

Contact: Randall Likens  
Franklin County Office of  
Emergency Management  
Phone: (919) 496-5005  
Fax: (919) 496-0198

8146 NC 56 Highway  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
www.co.franklin.nc.us

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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# PRESS RELEASE

## Franklin County Office of Emergency Management Busy At Work

*In its first full week, the office prepares for Ernesto*

**Louisburg, August 31, 2006:** The newly formed Franklin County Office of Emergency Management in its first full week of existence has been monitoring Tropical Storm Ernesto as it slowly moves toward North Carolina and Franklin County. The Office of Emergency Management has been reviewing emergency plans, alert & notification lists and has been in regular communication with the county's emergency response partners; local, state and non-governmental, in an effort to fine tune the county's state of readiness.

Even though the arrival of Ernesto is forecast to be only a rain event, Franklin County may still experience some localized flooding with the predicted 3 to 5 inches of rain as well as some localized power outages as 25 mph winds gusting to 35 mph will most likely bring limbs down onto power lines.

Franklin County Emergency Management Director Randall Likens urges citizens to prepare for flooding and power outages by updating emergency plans and making sure their disaster kits are ready. A disaster kit should include at least a three day supply of bottled water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, prescription medications, a battery operated radio, flashlight, copies of insurance papers and extra cash. "Even though Ernesto is forecast to be a minor event we should take this opportunity to practice our emergency plans and be ready" Likens said.

Likens also strongly urges citizens not to drive through flood waters. The number one cause of death in hurricanes and tropical storms is drowning and most deaths occur in automobiles. Remember "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

Any Franklin County citizen seeking information on disaster preparedness may visit [www.ReadyNC.org](http://www.ReadyNC.org) or contact the Franklin County Office of Emergency Management at (919) 496-5005 or email [rlakens@franklincountync.us](mailto:rlakens@franklincountync.us).

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