

Jekyll Island

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For Immediate Release:

Jekyll Island Stands Ready For Active Hurricane Season

Updated Hurricane Disaster Response Plan Cites Importance of Preparedness and Constant Communication Between Agencies

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA. – July 22, 2008 – The Jekyll Island State Park Authority (JIA) has announced updates to its Hurricane Disaster Response Plan and will begin a series of presentations to inform the island businesses, residents and guests. The plan will be submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for review and approval, as part of a standard process for updating such plans.

"Jekyll Island is a very peaceful and beautiful place, but as a barrier island, we must be cognizant of hurricanes and other catastrophes," stated Jones Hooks, executive director of the Jekyll Island State Park Authority. "I am proud that our public safety staff has done such thorough due diligence in updating our procedures for disaster preparedness."

Jekyll Island's Director of Public Safety, Jason Richardson, shared the revised plan with Jekyll Island hotels and businesses on Tuesday, noting that the first priority is public safety, specifically getting people safely off the island in an organized manner. Mr. Richardson and his team analyzed disaster events in other areas, and applied the best lessons to the updated Jekyll Island plan.

"It is imperative that everyone on the island is prepared," Richardson said. "We are always open to questions and feedback from residents and local businesses when publicizing our plans leading up to hurricane season. I cannot stress the importance that everyone on the island be knowledgeable about the disaster procedures, and have individual arrangements that align with the plan."

Richardson pointed out the importance of individual preparedness and constant communication among the emergency agencies. Importantly, if that if the causeway and bridge are impassable, during any disaster or pending disaster, Morgan's Grill (Jekyll Island Golf Course) will serve as the Emergency Medical / Shelter Facility for the general public. The Jekyll Island Fire Department will serve as the emergency operations center, maintaining a constant line of communication with the Glynn County Emergency Management Agency. Other significant aspects of the plan include securing hazardous materials, and placing critical equipment in strategic locations to allow for an organized return to the island.

The revised plan was presented to hotel management and business owners at the Jekyll Island Tourism Council meeting today. Upon approval, the plan will be available on the Authority's Web site at www.jekyllislandauthority.org.

About Jekyll Island

Jekyll Island is a barrier island on Georgia's coast – midway between Jacksonville, Fla. and Savannah, Ga. Accessible by car just minutes from I-95, Jekyll Island offers a variety of

amenities, including 10 miles of beach, four golf courses, a 250-acre Historic Landmark District, water park, tennis center, an array of lodging options including hotels, cottages and campgrounds. Owned by the State of Georgia, and managed by the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, Jekyll Island has had development limited to just 35 percent of its available land area. This unique aspect of Jekyll Island serves to preserve the critical barrier island ecosystem, and provide guests with a unique escape from the crowds and complications of other beach resort destinations. The Jekyll Island Foundation is a public 501 (c) 3 organization which operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to support the work of the Jekyll Island Authority by assisting in the preservation, conservation and appreciation of Jekyll Island. Please visit www.jekyllisland.com for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.

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