

This brochure has been developed with the intent of promoting a greater public awareness in understanding the severe weather conditions which may present themselves to residents of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Broadening your knowledge of these severe weather conditions, which effect the Port St. Lucie area, will help you to determine how you and your family can prepare for these natural hazards.

This brochure will also provide practical guidance on the preparation for, and battling against, these severe weather conditions. In most instances, preparing for one severe weather condition will serve toward the preparedness of other types of weather conditions, as well.

Use the below listed resources to obtain further information and assistance.

## RESOURCES

- **Port St. Lucie Police Department**  
[www.cityofpsl.com/police](http://www.cityofpsl.com/police)
- **State of Florida**  
[www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com)
- **National Hurricane Center Miami, FL.**  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)
- **Federal Alliance For Safe Homes**  
[www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org)
- **FEMA**  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- **Red Cross**  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



**City of Port St. Lucie  
Police Department  
John A. Bolduc, Chief of Police**

**121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984  
Phone: (772) 871-5000  
TDD Phone: (772) 871-5029**

[www.cityofpsl.com/police](http://www.cityofpsl.com/police)



**COURAGE,  
KNOWLEDGE,  
INTEGRITY**

**SEVERE  
WEATHER  
SAFETY**



**BE AWARE  
AND  
PREPARE**

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR  
A SAFER COMMUNITY**

## Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

Hurricanes and tropical storms strike the coasts of Florida more than any other state in the nation.



A hurricane (also known as a tropical cyclone) is a low pressure weather system that generally forms in the tropics.



Hurricanes are usually accompanied by thunderstorms which produce heavy winds, torrential rains, and severe flooding.

In certain instances, the flooding can persist for several days or more after the storm has passed.

### Category 1 Hurricane

- > Sustained winds of 74 to 95 mph.
- > Very dangerous winds which will produce some damage.

### Category 2 Hurricane

- > Sustained winds of 96 to 110 mph.
- > Extremely dangerous winds which will cause extensive damage.

### Category 3 Hurricane

- > Sustained winds of 111 to 130 mph.
- > Devastating damage may occur.

### Category 4 Hurricane

- > Sustained winds of 131 to 155 mph.
- > Catastrophic damage may occur.

### Category 5 Hurricane

- > Sustained winds of greater than 155 mph.
- > Catastrophic damage will occur.

In all hurricane categories, potable water might become scarce due to filtration systems failing, large tree branches could snap, trees could be uprooted, and power outages may occur due to poles and power lines being downed or damaged.

**BE AWARE**, these problems may persist for numerous days after the storm has passed.

## Other Severe Weather Conditions To Prepare For

### Tornadoes

Nature's most violent storm spawned from powerful thunderstorms. This rotating funnel cloud whirling with winds can reach speeds of 300 mph, move at speeds of 30 to 70 mph, and can damage paths of 50 miles.



### Thunderstorms and Lightning



Most thunderstorms typically produce heavy rain, but some do not. These are known as dry thunderstorms. All thunderstorms produce lightning which may occur singly, in clusters or in lines. 300 people are injured, and 80 people are killed annually in the U.S. due to lightning's unpredictability.

### Floods

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S. Floods may develop slowly or can occur very quickly. All states are susceptible to flooding. Never drive into a flooded area as you and your vehicle can be swept away. Avoid walking in flood water as it may contain contaminants such as oil, gasoline, and raw sewage.



### Wildfires



Dry conditions can promote the start of a wildfire. Wildfires can spread very quickly, igniting dry brush, trees, and homes. Keeping your lawn well maintained and hydrated will help prevent wildfires. Store all firewood and flammable materials at least 30 feet from the home.

## Being Prepared

1. Develop an emergency family action plan.
2. Assemble an emergency supply kit equipped with water, flashlight, radio, cash, batteries, toiletries, non-perishable foods, paper plates and utensils, first aid kit, insect repellent, sunblock, hygiene items, medicine, extra clothes, linens, matches, and a charged cell phone.
3. Make certain your vehicle is filled with gasoline and your barbecue has plenty of propane.
4. Brace or secure all items that could become airborne projectiles.
5. Secure all windows and doors with shutters or plywood.
6. Shutoff power and main water valve to the home.
7. Check that roof shingles are securely attached to roof.
8. Caulk any utility holes or openings such as TV lines, electric panel lines, wall outlets, and vents.
9. Ensure aluminum and vinyl soffits are sealed with a polyurethane sealant to avoid being blown off and allowing water damage.
10. Don't forget to prepare and plan for your pet's food, shelter, and medical needs.
11. If an evacuation request is made, proceed at once. Evacuations are a difficult process and must be accomplished in a quick and safe manner.
12. Listen to the National Weather Service radio for information and updates.

