



May 2008

Hurricane Season 2008: are you ready?



Cleaning up in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma at Duval and Front Streets.

Hurricane Season is upon us, once again. And the City of Key West has just one question for its residents and business owners: are you prepared?

The city is. Departments have spent the past few months eking out detailed hurricane operational plans, deciding who will stay in the event of a serious threat, fulfilling Federal Emergency Management Agency training qualifications using the National Incident Management System and receiving specialized disaster training in different areas of expertise.

In addition, the city's Emergency Management Coordinator Craig Marston has

spent the past year renewing and creating interlocal agreements for aid in the event of a disaster, creating an Incident Management Plan for the city's Emergency Operations Center, and, basically, planning for the worst case scenario.

Marston spent a week this month at the Governor's Hurricane Conference, along with Interim Police Chief Donie Lee, Communications Manager Christie Phillips and Monroe County emergency preparedness coordinators. Though training sessions varied depending on service functions during an emergency event, the one prevailing

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

The end of May is here. I'd like to start off by thanking all the staff of our great city who work hard to keep Paradise in good working order.

In addition, I would like to recognize Marta Cabaleiro for her 25 years of service and Pat Pelletier, wishing him

all the best in his retirement from the city.

As you can see from this newsletter, we are on the eve of Hurricane Season 2008. Preparation is the key to readiness at all levels. A personal plan, a family plan, and a home and personal property protection plan must all be integrated with our employment obligations so that when the time comes for action, we can respond efficiently, effectively and calmly. Don't get caught unprepared!

Budget issues continue to be a challenge for city management. Policy changes already enacted and additional changes pending final approval are being made to reduce operational costs. One issue impacting everyone is the price of fuel. It is up and will continue to go up.

It's time to make changes to the way we work and the way we live. There are viable transportation options. Car pooling, city and Lower Keys buses, bicycles and walking depending on where we live and where we need to go during the work day are alternatives that make sense. If you must use a city vehicle, do so efficiently by combining trips into one, and don't leave vehicles running when parked. We need to be the example of good use of resources for our entire community.



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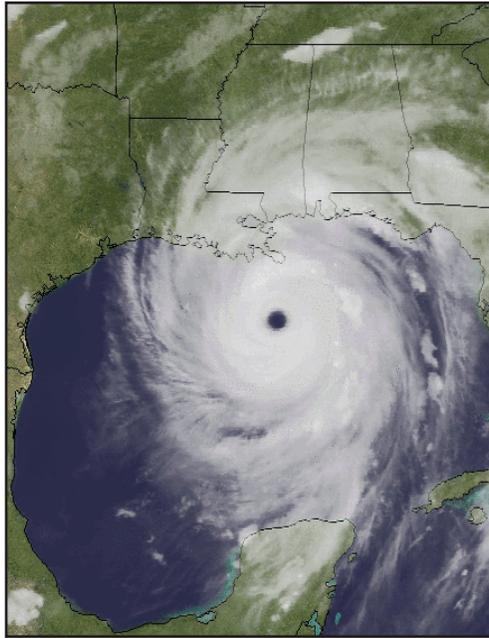
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Questions? Comments?

If you have information for the next City Newsletter or would like to see something added to the publication, please contact Communications Manager Christie Phillips at cphillip@keywestcity.com. This newsletter is a publication of the City of Key West.



A satellite image of Hurricane Katrina courtesy of CIMSS/SSEC.

message at the conference was that everyone who lives or works in the state of Florida needs to prepare for the worst. That message is even more important for those who live in the Keys.

“Though Hurricane Wilma was only a few years ago, people are already falling back to a level of comfort and complacency that could backfire if we have a major storm threaten Key West or any of the Keys,” Marston said. “Now, at the start of hurricane season, people need have a plan in place of what they are going to do, where they will go in the event of a storm threat.”

The general rule in the Keys is to hope for three, plan for seven. People need to have enough food and water to feed everyone in their household for seven days in the event of a storm.

For major storms, evacuation orders will be called, so residents and business owners need to be able to board or shutter up their houses and stores and leave the Keys. In such cases, it is best to have a preset destination, whether it be the home of friends or family on the mainland, or a pet-friendly hotel where the family can take their animals.

