HURRICANE GUIDE

OFFICIAL GUIDE FOR THE TAMPA BAY AREA

SARASOTA COUNTY

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Sarasota County

American Red Cross

This guide is produced by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in partnership with your County Emergency Management Agency.

Preparing for a hurricane...

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Here are the most important items for your **Disaster Supply Kit**. Stock up today and store in a water-resistant container. Replenish as necessary.

- ❑ Two weeks supply of prescription medicines
- ❑ Seven day supply of non-perishable/special dietary foods
- ❑ Drinking Water/containers - 1 gal/per person/per day **(minimum 7 days)**
- ❑ Flashlights and batteries for each member of the family
- ❑ Portable radio and batteries
- ❑ First aid book and kit including bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, aspirin and aspirin-free pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, and important numbers (i.e. Poison Control Center, Non Emergency Fire and Rescue, and Non-Emergency Sheriff's Office numbers)
- ❑ Mosquito repellant & citronella candles
- ❑ Fire extinguisher (small canister, ABC type)
- ❑ Instant tire sealer
- ❑ Whistle and/or distress flag
- ❑ Cooler(s)
- ❑ Plastic tarp, screening, tools and nails, etc.
- ❑ Water purification kit (tablets, chlorine (plain) and iodine)
- ❑ Infant necessities (medicine, sterile water, diapers, ready formula, bottles)
- ❑ Clean-up supplies (mop, buckets, towels, disinfectant)
- ❑ Camera
- ❑ Non-electric can opener
- ❑ Extra batteries for camera, flashlights, radio, portable TV & lamps, etc.
- ❑ Garbage can or bucket with tight-fitting lid and kitty litter (for emergency toilet)
- ❑ Plastic trash bags
- ❑ Toilet paper, paper towels and pre-moistened towelettes or baby wipes

If you evacuate you also should take:

- ❑ Pillows, blankets, sleeping bags or air mattresses
- ❑ Extra clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, etc.
- ❑ Folding chairs, lawn chairs or cots
- ❑ Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- ❑ Quiet games, books, playing cards and favorite toys for children
- ❑ Important papers and irreplaceable keepsakes (driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies and property inventories, photographs)

Precious commodities before & after a storm:

- ❑ Cash (With no power, banks may be closed; checks and credit cards unaccepted, and ATMs may not be operational)
- ❑ Charcoal, matches, and grill (Do not use indoors)
- ❑ Ice
- ❑ A corded phone that does not require electricity
- ❑ Battery or solar powered charger for cell phones

AS THE STORM APPROACHES

- ✓ Listen for weather updates on local stations and on NOAA Weather Radio. Don't trust rumors, and stay tuned to the latest information.
- ✓ REMEMBER: Hurricanes can be unpredictable. There is always potential error in the forecast track from the National Hurricane Center. Don't focus on the exact forecasted track, listen to local officials. **DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR LIFE!** (For more information go to www.noaa.gov or www.weather.gov, click on Tampa Bay area.)
- ✓ Check your Disaster Supply Kit. Obtain any needed items.
- ✓ Refill prescriptions. Maintain at least a two-week supply during hurricane season.
- ✓ Clear your yard of lawn furniture, potted plants, bicycles, trash cans and other potential airborne missiles. Leave the swimming pool filled and super-chlorinated. Cover the filtration system.
- ✓ Protect your windows and glass doors with plywood or storm shutters. Brace double entry and garage doors at the top and bottom.
- ✓ If there is a chance flooding could threaten your home, move important items such as electronics, antiques and furniture off the floor.
- ✓ Fill your car's gas tank and check oil, water and tires. Gas pumps won't operate without electricity after a storm passes.
- ✓ Secure your boat early. Drawbridges will be closed to boat traffic after an evacuation order is issued.
- ✓ Get cash. Banks and ATMs won't be in operation without electricity and few stores will be able to accept credit cards or personal checks.
- ✓ Never sweep or blow yard leaves, pine needles, grass clippings or soil into the street or storm water system. This clogs up the stormwater pipes and prevents water from draining.

Planning for hurricanes...

Top 10 Things To Do NOW

Make Your Family Disaster Plan. It's not hard. Read through this guide and make your plan. Talk with your family. If you need help, go online to www.tampabayprepares.org and www.floridadisaster.org and call your local emergency management agency or local chapter of the American Red Cross. Phone numbers are listed on the inside map page.

1

Refer to the Hurricane Evacuation Map inside this guide. Locate where you live and evacuation zone. Determine if and when you would have to evacuate. REMEMBER: All mobile home residents must evacuate, regardless of location. ***If you need help determining your zone, go online or call your local emergency managment office BEFORE THE STORM THREATENS.***

2

Check your **Disaster Supply Kit** and obtain any items you need.

3

Decide NOW where you would go if ordered to evacuate (a friend or relative, a hotel or motel, or as a last resort, a public shelter or out of the region). REMEMBER, if you are going to leave the area or go to a hotel, do not delay. Determine your route, leave early and travel the shortest distance possible. Think tens of miles, not hundreds.

