

PORT SAINT LUCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HURRICANE / DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION



WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

Hurricanes are products of the tropical ocean and atmosphere:

- Tropical Depression – an organized system of persistent clouds and thunderstorms with a closed, low-level circulation of maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.
- Tropical Storm – an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.
- Hurricane – an intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.



- Tropical depressions and tropical storms, while generally less dangerous than hurricanes, still can be deadly. The winds of tropical depressions and tropical storms are usually not the greatest threat. Heavy torrential rains can produce severe weather, such as tornadoes and deadly and destructive inland freshwater flooding.
- Hurricanes are one of nature's most powerful storms. Their potential for loss of life and destruction of property is tremendous. Even inland areas, well away from the coastline, can experience destructive winds, tornadoes and floods from tropical storms and hurricanes. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right-front quadrant of the hurricane.



They are often found elsewhere embedded in the rainbands, well away from the center of the hurricane.

- All hurricanes are dangerous, but some more so than others. As they move ashore, they bring with them a storm surge of ocean water along the coastline, high winds, tornadoes, torrential rains, flooding, and other factors which combine to determine the hurricane's destructive power. To make comparisons easier – hurricane forecasters use a disaster-potential scale called the “Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale” which assigns storms to five categories.



Understanding the Terminology

A tropical cyclone is a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has a closed low-level circulation. Tropical cyclones rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

”**Tropical Depression**—A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

”**Tropical Storm**— A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

”**Hurricane**—A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. In the western North Pacific, hurricanes are called typhoons; similar storms in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific Ocean are called cyclones.

”**Major Hurricane**—A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (96 knots) or higher, corresponding to a Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

A Post-Tropical Cyclone is a system that no longer possesses sufficient tropical characteristics to be considered a tropical cyclone. Post-tropical cyclones can still bring heavy rain and high winds.



Category: 1

Sustained Winds: 74-95 mph

Types of Damage: Minimal

Minimal: No real damage to building structures. Damage is primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, trees, Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.



Category:

2

Sustained Winds: 96-110 mph

Types of Damage: Moderate

Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of hurricane center.



Category:

3

Sustained Winds: 111-129 mph

Types of Damage: Extensive

Some structural damage to roofing materials of buildings. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain lower than 5 feet above sea level may be flooded inland as far as 8 miles or more.



Category:

4

Sustained Winds: 130-156 mph

Types of Damage: Extreme

Trees blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to roofing materials, doors, and windows. Complete failure of roofs on many small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.



Category:

5

Sustained Winds: Greater than 157 mph

Types of Damages: Catastrophic

Complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.



Hurricane Hazards

Flooding Safety Actions

- Learn your vulnerability to flooding by determining the elevation of your property.
- Flood losses are not covered under normal homeowners policies.
- Evaluate your insurance coverage; as construction grows around areas, floodplains change. If you are in a flood area, consider what mitigation measure you can do in advance. Consider flood insurance.



- In highly flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off.
- Avoid driving into water of unknown depth. Moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall.
- Restrict children from playing in flooded areas. Be aware of snakes and other animals in the water.



