



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY



MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lieutenant Governor

Kevin M. Burke  
Secretary

400 Worcester Road  
Framingham, MA 01702-5399  
Tel: 508-820-2000 Fax: 508-820-2030  
Website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema)

Don R. Boyce  
Director

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CONTACT: Peter Judge, MEMA PIO  
(508) 820-2002

**MEMA OFFERS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS**  
***What Families Need To Do To Prepare For The Hurricane Season***

Framingham, MA - As we enter the 2008 Hurricane Season, which experts are predicting to be very active, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is offering personal preparedness tips for the all of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

“Every home and business should have a basic supply kit that could be used for any emergency, regardless of the time of year,” states MEMA Director Don Boyce. “Everyone should keep certain items around the house in the event of a hurricane or other severe weather. A portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries extra non-perishable food, water and a first aid kit are all essential to help your family weather the storm.”

Each household should have a supply of canned goods and other non-perishable foods that do not need cooking, along with bottled water, extra prescription medication, and extra food and supplies for infants and pets. A manual can opener and a basic first aid kit are also essential.

“All families should develop a ‘Family Emergency Communication Plan’ to help ensure everyone is safe. You should contact your local authorities to learn about potential evacuation routes and the location of emergency shelters in your community,” said Boyce. “It is important to familiarize yourself with your Community’s Emergency Plans before an emergency situation occurs.”

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricane Preparedness Month, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **HURRICANE DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

- ❑ Canned goods and nonperishable foods that do not need cooking:
  - Canned meats and fish
  - Canned fruits and vegetables
  - Canned soups and puddings
  - Canned fruit juices
  - Dried fruit and nuts
  - Bread, cookies and crackers
  - Peanut butter and jelly
  - Coffee and tea
- ❑ Manual can opener
- ❑ Bottled water (1 gallon per person/per day)
- ❑ Prescription medication (2 week supply)
- ❑ Extra eyeglasses
- ❑ Pet food/supplies
- ❑ Water purification tablets (halazone)
- ❑ Disposable plates, cups, and utensils
- ❑ Infant care items:
  - Disposable diapers
  - Baby wipes
  - Baby food
  - Formula
- ❑ First aid supplies
- ❑ Masking and duct tape
- ❑ Flashlight or lantern, with extra batteries
- ❑ Battery operated radio, with extra batteries
- ❑ Watch or battery operated clock
- ❑ Ice chest
- ❑ Matches
- ❑ Canned heat (sterno)
- ❑ Portable outdoor camping stove or grill with fuel supply
- ❑ A certain amount of cash
- ❑ Important documents (Such as wills, deeds, prescriptions, passports, birth certificates, health record, proof of address, Social Security number)
- ❑ Plastic trash bags
- ❑ Plastic sheeting or tarp
- ❑ Chlorinated bleach
- ❑ Personal hygiene items
- ❑ Other useful items:
  - Work gloves
  - Sun lotion
  - Insect repellent
  - Hammer
  - Screwdriver
  - Pliers
  - Wrenches
  - Handsaw
  - Razor knife
  - Ax or chainsaw
  - Rope caulking
  - Nails and screws
  - Rope and wire
  - Broom, mop and bucket
  - All-purpose cleaner
  - Ladder
  - Sandbags
  - Portable generator
  - Tree pruner
  - Shovel, rake and wheelbarrow
  - Sheets of plywood

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## **FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

Develop a Family Emergency Communications Plan in case family members are separated from one another during an emergency (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school, camp or at a friend's house). This plan should also address reunification after the immediate crisis passes.

- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the Family Emergency Communications Plan contact person. During and immediately after a disaster occurs, it is often easier to access a long distance telephone number than a local one. Also, calling outside a disaster area is usually easier than calling into the same area.
- Make sure everyone knows the name, address and telephone number of the Family Emergency Communications Plan contact person.
- Designate two meeting areas for family members – one within your community (your primary location), and one outside of your community (your alternate location). Sometimes an emergency could impact your neighborhood or small section of the community, so a second location outside of your community would be more accessible to all family members.
- Be familiar with the Emergency Plans at your children's school and camp, as well as your place of business.

A Family Emergency Communications Plan can help reassure everyone's safety and minimize the stress associated with emergencies

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Region I  
P.O. Box 116  
365 East Street  
Tewksbury, MA 01876  
Tel: 978-328-1500 Fax: 978-851-8218

Region II  
P.O. Box 54  
12-I Rear Administration Road  
Bridgewater, MA 02324-0054  
Tel: 508-697-3600 Fax: 508-697-8869

Region III / IV  
1002 Suffield Street  
Agawam, MA 01001  
Tel: 413-821-1500 Fax: 413-821-1599