

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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Dear Cutter OAK Family Member,

The Hurricane Season is rapidly approaching and as we have already seen with the early development of Tropical Storms ALBERTO and BERYL, it can be full of surprises. It is imperative that as OAK prepares to respond to whatever Coast Guard mission we receive, you and your household are prepared in the event that a hurricane strikes the Charleston area. I ask you to have a plan and actively discuss it with the members of your family.

I cannot overstate the importance of having a family action plan during the hurricane season. I have included a Hurricane Information Package to help answer any question you might have about entitlements, pre-storm preparation, and useful hurricane planning tips. Please take a few minutes to read through the attached information. I hope you will find this helpful in preparing your family for the possibility of a hurricane evacuation.

If a major hurricane threatens the Charleston area, local emergency management officials may order you to leave your home and seek shelter. These evacuations can cause a serious emotional and financial drain. Having a plan for where to go and preparing yourself for what to expect if an evacuation is ordered will relieve unnecessary anxiety for your entire family. Keep in mind that ATMs and credit card readers will likely not work if power is lost so you should have a cash reserve set aside to use in the event of an evacuation. You should also prepare a "hurricane kit" that is ready to load in the car at a moment's notice. You should understand the procedures the Coast Guard will follow in the event of an evacuation. If the Coast Guard issues an evacuation order, you will be reimbursed for your travel and you should save all of your receipts. You will not be reimbursed for evacuation travel the Coast Guard does not authorize. This should not prevent you from taking proactive measures to keep your family safe.

Understand that as a hurricane approaches, the Coast Guard is concerned for your well being and will err on the side of caution. During the approach of a named storm to our area, you can expect to receive daily phone calls through your service-member or a designated representative to verify your status.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve with you all. *Semper Paratus!*

Sincerely,

P. S. NILES
Lieutenant Commander
U. S. Coast Guard

Enclosures: (1) Sector Charleston AOR Hurricane Preparedness 2012
(2) Family Disaster Supplies Calendar
(3) FAQs – Personal Property Damage and Loss Claims
(4) Personnel Accountability Contact Card