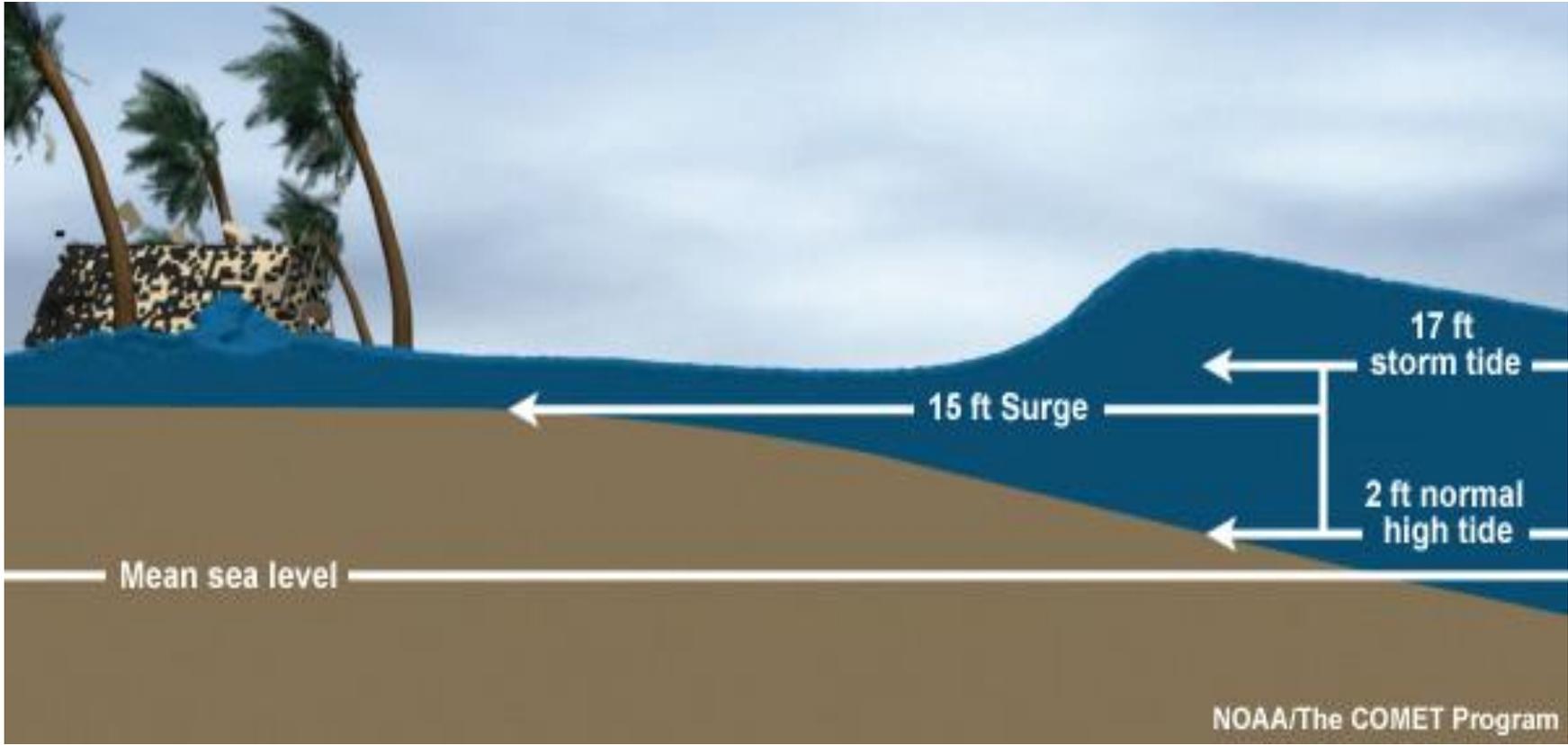
- Damaged sewage systems are a serious health hazard, contact City Utilities for further directions.
- Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with floodwaters. Wash canned goods that come in contact with floodwaters with soap and hot water.
- Hurricanes are capable of producing copious amounts of rainfall. During landfall, a rainfall amount of 10 to 15 inches or more is common. If the storm is large and moving slowly, less than 10 mph, the rainfall amounts from a well-organized storm are likely to be even more excessive. This heavy rain usually occurs slightly to the right of the hurricane's track. The amount of rain depends on the size, forward speed and whether the hurricane interacts with other weather systems.
- To get a generic estimate of the rainfall amount (in inches) that can be expected, divide 100 by the storm's forward motion, for example, $100/5 \text{ mph} = 20$ inches of rain



Storm Surge

- ❖ **STORM SURGE** is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coastline. In the northern hemisphere, the highest surge values typically occur in the right front quadrant of a hurricane coincident with onshore flow; in the southern hemisphere, the left front quadrant. More intense and larger hurricanes produce higher surge. In addition, shallower offshore waters contribute to higher storm surge inundation. Storm surge is by far the greatest threat to life and property along the immediate coast.





September 9, 2008



September 15, 2008



*Before and after Hurricane Ike
on the Bolivar Peninsula, TX,
September 2008/USGS*



Inland Flooding From Hurricanes

- The next time you hear hurricane -- think inland flooding!
- While storm surge has the highest potential to cause hurricane related deaths, more people died from inland flooding associated with tropical systems from 1970 to 1999. Since the 1970's, inland flooding has been responsible for more than half of all deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States. Flooding from hurricanes can occur hundreds of miles from the coast placing communities, which would not normally be affected by the strongest hurricane winds, in great danger.



