



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY



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**MASSACHUSETTS ENTERS THE 2009 HURRICANE SEASON**  
*Federal, State & Local Officials Prepare*

Framingham, MA – To help increase public awareness of the effects hurricanes can have on the Commonwealth and the preparedness steps we all must take, over the next fourteen weeks the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be disseminating important information to ensure the continued safety of our citizens and property.

“In recent years, the severity of these storms and their destructive power has been witnessed in other areas of the country,” stated MEMA Director Don Boyce. “With another very active hurricane season predicted, the odds continually increase that New England may experience its next major hurricane.”

MEMA will be continually promoting Hurricane Preparedness through weekly news releases highlighting key issues relative to the New England Hurricane Season. In addition, there will continue to be workshops and exercises for local officials, as well as Hurricane Preparedness information available on the MEMA website at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). Topics will include Massachusetts’ Hurricane History, Preparedness Tips for Families, Home Owners, People Requiring Additional Assistance, Pet Owners, Boaters, Businesses, Inland Residents, as well as information about Sheltering-In-Place and Evacuation.

Although the Hurricane Season in New England is defined as June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 75% of the 40 tropical systems that have impacted our region in the past century have struck during the months of August and September. The last severe hurricane to hit Massachusetts was Hurricane Bob in August 1991. Bob, a Category 2 Hurricane, with winds between 91 and 110mph, caused almost \$1 billion in damage, at the time. More recently, Hurricanes Edouard (1996) and Bonnie (1998) threatened the Bay State, but veered out into the Atlantic as they traveled up the coast.

In 1999, Hurricane Floyd, although weakened to a tropical storm prior to its arrival in New England, demonstrated that these storms are not merely ‘coastal events’. Most of that storm’s impact was rain and flood related, causing severe damage as far west as the Berkshires.

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In fact, some of our most devastating flooding associated with these storms has occurred in Central and Western Massachusetts – up to 17” of rain fell in association with the Hurricane of 1938 and 25” of rain fell over a 5-day period in August 1955 from Tropical Storms Connie & Diane. The City of Westfield received 13.15” in a single day!

Southern New England lies in the unenviable position of receiving all three “Hurricane Threats”, depending upon the track and landfall location: 1) Coastal inundation due to storm surge 2) Widespread inland river flooding and 3) Widespread wind damage far inland.

### SCHEDULE OF “HURRICANE SEASON” TOPICS

- Week of June 1 – Beginning of Hurricane Season
- Week of June 8 – New England Hurricanes of Note
- Week of June 15 – Family Hurricane Preparedness
- Week of June 22 – Preparing Your Home for a Hurricane
- Week of June 29 – Power Outages during a Hurricane
- Week of July 6 – Evacuation for a Hurricane
- Week of July 13 – Sheltering in Place during a Hurricane
- Week of July 20 – Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan
- Week of July 27 – Inland Flooding from a Hurricane
- Week of August 3 – Hurricane Challenges for People Requiring Additional Assistance
- Week of August 10 – Protecting Your Pets during a Hurricane
- Week of August 17 – Preparing Your Business for a Hurricane
- Week of August 24 – Preparing Your Boat for a Hurricane
- Week of August 31 – After the Storm

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricanes, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

-30-