4

Keep your home in good repair. Secing down loose roofing, trimming trees and keeping gutters clean are good places to start.

5

Make plans and purchase materials, such as storm shutters, to protect your home before the storm.

6

Purchase a battery-powered weather alert radio and a non-electric land-line phone. Even though phone service may not be disturbed, cordless phones will not work during power outages.

7

Make sure your street address number is clearly marked on your home.

8

Inventory your property and possessions on paper and take a video survey of your property. Store with insurance and other important papers in a safe place and send a copy of a relative out of the area.

9

Whether you rent or own your home, review your insurance policies with your agent now.

10

Planning for special loved ones...

ADVICE FOR SENIORS

In Florida, we are particularly vulnerable to severe weather like hurricanes and elders are especially susceptible to their effects. Those who live alone, or are without the support of family or friends, must take special precautions in the event of an emergency situation. People who are frail or disabled (either mentally or physically) may need special assistance from family members, friends or social service agencies.

Older adults who are also caregivers may require outside assistance. Excessive stress and anxiety can contribute to increased episodes of illness, particularly for persons with heart disease and other illnesses. If an older adult lives in a nursing home, assisted living facility (ALF) or boarding home, the administrator should be contacted to learn about the disaster plan for that facility.

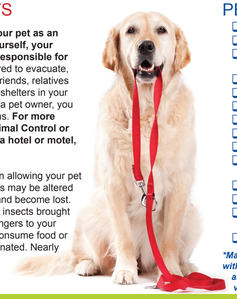
HOME HEALTHCARE & HOMEBOUND PATIENTS

- ✓ Tell your health agency and oxygen company where you will be during a hurricane. Ask them about their plans to provide care.
- ✓ If you are homebound and under the care of a physician, but not a home health agency, contact your physician.
- ✓ If you require respirators or other electric-dependent medical equipment, you should make prior medical arrangements with your physician. You should also register with your local power company.
- ✓ If you evacuate, remember to take medications, written instructions regarding your care, special equipment and bedding with you.
- ✓ **If you will need assistance in an evacuation or need to go to a special needs shelter, please register NOW with your County Emergency Management Agency.**
- ✓ Special needs shelters do not provide hands-on medical care, only medical monitoring. Bring one caregiver with you.
- ✓ If you require hospitalization, you must make prior arrangements through your physician.
- ✓ Please remember that hospitals are NOT shelters. During disasters such as hurricanes, hospitals have a limited number of resources that must be rationed to care for the sick and injured.

PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

Don't leave your pet and don't use your pet as an excuse not to evacuate. Don't put yourself, your family and your pet at risk! You are responsible for planning for your pet. If you are ordered to evacuate, take your **Pet Survival Kit** if you go to friends, relatives or a hotel. Unless there are pet-friendly shelters in your county, shelters cannot accept pets. As a pet owner, you must plan ahead. Check out your options. **For more information call your local SPCA, Animal Control or Humane Society. If you plan to go to a hotel or motel, go online to** www.petswelcome.com.

After the storm has passed, be careful in allowing your pet outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet could easily be confused and become lost. Downed power lines, other animals and insects brought in with high water could present real dangers to your pet. Take care not to allow your pet to consume food or water which may have become contaminated. Nearly 80 percent of pets displaced by a storm are never reunited with their owners.



PET SURVIVAL KIT

- ❑ Proper ID collar and rabies tag/license*
- ❑ Vaccination paperwork
- ❑ Carrier or cage (large enough for your pet to move around)
- ❑ Leash
- ❑ Ample food supply (at least two weeks)
- ❑ Water
- ❑ Water/food bowls
- ❑ Any necessary medication(s)
- ❑ Specific care instruction
- ❑ Newspapers, cat litter, scoop, plastic trash bags for handling waste
- ❑ Proper ID on all belongings
- ❑ Photo of you and your pet
- ❑ A comfort item such as a favorite toy or blanket
- ❑ Non-electric can opener

Make sure your pets have had all their shots within the past 12 months. Pet-friendly shelters and boarding facilities will require proof of vaccinations.

Protecting your home & family...

There are some specific actions you should take to make your home safer. To make some of these improvements, you will have to get up in the attic or crawl space with a flashlight. You may feel more comfortable with an experienced and licensed inspector, architect, engineer or contractor inspecting your home. Whatever choice you make, take time to do this well before the storm threatens. To withstand the forces of wind associated with severe weather, REMEMBER your ABC'S:

A

ANCHOR YOUR ROOF
If your roof was built before 1994 and is gabled, brace all gable-end framing with horizontal and vertical beams. Also, make sure that there is wood sheathing (planks or plywood) behind the stucco of the triangular gable end walls.

B

BRACE YOUR ENTRY & GARAGE DOORS
Entry doors are easily damaged by high winds. Bolt all doors with foot and head bolts with a minimum one inch bolt throw length.