Facts About Inland Flooding From Hurricanes

- From 1970 to 1999, 78% of children killed by tropical cyclones drowned in freshwater floods.
- One cubic yard of water weighs 1700lbs. The average automobile weighs 3400lbs. Many automobiles will float in just 2 feet of water.
- The average person can be swept off their feet in 6 inches of moving water.
- The average automobile can be swept off the road in 12 inches of moving water.



- At least 23% of U.S. tropical cyclone deaths occur to people who drown in, or attempting to abandon, their cars.
- Rainfall is typically heavier with slower moving storms.
- Some of the greatest rainfall amounts associated with tropical systems occurs from weaker Tropical Storms that have a slow forward speed (1 to 10mph) or stall over an area. Due to the amount of rainfall a Tropical Storm can produce, they are capable of causing as much damage as a category 2 hurricane.



ARE YOU READY?

**KNOWING WHAT TO DO IS
YOUR BEST PROTECTION
AND YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY!!!**



Are You Ready?

Before the Hurricane Season:

- Learn the safe routes inland.
- Learn where the hurricane shelters are located.
- Develop a family hurricane action plan.
- Review the working condition of emergency equipment, such as flashlights, battery powered radios.
- Ensure you have enough non-perishable food and water supplies on hand to last for at least two weeks.



- Trim trees and shrubbery.
- Buy plywood or shutters to protect doors and windows.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Individuals with special needs should contact their local office of emergency management.
- Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.
- Consider building a safe room.
- Check your insurance policies to see if you have flood and wind insurance.



Family Communications

- Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another.
- Complete a contact card for each family member.
- Keep cards in their wallets, purses, backpack, etc.
- Pick a friend or relative who lives out of state for household members to notify they are safe.
- You may send a card for each child to school to keep on file.



Watches and *Warnings*

Understanding the difference between National Weather Service *watches* and *warnings* is critical to being prepared for any dangerous weather hazard, including hurricanes.



- ❖ A **watch** lets you know that weather conditions are favorable for a hazard to occur. It literally means "be on guard!" During a weather watch, gather awareness of the specific threat and prepare for action - monitor the weather to find out if severe weather conditions have deteriorated and discuss your protective action plans with your family.
- ❖ A **warning** requires immediate action. This means a weather hazard is imminent - it is either occurring (a tornado has been spotted, for example) - or it is about to occur at any moment. During a weather warning, it is important to take action: grab the emergency kit you have prepared in advance and head to safety immediately. Both watches and warnings are important, but warnings are more urgent.



- **Tropical Storm Watch:** An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *possible* within the specified area.
- **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are *possible* within the specified area. Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, ***watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.***

Action: During a watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.



- **Tropical Storm Warning:** An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *expected* within the specified area.
- **Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are *expected* within the specified area. Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, **warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.**

Action: During a warning, complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials.



Before the Storm:

When a "Hurricane Watch" is Issued:

- Listen to your radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Have extra cash on hand.
- Prepare to cover all windows and doors with shutters or other shielding materials.
- Bring in light-weight objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys, and lawn furniture.



- Check food and water supplies.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights, and lanterns.
- Check and refresh first-aid supplies.
- Check prescription medicines - obtain at least ten day to two week supply.



PREPARING SENIORS FOR THE UNEXPECTED

What kind of disasters could strike our area?

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Thunder and Lightning Storms
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Hazardous Spills
- Terrorism



How will you know when it's an emergency?

- Commercial radio and TV stations.
- NOAA Weather and all hazards radio.
- Door to door warnings from local emergency officials.
- Your neighbors.

Plan Ahead: When a disaster strikes, you may not have time to act.



Individuals with Special Needs:

- **Advance register with your local county emergency management department if you need special assistance during an evacuation. St. Lucie County Special Needs Forms are available if you call 462-8100.**
- Plan for transportation if you need to evacuate to a public shelter.
- Arrange for a contact person to check on you.
- Make sure all family members or caregivers have the contact person's contact information.
- Have a plan to signal for help, by telephone, E-mail, or some kind of remote signaling device.
- Post your emergency phone numbers near the telephone.



