



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Safety – Hurricane Preparedness

“Hurricane preparedness is our Maritime Strategy in action. Exercising our hurricane preparedness plans in anticipation of the 2008 storm season assures our readiness for two core capabilities -- maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response.”

-- Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces

Personal and unit preparations for hurricanes should be a continual effort during the entire season (June 1-November 30). This year’s preparations and hurricane exercise emphasize sortie and disaster preparedness of Navy units.

Personal responsibility throughout hurricane season

- Have emergency supplies and materials on hand in advance can avoid shortages.
- Have an evacuation plan for those left behind, including pets, if units are required to sortie and aircraft have to evacuate.
- Inspect homes throughout the season for storm damage – check gutters, storm shutters, and shingles.
- Monitor radio and television reports frequently, as hurricanes can drastically change course and intensity.
- Tie down or move indoors potential airborne objects which may cause injury or death in strong winds.
- Have cash and a car with a full gas tank in case of evacuation. If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.

Command responsibilities before and during an approaching hurricane

- Implement procedures for determining the status and whereabouts of Sailors and Navy family members after a catastrophic event and train families on these procedures.
- Conduct personnel accountability and family assessments according to the geographic area of interest (GAOI), established by NAVADMIN based on storm tracks.
- It is strongly recommended that all Sailors share their evacuation plans with command leaders before evacuations are ordered which will serve to hasten the accountability process.

How the Navy prepares – HURREX 08

This year’s exercise provides a focused training event to afloat and shore-based commands with hurricane threat scenarios for use in exercising sortie, evacuation, emergency preparedness, and recovery and consequence management procedures.

- Being prepared ensures that the Navy is ready to respond to weather threats to U.S. coastal regions and maintain the ability to deploy forces even under the most adverse weather conditions.
- Timeliness is crucial in accounting for family members during a hurricane, especially with geographically separated families.
- The Navy remains committed to the safety, security and accountability of our Sailors and Navy family members during hurricanes.

Key Messages

- Personnel accountability clearly remains both a command and an individual responsibility.
- As partners of the community, the Navy will inform local areas of any actions taken to improve readiness and responsiveness in the event of a hurricane.
- A prepared Navy is a ready Navy. A unit is only as prepared as all its Sailors, and Sailors are only as prepared as their family members.

Facts & Figures

- The Navy family and accountability and assessment system is located at <https://www.navyfamily.navy.mil>.
- The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season produced 14 named storms, including six hurricanes, two of which were major. The 2008 season prediction is 15 named storms, with eight hurricanes, and four major.
- Additional hurricane preparedness information is available at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.