Garage doors should be able to withstand hurricane wind loads and the impacts of flying debris. If yours does not, replace with a hurricane resistant one. Approximately 80% of residential hurricane wind damage starts with wind entry through garage doors.

C

COVER YOUR WINDOWS
Protecting your windows is perhaps one of the most important factors in securing your home or office from total destruction in a hurricane or severe storm. Make sure all doors and windows are properly caulked and/or weather stripped. Replace gravel/rock landscaping material with fire treated, shredded bark to reduce damage. Cover all windows and glass doors with securely fastened, impact-resistant shutters or other approved window protection systems with proper mounting fixtures or replace them with impact resistant laminated window and door systems, if feasible. Hint: You don't have to use the same system on every window. Source: www.flash.org.

S

SAFE ROOM
DO NOT stay in a room which does not have shielded windows/glass doors. Find an interior room – a bathroom, hallway or closet which will help buffer you from the storm's winds. Make sure all family members know where the safe areas are in your home. Be sure to take your disaster supply kit into your safe room when a storm threatens.

BUILDING OR REMODELING?

For tips on how to make your home safer, go online to www.flash.org (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes) or call Toll-Free (877) 221-SAFE (7233). You can also go online to www.mysafeflorida.org.

FOR MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS

- ✓ Anchor mobile homes with tie downs. Inspect tie downs annually.
- ✓ Never stay inside mobile homes to ride out the storm. Always evacuate to a friend or relative's home, hotel or motel or nearby designated storm shelter.

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOOD

- ✓ **Anchor and Elevate:** If vulnerable, electrical panel boxes, heat pumps, washers and dryers and water heaters, fuel tanks, etc. should be elevated or relocated to areas less likely to be subjected to flood waters.
- ✓ **Retrofit:** There are things you can do to minimize the flood risk to your home. Options to consider:
  - elevation,
  - flood barriers,
  - dry flood proofing, and
  - wet flood proofing.

For more information, go to www.flash.org.

What to expect after the storm...

As we have learned, after a tropical storm or hurricane strike, you may be without power and many of the services you rely on (water, sewer, phone, cell phone, and businesses). Remember gas stations, supermarkets, restaurants, and government agencies just went through the same storm you did and there will be an interruption in services while repairs are made. Immediate response may not be possible, so everyone must be prepared to be self-reliant.

RE-ENTRY

BE PATIENT. Even though the winds have stopped blowing, you won't be able to return to your home until search and rescue operations are complete and safety hazards, such as downed power lines, are cleared. It may take time for emergency crews to reach your neighborhood.

- ✓ Have valid ID. Access to affected areas will be controlled by security checkpoints. Valid identification with your current local address will be required (current photo ID and a power, water or telephone bill).
- ✓ Avoid driving, especially through water, regardless of depth or speed. Roads will have debris which can puncture your tires!

Once you arrive home

- ✓ Walk around your home from the outside first to survey damage.
- ✓ Enter your home with caution. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- ✓ If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and notify the Fire Department.
- ✓ If your home has been flooded, have a qualified licensed electrician inspect the electrical system and appliances before turning the power back on.
- ✓ **Be careful with fire. Do not strike a match until you are sure there are no breaks in gas lines.**
- ✓ Let your out-of-town contact know you are alright.

POST-STORM SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Use extreme caution. There could be many dangerous situations all around you such as structural, water, electrical or gas leak hazards.

- ✓ Keep grills and generators outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Carbon Monoxide poisoning is a frequent killer after a storm passes.
- ✓ Avoid candles. Use battery-operated flashlights and lanterns instead.
- ✓ Stay tuned to your local radio or television for up-to-date emergency information.
- ✓ Avoid driving and phone use. Keep lanes and lines open for emergency workers.
- ✓ Avoid downed or dangling power lines. Be especially careful when clearing fallen trees.
- ✓ Always supervise children-DO NOT WADE IN FLOOD WATERS.
- ✓ Be aware of snakes, insects, alligators or animals driven to higher ground by floods.
- ✓ Be extremely careful with a chain saw and follow all safety precautions.
- ✓ Call professionals to remove large, uprooted trees, etc. You can become seriously injured trying to remove heavy trees from your property.
- ✓ Always use proper safety equipment such as heavy gloves, safety goggles, heavy boots, light- colored long-sleeve shirts and long pants. Tie back long hair, wear a hat and sunscreen.
  Drink plenty of fluids, rest and ask for help when you need it.
- ✓ Don't burn trash.

CLEAN-UP & REPAIRS

- ✓ Know what your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy covers and what you will need to submit a claim. You will be required to make temporary repairs to correct safety hazards and minimize further damage. Take photographs of all damage before repairs and keep all receipts.
- ✓ After assessing damage to your home, contact your local building department for information on required building permits. Permits are always required for any kind of demolition or permanent repairs, reconstruction, roofing, filling and other types of site development.

