



The Official BROWARD CO

HURRICAN

Preparedness C



Ready. Se

Broward.org/Hurricane

BEFORE THE STORM



About This Guide

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The time to prepare for hurricane season is now. *Ready. Set. Safe.*, Broward's Official Hurricane Preparedness Guide, is designed to provide valuable information that you can use before, during and after a storm.

**Broward County
Board of County Commissioners**

For questions about the
Ready. Set. Safe.
Hurricane Preparedness Guide,
contact:

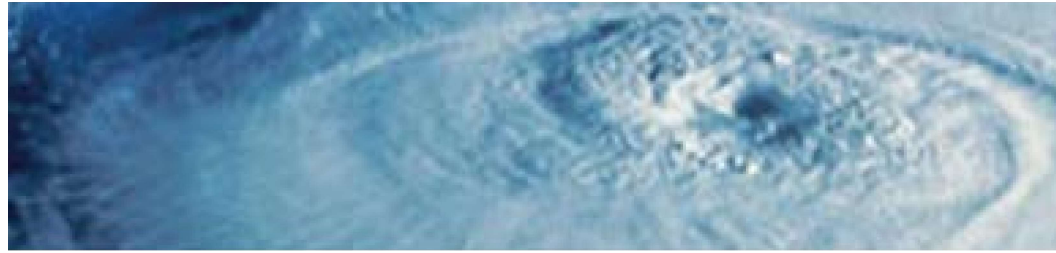
**Broward County
Office of Public Communications**
Governmental Center - Room 506
115 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

**954-357-6990
TTY 954-831-3940**

For more information, visit:
Broward.org/Hurricane

This publication can be made available in alternative formats by request.

Broward County is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.



Develop a Hurricane Plan

STEP 1 **Hold a family meeting**

Discuss the hazards of hurricanes. Encourage children to talk about their fears. Make a list of the things you'll be doing to keep everyone safe. Start a written list of tasks and responsibilities for care of before hurricane season and encourage everyone in the family to help.

STEP 2 **Discuss whether you'll need to evacuate**

Determine whether you live in an evacuation zone and, if so, where you should go if an evacuation order is given. Going to a family or friend's house or hotel outside the evacuation zone is the best choice. If you choose to go out of town, do so well in advance of the storm. If you can only provide for only basic needs, this should be your choice of last resort.

STEP 3 **Ensure your assets are protected**

Inventory your home possessions and videotape, record or photograph your insurance policies before hurricane season starts to ensure you have them. Once a hurricane watch has been issued, insurers will not issue new or renew policies.

STEP 4 **Assess your home for vulnerable areas**

Do a walk-through of your home and property to evaluate your roof, windows, doors, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions you will take.

STEP 5 **Make a plan to protect your vehicles**

Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat or RV. Check your insurance policy and keep it in the same safe place as your homeowner's policy.

STEP 6 **Secure your home**

Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and your property (e.g., generator, tree-trimming), and to keep as comfortable as possible during the storm.

STEP 7 **Determine whether anyone in your home has special medical needs, or is vulnerable in an emergency**

Discuss whether anyone in your home has special needs in an emergency because of a medical condition, or because they are elderly or disabled. Make arrangements in advance to accommodate those needs.

STEP 8 **Make a plan for your pets**

Determine how you will address your pet's needs and make a plan in case you have to evacuate. Be sure to plan for large outdoor animals as well, such as horses, pigs and cows.

STEP 9 **Gather your supplies**

Determine your family's food, water and medical needs and assemble your hurricane kit according to those needs (see checklist on page 3 for essential items to include).

STEP 10 **Notify others of your plan**

Let family or friends know what your hurricane plan is so they can check on you in the aftermath.



BEFORE THE STORM

Every family in Broward County should be prepared to be self-sufficient for the first three to five days after a major storm so recovery efforts can focus on those who can't help themselves.

