



3006

JUN - 1 2018

Dear District Eight Family,

Wow! Time has flown by and we are back into another hurricane season. Some of you are hearty veterans of numerous seasons, but for others this may be your first time. Either way, we would like to make sure you have the tips needed to safely survive what looks like it will be an active season. We will be setting up several family information nights and hope that you will be able to attend:

1) June 6th, 1800-1900
D8 Basement
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

2) June 13th, 1800-1900
Slidell City Council Chambers
2045 Second Street, Suite 319
Slidell, LA 70458

Your safety is my top concern. As your communities and the nation look to the Coast Guard to respond during and immediately after these natural disasters, it is VERY important for us to know that you are safe and out of harm's way. This allows active duty, reserves, civilians and Auxiliarists to focus on saving lives, restoring ports and cleaning up after a hurricane. As the nation's primary responders - we won't be there with our families as you evacuate and I want to make sure you understand all of the support mechanisms that will be in place to ensure you are taken care of.

Attached are some initial information sheets and a hurricane family guide. The only way to make sure you are ready, is to prepare now. While I hope to be able to enjoy a great summer with you but we wouldn't be *Semper Paratus, Always Ready*, if we didn't have a good plan in place. Thank you!

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Thomas".

Paul Thomas, RADM
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District

Hurricane Season Information:

Due to the high propensity of flooding in the New Orleans area, you **must** be prepared to evacuate; your Coast Guard spouse will be performing all necessary duties before, during and after a storm's land fall and you will likely have to evacuate **without** him or her. We strongly urge each of you to establish a family plan to include multiple evacuation options to alleviate stress and confusion during a real event. A list of helpful tips to help you develop your plan can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/hurricane-toolkit>.

During Hurricane Harvey alone, hundreds of Coast Guard families suffered significant damage to their homes and more than 70 families suffered catastrophic damage – losing the majority of their personal belongings. It is prudent for **all** Coast Guard members to have personal property insurance whether living in government housing or living on the economy.

In order to ensure our Coast Guard family's safety, we must first be able to account for them. To that end, we have asked all active duty, reserve and civilian personnel to register with the Coast Guard Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (CGPAAS). CGPAAS is a web-based system for personnel accountability of Coast Guard members and their dependents. CGPAAS will be activated in the event of a dislocating catastrophic event and will provide a mechanism for your Coast Guard spouse to account for themselves and their dependents. If you do not evacuate with your Coast Guard spouse and/or for some reason you lose contact with your Coast Guard spouse, please contact the People Cell to report yourself as safe. If you have any questions or need assistance during an evacuation you may contact the People Cell via email at D08-SMB-District-PeopleCell@uscg.mil, or by telephone at 1-866-378-1982/1983 or, if Eighth District is evacuated, at 1-800-USCGWLS (872-4957), extension 308.

In an effort to pass on as much information as possible, there will be an all-hands hurricane brief for family and dependents on June 6, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Hale Boggs Federal Building basement (500 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130) and a second one for those who live on the Northshore on June 13, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Slidell City Council Chambers (2045 2nd Street, Slidell, LA 70458). If you have any questions, please contact the District Eight Contingency Planning Branch, at 504-671-2059.