Protect Yourself From Contractor Fraud

- ✓ Hire only licensed contractors. Be cautious of anyone coming to your home uninvited and offering to do home repairs.
- ✓ Obtain a written estimate or contract. Insist on start/completion dates and payment terms in the contract. Do not pay in full before work begins and do not pay the final balance until the work is completed to your satisfaction. NEVER pay with cash.
- ✓ Don't pull the permits for the contractor. If they make this request, it may be an indication they are not properly licensed.

If you suspect a contractor of potential fraud, contact the State of Florida Consumer Fraud hotline at 1-866-966-7226.

GENERATORS

Generators can provide power to your home or business in case of a power outage or shortage. When it comes to selecting a generator, you have a wide variety of features and options to choose from. Prices range from less than $500 for a small portable generator to more than $10,000 for an installed stationary generator. Wattage of the generator, as well as number, voltage and amperage of outlets determine which equipment can be powered.

1. Determine the appliance or equipment you want to use.
2. Determine if a portable or stationary generator is required.
3. Determine if you will need multiple outlets or multiple types of outlets on your generator.

- ✓ **NEVER** connect a portable generator to building wiring. There is an extreme danger of generator back-feed for the general public (downed wires etc.) and utility workers: Plug appliances, etc., directly into the generator.
- ✓ Place generator outdoors and away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide (CO) to come indoors. Exhaust fumes are deadly. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, get fresh air right away. DO NOT DELAY.
- ✓ Before refueling your generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Don't forget to check the oil every time you add gas. Keep the generator dry.
- ✓ Conserve fuel by alternating appliances. For example, refrigerators can be kept cool by supplying power eight hours a day.
- ✓ Store fuel safely outside in properly labeled approved storage containers.

Stationary Generators (Whole House) Generators

Stationary generators run off gas utility lines or an LP tank. They automatically supply electrical power to pre-selected circuits that supply a home's lighting, air conditioning, water heater and appliances. They MUST be professionally installed by a licensed electrician.

A WORD ABOUT INSURANCE

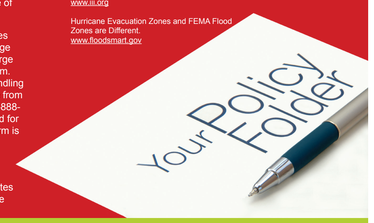
Understanding what is – and is not – covered in your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy is a necessity. Take time now to learn about the risks you may face and build confidence that you are properly protected. Read Your Policy. Talk with your Agent. Reviewing your insurance coverage annually is an important step to maintain the level of insurance protection necessary to be able to rebuild your home and replace your personal belongings.

6 STEPS TO PROPER INSURANCE PROTECTION

1. **Insure your home for its reconstruction cost, not its real estate value.** When real estate prices drop, many people think the amount of insurance coverage should be reduced. However, a home's real estate value has nothing to do with what it would cost to rebuild it in a post-disaster environment. Another mistake can occur by equating new construction costs to rebuilding costs. There are differences: Costs for reconstruction of an existing home are higher because it includes the cost of demolition and debris removal, challenges in accessing your site, and the absence of economies of scale associated with contractors who have multiple new construction jobs going on at once. Rebuilding a severely damaged home after a major storm is more closely matched to custom building costs.
2. **If you rent, you need insurance to protect your belongings.** Your landlord has insurance coverage on the building, not your personal property. A renter's insurance policy offers all the coverage of a standard homeowner's policy, except for the structure. It will help you replace your belongings if they are damaged in a hurricane or stolen. It also provides liability coverage, which will pay to repair damage that a renter may accidentally cause, such as a kitchen fire. Liability coverage also will defend you and pay any judgments against you for injuries to guests at your place, and it will provide for additional living expenses if you have to live somewhere else while your residence is being restored. Many people underestimate the value of their belongings, so it's important to do an inventory of your personal property so you know the replacement value of major household items.
3. **Know your flood risk.** Standard homeowner's policies do not cover damage from floods, including storm surge from a hurricane. Insurance for flooding and storm surge is available from the National Flood Insurance Program. Information should be available through the agent handling your regular homeowner's policy, but is also available from the National Flood Insurance Program or by calling 1-888-379-9531. Remember, there is a 30 day waiting period for flood insurance to go into effect. Don't wait until a storm is threatening.
4. **Set aside funds to pay your hurricane deductible.** Florida homeowner insurance policies have had a hurricane deductible since 2005. Seventeen other states and the District of Columbia have them, too. Hurricane deductibles are separate from deductibles for other types of losses. In most cases, hurricane deductibles are a percentage of the home's insured value. Homes insured for $100,000 or more have hurricane deductibles starting at 2 percent; homes valued at $100,000 or less have hurricane deductible starting at $500. Many homeowners choose hurricane deductibles at much higher levels to reduce the cost of their annual premium – up to 10 percent. High deductibles mean more out-of-pocket costs, so review the Declarations Page of your insurance policy to check this amount.
5. **Get covered for the costs of building code upgrades.** Building codes continually change and code improvements mean safer, stronger homes. If yours is badly damaged, you are required to rebuild it to meet code upgrades. Your insurance company offers supplemental coverage called an Ordinance and Law endorsement, which pays for the increased rebuilding costs necessary to comply with the latest building codes. Talk to your insurance agent or company to determine which level of this additional coverage best suits you.
6. Inventory your home's contents to accurately price coverage and speed the claims process. An up-to-date home inventory helps in two ways: It assures you purchased the right amount of insurance to replace your belongings, and it provides documentation of everything you own to assist your insurer when you file a claim. There is free, secure online home inventory software available from the Insurance Information Institute at www.KnowYourStuff.org. It offers online storage of your information, so you can access it from any location. Remember you can insure your belongings for actual cash value or pay a little more in premium to have full replacement cost coverage. For most people, replacement coverage is a better option when faced with large losses that come with hurricanes.