Plan for the Storm's Approach

- **Plan in Advance** – If you live in an evacuation zone and an evacuation is ordered, you are required by law to evacuate. Public shelters are a refuge of last resort. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort, and only one shelter accepts pets, although service animals for the disabled are accepted at all shelters.
- **Identify a Safe Room** – If you plan to stay at home, identify the safest room in your home (see page 8). This is generally an interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Make plans to take shelter in this room in the event of a direct hit.
- **Request Assistance if Needed** – If you require special assistance in evacuating, or need to stay at a Special Medical Needs shelter, call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940). If a member of your family is elderly, frail or disabled and may become vulnerable in the aftermath of a storm, register them with Broward County's Vulnerable Population Registry. Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select **Residents at Risk**, or call 311 or 954-831-4000.
- **Stock Your Hurricane Kit** – See Checklist at right. Plan on supplies including food and water that will sustain your family for three to five days, and a two-week supply of medicines.
- **If Evacuating Out of the Area, Leave Early** – Plan to leave as early as 48 hours in advance, and no later than the issuance of a Hurricane Watch. Keep in mind that a hurricane's path is uncertain and you could inadvertently evacuate to an area where the storm may eventually strike. Take along your hurricane kit.
- **Document Assets** – Make a visual or written record of your assets for insurance purposes. Also, photograph the exterior of your home including landscaping or structures that may not be insurable but impact the value of your property. Take these records with you if you evacuate.
- **Protect Important Papers** – Photocopy important papers such as insurance policies and store them with a friend or in a safe deposit box outside of the hurricane area.
- **Secure Your Home** – Shutter windows and glass doors, and anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside.
- **Prepare a Water Supply** – Know who your water service provider is so you will know if a "boil water" order applies to your home. Check your water bill if you are unsure. As the storm approaches, fill pre-sanitized sinks and tubs with clean water for bathing and flushing toilets.
- **Set Appliances** – Turn refrigerators and freezers to highest settings in anticipation of a power outage.
- **Get Cash** – Banks and ATMs do not operate without electricity.
- **Get Gas** – Gas pumps do not work without electricity.
- **Charge Phones** – Charge your cell phone and wireless phone batteries.
- **Check on Neighbors** – Check on your neighbors — especially the elderly and those with special needs.
- **Notify Others of Your Plans** – Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all family members have a single point of contact. Notify this contact and other family members and friends of your plans.
- **Plan For Your Pet** — Specialized pet shelters, pet-friendly hotels, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster. For a list of pet-friendly hotels and boarding kennels, visit Broward.org/Animal. If you plan to go with your pet to a pet-friendly shelter, space is limited to those living in mobile homes and evacuation areas, and advance, in-person, preregistration is required. Call the Broward County Humane Society at 954-989-3977.

Hurricane Kit

- ☐ Drinking Water: At least one gallon per person per day for three to five days. Extra water is needed for personal hygiene. To store water, use food-grade containers. Avoid plastic containers such as two-liter bottles. If you re-use containers, do not keep them for more than two days.
- ☐ Food: At least enough for three to five days, including non-perishable food, canned or shelf-stable food, and snack foods.
- ☐ A three- to five-day supply of baby supplies such as formula, diapers, and special foods for the elderly.
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Manual can opener/bottle opener
- ☐ Paper goods such as paper plates, paper towels, and plastic eating utensils
- ☐ Unscented household bleach
- ☐ Extra bedding such as blankets, pillows, bag, etc. in case you must sleep on the floor
- ☐ Clothing, including rain gear
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Medicines/prescription drugs
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-operated or hand-cranked radio
- ☐ Disposable batteries, charger for your cell phone
- ☐ Hardline telephone with extra batteries
- ☐ Books and games or toys
- ☐ Pet food, cat litter and litter box
- ☐ Tool kit including cord, pliers, wrench, nails, saw, hatchet or axe, shovel, blades, tarp, duct tape
- ☐ Plastic trash bags and ties
- ☐ Extra resealable plastic bags, aluminum foil and disposable plates
- ☐ Extra charcoal or propane for cooking. Sterno can also be used with any of these items. Smoke and fumes are a hazard.
- ☐ Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Mosquito repellent with DEET
- ☐ Any special equipment



Quick Tip

Prepare ahead for your medical needs such as dialysis, insulin, oxygen and any prescription drugs. The emergency refill law now allows you to obtain a

Broward County has prepared a Shopping Guide to help you assemble your hurricane kit. Visit Broward.org/Hurricane for more information.