- Assemble a disaster supply kit and take it with you if you have to evacuate.
- Store your disaster supplies in an easy to carry container such as a back pack or storage box.
- Include a adequate supply of medications.
- Write your name and address on your disaster supply kit and any equipment you may take with you such as canes, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.
- If you have to evacuate, wear appropriate clothing, take your disaster supply kit, lock your home, notify your contact person, follow your plan for your pet, and follow approved evacuation routes.
- Plan for emergencies with your home health care service.



- Write your name and address on your disaster supply kit and any equipment you may take with you such as canes, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.
- If you have to evacuate, wear appropriate clothing, take your disaster supply kit, lock your home, notify your contact person, follow your plan for your pet, and follow approved evacuation routes.
- Plan for emergencies with your home health care service.



Have a disaster plan for your pet:

- At the present time there is no change in the policy of no pets being allowed in the shelters.
- Arrange to board your pet.
- Have proper pet identification including immunization records.
- Have a supply of food, water, medications, muzzle, leash, collar, or cage.
- Follow the advice of local emergency officials.



PHONE NUMBERS -- KEEP THIS LIST BESIDE YOUR TELEPHONE

- Police – Emergency:
- Police – Non-Emergency
- Fire department:
- Ambulance:
- County Emergency Management:
- Florida Power and Light:
- Family Telephone Numbers:
- Contact Person:
- Out of Town Contact Person:
- Care Provider:
- Doctors:
- Hospital:
- Insurance Company:
- Veterinarian:



Local FM Radio Stations for Emergency Information

FM Radio Stations:

WQCS-FM	(88.9)	(772) 465-8989
WAVW-FM	(92.7)	(772) 335-9300
WGYL-FM	(93.7)	(772) 567-0937
WPHR-FM	(94.7)	(772) 335-9300
WLDI-FM	(95.5)	(561) 616-6600
WOSN-FM	(97.1)	(772) 562-6397
WKGR-FM	(98.7)	(561) 616-6600
WHLG-FM	(101.3)	(772) 692-9454
WZZR-FM	(101.7)	(772) 335-9300
WQOL-FL	(103.7)	(772) 461-1055
WFLM-FL	(104.7)	(772) 460-9356



Local AM Radio Stations for Emergency Information

AM Radio Stations:

- WJNO-AM (1290) (561) 616-6600
- WJNX-AM (1330) *Spanish* (772) 340-1950
- WZTA-AM (1370) (772) 335-9300
- WIRA-AM (1400) (772) 460-9356
- WSTU-AM (1450) (772) 340-1590
- WPSL-AM (1590) (772) 340-1590



Local Television Stations for Emergency Information

Television Stations:

WPTV (NBC) Channel	5	(561) 655-5455
WPEC (CBS) Channel	12	(561) 844-1212
WPBF (ABC) Channel	25	(561) 694-2525
WFLX (FOX) Channel	29	(561) 653-5700



24 Hour Weather Updates

NOAA Weather Radio –

Requires special radio receiver or scanner

National Weather Service –

Melbourne (East Central Florida) Station WWF69
Frequency 162.425



Disaster Supplies Kit

- Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy to carry container such as a large, covered trash container; a camping back pack; or a duffle bag.
- **Water** – at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 days.
- **Blankets / Pillows, etc. – sleeping bags**
- **Clothing** – One complete change per person.
- Hat, gloves, rain gear, sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirts, sunglasses, jacket or coat, underwear, socks.



Food – at least enough for 3 days per person.

- Avoid foods that will make you thirsty.
- Ready to eat meals, fruits and vegetables.
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices / soup.
- Staples – sugar, salt, pepper, powdered milk.
- High energy foods – peanut butter, jelly, salt free crackers, granola bars.
- Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons with special dietary needs.
- Snack foods – cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags.



Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies:

- Toilet paper.
- Soap.
- Liquid detergent.
- Feminine supplies.
- Personal hygiene items.
- Moisture wipes.
- Heavy duty plastic garbage bags and ties for personal sanitation use.
- Medium size plastic bucket with tight lid, disinfectant.
- Shampoo, comb, brush.
- Insect repellent.