Acknowledgement: Insurance Information Institute
www.iii.org

Hurricane Evacuation Zones and FEMA Flood Zones are Different.
www.floodsmart.gov



EVACUATE OR STAY?

IF YOU CAN STAY HOME

If you live in a sound structure outside the evacuation area and do not live in a mobile home, stay home and take these precautions:

- ✓ Make sure your windows, doors and garage doors are protected.
- ✓ Clean containers to hold emergency bath tub for storing water. Plan on three gallons per person, per day for at least seven days for drinking and other uses.
- ✓ Check your **Disaster Supply Kit**. Make sure you have at least a seven day supply of non-perishable foods. Don't forget a non-electric can opener.
- ✓ Offer your home as shelter to friends or relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes.
- ✓ During the storm, stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- ✓ Find a safe Room in your home, usually an interior, windowless reinforced room such as a closet or bathroom on the lower floor.
- ✓ Wait for official word that the danger is over. Don't be fooled by the storm's second eye.
- ✓ If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
  Do not touch any electrical equipment if you are in water. Be certain that your hands are dry and you are not standing in water when you operate electrical switches.
- ✓ Offer your home as shelter for relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes.
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IF YOU MUST EVACUATE

If you live in an evacuation area or a mobile home, when an evacuation order is given, don't panic. Move at a steady pace and ensure you leave enough time to get to where you will weather the storm. **DO NOT** take chances with your life by staying at home or waiting until the weather turns bad.

- ✓ Make sure your destination is not within a zone that has been ordered to evacuate.
- ✓ Take enough supplies for your family.
- ✓ Take your pets. Don't forget their supplies.
- ✓ Take important papers, including your driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies and your insurance agent's name and number and property inventories.
- ✓ Also take irreplaceable items, such as photos or keepsakes.
- ✓ Let friends and relatives know where you are going.
- ✓ Make sure your neighbors have a safe ride.
- ✓ Turn off your electricity, water and gas if officials tell you to do so.
- ✓ Lock your windows and doors.
- ✓ Stay tuned to your local radio and television station for emergency broadcasts.

