



# Hunkering Down - Hurricanes on Long Island 2012...



by VINCENT PICA

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Last week, Hurricane Beryl gave the southeast US a pretty good dousing - and us a warning. Almost without exception, we get the tail, shoulder or rump of one or two of the dozen or so that form up in the Atlantic between the Caribbean and Africa and bring so much destruction and misery with them as they thunder west and north... and Hurricane season started two days ago...

This column is about that.

## What Is It?

A hurricane is, in the words of scientists, an organized rotating weather system that develops in the tropics. Technically, it is a "tropical cyclone" and it is classified as one of three states, with hurricanes being further classified into levels of destruction...

1. Tropical Depression: sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less
2. Tropical Storm: sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots)
3. Hurricane: sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or greater

Hurricanes are called typhoons in the western Pacific and cyclones in the Indian Ocean. Six of one, a half dozen of the other...

Category	Winds(mph)	Type of Damage Expected	Examples
1	74-95	Anything not tied down is going to be lost; don't get hit by it.	Irene, 1999
2	96-110	Trees will go down. Roofs in trouble.	Floyd, 1999 Georges, 1998
3	111-130	Many trees will go down, along with small buildings	Betsy, 1965 Alicia, 1983
4	131-155	Complete failures of some small buildings. Complete destruction of many structures	Hugo, 1989
5	156->	Catastrophe. Wrath of God.	Andrew, 1992 Katrina, 2005

## Categories of Hurricanes

We've all heard the weather reporter state that "Hurricane 'x' is now a Category 3 hurricane and headed for \_\_\_\_\_." What does that mean?

USCG hurricane aircraft reported Andrew and Katrina had generated winds over 200mph at various times of the storms...

## Tidal Surges

For Islanders, as bad as the winds will be, it is the tides and tidal surges that will do most of the damage, which is why even these tails that go by every year leave so much trouble behind. The storm tide is added to the astronomical tides. And when those waves hit something solid, they generate force dozens of times more powerful than wind of the same speed. Andrew generated a storm tide of 17 feet. Camille in 1969? 24 feet.

Add to that the population growth in our area and the increase in the value of homes and it can spell either "an absolute disaster" or "they were prepared."

## Are You Ready For the Glancing Blow?

Look, if a Category-4 or -5 gets up here like in 1938, there are no levels of preparedness except evacuation. A storm surge like Camille's basically means that everything "south of the highway", as real estate agents like to classify the choicest properties on Long Island, is gone for all intents and purposes. But what if the glancing blow like Ivan's in 2004 or, Earl, who just left town, came in head-on? How can you be ready?

## Before the Storm Arrives

1. Have a family action plan - if you're caught at school or at work, who do you call? To grandmother's house we go?
2. Flash lights working? Canned goods and water supplies? Cash? Portable radio?
3. Where ARE you going to move the boat? Don't even THINK about staying on her...

4. How about your prescription medicines? A first-aid kit is WHERE...!?

## During the Storm

1. Have the radio or TV on. If power goes out and you don't have a portable radio, I'd get the kids in the car and "to grandmother's house we go...!"
2. Propane tanks on your property? Shut them off completely.
3. Turn the refrigerator up all the way and don't open the door idly.
4. Fill the bath tub with water. How about the big spaghetti pot? Anything that can hold water and keep it clean.
5. If ordered to evacuate, do so. Immediately. And tell someone where you are going.
6. When evacuating, don't drive across flowing water. 2' of flowing water can carry your car away. Yes. Only 2' of moving water. Turn around and go another way.

## After the Storm

1. If you've been ordered to evacuate, don't go back until the area is declared safe.
  2. If you see someone that needs rescuing, unless the threat of loss of life is imminent, call 9-1-1.
  3. See standing water? Do you know if any power cables lie in it?
  4. Never use candles and other open flames indoors. Keep the flashlight at your side...
- This is by no means an exhaustive list. But Earl just tapped us on the shoulder.
- BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [JoinUSCGAux@aol.com](mailto:JoinUSCGAux@aol.com) or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources Department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."



## County Clerk Update

by SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK

JUDY PASCALE

### KEEPING YOUR DOCUMENTS SAFE DURING THIS HURRICANE SEASON

Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale has issued the following document safety tips for this hurricane season.

"The devastation wrought by recent hurricane seasons serves as a strong reminder that hurricane preparedness needs to be pushed to the forefront of everyone's agenda. Experts agree that storing key documents in safe locations provides the maximum level of security and convenience in the aftermath of a catastrophe like a major hurricane," commented Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale.

Safety deposit boxes, which are available for rent from many banks, can provide piece of mind. For on-site home storage, consider a fireproof lockable box. Storing key documents in a compact location will allow instant access to the basic information one needs to begin recovering from a disaster. These boxes can be purchased from household goods and office supply stores in a variety of sizes.

"While safes and safety deposit boxes are among the best places to store your most sensitive documents, I want to assure all Suffolk County residents that a permanent copy of all documents recorded in our office, i.e. deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney, etc., are readily available, should an unfortunate disaster strike," commented Pascale.

By digitally scanning and retaining land records, digital surrogates are utilized in place of the actual hard copies to preserve land transactions while also providing for an efficient and effective safeguard of the land records of Suffolk County.

"Although traditional paper mediums are increasingly susceptible to disaster, we utilize state-of-the-art computer storage systems to hold digital images of these paper mediums to provide an added layer of security in the protection of the public record," concluded Pascale.



by TONY SALERNO

## FISHING WITH TONY

### FLUKE NOW IN FULL SWING ALONG BOTH SHORES

Fresh air and sunshine will usually put a smile on anybody's face even if they aren't outdoorsman. Yep it's just so magical how something so simple as a bright shiny day can conduct ones mood. Which leads me to believe that anglers enjoying the fine weather this past week must be flipping for joy as the current white-hot fluke bite up along the north shore of the island has been keeping rods bending with short flatties, but also more than enough quality keepers to 8-pounds filling, or nearly filling out hefty coolers with limits of fluke.

According to Candy Carafitis over at Carafitis Fishing Station on Main Street in Port Jeff Village, all the boat rentals, private crafts and the open boats just next door are all having their fun just east of buoy 11 and on Mount Misery Shoal in 15 to 20 feet of water. Bucktail jigs tipped with spearing or sand eels have been working best as are just about any color of the standard bucktail. A plain 2/0 O'Shaughnessy hook tipped with a spearing 18-inches above the bucktail jig has been doing the trick. If bucktailing is not your forte, standard plain Jane fluke rigs tipped with spearing, squid or sand eels are doing the trick. Please note that the further east you go, the bigger the fluke get. Buoy 11 has the action with keepers, but buoys 7 and 5 have the quality.

Along the south shore, fluke action has picked up tremendously inside Moriches Bay. Anywhere from buoy 5 along The Narrows to buoy 14 has been especially hot at the start of the outgoing tide. However both sides of moving water has been productive here as well. Bucktails tipped with spearing is at the top of the menu here as well.

Over in Shinnecock Bay, fluke are gallivanting the bay as well as outside the inlet in 75-feet of water. And while there are a few brutes out in the deep blue, there is plenty of action inside the bay just west and east of the Ponquogue Bridge. Most of the fluke range from just short to 28-inches. Here also bucktails are the way to go tipped with spearing and squid.

Outside at the reefs, there are plenty of ling, porgies, sea bass and flounder to be caught. Although flounder season is now closed, and sea bass season less than two weeks away, they still provide lots of catch and release action.