No matter what your plan entails, now is the time to evaluate your personal options and make decisions. For more information and a personalized step-by-step planning guide, visit the Florida State Emergency Response Team website at www.floridadisas-ter.org. □

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

The Basics

- o Bottled water
- o non-perishable food
- o vitamins
- o flashlights - 1 per person
- o battery-operated radio
- o batteries
- o candles
- o first-aid kit
- o sunscreen
- o prescription drugs

Tools & Supplies

- o paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- o NOAA weather radio with extra batteries
- o utility knife
- o fire extinguisher
- o matches in a waterproof container
- o sterno fuel
- o paper towels
- o portable camping stove, with fuel
- o books, games, etc. for entertainment

Clothing & Bedding

- o at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- o blankets or sleeping bags
- o sunglasses

Sanitation

- o toilet paper and towelettes
- o soap
- o feminine needs
- o toothbrush, toothpaste
- o hairbrush, shaving needs
- o plastic garbage bags and ties
- o disinfectant
- o bleach

Special Needs

- o special supplies for the elderly
- o special supplies for infants
- o food, water, medications for pets

Important Documents

- o wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds
- o passports, social security cards
- o bank account numbers
- o credit card account numbers and companies
- o important telephone numbers
- o family birth, marriage and death certificates
- note:** keep all of these documents in a waterproof, portable container

KW Fire Department promotes 3 from within



From left, new Capt. Ray Alvarez, new Driver/Engineer Gregory Barroso, Chief David Fraga and new Fire Marshal Mike Davila.

The Key West Fire Department and Fire Chief David Fraga were pleased to announce the promotion of three employees this month.

Former Captain Mike Davila was promoted to the position of Fire Marshal, former Driver/Engineer Ray Alvarez was promoted to the position of Captain, and former Fire Fighter Gregory Barroso was promoted to Driver/Engineer.

Fire Marshal Davila has been with

the Key West Fire Department for 21 years. In that time, he has served on the Haz Mat team and is a certified paramedic. He has worked extensively with the Fire Prevention Unit, which he now leads.

Captain Alvarez has been with the Fire Department for 20 years and has served on the Dive and Haz Mat teams and as a Fire Inspector. Driver/Engineer Barroso has been with the department for 12 years and is a member of the Dive Team. □

Basic First Aid classes to be offered internally

In an effort to improve the safe working environment fostered by the Key West Safety Committee, the Key West Fire Department will be offering Basic First Aid classes.

These classes will be delivered to City of Key West employees on a voluntary basis starting in June 2008. The Key West Fire Department has limited the classes to 10 students per class.

The classes will offer basic instruction in CPR, wound care, patient assessment

and disease prevention. This class is not affiliated with any certifying agency, so there will be no certificates or CEUs involved. The class will cause no overtime, and the time must be approved in advance by your supervisor.

Basic First Aid classes will be on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please call the Key West Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau at 292-8179 to reserve your spot. We will schedule these classes until interest subsides. □

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Galvan - Fire Department - June 1
Keith Sellers - Fire Department - June 1
Christopher Sauls - Mallory Square - June 2
Robert Franco - Fire Department - June 3
Richard Franco - Fire Department - June 3
Willie Covington - Public Works - June 4
Gary Celcer - Police Department - June 5
William Egan - Transportation - June 5
Tyrone Cervantes - Fire Department - June 6
Mike Karash - Fire Department - June 6
Jimmy Valdez - Police Department - June 8
Monica Diaz - Police Department - June 9
Jose Fernandez - Police Department - June 9
Lee Thompson - Parks & Rec - June 9
Benjamin Lowe - Fire Department - June 13
Eduardo Herrera - Transportation - June 14
Jason Means - Fire Department - June 14
Michael Haskins - Engineering Services - June 15
Kelly Nelson - Public Works - June 17
Raider Ortiz - Transfer Station - June 17
Kevin Walsh - Key West Bight - June 17
Rigoberto Diaz - Parks & Rec - June 18
Marcos Diaz - Transportation - June 18
Al Rodriguez - Police Department - June 19
John Dancho - Police Department - June 20
Jim Malcolm - Parks & Rec - June 20
Luisa Godoy - Mallory Square - June 21
Francisco Medina - Public Works - June 21
Cynthia Michaud - Finance - June 21
J.R. Torres - Police Department - June 21
Frank Betkis - Garrison Bight - June 22
Jason Bogoeff - Fire Department - June 23
Arnold Caballero - Fire Department - June 24
Jean Charles - Transportation - June 26

MAY SERVICE AWARDS

Kimberly Pita - Building
Department
20 years of service

Garfield Williams - Police
Department
15 years of service

John Dancho - Police Department
10 years of service

Valot Delius - Parks & Rec
10 years of service

Reinaldo Diaz - Parks & Rec
10 years of service

Sue Harrison - City Clerk's Office
10 years of service

City's wastewater plant wins award

The City of Key West is pleased to announce that, for the third time, the city's wastewater treatment facility has been recognized as an outstanding facility by the Florida Water Environment Association.