First Aid Kit:

- **Non-prescription drugs and Prescription Medicines:**
- Prescriptions
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Laxative
- Vitamins
- Extra eye glasses/contact lenses and solutions



- **Have cash/credit card/traveler's checks/change on hand**

- **Place photo copies of important documents in a waterproof container:**
 - **Will, Insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds, marriage certificate, photo I.D.s, passports, social security cards, immunization records, etc.**
 - **Bank account numbers.**
 - **Credit card account numbers and companies.**
 - **Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).**



- Document all valuables with digital media if possible.
- Photograph interior and exterior of home, inventory of all furnishings.
- Important telephone numbers.
- Extra set of house keys.
- Map of the city – for locating shelters.

Equipment - Tools - Special Items:

- Non-electric can opener.
- Paper plates, plastic utensils, paper cups.
- All- purpose knife.
- Household liquid bleach for treating water.



- Aluminum foil, plastic wrap.
- Resealable plastic bags.
- Flashlight, extra batteries.
- Radio – battery operated and NOAA weather radio.
- Signal flare.
- Shut-off wrench, pliers, shovel, and other tools.
- Duct tape and scissors.
- Whistle.
- Small canister, ABC-type fire extinguisher.
- Compass.
- Work gloves.
- Battery-operated travel alarm clock.
- Paper, pencil.
- Needles, thread.
- Moisture wipes.



Comfort items:

- Games, cards, books.
- Toys for kids.

Pet care items:

- Proper identification, license, immunization records
- Ample supply food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Medications



Special Needs for babies:

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Powered milk
- Medications



For adults:

- Prescription medicines including dosage
- List of allergies and medications
- Oxygen
- Eyeglasses, contact lens and supplies
- Hearing aid batteries
- Denture needs
- Heart and high blood pressure medications
- Insulin

Write your name and address on your disaster supply kit, and any equipment (walkers, wheelchair, canes).

Keep your vehicle gas tanks filled



WHEN IS IT TIME TO EVACUATE?

When officials at the St. Lucie County Division of Emergency Management give notification that conditions have escalated and it is time to evacuate particular areas!

How will you KNOW?

MANY WAYS!



- Notified through the “Reverse 911” call system.
- Police patrol cars with their “Public Announcement” systems.
- Commercial radio and TV stations.
- Door to door warnings from local emergency officials.
- Your neighbors.
- Your own good judgment.
- NOAA Weather and All Hazards radio.



If Evacuating

Plan to evacuate if you:

- Keep a full tank of gas.
- Live in a mobile home.
- Live on the coastline, an offshore island, or near a river or a flood plain.
- Live in a high-rise building. Winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- Make arrangements for transportation if you do not own a car.
- Stay with friends or relatives or at a low-rise inland hotel or motel outside of the flood areas.



- Leave early to avoid heavy traffic, roads blocked by early flood waters, and bridges impassable due to high winds.
- Turn off water, propane and nature gas.
- Take your prepared Disaster Supply Kit.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Put food and water out for pets if you cannot take them with you.
- Hurricane shelters will be available for people who have no other place to go. Shelters may be crowded, uncomfortable, with no privacy or electricity.
- Do not leave for a shelter until it has been announced on the radio or TV that a particular shelter is open.



WHAT TO BRING TO A SHELTER

- Your prepared Disaster Supply Kit.
- First aid kits, medicines, baby food and diapers, cards, games books, toiletries, battery-powered radio, flashlight (per person), extra batteries, blankets or sleeping bags, identification, valuable papers, and cash.



AFTER THE STORM PASSES

- Stay in your protected area until announcements are made that the dangerous winds have passed.
- If you have evacuated, do not return home until officials announce your area is ready.
- Proof of residency may be required in order to re-enter the evacuation areas.
- Drive only when necessary, do not sight-see.
- If your home or building has sustained structural damage, do not enter until it has been checked by the City's Building Department.



- If you shut off your in home gas, always have it turned back on by a professional.
- Avoid using candles, and other open flames indoors.
- Avoid downed power lines and any water they may be lying in.
- Be alert for poisonous snakes, often driven from their den by high water.
- Be aware of weakened bridges and washed out roads.
- Watch for weakened tree limbs and/or damaged overhanging structures.
- Do not use the telephone unless absolutely necessary.



- Guard against spoiled food.
- Do not use tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Use caution when using a chain saw to cut up fallen trees.



