

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida  
Floor Statement  
Friday June 1, 2012  
Hurricane Season

Mr. Speaker, as you know, June 1, marks the official start to the Atlantic hurricane season. Mother Nature decided to start a little earlier, unfortunately, and over the recent Memorial Day weekend my home state of Florida had an early scare with Tropical Storm Beryl. Thankfully, it turned out not to be as bad a storm as we initially feared.

It was a reminder that we all have to work together to make sure our families, neighbors and friends stock up on essential supplies and develop a plan of action in the event another storm appears headed our way.

You cannot wait until a storm is coming. Taking early precautions, as well as having a recovery plan, is very important to minimize damage to your own property.

If enough people take precautions, government agencies are free to help those who need it most: the elderly, children, the handicapped, and people in shelters.

So make sure you have a three day supply of non-perishable food and water;

Make sure that you have a change of batteries for your flashlights, radios, and other devices;

Fill up your car's gas tank; and keep all your important papers in a safe, dry place.

Please don't wait until the last minute to prepare. It's up to all of us to make sure we're safe.

I also want to thank President Obama and his entire administration for working with state and local authorities throughout the year to prepare for hurricane season and all types of disasters. I'd also like to thank the President and his Administration for including the State of Florida Emergency Manager Bryan Koon, Florida Adjutant General Major General Emmett Titshaw, and Florida Power & Light President Eric Silagy in his hurricane preparedness briefing at the White House yesterday.

Lastly, I'd like to salute the important role that our first responders and local television and radio broadcasters play in coordinating and providing critical information during hurricanes and times of disaster.

It takes a tremendous amount of planning and coordination, and we are grateful for the collaboration that the public and private sectors play in times of emergency.

Hopefully we'll have an uneventful hurricane season this year. But we must always be prepared so that we can weather the storm and come out safe and sound on the other end.

Thank you, and I yield back the remainder of my time.