



## **COMMUNITY ADVOCACY NETWORK POSTS ONLINE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE IN ADVANCE OF 2010 STORM SEASON**

### ***CAN 2010 Community Association Hurricane Guide Helps Boards, Managers, Florida Cities & Counties Prepare Communities For Disaster Contingencies***

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL, May 19, 2010 – The Community Advocacy Network ([www.canfl.com](http://www.canfl.com)), the leading statewide advocate for the interests of millions of Florida community association residents, today announced the online posting of its “2010 Community Association Hurricane Preparedness Guide,” designed to help community associations throughout the State prepare to protect their properties and safeguard community residents during the upcoming 2010 hurricane season.

The CAN 2010 Community Association Hurricane Guide is available for immediate download online at the website of the Community Advocacy Network ([www.canfl.com](http://www.canfl.com)). Representatives of community associations and other organizations interested in obtaining printed copies of the 2010 Hurricane Guide for distribution may contact CAN by email at [dschick@canfl.com](mailto:dschick@canfl.com) or by phone at 954-315-0372.

Florida City and County governments interested in obtaining bulk copies of the 2010 Hurricane Preparedness Guide for free distribution as a public service to condominium, co-ops, mobile home communities and homeowner associations in their areas are encouraged to contact CAN directly for more information.

“When it comes to hurricane preparedness and disaster recovery, Florida community associations stand apart from other single-family and multi-family properties and must operate in keeping with specific parameters laid out in Florida statutes and their own governing documents,” said Donna DiMaggio Berger, CAN Executive Director and Managing Partner of the statewide community association law firm of Katzman Garfinkel & Berger.

“The 2010 Community Association Hurricane Preparedness Guide has been designed specifically with these Florida common interest ownership communities in mind,” Ms. Berger said. “In advance of the June 1<sup>st</sup> start of the 2010 storm season, the Community Advocacy Network is making this useful set of tips and recommendations available as a public service to all condo, HOA and other community association Boards, community association managers and City and County officials who want to better prepare themselves for storm-related disaster contingencies this year.”

Leading hurricane forecasters are currently predicting above-average activity for the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season, with above-average probability of United States and Caribbean major

hurricane landfall this year. Forecasters at Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project anticipate a total of 15 named tropical storms, including eight hurricanes – four of which will be classified as “major,” with winds in excess of 110 miles per hour.

The most active tropical storm season in recorded history occurred in 2005, with a total 28 named storms, including 15 hurricanes – seven classified as “major” hurricanes. A record five of those 2005 hurricanes made landfall on the U.S. mainland, including the disastrous hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, which caused major property destruction and devastation to livelihoods of millions of Floridians.

The CAN 2010 Hurricane Preparedness Guide contains useful information to prepare communities in advance of the storm season and alert them to what they should expect in the wake of a storm. Areas covered in detail in the Hurricane Preparedness Guide include:

- **Contract Review:** explaining why it is important to review the association’s contracts with all service providers before the storm season and what to expect in terms of service delivery in a storm’s aftermath;
- **Document & Record Security:** detailing why and how association documents should be preserved and stored for availability in the immediate aftermath of a hurricane disaster;
- **Facilities Preparation:** including the need to determine if the property is ready to confront the impact of a tropical storm and why documentation of the pre-storm state of the property is crucial to post-storm disaster recovery;
- **Member Communications:** setting out why and how Boards should avail themselves of all possible means of communication with residents, owners and employees -- before, during and after a storm;
- **Emergency Board Powers:** with details on the “special powers” conferred by the State Legislature on condominium Boards to enable them to maneuver their association through the difficult post-disaster period;
- **Immediate Post-Storm Action:** including locating residents and employees, attending to the injured, securing the community and documenting storm damage; and,
- **Reconstruction & Restoration:** dealings with association attorneys, insurance companies and contractors in dealing with disaster recovery and putting a community back together again.

The Community Advocacy Network was established in 2007 as a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of all who live, work and serve in common interest ownership communities through education, information and advocacy.

Community Advocacy Network membership is open to all Florida common interest ownership communities, including condominiums, co-operatives, homeowner associations, timeshares and mobile home communities. CAN’s 11-member volunteer Advisory Council (<http://www.canfl.com/advisorycouncil.cfm>) represents member communities across the State, and currently includes: Charlotte Greenberg, Pio Ieraci and Wendy Murray (Broward County); Ed Duch, Jim Hoppensteadt and Ewing Sutherland (Collier County); Bonita Vandall (Lee County); Lawrence Percival and Jack Loeb, Jr. (Miami-Dade County); Barbara Zee (Palm Beach County); and, Joel Jeffrey (St. Lucie County).

For more information about CAN membership or to obtain copies of CAN's 2010 Community Association Hurricane Preparedness Guide, please contact [dschick@canfl.com](mailto:dschick@canfl.com) or phone 954-315-0372.

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### **About the Community Advocacy Network (CAN)**

The Community Advocacy Network (CAN) is the leading statewide advocacy network dedicated to promoting positive community association legislation while advising legislators to resist the urge to micromanage and over-regulate private residential communities. CAN works through its website, email alerts and tools such as the "Capitol Connection" email system to give association leaders and residents the information and resources they need to play a meaningful part in the legislative process before harmful bills are passed. Capitol Connection enables our members to contact their elected officials at every level of government with just the click of a button. For more information, visit [www.canfl.com](http://www.canfl.com) or call 954-315-0372.

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