If Staying at Home

- Reminder: Only stay at home if you have not been ordered to leave. If you have been told to leave, do so immediately.
- Store water:
 - ✓ Fill bathtub and large containers for sanitary purposes.
 - ✓ Fill sterilized containers with water for a two week supply of drinking water.

(Do NOT use this water for drinking unless you sterilize by boiling or chlorination per St. Lucie County Health Dept.'s instructions of 8 drops of bleach per gallon of water)

- Turn refrigerator and freezers to maximum cold and open only when necessary.



- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Stay inside a well constructed building.
- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway.
Take a battery powered radio and a flashlight with you.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace exterior doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.
- If in a two story house, go to an interior first floor room, such as bathroom, closet or under the stairs.



- If you are in a multiple story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of the building.
- Keep a full tank of gas.
- **Be alert for tornadoes which often are spawned by hurricanes.**
- **If the “EYE” of the hurricane passes over your area, be aware that the improved weather conditions are temporary and that the storm conditions will return with the winds coming from the opposite direction sometimes in a matter of just a few minutes.**



FOOD

Safety and Sanitation



Do:

- Keep food in covered containers.
- Keep cooking and eating utensils clean.
- Keep garbage in closed container-dispose outside-burying if necessary.
- Use prepared canned/ready-to-eat baby formula for infants.
- Keep your hands clean by washing them frequently with soap and water.
- Discard any food that has come in contact with contaminated floodwater.
- Discard any food that has been at room temperature for 2 hours or more.
- Discard any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!



Don't:

- Keep or store food in an open can.
- Eat food from cans that are swollen, dented, or corroded.
- Eat any food that looks or smells abnormal.
- Use powdered formula with treated water.
- Let garbage accumulate inside, both for fire and sanitation reasons.

Note:

- Thawed food usually can be eaten if it is still “refrigerator cold.”
- It can be re-frozen if it still contains ice crystals.
- To be safe, remember, “When in doubt, throw it out.”



Safety and Sanitation

Cooking:

- Alternative cooking sources include candle warmers, chafing dishes, fondue pots, or a fireplace.
- Charcoal grills and camp stoves are for **OUTSIDE** use only.
- Commercially canned food can be eaten out of the can without warming.
- DO NOT cook or heat food in the can.



Water:

- ❑ Water is a precious resource following a disaster. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off the water at the main house valve.
- ❑ Cracked lines may pollute the water supply to your house. It is wise to shut off your water until you hear from authorities that is safe for drinking.
- ❑ Gravity may drain the water from your hot water tank, toilet tanks, and water lines unless you trap it in your house by shutting off the main house water valve.



- ❑ Locate the shut off valve which is normally located where your outside water line enters your house.
- ❑ Make sure this valve can completely shut off the water. If not, have it replaced.
- ❑ Label this valve for easy identification and instruct all household members where it is located.



WATER

How Much Water do I Need?

- You should have at least a three day supply of water.
- You should have at least one gallon of water per person per day.
- A normal active person needs at least one-half gallon of water daily just for drinking.



Additionally:

- Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet, climate.
- Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water.
- Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.
- A medical emergency may require additional water.



How Should I Store Water?

- To prepare the safest and most reliable supply of water, it is recommended to purchase commercially bottled water.
- Keep bottled water in it's original container and do not open until it is needed.
- Observe any expiration or “use by” date.



If You Are Preparing Your Own Containers of Water:

- Recommended to purchase food-grade water storage containers.
- Before using, thoroughly clean with dishwashing soap and water and rinse completely.
- DO NOT use plastic containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them.
- DO NOT use glass containers.
- After sanitizing, thoroughly rinse out the bottle with clean water.



Filling One Gallon Water Containers:

- Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water.
- If the water comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add eight drops of non-scented liquid house bleach to the water.
- Tightly close the container using the original cap.
- Place a date on the outside of the container.
- Store in a cool dry place.
- Replace the water every six months if not using commercially bottled water.



Guidelines for Managing Water Supplies

Essentials:

- Allow people to drink according to their needs.
- Never ration water unless ordered to do so by authorities.
- Drink water you know is not contaminated first.
- Do not drink carbonated beverages or alcohol instead of drinking water
- Caffeinated drinks and alcohol dehydrate the body, which increases the need for drinking water.
- Check for boil water advisories from the water utility provider.



