

## CASTLE: NEED TO PLAN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED FOR DISASTER -- September 17, 2008

Washington, D.C. -- As part of National Emergency Preparedness Week, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle is stressing the importance of thinking ahead and being prepared for natural disasters. With the devastation seen in Texas presently from Hurricane Ike, Rep. Castle says we need to keep those families and individuals in our thoughts and is urging Delawareans to always be prepared with a plan and emergency kit.

"My thoughts go out to those in Texas right now trying to recover from the damage of Ike," Rep. Castle said. "Furthermore, I want to thank all of the people who are providing assistance in that region, including volunteers from the Delmarva Red Cross and the Delaware National Guard.

"We are in the midst of hurricane season, and Delaware is no stranger to natural disasters as storms such as Hurricane Isabel in 2003 wreaked havoc across our region and resulted in severe flooding and power outages across the state. Since my time as Governor, I have always been very impressed by the ability of Delawareans to come together when disaster strikes not only here but in other parts of the country.

"Each and every one of us can play a role in preparing and responding to disasters. As part of National Emergency Preparedness Week, I encourage every Delawarean to get prepared now with a plan and emergency kit. It is not a matter of if disaster will strike but rather when and if we will be ready."

Rep. Castle kicked-off hurricane season this summer with a visit to the Delmarva Red Cross's Seaford site to talk about how to make an emergency kit and to get a look at their Emergency Response Vehicle, which sets up as a mobile command post in the event of a disaster.

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