

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Rae Carole Armstrong,
Mayor



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robert S. Pudney III
Fire Chief

CITY OF PLANTATION FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS CENTER

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CITY OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Plantation, Fla.: June 8, 2009: Plantation officials marked the start of hurricane season by conducting their annual severe weather drill on Monday, June 8, Fire Chief Robert Pudney announced today.

The purpose of the annual drill is to prepare City officials for the unique demands of a large scale incident and to refresh them on the procedures necessary to successfully navigate such an event.

“We push them to the limit,” said Pudney, who also serves as the City’s emergency manager during an incident. “We give them a lot to do in a very compressed time frame. It’s quite a challenge.”

This year’s event was a flash flood scenario following several days of continuous rain, in which most of the City was under several feet of water. The scenario is complete with 9-1-1 calls, crisis and live news broadcasts.

“We have a lot of fun doing it, but it’s very serious work at the same time.” stated Pudney.

Another important aspect of the drill is learning how to fill out all the required forms.

“Reimbursement for money allocated during a declared event is critical,” insisted Pudney. “In order to get it back from FEMA, all our paperwork must be correct and in order.”

The three hour event, which included a visit by Mayor Armstrong was attended by more than 50 City employees including all department heads.

“We all understand our roles a little bit better,” said Pudney. “It is time well spent.”

**Photo Caption:
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Large and In Charge: Members of Plantation's "***Unified Command Staff***" (foreground) confer as Fire Chief Robert Pudney reviews "events" occurring during the City's annual Hurricane Exercise, held Monday, June 8th.

Approximately 50 representatives from all City departments participated in the exercise.

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