

Property Manager Prepares Tenants for Hurricane Season

HOUSTON, TX – For more than four years, Property Manager Laura Lindley has hosted a two-hour session on hurricane preparedness for the residents of her Harris County Housing Authority Complex should they be forced to embrace a hurricane.

According to Lindley, who has been the property manager at Cornerstone Village for 10 years, the residents have weathered three major hurricanes – Rita in 2005, Texas death toll - 59, Gustav in 2008, and Ike in 2008, Texas death toll - 84.

“Cornerstone Village is an active senior living facility and home to 156 senior citizens between the ages of 55-70,” said Lindley. “They aren’t going anywhere. They would rather ride out the storm here.”

With the Atlantic hurricane season slated from June 1 to November 30, Lindley launches her hurricane awareness outreach during the month of April or May, dependent upon presenters’ schedules. All residents are invited to attend a two-hour session – a one hour presentation and an hour for questions and answers.

Presenters share information on what to do before, during, and after a storm.

Residents are cautioned to pay attention to local weather reports on radio or television, to have a secure room to take refuge, and to have plenty of non-perishable food and water available. They are given a list of supplies (including a flashlight and plenty of batteries; candles are ill-advised) and tools to have on hand. They are given instructions on putting together a disaster supply kit.

During a hurricane, residents were reminded of the importance of remaining indoors, staying away from windows, and continuing to monitor the weather report.

People are, by nature, curious. After the hurricane curiosity urges them to go outside to access the damages. Residents were told to make sure that the hurricane has completely passed before going outside. They were also advised to continue to use the stored, non-perishable food and water to avoid contaminated drinking water or food.

Lindley stated that 20 percent of the residents are disabled. They are encouraged to register with 211, which provides information about human services for every day needs and during crisis. Services include: home health care, adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, transportation, and homemaker service for older adults and persons with disabilities.

“We want to transport these individuals to a safer environment should we lose power,” said Lindley. “It’s not mandatory that they evacuate, but we encourage them to do so.”



Located in Houston, Texas, Cornerstone Village is home to 156 senior citizens.

Photo: Bonnie Hanchett/FEMA

In its report regarding facts and statistics on the 2016 hurricane season, the Insurance Information Institute stated that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expects the season to produce 10 to 16 named storms of which four to eight could become hurricanes with one to four of those reaching Category 3 or higher. Lindley enlightened her tenants.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urges citizens to be prepared. Remember, it only takes one hurricane to change your life and your community. Hurricanes are one of nature's most powerful and destructive events that the nation face, and they've caused eight of the 10 costliest disasters in U.S. history.

FEMA sends out the following message:

Know your Risk

Find out today what types of impacts could happen where you live. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. High winds, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and flooding can be felt hundreds of miles inland, potentially causing loss of life and catastrophic damage to property. It is not just the major, Category 3 or higher hurricanes that we need to worry about.

Get Prepared

Take action now to be prepared for hurricane season. As the storm approaches, it is often too late to get ready. Make sure you have family evacuation and communications plans, update your emergency supply kit, and evaluate your flood insurance needs. Renter's insurance policies are also available and should be considered as a way of protecting your belongings.

Stay Informed

Know where to go for trusted sources of information during a hurricane event. NOAA's National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center are your official sources for hurricane forecasts, watches, and warnings. You can also sign up for alerts from your local emergency management office: Register your phone and email to receive local emergency notifications, including evacuation orders.

For additional information, visit:

- <https://www.ready.gov/hurricane-toolkit>
- http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440775166124-c0fadbb53eb55116746e811f258efb10/FEMA-ReadySpNeeds_web_v3.pdf
- http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390858289638-80dd2aee624210b03b4cf5c398fa1bd6/ready_seniors_2014.pdf
- <http://www.FloodSmart.gov> and <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/116822>



Residents are instructed to put together a disaster supply kit.

Photo courtesy of the National Hurricane Center