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TOWN OF KURE BEACH

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Dear Citizens of Kure Beach –

At the beginning of Hurricane season I would like to take a minute of your time to talk about **Emergency planning and the individual citizen**. As a resident of a coastal community – the Hurricane threat is a real issue that requires you to have a plan of action for you and your family. **Additionally, as PTC8 and Helene highlighted to all of us in September – being prepared is an all year requirement.** Please take the time to fully read this letter and then spend time with your family discussing the actions that you plan to take in the event the town is threatened by a Hurricane. A key portion of your personal plan should consider what circumstances would prompt you to evacuate, where you would evacuate to and what you would take. You should have alternate locations built into your plan – and update them as Hurricane Advisories occur to ensure that you are protecting your family.

Remain Informed – If you have not signed up for text/email emergency notifications from the town and county – please go to the town's website <https://www.townofkurebeach.org/emergency-information>, and scroll to the bottom center of the page to sign up. Sign up for both sites (Kure Beach and New Hanover County) – to ensure that you are informed of critical emergency information in a timely manner regarding Hurricanes as well as any other emergency notification.

Prepare now – you should review your personal insurance for Wind/Hail as well as for Flooding. Based on last year's experience with PTC8 – I would encourage **ALL RESIDENTS to consider a Flood Policy** for their homes. Ensure that you have updated your policy's to reflect the significant increases in building costs and that you have your assets properly documented and insured. Once a named storm is projected to come to eastern North Carolina – insurance companies will not update/change policies and it will be too late.

Why evacuate? A Hurricane is the strongest force of nature on the planet with an impact area of hundreds of square miles. During the storm, non-evacuees are completely on their own as the Emergency Services personnel will not be able to respond for assistance due to the danger involved. Following the storm – there will be an extended amount of time with no Electricity, possibly no water, and for 2-3 days (Cat 2/3), up to 5 days (Cat 4) or longer (Cat 5) – no outside assistance. This means that non-

evacuees must be prepared to provide their own first aid, food, shelter, and water for this length of time. Curfews will be in effect – this is to protect the property of those who wisely chose to evacuate meaning that during the recovery phase – non-evacuees will be confined to their property. The recovery efforts will be focused on clearing downed power lines, debris removal and maintaining the integrity of the town's water system – during Hurricane Fran in 1996 this resulted in the majority of oceanfront homes being shut-off due to water pressure concerns. The emergency personnel do not maintain adequate supplies for citizens who elect to not evacuate and therefore a decision to stay means that you must have adequate supplies for you and your family.

What does the town do? As the storm approaches – Town Officials will closely coordinate with NHC Emergency Management to issue voluntary or mandatory evacuations. Town employees and volunteers will prepare the town's infrastructure for the storm – boarding up public buildings, renting and hooking up generators to the town's wells to protect the water system, getting supplies for the emergency services personnel and conveying information door-to-door to ensure that citizens are informed. For larger storms – isolating water to the oceanfront homes, preparing to evacuate town equipment from the island and securing public buildings. Following the storm landfall Emergency Service personnel will quickly begin the process of recovery to restore vital services, protect property and remove debris. Assessment teams will visit damaged property to perform initial damage assessments required by the State and Federal governments. Curfews will be in affect to ensure that the property of citizens who evacuated is protected. Co-ordination with the New Hanover County Emergency Management and Carolina Beach will occur to restore access to the public as soon as conditions are safe for return.

What if I stay? While this decision is not recommended – if you do decide to stay – **YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN**. During the storm – you must be prepared to perform emergency repairs to your home if necessary, trained and confident to perform first aid on yourself or others staying in the home, have supplies for an extended period of time and be ready for the oppressive heat that follows a storm. The days from landfall until public access is restored will be spent on your property, with no electricity (unless you have a generator), the sounds of generators, debris removal, and the still air and heat that follows a storm, and the supplies that you have on your property.

As the Emergency Manager – life safety is the primary focus of the Emergency Response. I encourage you to carefully consider your actions in the event of a Hurricane threat to Kure Beach and to plan accordingly now – so that the pressure of the moment, the bravado of people telling you that it is no big deal and the inopportune timing do not result in a poor decision for you and your family. For more information on personal planning go to www.fema.gov and www.weather.gov/os/hurricane/resources/. For more details on the Hurricane actions taken by the Town of Kure Beach please review the information presentation posted on the town website at <https://www.townofkurebeach.org/emergency-information>. I encourage every citizen to create a Family Disaster Plan to be prepared.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Town Hall at 458-8216 and leave a message for me or email me at d.heglar@tokb.org .

David W. Heglar, PE
Emergency Response Coordinator/Emergency Manager

Town of Kure Beach