

For Immediate Release:



Marathon Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo holds up her four National Incident Management System certificates acknowledging her participation in the federal emergency training program.

2026 Atlantic hurricane season: Are you prepared?

MARATHON, FL (May 29) -- Marathon Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo knows the importance of being prepared for an emergency.

Del Gaizo recently received certification through the National Incident Management System, a federal program that provides a nationwide approach for all levels of

government, non-governmental organizations, and private sectors to work together during incidents, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

With the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season beginning Monday, June 1, being prepared should be on the mind of every Marathon and Florida Keys resident.

Del Gaizo said she was impressed with the breadth and depth of the emergency training program.

“I have to say the most fascinating thing from taking the course is how organized it already is and how a disaster plan is already in place,” the mayor said “I was impressed with all the different levels of who's in charge, how it goes in order, and it's all been planned already.”

Bringing together resources during an emergency is key, Del Gaizo said.

“When a disaster of any kind, terrorism or hurricane, comes, we won't have any questions about who does what. It goes exactly in the order of local, then state, then federal, and then which community partners get involved, who gets involved, when they get involved, when we ask for their help, when we don't need their help, and it continues on and on and on, where everyone is unified.”

The mayor is prepared, she said, following the training courses, to help guide the city through the possibility of a hurricane in the Florida Keys.

“Well, it'll be very important, and as much as I don't not want to have a hurricane come, I'm super excited that I studied this because when that time comes that I have to step up and really be in charge for our community, I'm going to be so familiar with everything that's going on,” she said. “I'm going to understand all the acronyms and why the certain people are coming together, when and why. And I will recognize all of that. So, I'm kind of excited about it.

“Even though I don't want it to happen, I am so glad that we have this, that I studied it, and I'm ready.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted a below-normal season, which continues through Nov. 30. NOAA forecasts a total of eight to 14 named storms, with winds 39 mph or higher. Three to six of those storms are expected to become hurricanes, with winds 74 mph or higher, including one to three predicted to become major hurricanes, Category 3, 4, or 5, with winds 111 mph or higher. NOAA said competing factors led to the below-normal forecast, including El Nino conditions and warmer-than-normal ocean temperatures.

The city's website, <https://www.ci.marathon.fl.us>, offers a variety of information on preparing for, surviving through, and resolving problems upon return to a stricken area.

Additionally, Monroe County Emergency Management provides Alert!Monroe registration, which delivers notifications from numerous governmental agencies during emergencies, as well as public safety announcements such as weather alerts and boil water notices.

The Alert!Monroe system and other hurricane-related information can be found at <https://monroecounty-fl.gov/1324/Emergency-Management>.

A few of the suggestions from Monroe County Emergency Management include:

- Have a plan. Know what you are going to do and where you are going to go when a hurricane is in the forecast, or in any emergency situation. Make sure your transportation is in good working order.
- Secure your home. Review insurance policies, take photos and /or video of property and store with important papers that can be easily transported.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit. Include water, non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, and cash, Have a two-week supply of prescription medicines on hand. Other items to consider are phone and computer chargers, bug spray, and a battery-operated radio.

City of

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9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-0033

- If sheltering in place, take all protective measures to locate in the interior of the home without windows.

These suggestions are the basis of a hurricane preparedness plan, but residents should create their own plans to suit the needs of individuals. A detailed list of items is available at <https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/895/2-Create-an-Emergency-Supply-Kit>.

Chris Seymour, City of Marathon Public Information Officer

Email: pio@ci.marathon.fl.us Cell: 645-206-4368

For inquiries, contact City of Marathon, 305-743-0033