

NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

17th Legislative District

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For Immediate Release

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Keeping Calm Before the Storm

Legislator D'Amaro Urges Residents to Prepare for Hurricanes

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... July 2, 2012) – Last week, Tropical Storm Debby ripped through Florida's Gulf Coast causing an estimated \$1.5 million in damages to homes and \$4 million to businesses. The storm served as a stark reminder of the dangers associated with tropical storms and hurricanes. As we approach the peak months of Hurricane season in the Northeast, Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) wants to remind residents that now is the time to prepare for any severe storm that may come our way.

The Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services' (FRES) Office of Emergency Management has a wealth of information to help families get ready, including shelter locations, preparedness plans and weather information. You can access this information, as well as a Residential Guide to Emergency Preparedness on the FRES webpage, which is easily accessible by visiting the Suffolk County website: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov> and clicking on Departments, followed by the "Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services" tab.

In addition, FRES has again contracted with the *Emergency Communications Network* to license its Code RED high-speed emergency notification system to contact Suffolk residents in the event of an actual or impending emergency. The Code RED system has the capacity to deliver millions of customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to Suffolk County homes and businesses. Code RED also has high speed email and text messaging capability.

(more)

The Code RED system incorporates a mapping tool that allows Suffolk emergency managers to send notifications to specific geographic areas such as villages, townships or zip codes. The system allows Suffolk residents to register two phone numbers and one email address to receive notifications. (Note: *The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes.*)

You can enroll in the Code RED system by clicking on the link located in the upper left corner on the FRES webpage. Anyone interested in the program that does not have internet access can call the Office of Emergency Management's Customer Service Number (631) 852-4900, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

"The Code RED system greatly enhances the County's ability to reach out to residents in the event of an emergency," said Legislator D'Amaro. "I urge all individuals and businesses to add or update their contact information on the secure 'Community Notification Enrollment' page of the website to ensure that they receive notifications as soon as pertinent information becomes available. The sooner residents prepare for a pending storm the greater the chances will be to minimize potential danger and property damage."

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington Station, South Huntington, Huntington, West Hills, Melville, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is Chairman of the Budget & Finance committee, Vice-Chairman of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture committee, and a member of the Human Services and Public Safety committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.