

# District 7 Disaster Preparedness Newsletter




## Hurricane Preparedness Week: Preparation Starts Before the Storm

Hurricane Preparedness Week serves as an important reminder that readiness begins long before a storm appears in the forecast. For American Legion Posts across our District, preparation is not just about protecting buildings and supplies—it is about protecting our members, supporting our communities, and ensuring we are ready to respond when needed.

Every year, hurricane season brings uncertainty to Florida and the Gulf Coast region. While we cannot control the storms themselves, we can control how prepared we are before they arrive. The Posts that respond most effectively during emergencies are the ones that have already reviewed their plans, updated member contact information, identified vulnerable members, and discussed volunteer roles before conditions become urgent.

One of the most important actions every Post should take during Hurricane Preparedness Week is reviewing its communication and accountability procedures.

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### Planning Tips:

Update member contact information before hurricane season

Review and test your Post call tree

Identify members who may need extra assistance

Discuss shelter or feeding capabilities ahead of time

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. Every Post should maintain an updated membership roster and have a reliable process for checking on members before and after a storm. This is especially important for older veterans, members living alone, or anyone who may need transportation or additional assistance during an emergency.

Preparedness also means training volunteers before they are needed. Disaster readiness training does not have to be formal or complicated. A short discussion during a regular Post meeting can help volunteers understand responsibilities such as member wellness calls, communication procedures, supply coordination, and safety expectations. A prepared Post is able to respond more quickly, operate more safely, and better support both members and the surrounding community.

Posts should also take time this week to review facility readiness and available resources. This may include checking emergency supplies, securing important records, reviewing generator capability if available, and discussing how the Post could assist the community after a storm. Even Posts that do not serve as shelters can still play an important role as communication hubs, resource coordination points, or centers for veteran support.

Hurricane Preparedness Week is also a good time to strengthen relationships with local emergency management agencies, community organizations, and partner groups. Building those connections before a disaster occurs helps ensure better coordination and faster response when assistance is needed.

Most importantly, preparedness is leadership. The time invested now—before hurricane season reaches its peak—can make a meaningful difference for our members, our Posts, and our communities later.

If your Post does not currently have a disaster preparedness plan in place, now is the time to begin building one. A disaster plan template is available that can be adapted to fit the needs and capabilities of individual Posts.

Preparedness begins before the storm is on the radar.

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If your Post does not currently have a disaster plan, a template is available that can be adapted to meet your needs. This resource includes member accountability procedures, volunteer roles, and response guidance.

To request a copy, please email:  
[rmcgregor.wk@gmail.com](mailto:rmcgregor.wk@gmail.com)