- To use water from your hot water tank, be sure gas or electric is off.
- Start the water flowing by shutting off the water intake valve at the top of the tank.
- Drain water from the faucet at the bottom of the tank.
- Refill the tank before turning the gas or electric back on.



Water Treatment:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross agree on three acceptable ways to treat drinking water: boiling, chlorine bleach, or distilling.

- Treat all water of uncertain quality before using it for drinking, food preparation, brushing teeth or making ice.
- Water should be boiled for at least 3 to 5 minutes to sanitize it. Treating water with bleach is very effective at killing germs and bacteria. **(Do not use pool chlorine, scented bleaches, color safe bleaches, powdered bleaches, or bleaches with added cleaners.)**
- To treat water with chlorine bleach, put the water in a clean container and add 8 drops of bleach for every gallon of water. Stir in the bleach and let the water stand for 30 minutes.



UTILITY SHUT-OFF and SAFETY

In the event of a disaster, you may be instructed to shut off the utility service to your home.

Following are general guidelines for shutting off your utility service. Modify this information to reflect the shut off requirements as directed by your utility company >

*Shutting off electricity could cause raw sewage to back up in the toilets, tub, shower, etc. if you don't restrict water use in your home during power failure.



Natural Gas:

- ❖ Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following disasters. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off natural gas.
- ❖ There are different gas shut off procedures for different gas meter configurations. It is important to contact your local gas company for guidance and response regarding as appliances and gas service to your home.
- ❖ When you learn the proper shut off procedure for your meter, be sure to instruct everyone in your household how to do it.



- ❖ If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound or blowing noise, open the windows and get everyone out of the home quickly. Turn off the gas using the outside main valve if you can. Call the gas company immediately from a neighbor's home.

CAUTION: If you ever turn off the gas for any reason, be sure to have a qualified professional turn it back on .

NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.



Electricity:

- Electric sparks can ignite natural gas if the gas is leaking. It is vital that all responsible household members know where and how to shut off the electricity.
- Locate your main electric service box.
- Teach responsible household members how to shut off the electricity (normally by tripping the main breaker or fuses).

FOR YOUR SAFETY – Shut off individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.



Using a Generator When Disaster Strikes

Purchasing a Generator:

- Buy a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances, and equipment that you intend to connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on.
- If the generator does not produce adequate power, plan to stagger the operating times for various equipment.

*Note: A personal generator used to power a grinder system must be at least 220 volt/6,000watts. Always seek advice from a professional electrician on wiring the generator into the main panel of the house.



- ❑ If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY – DO NOT DELAY!**
- ❑ Because you may have windows open to get fresh air while the power is out, place the generator away from windows, doors, or vents that could allow CO to come indoors.
- ❑ Keep the generator dry and do not use it in the rain or wet conditions to avoid electrocution or electric shock.
- ❑ Operate it on a level, dry location under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator.



- ❑ Drive a copper ground rod or a metal pipe into the earth approximately 6 to 8 feet and connect a ground wire from the generator to the ground rod or metal pipe to prevent shocking.
- ❑ Operate the generator approximately 8 to 10 feet from the house.

Be sure to turn the generator OFF and let it cool down before refueling:

- Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store fuel outside of your home in a locked shed or other protected area.



- Invisible vapors or fumes from the gasoline can accumulate in a closed area or travel along the ground and be ignited by arcs from a light switch or an appliance pilot light, etc.
- Use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer.

Plug Appliances Directly into the Generator:

- If you use extension cords, make sure they are heavy-duty, outdoor-rated in watts or amps at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance load.
- Check the cord is free of cuts, abrasions or tears, and that it has a three prong ground plug.



- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator directly into an outlet, a practice known as “backfeeding”. This is a very dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer.

Future Considerations:

- The recommended method is to connect the generator to house wiring by having a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- If a power transfer switch is installed, have a light permanently installed to the commercial side of your breakers so you will know when the power has been restored.



- For power outages, permanently installed generators are better suited for providing backup power to the home.
- Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded, resulting in overheating or stressing the generator components, possibly leading to a generator failure.
- Primary hazards when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Follow directions supplied with the generator.
- Under no circumstances should a generator be run indoors including garage, carport, basement, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area.



