

NEWS FROM Legislator

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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... June 1, 2015) – With hurricane season in the Northeast officially underway, Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) wants to remind residents that now is the time to prepare for any and all upcoming storms.

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 notification programs, shelter locations, preparedness plans and weather updates. You can access this information by visiting the Suffolk County website: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov> and clicking on "Departments" and then the "Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services" tab.

FRES has 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 via email and text message. The Code RED system incorporates a

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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.*)

In addition, the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management has developed and expanded the Special Needs Registry into a county-wide registry for ALL residents to include those with special and/or functional medical needs. This secured encrypted registry is voluntary and free. It is designed to assist first responders and emergency planners in identifying those residents that may need assistance in evacuating and special sheltering during an emergency so that they may develop the necessary plans. It will also aid emergency planners in the development of shelter plans for those residents with Special and Functional Medical Needs, while enhancing communication to the end user and their emergency contacts.

You can enroll in the Code RED system and/or the Special Needs Registry via links on the FRES webpage. Anyone interested in these programs that do not have internet access can enroll via telephone by calling the Office of Emergency Management's Customer Service Number (631) 852-4900, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

“Both the Code RED system and the Special Needs Registry greatly enhance the County's ability to reach out and assist 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 represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Education & Information Technology and Human Services committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.