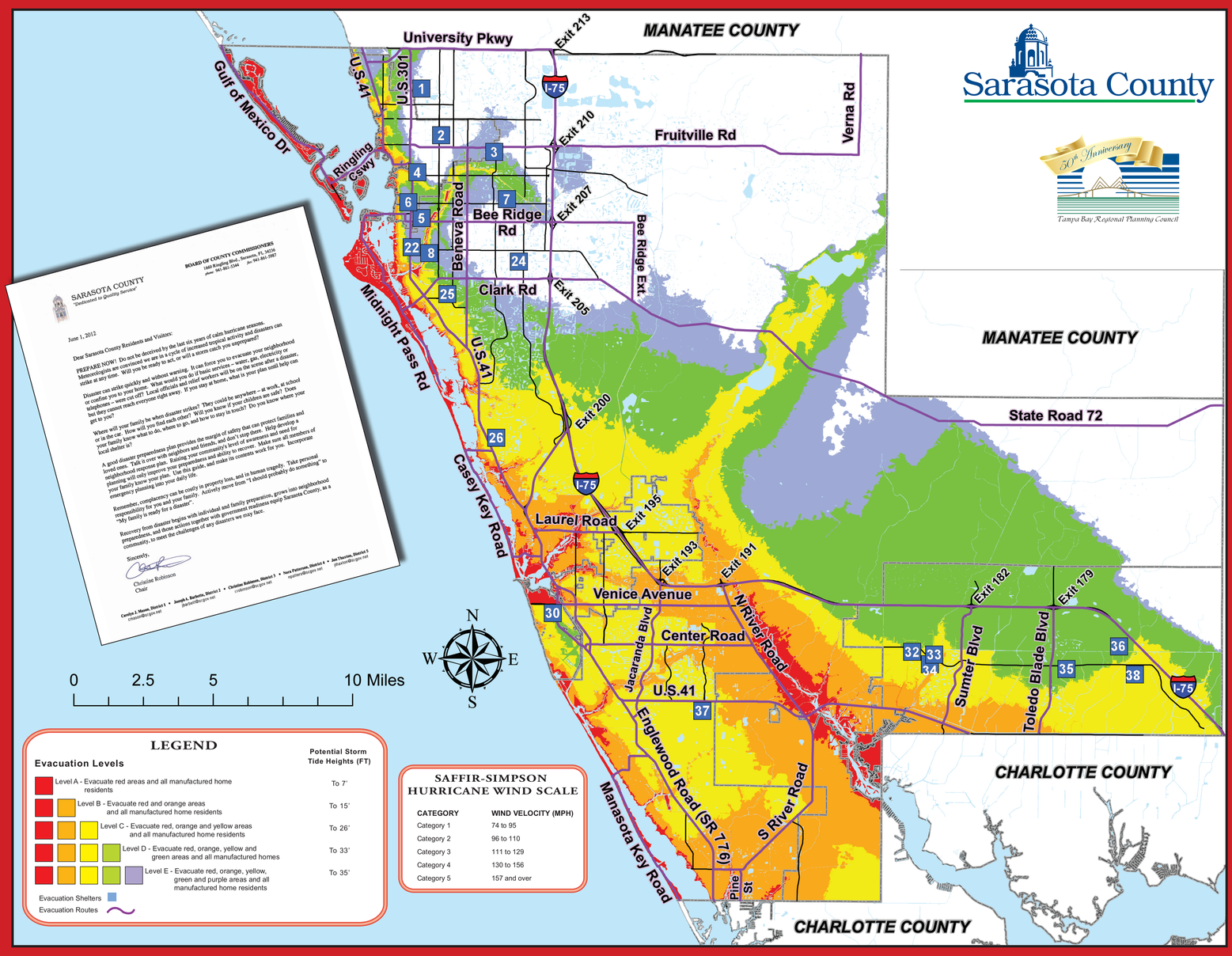
LEAVING COASTAL AREAS

If you are leaving the area, remember to take supplies with you. Move inland away from the storm surge and inland flooding, but it is not recommended that residents try to leave the region. Roads will be heavily congested and you run the risk of being caught on the highway without a safe refuge or running into the storm if it takes a different track.

HOTEL OR MOTEL

If you plan to go to a hotel or motel, you will need to check for availability and make your reservation well in advance. Some hotels/motels have standing reservation hurricane programs and some raise their pet restrictions in an emergency. Again, make sure your destination is not in an evacuation zone.

Sarasota County Evacuation Map



Sarasota County

50th Anniversary
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone 941-861-5266 Fax 941-861-5987

June 1, 2012

Dear Sarasota County Residents and Visitors:

PREPARE NOW! Do not be deceived by the last six years of calm hurricane seasons. Meteorologists are convinced we are in a cycle of increased tropical activity and disasters can strike at any time. Will you be ready to act, if a storm catch you unprepared?

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. When would you do if basic services – water, gas, electricity or telephone – were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. If you stay at home, what is your plan until help can get to you?

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere – at work, at school or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Does your family know what to do, where to go, and how to stay in touch? Do you know where your local shelter is?

A good disaster preparedness plan provides the margin of safety that can protect families and loved ones. Talk it over with neighbors and friends, and don't stop there. Help develop a neighborhood response plan. Raising your community's level of awareness and participation in planning will only improve your plan. Use this guide, and make its contents work for you. Incorporate your family knowledge into your daily life.

Remember, complacency can be costly in property loss, and in human tragedy. Take personal responsibility for you and your family. Actively move from "I should probably do something" to "My family is ready for a disaster".

Recovery from disaster begins with individual and family preparation, grows into neighborhood preparedness, and those actions together with government readiness equip Sarasota County, as a community, to meet the challenges of any disasters we may face.

Sincerely,

Christine Robinson
Chair

Carolyn J. Mason, District 1 • Joseph A. Barbetta, District 2 • Christine Robinson, District 3 • Nora Patterson, District 4 • Joe Thomas, District 5
cmason@scgov.net jbarbetta@scgov.net crobinson@scgov.net npatterson@scgov.net jthomas@scgov.net

LEGEND

Evacuation Levels	Potential Storm Tide Heights (FT)
Level A - Evacuate red areas and all manufactured home residents	To 7'
Level B - Evacuate red and orange areas and all manufactured home residents	To 15'
Level C - Evacuate red, orange and yellow areas and all manufactured home residents	To 26'
Level D - Evacuate red, orange, yellow and green areas and all manufactured homes	To 33'
Level E - Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green and purple areas and all manufactured home residents	To 35'

Evacuation Shelters
Evacuation Routes

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

CATEGORY	WIND VELOCITY (MPH)
Category 1	74 to 95
Category 2	96 to 110
Category 3	111 to 129
Category 4	130 to 156
Category 5	157 and over