GATED COMMUNITIES

PRIVATE COMMUNITIES SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN HURRICANE PLAN AND PROCEDURES

- **Prepare a “hurricane disaster” plan including and expanding upon the recommendations below as needed for their situation.**
- **Prior to hurricane season, the General Manager shall send a letter to all residents making them aware of the properties hurricane plans and give some guidance as to how and when they should prepare for the disaster or evacuate the property.**



Mobile Homes Require Special Precautions

Hurricane Preparation:

- Anchor the mobile home with over the top straps or ties.
- Do what you can to prepare for the storm.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer thermostats down to the coldest setting.
- Pack breakables in boxes and put them on the floor.
- Remove mirrors and lamps, wrap them in blankets and place them in the shower or bathtub.



- Install hurricane shutters or precut plywood on all windows.
- Do not stay in the mobile home.
- Store awnings, folding furniture, trash-cans, and other loose outdoor objects.
- Prepare to evacuate when told by local officials – hazardous no matter how well anchored down.
- Shut off utilities (gas, propane, electric).



BUSINESSES

Planning Could Save Your Business

Hurricane Watch:

- Familiarize yourself with your insurance policy before the storm.
- Take a critical look at your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment to determine if it is secure.
- Take inventory of computer systems, as well as any other critical machines.
- Take pictures of your computer, machines, and stock.
- Be prepared for backing up critical information.



- Look for a closet or storage location that is away from doors and windows that can store the essential computer systems.
- Be prepared to store important software such as operating system CDs, Word Processors, or other software that is essential to the company's operation, including their respective licenses.

Hurricane Warning:

- Perform backups on all machines (at least 3 copies), store this media in plastic zip lock bags and stored in a safe, dry location.



- Store 1 copy in a safe place within the business; store 2nd copy in a location away from the business, and a person of high confidence should take the 3rd.
- Store all essential computers and machines in the designated closet or safe spot.
- Make sure all electrical connections for the computers have been removed.
- Clear out stock from areas with extensive glass.
- Have shutters? – use them!
- No shutters, use precut plywood to board up windows and doors.
- Remove outdoor hanging signs.



- Bring inside and secure any object that may become airborne and cause damage.
- Secure showcases – use plywood to protect glass or, if possible, turn the glass side toward an inside wall.
- Store as much merchandise as high as possible off the floor.
- Move merchandise that cannot be moved away from glass or from the floor and cover it with tarpaulins or heavy plastic.
- Place sandbags in spaces where water could enter.



- Remove all papers from lower drawers or desks and file cabinets and place them in plastic bags or containers on top of the cabinets.
- Turn off water heaters, stoves, pilot lights, and other burners.
- ✓ **Consider:** Installing a generator for emergency power. Businesses that are not severely damaged can suffer losses because of interruption of normal operations or the loss of perishable stock. These losses can be reduced and speed the recovery process by installing an emergency generator.



WILDLIFE IN DISASTER

- Do not corner wild animals or try to rescue them.
- Do not approach wild animals that have taken refuge in your home. Animals such as snakes, opossums, and raccoons often seek refuge from floodwaters on upper levels of homes and have been known to remain after water recedes.
- Beware of an increased number of snakes and other predators.
- Do not attempt to move a dead animal.
- If bitten by an animal, seek immediate medical attention.



Information was provided in part by the following:



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



**American
Red Cross**

St. Lucie County Division of Emergency
Management



Florida Emergency Preparedness Association



OFFICIAL WEB SITE

City of Port St. Lucie



"A City for All Ages"



For questions or more information on hurricanes or other disaster preparedness related topics please contact:

Sgt. John Holman

Ofc. Fred Knaggs

Police Sergeant,
Port Saint Lucie Police Dept.
Disaster Preparedness Coordinator;
Emergency Management Team

Police Officer
Port Saint Lucie Police Dept.
Disaster Preparedness Coordinator,
Emergency Management Team

(772) 871-5038

- Office

john.holman@cityofpsl.com

- Email

(772) 871-7348

- Office

fred.knaggs@cityofpsl.com

- Email

Lt. Kacey Donnell Port St. Lucie Police Dept.
Disaster Preparedness Section Lieutenant
(772) 871-5142 or kacey.donnell@cityofpsl.com

More information can be found at www.cityofpsl.com