BEFORE THE STORM



- **SHELTER REGISTRATION:** Develop a shelter plan, even if your plan is to shelter at home. If you plan to evacuate to a shelter, preregistration is not required; however, preregistration is encouraged if you plan on going to a Special Needs Shelter. Call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940). If you preregister, you are not obligated to go to the shelter in an emergency. You can change your plans without notice if you make other arrangements.
- **TRANSPORTATION REGISTRATION:** Preregister for paratransit transportation, if you think you may need it. As with shelter registration, you are not obligated to take advantage of the service if your plans change. To preregister, call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940).
- **VULNERABLE POPULATION REGISTRY:** Residents who are disabled, frail or have health issues should register in advance with the Vulnerable Population Registry. The Registry is not a guarantee of services, but it enables city emergency workers to better respond to vulnerable resident needs in a recovery effort. For more information or to register, visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select **Residents At Risk**, or call 311 or 954-831-4000.
- **PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER REGISTRATION:** Service animals are accommodated at all shelters. If you plan on sheltering with your pet, however, you must stay at Broward County's pet-friendly shelter at Millennium Middle School in Tamarac, operated by the Humane Society of Broward County and the American Red Cross. Call 954-989-3977, and press 7, or visit www.humanebroward.com. This is a pet-friendly shelter only and not a mass care shelter. Preregistration is required, and owners are expected to shelter with their pets and care for them.
- **LARGE ANIMAL REGISTRATION:** Register any large animals you own with the Broward County Large Animal Disaster Planning Committee Registry. Visit Large Animal Registry
- **EMERGENCY UPDATE EMAIL SYSTEM:** To sign up to be notified via email of important public safety information during a storm, visit

Know the Lingo

Hurricane Watch – Hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours. Preparations should be underway.

Hurricane Warning – Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Preparations should be rushed to completion.

Know the Hazards

Storm Surge – Storm surge is the most dangerous element of a hurricane. It is a rise in ocean water that can be 20 feet high at its peak and 50 to 100 miles inland. Most hurricane fatalities are attributable to storm surge.

Wind – A hurricane is a tropical storm with constant winds greater than 74 mph for at least 1 hour. These winds can extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes, which add to their potential for destruction.

Rain – Because of the tropical nature of hurricanes, they contain rain bands that can be very heavy. At times, be torrential and cause floods and flash floods.

Know When to Go

Evacuation – Hurricane evacuations are ordered by the Broward County Board of Commissioners to protect coastal residents from dangerous storm surge, and mobile home residents from rising water and high wind. The type of evacuation ordered will be based on the severity of the storm.

Evacuation Plan A – Hurricane Category 1 or 2 - All residents east of U.S. 1, mobile home residents, residents beside tidal bodies of water, and residents in low-lying areas.

Evacuation Plan B – Hurricane Category 3 and higher - In addition to residents evacuated under Plan A, all residents east of U.S. 1 (Federal Highway 1) will be evacuated.



SPECIAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE

If you have a disability or special medical need, your emergency plans must fit your needs.

- Talk to your physician or health care provider about a realistic plan for your needs.
- Carefully evaluate your shelter options and make advanced plans. Reasonable accommodations must be made for shelter residents with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). See page 6.
- If you undergo routine treatments (such as dialysis), are a home health care patient, or use oxygen supplies, call your service provider to discuss their plans for continuing care in an emergency.
- Create a Personal Information Card with all your health information (doctors, medications, etc.).
- Place identification labels on any medical support equipment you would take with you, such as wheelchairs, walkers and nebulizers.
- If you have a service animal, make sure the animal has a collar with identification, that the animal's vaccinations are up to date, and a copy of written instructions for the animal's care.
- Collect your emergency supplies early. Keep ample supplies of prescription medications on hand, especially during business hours. Use 1-800-368-7087 for more information.

BEFORE THE STORM

SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME

Look For Vulnerabilities

Before hurricane season begins, there are steps that you can take to reduce damage to your home and property. The first step is to walk around your home and look for vulnerabilities including your roof, garage door, windows, pool and yard.

Assess The Roof

A great time to start securing or retrofitting your house is when you are making other improvements.

- Checking the roof yourself is not only dangerous, it can cause damage. Hire a licensed professional.
- Shingles, tiles and panels should be fastened down tightly and loose ones replaced.
- Asphalt shingles should be attached using hot-dipped, galvanized nails.
- Roof trusses should have braces and hurricane straps should be installed. Check to ensure tarps are secured to the roof with 2"x1" wood strips placed at 48" on center, especially at the edges.

Trim Your Trees

- Trim trees and shrubs regularly. Remove weak branches, especially those resting on your roof, and thin out the upper canopy. **Do not trim trees once a storm warning has been issued.**
- Don't attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines. Only specially trained professionals should work around power lines.
- Consult with your city for specific provisions

STANDARDS FOR STORM-PROOFING A ROOF

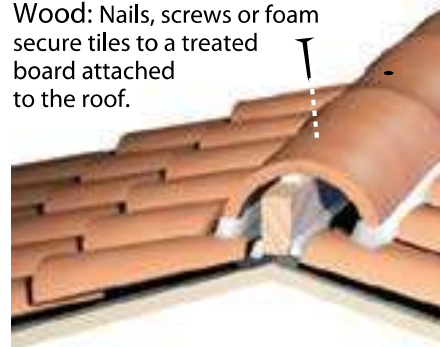
Broward officials have new standards for securing tiles to ridge using nails, screws, or foam

PREFERRED SOLUTIONS Required for all tile systems

Metal: A line of foam secures tiles to a metal frame.



Wood: Nails, screws or foam secure tiles to a treated board attached to the roof.



SOURCES: Bob McDonald of Gulfstream Roofing; Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association; Chris Schulte, owner of Latite Roofing and Sheet Metal, Commissioner of Florida Building Commission.

Courtesy of Sun-Sentinel

Hurricane-Proof Your Business!

- Make multiple backups of critical computer data and store them off premises. Keep checks, purchase orders, financial records, property and vehicle titles off the premises as well.
- Unplug and wrap all electronics in plastic and store them in high and dry places.
- Have a communication plan in place and make sure your employees' emergency contact information is current.
- Take "before" and "after" pictures to aid in any claims.
- Allow employees adequate time to prepare for the approaching storm.

regarding tree pruning. Hat racking and tree topping are both illegal.

- Place properly cut and bundled yard waste at the curb in accordance with your city's solid waste collection rules. However, do not take garbage or waste to the curb once a storm watch or warning has been announced.
- If you are inexperienced in the use of a chain saw, seek professional assistance.
- Make sure newly planted trees and recently reset trees are properly staked and braced.
- Be aware that Broward County requires all commercial tree trimmers to be licensed. Visit Broward.org/PermittingandLicensing and select **Regulated Business** and then, **Industries We Regulate**, or call 954-765-4400, option 2.

Check All Doors

- Solid wood or hollow metal doors are more likely to resist wind pressure and flying debris. Doors should have at least three hinges and a deadbolt security lock with a bolt throw of at least 1".
- Install head and foot bolts on the inactive door of double-entry doors. The surface bolt should extend through the door header and through the threshold into the sub floor.
- Garage doors should have steel bracing. Check

with your garage or retrofitting kits. Two-by-six-inch studs of the door, applied is a good time to plan on keeping a storm.

Shutter Your Windows

If you already have make sure they're in

- For accordion or see if they open of obstructions of shutters, check for connectors.
- Using plywood n way of covering enough protection shutters are preferred make sure it is a proper anchors
- Make sure shutter County Product Code Product Ap
- Shutters should professional and agency such as department.
- DO NOT USE TA window from bre
- Do not leave an pressure between your home. It is dangerous mistake

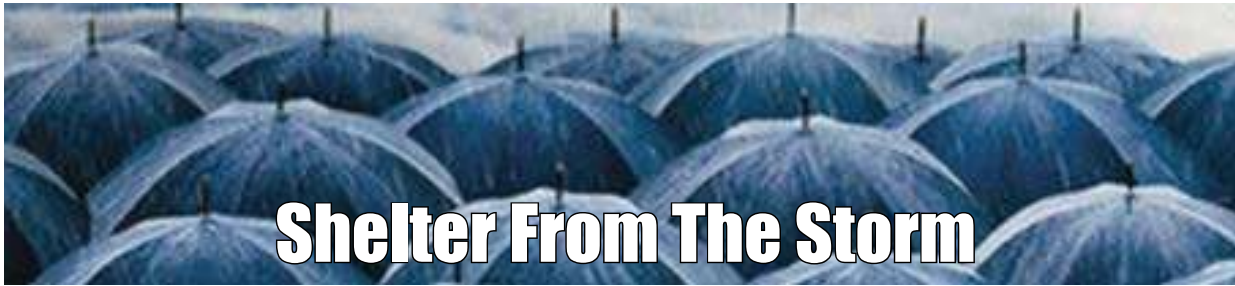
Protect Your Pool

- Keep water in the pool's finish from may lower the w one to two feet. could cause the p
- Add extra chlorin contamination.
- Turn off the pow
- Remove the pool indoors in a dry a plastic material secure it tightly w
- Remove all loose (furniture, pool c tops, deck lids, e
- After the storm, r level to normal; the pH, super-ch the water is clear



Go native! For a complete database of native trees

BEFORE THE STORM



Shelter From The Storm

Your Shelter Options

Option One – Stay With Family or Friends Outside the Evacuation Zone

This is your first, best choice and where you will be most comfortable.

Option Two – Stay in a General Population Shelter

American Red Cross general population shelters provide a basic level of care and are open to all. No preregistration is required. If you have a self-managed health condition or disability, you will likely be able to shelter comfortably in a general population shelter. When you arrive at the shelter, be sure to tell shelter personnel what your needs are.

If you need transfer assistance, sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, or a quiet zone for a cognitive disability or mental health need, call 311, 954-831-4000 or TTY 954-831-3940 for the most updated information.

Option Three – Stay in a Special Needs Shelter

If you have a medical condition that requires a greater level of care than that provided at a General Population shelter, but you do not require hospitalization, a Special Needs Shelter may be appropriate for you. These shelters offer basic medical assistance and monitoring. They are staffed by qualified medical personnel and have back-up electricity for limited lighting and essential medical equipment. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany residents with special medical needs. Preregistration is encouraged but not required. Call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940).

Option Four – Stay in a Hospital or Other Medical Facility

If your medical condition exceeds the level of care provided at a Special Needs shelter and/or you require hospitalization or one-on-one care, work with your physician or medical provider to arrange the safest

IF YOU MUST EVACUATE ...

- Have a good meal before you get on the road or go to a Red Cross shelter. Shelters open approximately four hours after an evacuation is ordered.
- Evacuate as soon as possible, preferably during daylight. Roads and bridges frequently become crowded and traffic moves slowly.
- Unplug appliances and turn off electricity, the main water valve and gas for the stove or water heater. This will reduce potential damage to your appliances and the risk of fire from power surges or gas line breaks.
- Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone or area prone to flooding, raise furniture, photographs and other irreplaceable items to a higher floor.
- Bring preassembled emergency supplies (see Shelter Kit Checklist on page 7).
- Lock up your home and leave.

Items not permitted in shelters include firearms and explosive devices, intoxicating beverages, and illegal drugs.

Service animals are permitted in all shelters. Be sure to bring food, water, bowls and any other items necessary for their care and comfort.

For a list of pet-friendly hotels and boarding kennels, visit Broward.org/Hurricane, select A-Z Planner and select Animals.

TRANSPORTATION TO SHELTERS

What You Need To Know

Bus operations: When an evacuation is ordered, Broward County Transit buses cease regularly scheduled service and begin emergency evacuation service from evacuation zones. The service coincides with the opening of American Red Cross shelters and will not begin before the shelters open. Under Evacuation Plan A, you can go to any regular bus stop along A1A. Under Evacuation Plan B, buses will run routes along both A1A and Federal Highway.

Persons with disabilities: Broward County Transit's Paratransit Services section coordinates transportation for residents with disabilities. Call 954-831-3902 or TTY 954-831-3940.



