online e-mail program. To sign up for the notices, visit http://biloxi.ms.us, where you’ll also find detailed and regularly updated weather forecasts.

Here is a list of local outlets where you can obtain information:

- **Television**
  - WLTX-TV 13
  - WXXV-TV 25
  - The Weather Channel
  - WCVM 1240
- **Radio-AM**
  - WCBS 1490
  - WTBQ 1490
- **Radio-FM**
  - WJZD 95.4
  - WZNF 95.3
  - WJNY 95.7
  - WJXB 98.9
  - WJJZ 98.9
  - WWND 100.7
  - WXXV 107.9
  - WXYK 107.1
  - WZKX 107.9
  - WCPR 97.9
  - WJZD 95.4
- **By Phone**
  - Storm Info Line
  - City of Biloxi

**Major flood-producing storms that have impacted Biloxi since 1969 include**

- Hurricane Camille
- Hurricane Georges
- Tropical Storm Allison
- Hurricane Katrina

**2010 Storm Names**

- Arlene
- Bret
- Cindy
- Don
- Emily
- Franklin
- Gert
- Harry
- Ida
- Jose
- Katrina
- Lee
- Maria
- Nate
- Ophelia
- Philippe
- Rita
- Sean
- Tammy
- Vince
- Whitney

**Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale**

1. *No real damage to building structures.* Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage

2. *96-110 mph Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flooded 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.*

3. *111-130 mph Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain-wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level (ASL) may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.*

4. *131-155 mph More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.*

5. *greater than 155 mph Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.*

AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.
- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage; if electricity is off, keep refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Refrain from sightseeing.
- Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- Inspect utilities in a damaged home.
  - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor’s home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
  - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
  - Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.
- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Refrain from sightseeing.

**2010 Storm Names**

- Arlene
- Bret
- Cindy
- Don
- Emily
- Franklin
- Gert
- Harry
- Ida
- Jose
- Katrina
- Lee
- Maria
- Nate
- Ophelia
- Philippe
- Rita
- Sean
- Tammy
- Vince
- Whitney

**Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale**

1. *74-95 mph No real damage to building structures.* Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage

2. *96-110 mph Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flooded 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.*

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elevations for rebuilding purposes and also adding a one foot (1') freeboard to the Floodplain Administrator recommends that you consider using the new zones and elevations for increased protection and to receive an additional discount on your flood insurance policy.

Much has been made and said about the federal government's new flood elevations, which went into effect in Biloxi in May 2009.

While much of the focus has been on the height of construction, this map shows the significant increase in the size of the flood zone.

For instance, nearly all of Point Cadet, the eastern tip of the Biloxi peninsula, is now in a flood zone, as is Eagle Point in north Biloxi.

Completed elevation certificates are available from the city’s Community Development Department.
Where to turn for help

The Community Development Department is here to help minimize the risk you face from storms and flooding. If you are having flooding problems, advice is available to help you resolve your flooding issues. To make an appointment, call contact Floodplain Manager Rick Stickler at (228) 435-6270 or rstickler@biloxi.ms.us

Flood Protection Assistance also is available from such sources as the American Red Cross, the Small Business Administration, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, United Way, Salvation Army, Catholic Social and Community Services, Back Bay Mission.
El color de la construcción
City simplifies permits, adds splash of color to better identify work

Identifying the types of construction going on in Biloxi is simpler these days—for contractors, property owners and city inspectors, as well as citizens interested in construction in their neighborhoods.

Tracking construction is a particularly vital concern in flood zones.

The city’s Community Development Department is now using color-coded permits that clearly illustrate the type of permit granted for construction work, and the new system has reduced what once may have required a contractor to obtain five separate permits to having everything all on one permit.

The colors:

－ Blue permit is for properties or structures located in a special flood hazard area.
－ Lime green permit is the basic permit for work where there are no special conditions or enhanced requirements.
－ Orange is for “Moving” a structure.
－ Red signifies the “Public Facilities/Incorporated District,” which means that the proposed project has already been reviewed and approved by the Architectural and Historical Review Committee.
－ Beige signifies the “Architectural/Historical Review District,” which means that the proposed project has already been reviewed and approved by the Architectural and Historical Review Committee.

