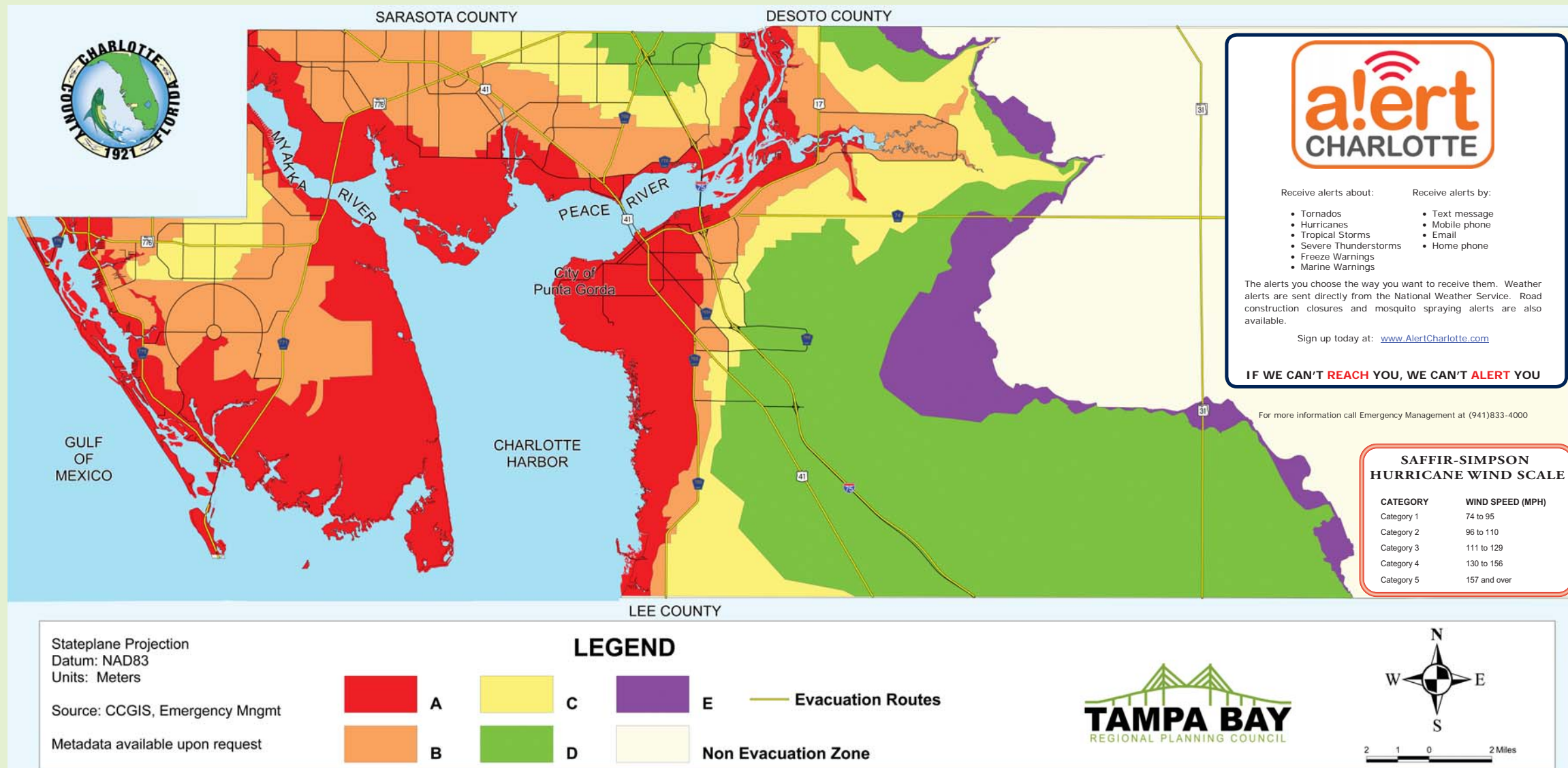


# CHARLOTTE COUNTY

## EVACUATION ZONES & SHELTERS



### 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/RV, decide where you will go if ordered to evacuate. Your choices include:
  4. Home of a relative or friend outside the evacuation zone
  5. Hotel/motel outside the evacuation zone (make arrangements early)
  6. Go to a public shelter
  7. As a last resort leave the area entirely
8. 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 produced by water being pushed towards the shore by the force of the winds moving around the storm.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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/RVs must evacuate for all mandatory evacuation orders, regardless of where you are located in the county.

#### Hurricane Watch:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified area. The hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

#### Hurricane Warning:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area. The hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Source: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutgloss.shtml#h>

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHELTERS

### RISK SHELTERS

RISK SHELTERS are buildings that can withstand the high-intensity winds of a hurricane and are at an elevation high enough to be safe from storm surge. Charlotte County has very few buildings, public or private, suitable for sheltering, above the Red and Orange evacuation zones. Only the two schools listed below can be used for safely sheltering residents when the storm surge prediction affects only those two zones.

#### CHARLOTTE COUNTY RISK SHELTERS

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Kingsway Elementary School</b> | <b>23300 Quasar Blvd., Port Charlotte</b> |
| <b>Liberty Elementary School</b>  | <b>370 Atwater St, Port Charlotte</b>     |

Note: The two risk shelters listed above may not be opened if a Category C - Yellow Evacuation Zone or greater is implemented

### SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS are for evacuees whose medical conditions cannot be addressed in a general population risk shelter. Persons requiring the additional level of care must pre-register so that adequate planning can take place to open this specialized type of shelter. Pre-registration can be done on line at: <https://snr.floridadisaster.org>. Paper applications can be requested by:

- Website Download - <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/emergencymgmt/Pages/Special-Needs-Shelters.aspx>
- Emailing - [emergency.management@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:emergency.management@charlottecountyfl.gov)
- Calling our office at 941-833-4000

### SHELTER SPACE

SHELTER SPACE is extremely limited and it is suggested that all other means of evacuation and sheltering be considered before going to a public shelter. Persons are required to bring their own food and water, blankets and pillows, and books or games to pass the time.

### PETS

PETS are allowed at any risk shelter opened by the County. Pet owners are requested to bring a sufficiently sized crate, vaccination documents, photo of you and your pet together, and food for their pet. Pets will be kept in an area separate from the rest of the shelter population.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

POLICE, FIRE, EMS EMERGENCIES	911
CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ENGLEWOOD	941-639-2101 941-474-3233
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	941-833-4000
CHARLOTTE COUNTY GOVERNMENT	941-743-1200
CHARLOTTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	941-624-7200
CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS	941-575-3600
CHARLOTTE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL	941-833-5690
CHARLOTTE COUNTY SOLID WASTE ENGLEWOOD	941-764-4360 941-697-4000
CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES	941-764-4300
CHARLOTTE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	941-255-0808
PUNTA GORDA GOVERNMENT	941-575-3310
PUNTA GORDA PUBLIC WORKS	941-575-5050
PUNTA GORDA UTILITIES	941-575-3339
FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT	1-800-468-8423
SALVATION ARMY	941-629-3170
AMERICAN RED CROSS	941-629-4345
OFFICIAL INFORMATION DURING EMERGENCIES	211

[www.CHARLOTTECOUNTYFL.gov](http://www.CHARLOTTECOUNTYFL.gov)