

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
CGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

1050 Register St.
North Charleston, SC 29405

16 May 2016

Dear JAMES' Family Members:

I am positive that most of us, if not all of us, live by our Coast Guard motto of *Semper Paratus* (Always Ready) standing ready to face the various challenges that come our way. June 1st marks the start of the 2016 hurricane season, and I would be remiss not to bring this important topic to the forefront of your attention. The past several hurricane seasons have been relatively light compared to previous years; however, each hurricane season is different, complex and inherently dangerous, so it is imperative that we plan and not become complacent. As your husbands and wives work through this lengthy inport industrial period, I highly recommend that you prepare on the homefront in the event that a hurricane or major storm threatens the Charleston area. My family and I lived in Key West, FL when the island was hit by a hurricane. From this experience, I learned that having and rehearsing a plan of what you and your family will do in the event of a major storm will help guarantee your safety and security. I urge you to come up with your own plan and make a family hurricane evacuation kit in case a mandatory evacuation of your residence is ordered by local, state, or federal emergency management officials.

Undoubtedly, evacuations have the potential to cause serious emotional and financial strain, as people will have to relocate to the evacuation site and in some cases spend significant amounts of time in temporary lodging away from home. Having a plan for where to go and preparing yourself for what to expect if an evacuation is ordered will prevent a lot of unnecessary anxiety for you and your entire family. At a minimum, you should have a credit card or cash reserve set aside to use in the event of one or more evacuations.

For your general awareness, I have included some helpful links that will provide you with hurricane planning tips. Please take a few minutes to read through this information. I hope you will find this helpful in preparing your family for the possibility of a hurricane evacuation.

<http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/ready.asp>

<https://www.ready.gov/military>

<http://www.scmd.org/>

<http://www.scmd.org/planandprepare/disasters/hurricanes>

<http://www.scmd.org/component/content/article/11-home-page/news/155-know-your-zone>

<http://www.scdot.org/getting/evacuation.aspx>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Tjongson" with "CAPT USCG" written in smaller letters to the right.

A. J. Tjongson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer