

OCTOBER 2026

When the Storm Isn't Coming to You

Preparedness Doesn't End at the Edge of the Cone

There is a storm in the Gulf.

For many of us in Central Florida, one of the first things we do when a new forecast cone is published is find our community on the map. As the forecast becomes clearer and the track moves away from us, there is an understandable sense of relief.

But being outside the cone doesn't mean our role in preparedness is over.

This storm gives us an opportunity to think about preparedness from two directions: Are we ready if conditions change? And are we ready to help if someone else is impacted?

Stay Prepared

A forecast cone is not an "all clear." Conditions and forecasts can change, and impacts can extend well beyond the center of a storm.

Continue monitoring information from the National Hurricane Center and your local emergency management officials. Keep your Post's communications plan current, know how you will reach your members, and make sure the people responsible for your disaster plan know their roles.

National Hurricane Center: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

This isn't the time to become complacent simply because the current track favors our area.

And remember: hurricane season isn't over yet.

Look Beyond Your Post

Preparedness isn't only about protecting our own building or our own members.

Somewhere else along the Gulf Coast, another American Legion Post may be looking at that same forecast cone very differently.

Behind that Post are Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion members, veterans, families, and communities that may need assistance after the storm passes.

If another Post needs help, what can we provide?

Maybe the answer is volunteers. Perhaps it's supplies, transportation, communications assistance, Buddy Checks, a collection point, or connections with community organizations.

No individual Post needs to do everything. But every Post should know what it can do.



Be Ready to Help

This is where preparedness before the storm matters.

Know who your Post can contact. Know what resources you have available. Maintain communication with your District and Area leadership. And if assistance is requested, work through established Legion and emergency-management channels rather than simply deploying people or supplies into an affected area on your own.

Last month we talked about Preparedness Through Partnership—knowing which organizations in our communities can provide capabilities our Posts may not have.

This month, turn that idea around: Are we prepared to be the partner when someone else needs us?

Preparedness isn't just about being ready for the disaster that comes to our community. It's also about maintaining the people, relationships, communications, and plans that allow us to serve when the need is somewhere else.

This Month's Preparedness Challenge

As you look at the storm currently moving through the Gulf, ask your Post two questions:

If the forecast changed tomorrow, are we ready?

If another Post or community is impacted, are we ready to help?

If either answer is "we're not sure," that's a good place to start.

Post disaster-planning resources, previous newsletters, communications guidance, MOU information, and other preparedness materials are available on the Central Area Disaster Preparedness Resource Page.

Central Area Disaster Preparedness Resource Page: https://flpost15.org/dp

Stay prepared. Stay connected. And be ready to serve.