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**For Immediate Release** **Contact:**

[Date] [Local PR Person]

 [Phone #]

**Fire Fighters Offer Tips to Stay Safe in a Hurricane**

**[City, State]** – With hurricane season here, [IAFF Local #] encourages residents to prepare for natural disasters by preparing supplies and checking for potential hazards.

“The greatest potential for loss of life in a hurricane is from the storm surge,” says [name], a fire fighter at [IAFF Local #]. “Preparing for the storm can greatly help in preventing a tragedy during and after a hurricane.”

Most hurricane warnings are issued within 36 hours of the disaster, reports the American Red Cross, giving residents time to prepare.

**Before a Hurricane:**

* Follow the [hurricane safety checklist](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4340160_Hurricane.pdf) recommended by American Red Cross
* Prepare a natural disaster emergency kit, including batteries, flashlights, food, water, copies of personal documents and a first aid kit.
* Consider purchasing a generator in case of a power outage.

**After a Hurricane:**

* Smell and listen for gas leaks. If you find one, leave your home and leave the doors open.
* Use flashlights instead of candles to prevent possible explosions.
* Assume that all wires are electrically charged.
* Replace appliances that emit smoke or sparks.
* Follow all generator instructions.
* Run the generator only outside.
* Do not overload power cords.
* Do not run cords under rugs or carpets.
* If you are evacuated from your home, return only when officials say it is safe to do so.
* After any significant natural disaster where your home has been damaged, have a licensed professional check the gas system and electrical wiring of your home for damage.

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