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**CITY ATTORNEY**  
Edward M. Hughes

## **CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND**

**PRESS RELEASE:**  
For immediate release

**CONTACT:** Jimmy Brown  
Tybee Emergency Management  
(912) 786-4573, x112

### **Tybee Island City Staff Plan Hurricane Exercise**

Tybee Island, GA – (July 13, 2010) The staff of the City of Tybee Island is conducting an emergency readiness exercise in cooperation with the Chatham Emergency Management Authority (CEMA). While the exercise began on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, the only part of the simulation that will affect the public will take place on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, from 8AM until 1PM, when City Departments will be operating under simulated emergency conditions. The Cashiers Office is expected to close from approximately noon until 1PM; other services should remain available, although with reduced staffing.

Mayor Jason Buelterman notes, "With the expected active hurricane season this year, it is important that the City make sure that emergency plans are not only in place, but tested, to ensure that our communications with other emergency agencies are working properly and that our staff will be able to respond effectively to any situations that may arise."

Under the guidance of the Tybee Emergency Management office, cooperative planning with CEMA for this simulation, dubbed "Hurricane Gilligan", has been under way for several months. Official communications from City offices may reference this "Hurricane Gilligan Emergency Preparedness Exercise" only to test communication channels. Should a real emergency arise, the simulation will be terminated immediately, and real emergency actions will take precedence over the exercise; NOAA weather watches and warnings are not part of the simulation, so take any warnings of inclement weather as real.

*About Tybee Island, GA.: The City of Tybee Island, Georgia is on the outermost barrier island off the Savannah area coast. With a wild bird sanctuary, over three miles of ocean beaches, and salt marshes on the back river, outdoor recreation activities abound for visitors to the island. As a key defense point to the important Savannah port, Tybee's Fort Screven, Tybee Fort Theater, Fort Pulaski, and the Tybee Island and Cockspar Lighthouses combine with the unique architectures of the island's raised cottages to form a rich backdrop for history buffs. Attracting a strong artistic community, there are several local supporting art galleries. Keeping the island interesting year round are several arts festivals, the Annual Pirate Fest, the Beach Bum Parade, St Patrick's Day celebrations, the Hot Rod Run, the Beach Bash, and the Christmas Parade, as well as fireworks displays on Independence and New Year's Days off the Walter W. Parker Pier and Pavilion. The Marine Science Center cooperates with Georgia's DNR to protect threatened sea turtle species by searching for nests, protecting their eggs, and making sure hatchlings make it to sea. For visitor information, stop by <http://www.tybeevisit.com/>, and to find more about the City of Tybee Island, visit our web site at <http://www.cityoftybee.org/>.*

*About Chatham Emergency Management Agency: The Mission of CEMA is to protect lives and property from the threat of all types of major emergencies and disasters, both natural and manmade. This shall be accomplished by providing community-wide leadership, guidance, support and coordination in the areas of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.*

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**P.O. Box 2749 – 403 Butler Avenue, Tybee Island, Georgia 31328-2749**  
**(866) 786-4573 – FAX (866) 786-5737**  
**[www.cityoftybee.org](http://www.cityoftybee.org)**