SARASOTA COUNTY SHELTER INFORMATION

NO.	SHELTER NAME	ADDRESS	APPROX. ELEVATION	DOG/CAT SHELTER
1	Booker Middle School	2250 Myrtle St.	30'	
2	Tuttle Elementary School	2863 8th St.	34'	
3	Bishop Nevins Academy	4380 Fruitville Rd.	26'	
4	Sarasota High School	1000 S. School Ave.	11' - 23'	
5	Brookside Middle School	3636 S. Shade Ave.	27'	
6	Southside Elementary School	1901 Webber St.	22'	
7	Brentwood Elementary School	2500 Vinson Ave.	25'	
8	Riverview High School	1 Ram Way	18'	
22	Phillippi Shores Elementary School	4747 S. Tamiami Trail	32'	
24	Ashton Elementary School	5110 Ashton Rd.	30'	
25	Gulf Gate Elementary School	6500 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd.	21'	
26	Pine View School	501 Old Venice Rd.	15'	
30	Venice Community Center	326 S. Nokomis Ave.	19'	
32	Glenallen Elementary School	7050 Glenallen Blvd.	20'	
33	North Port High School	6400 W. Price Blvd.	21'	
34	Heron Creek Middle School	6501 W. Price Blvd.	21'	
35	Toledo Blade Elementary School	1201 Geranium Ave.	24'	
36	Woodland Middle School	2700 Panacea Blvd.	31'	
37	Taylor Ranch Elementary School	2500 Taylor Ranch Rd.	19'	
38	Atwater Elementary School	4701 Huntsville Ave.	25'	

In the event of a community emergency, Sarasota County has 20 emergency shelters for residents and visitors available as a last resort. Become familiar with the shelter information provided and make sure everyone in your household knows the following shelter facts:

- ✓ Shelters are opened on an "as-needed" basis.
- ✓ Shelter openings may vary with each emergency.
- ✓ Pet friendly shelters require current vaccination records for dogs and cats.
- ✓ Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open.
- ✓ Current shelter information is available from local radio and television stations, the Sarasota County Call Center at **(941) 861-5000** and Access Sarasota. More information is available on the county website, www.scgov.net.

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Shelter openings may vary with each emergency. Stay tuned to local media for a listing of shelters that will be open. Do not go to a shelter until local officials announce in the media that the shelter is open. Shelter openings will differ by size and intensity of a disaster. See map and shelter list above.

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

Sarasota County provides a shelter program for those residents requiring special medically related care. Special needs shelters will be available for persons requiring more skilled medical care than available in a public shelter but not requiring an acute care facility such as a hospital. If this type of extended care is needed, contact the Sarasota County Emergency Management office at **941-861-5000** or go online to www.scgov.net to be considered for registration into this program.

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS SUPPORT SERVICES (FNSS)

Functional Needs Support Services are services that enable children and adults to maintain their usual level of independence in a general population shelter. Those requiring FNSS may have physical, sensory, mental health, cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Individuals will not be turned away from general population shelters, or inappropriately placed in other environments. Upon arrival to a Sarasota County general population shelter, inform Shelter Management staff of your request for services to ensure the most effective approach. Sarasota County will make every effort to meet functional and access needs at approved County shelters upon request.

DOG AND CAT FRIENDLY SHELTERS

Sarasota County offers six dog and cat-friendly shelters, indicated on the shelter list of this guide. ***If you are unable to meet these requirements, please make other arrangements to shelter your pet.***

- ✓ Provide proof of current license and vaccination
- ✓ Pet must be in an appropriate pet crate
- ✓ Provide all items required for your pet
- ✓ You are responsible for the care of your pet while in the shelter
- ✓ Cohabitation of pets and owners is not permitted

USING YOUR COUNTY MAP

1. Locate where you live and work on the map.
2. Determine whether you are in an evacuation area, and if so, what level (color).
3. If you are in an evacuation area, or mobile home/manufactured home/RV, decide where you will go if ordered to evacuate. Your choices include:
   - ✓ Home of a relative or friend outside the evacuation zone
   - ✓ Hotel/motel outside the evacuation zone (make arrangements early)
   - ✓ Go to a public shelter
   - ✓ As a last resort leave the area entirely
4. If you must go to a public shelter, use your county map to decide which one is convenient. Make sure you verify the shelter is open before you go.

HURRICANE THREAT

- ✓ The colored areas on the map are vulnerable to storm surge. Storm surge is the saltwater flooding that rushes over coastal areas when the eye of a hurricane crosses land.
- ✓ Storm surge creates a path of destruction, wiping out structures as it rapidly surges inland and then recedes. This is a life threatening situation for anyone who ignores mandatory evacuation orders and stays in vulnerable areas.
- ✓ Hurricanes are categorized on a scale of 1 to 5, depending on wind strength and destructive power. The evacuation zones are color coded to designate the level of storm surge likely to occur with the five categories.
- ✓ If you live in an area ordered to evacuate, gather your family/pets and emergency supplies, secure your home and leave immediately. Failure to obey a mandatory evacuation order is a violation of state and local laws.