During the series recent de la ciudad de reuniones de la preparación de la tormenta, los planes repasados personal de la ciudad, pero la ciudad tormenta-devastada hace frente a un anfitrión de nuevas ediciones esta estación del huracán, que los medios el son vital importantes para que los residentes tengan sus kits personales del plan y del huracán de la tormenta en lugar.

Advertencias a venir anterior esta estación para esta estación del huracán, somos limitados en el número y localización de esos abrigos que soportan tráfico. Seguirán siendo donde están.”

Lo que todo residente tienen que saber:

Habla constante información sobre: trayectoria de la tormenta, posibles inundaciones, rutas de evacuación recomendadas, y el estado de la tormenta. Además, el director de la administración David Staehling dijo que la ciudad fue preparada mejor que en cualquier otro momento en que Katrina pulsó de agosto el 29, 2005.

Las rutas de evacuación que usaban solamente dos de tres puentes disponibles en la península de Biloxi también fueron discutidas.

City simplifies permits, adds splash of color to better identify work

City simplifies permits, adds splash of color to better identify work

City simplifies permits, adds splash of color to better identify work
Frequently Called Numbers

- Animal control ................. 392-0641
  To report stray or dead animals, leash-law violations
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information ........ 435-8242
  County Courthouse at Lamuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- Birth Certificates ................. 601-576-7960
  State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- Building Permits ................. 435-6270
  To obtain permits for construction and improvements
- Business Licenses ................. 435-6247
  To obtain a license to do business in the city
- City Council ..................... 435-6257
  To reach councilmembers or clerks of council
- City Court ......................... 435-6125
  Information on traffic tickets and court dockets
- Code Enforcement ................. 435-6270
  To report weeded lots, unsafe buildings, abandoned vehicles
- Driver’s Licenses ................. 392-1183
  Automall Parkway, D’Iberville, near library
- Emergency Police and Fire .............. 911
  Non-emergency: 435-6100 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- Garbage Collection ............... 328-1820
  Advanced Disposal manages the city’s residential garbage collection
- Housing Authority ............... 374-7771
  To get information on public housing
- Human Resources ................. 435-6259
  For info on city employment; on third floor, City Hall
- Mayor’s Office .................... 435-6254
  Citizen services, proclamations, public records requests
- Museums information ............. 435-6244
  Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- Parks & Recreation ............... 435-6281
  Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- Planning Commission ............. 435-6266
  To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- Public Schools ................... 374-1810
  Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- Streets and Drainage ............. 435-6271
  To report pot holes, damaged street signs or traffic signals
- Visitor Info ....................... 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
  Visitors Center is immediately north of the Biloxi Lighthouse.
- Voter Registration ............... 435-6279
  To register to vote or change in address
- Water Service ..................... 374-7953
  Meter Reading Specialists manages city water department

Utilities
- Cable TV .......................... 374-5900
- Electricity
  Mississippi Power ................. 800-532-1502
  Coast Electric Power Assoc ..... 388-3109
- Gas ................................. CenterPoint Energy Entex .... 896-7500
- Water/sewer
  City of Biloxi ..................... 374-7953 or 435-6236

More information is available online at biloxi.ms.us. To receive e-news, click on Bmail.
Important Storm & Flood Preparation Info Enclosed

Biloxi Resident

OFFICIAL
CITY OF BILOXI PHOTO ALBUM & DVD

Thousands of people across the country and around the globe have purchased their copy of “Katrina and Biloxi,” and now the City of Biloxi is making the DVD and companion photo album available at Biloxi city facilities and all public libraries in Harrison County for the low price of $20.

You can also place orders for friends across the country securely online at biloxi.ms.us. We’ll handle the shipping. Just click on “Katrina & Biloxi.”

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