"This is a true testament to Key West's commitment to protect the environment and its citizens," said Operations Management International Project Manager Greg Smith. OMI has operated and maintained the city's wastewater treatment plant since it opened in 1989, and works within and in conjunction with the city's General Services Department.

Smith presented Mayor Morgan McPherson with the Earl B. Phelps Award for Water Quality at a commission meeting this month.

"This is the third year that we have been awarded one of the two Phelps awards given out each year, which is an unprecedented achievement in the state of Florida," Smith added. "To give you an idea of how significant this is, in Florida's wastewater



OMI Project Manager Greg Smith presents the award to Mayor Morgan McPherson.

industry, this is much like a Conch Baseball State Championship."

In addition, OMI and the Key West Richard A. Heyman Environmental Pollution Control Facility were also awarded Third Place in the Class A Facility Division for their safety program. □

Recycled materials make great grate

In keeping with both the city's initiative to increase recycling and the current budget crunch, the City of Key West's Facilities Maintenance Team came up with a creative way to proverbially kill two birds with one stone.

FMT technicians recently built a sifting bar screen out of waste materials at the city's transfer station for use in sifting

debris being removed from various mitigation sites.

"This was a cost-saving measure," explained Asst. City Manager David Fernandez. "The screen will allow us to sift our own debris, which will then be used as fill at the waste transfer site on Rockland Key.

"So the city is saving \$20 a ton on the purchase of fill at that site, plus \$7 a ton for screening the materials being removed from the mitigation sites. And on top of that, recycled materials were used to create the screen, so its cost was negligible and its creation was in keeping with the city's green efforts."

The screen is being used to filter out large boulders and other material not appropriate for fill from the debris collected at the Cuban Missile Site and in various areas of mitigation to restore wetlands at the Salt Ponds. □



Lars Pedersen with the city's Facilities Maintenance Team poses with the recycled-materials grate.

City wins awards for its environmental efforts

Environmental Programs Manager Annalise Mannix recently accepted two awards from different organizations honoring the City of Key West's efforts to "go green" and help the environment.

The first was from the Green Living and Energy Education group of the Florida Keys. GLEE recently held a contest to honor those individuals, businesses and local governments that were going above and beyond the call of duty in terms of environmental protection, education and initiatives.

Popular votes were tallied on the group's website, then a Green Ribbon Committee consisting of GLEE's Board of Directors weighed the various contestants.

The Committee specifically looked at each group's commitment to and advocacy of green living, as well as well-roundedness in programs and initiatives and longevity of green practices in each area.

The City of Key West was the proud recipient of the first place award in the "Local Government" category.

Some highlights of Key West's green efforts include:

- working to reduce energy consumption throughout the city, both in fuel and actual facilities

- going paperless for police reporting
- implementing new recycling goals and policies
- reducing amounts of trash throughout the city through educational efforts
- installing cigarette butt containers on Duval
- working with Waste Management to enhance service and use of recycling bins
- improving city-owned landscaping
- implementation of the Lunch and Learn program
- increased city-wide cleanups
- partnership with GLEE in the Key West Recycling Fair
- switching city fuel to B20 Bio-Diesel fuel for vehicular fleet, reducing CO2 emissions by 338 tons a year.

In addition, Mannix also accepted an International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives Milestone Award this month.

"Key West is one of an elite group of local governments who have shown the leadership it takes to achieve the level of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that the world's scientists say we need," said Michelle Wyman, Exec. Director of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. □



Environmental Programs Manager Annalise Mannix presents the GLEE Green Living award for Local Government to Mayor Morgan McPherson.

PUBLIC MEETINGS JUNE 2008

June 3: City Commission
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

June 4: Board of Adjustment
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

June 9: Clean Key West Task Force
City Hall, 12 p.m.

June 9: Community Housing Committee
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

June 17: City Commission
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

June 23: Community Housing Committee
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

June 24: Code Compliance Hearing
Old City Hall, 1:30 p.m.