Note: All persons living in mobile homes/manufactured homes/RVs must evacuate for all mandatory evacuation orders, regardless of where you are located in the county.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

A NOAA weather radio can provide you with valuable hurricane information as well as vital warning information for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and other dangerous weather phenomena. It also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards such as chemical releases and significant matters of public safety.

WEB BASED HURRICANE INFORMATION

Sarasota County Government maintains a special web site to relay important hurricane information for local residents. You can find out which, if any, evacuation zone you live in, your nearest public shelters, special needs registration forms and much more. For more information, visit www.scgov.net, keyword: all hazards.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC) OF SARASOTA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The MRC is a community-based group of medical and non-medical volunteers. Training is provided to help members fulfill their roles. Examples include dispensing of medication or vaccinations, serving in hurricane shelters, assisting with disease outbreak investigation and community outreach. Please call **941-861-2900** or visit www.mrcsarasota.org if you would like to volunteer.

STORM DEBRIS

Remember to separate storm debris into the following categories:

- ✓ Garbage – place spoiled food in containers, or double bag it for pick-up
- ✓ Household goods – furniture, clothes, books, toys and carpet
- ✓ Vegetative – tree limbs and trunks
- ✓ Construction materials – drywall, roof shingles, aluminum
- ✓ Appliances – refrigerators, water heaters, televisions and computers

Tips:

- ✓ Avoid stacking debris by utility poles, under power lines, on top of water meter or other water connections, by fire hydrants, by vehicles, next to mailboxes or fences or on storm drains
- ✓ Do not place storm debris in the street

Live on a private road? If so, residents must grant the county the right to enter the roadway for debris removal. For further information or to obtain the Right-of-Entry/Hold Harmless form, call **941-861-5000**.

If a storm causes damage to your property, call **941-861-5000** for instructions on how to prepare storm-related debris for removal. If debris is not properly prepared, the property owner/resident is responsible for debris disposal and the cost for removal.

SARASOTA COUNTY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM – CodeRED

Sarasota County utilizes the CodeRED Notification System - a free, secure, advanced and effective emergency system that allows you to receive calls, emails alerts or text messages about events that could impact your neighborhood or help protect your family or property. This system allows us to send critical communications to all or targeted areas within the county when immediate actions are required. Your contact information remains private, and will only be used for PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY and WELLNESS purposes. Anyone with a physical address in Sarasota County may participate. Visit www.scgov.net for more information, to register now or update information, or call **941-861-5000**.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

SARASOTA COUNTY CALL CENTER	941-861-5000 WWW.SCGOV.NET
EVACUATION INFORMATION	941-861-5000
TDD-DEAF COMMUNICATIONS	941-861-1833
SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY	941-861-5000
AMERICAN RED CROSS SW FLORIDA CHAPTER	941-379-9300
SUNCOAST COMMUNITIES BLOOD BANKS 1760 Mound Street Sarasota, FL 34236 1097 N. Tamiami Trail Nokomis, FL 34275 710 N. Brevard Ave. Arcadia, FL 34266	For more information, call toll free 1-866-97-BLOOD or visit WWW.SCBB.ORG.
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	941-355-4680
VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	941-953-5965
SALVATION ARMY	941-954-4673
UNITED WAY	941-366-2686
211 REFERRAL LINE	211
ANIMAL SERVICES	941-861-9500
FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT	800-468-8243
HIGHWAY PATROL	941-492-5850
SHERIFF	941-861-5800
SOLID WASTE	941-861-5000
NOAA WEATHER RADIO, VENICE	FREQ 162.40 MHz FIPS code 012115
AM AND FM RADIO STATIONS	**RADIO AM** WLSS 930 WSRQ 1220 WTMY 1320 WBRD 1420 WWPR 1490 WENG 1530 **RADIO FM** WJIS 88.1 WKZM 104.3 WSMR 89.1 WTZB 105.9 WLTQ 92.1 WCTQ 106.5 WHPT 102.5 WSRZ 107.9 WSRQ 106.9

DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 FOR HURRICANE INFORMATION

A PARENT'S GUIDE ON WHAT TO BRING TO A SHELTER FOR YOUR CHILDREN

- ✓ Please bring age appropriate items for your child
- ✓ Baby food jars - combination of vegetables, fruits, cereals and meats
- ✓ Cereal (child age specific)
- ✓ Favorite snacks
- ✓ Healthy snacks
- ✓ Diaper wipes
- ✓ Diapers / pull-ups
- ✓ Formula (powered and/or ready-made)
- ✓ Oral electrolyte solution, such as Pedialyte
- ✓ Juice boxes
- ✓ Baby bottles
- ✓ Baby feeding spoons
- ✓ Nipples for baby bottles
- ✓ Diaper rash ointment
- ✓ Disposable changing pads
- ✓ Infant bathing basin, wash cloths and towels
- ✓ Infant hat and booties
- ✓ Lightweight blankets
- ✓ Portable crib
- ✓ Toddler potty seat
- ✓ Small toys that don't make noise such as books, cards, puzzles, handheld games, extra batteries, and any special item that the child may be attached to that provides comfort.