Special Needs

Preregistration for the Special Needs Shelter is encouraged throughout the year, and is strongly encouraged to ensure you are adequately prepared to evacuate. For a Special Needs Shelter, call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940).

A person with Special Needs who:

- has minor health/medical conditions that require professional observation and maintenance
- requires assistance with daily activities, including assistance with medication management and hospitalization
- needs medications and/or medical equipment that is unable to do so without assistance

All residents seeking shelter will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the best placement for them.

Reasonable modification of sheltering procedures for residents with disabilities is encouraged. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations include transfer assistance, sign language interpretation, and other auxiliary aids, or a quiet zone for a cognitive disability or mental health need. Call 954-831-3902 or TTY 954-831-3940 for the most updated information. As with all shelters, service animals accompany residents to all shelter sites.

An oxygen-dependent sheltering site is a limited number of residents who require oxygen or 24-hour electrical monitoring.

Residents are encouraged to bring family members or friends.

What To Bring: If you are staying in a Special Needs Shelter, plan to bring your own supplies, including any special medical equipment, in addition to the shelter kit. See the Shelter Kit Checklist on page 7.



BEFORE THE STORM

SHELTER KIT CHECKLIST

Please remember that while a shelter is intended to help keep you safe during the storm, it isn't a hotel. Bring these essential items along to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ Bedding such as pillows, blankets, air mattress
- ☐ Books, games
- ☐ Non-perishable snacks
- ☐ Extra change of clothing
- ☐ Baby supplies: ample amounts of baby food, formula, juice, diapers and wipes, and a stroller, portable crib or play pen
- ☐ Needed medications
- ☐ Driver's license, other identification
- ☐ Cash, traveler's checks
- ☐ Personal items such as extra eyeglasses, hearing aid, etc.
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Important documents such as birth or marriage certificates, Social Security cards, passports, immunization records, checkbook and bank account files, wills, vehicle titles, insurance policies, stocks, bonds, deeds, computer backup disk, etc.

HURRICANE EVACUATION MAP

Emergency
311 or

Emergency Management Division
Environmental Protection
and Growth Management Department
201 N.W. 84th Avenue, Plantation, FL 33324
Telephone: 954-831-3900

Emergency Hotline: 311 or 954-831-4000

AMERICAN RED CROSS Operated Regional Emergency Shelters

- 1) **Lyons Creek Middle School**
4333 Sol Press Blvd., Coconut Creek 33073
- 2) **Coral Glades High School**
2700 Sportsplex Dr, Coral Springs 33065
- 3) **Monarch High School**
5050 Wiles Road, Coconut Creek 33073
- 4) **Pompano Beach High School**
1400 N. E. 6th St., Pompano Beach 33060
- 5) **Park Lakes Elementary School**
3925 N. State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes 33319
- 6) **Rock Island Elementary/Arthur Ashe Middle School**
1701 N. W. 23rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale 33311
- 7) **Plantation Elementary School**
651 N. W. 42nd Ave., Plantation 33317
- 8) **Fox Trail Elementary School**
1250 Nob Hill Road, Davie 33324
- 9) **Falcon Cove Middle School**
4251 Bonaventure Blvd., Weston 33332
- 10) **Silver Trail Middle School**
18300 Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines 33331
- 11) **New Renaissance Middle School**
10701 Miramar Blvd., Miramar 33025
- 12) **Watkins Elementary School**
3520 S. W. 52nd Ave., Pembroke Park 33023
- 13) **Everglades High School**
17100 SW 48 Court, Miramar, FL 33027
- 14) **West Broward High School**
500 NW 209 Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029

Not all shelters may be open during a state of emergency. Monitor news reports or call the Emergency Hotline, 311 or 954-831-4000, for specific shelter information.

Pet-Friendly Shelter

A pet-friendly shelter operated by the American Red Cross and the Humane Society is available to residents with pets in a mobile home anywhere in Broward County. Call the Humane Society at 954-989-3977.

PLAN A Evacuation Typically a Category 1-2 hurricane.

Those persons located in low lying areas or beside water may be required to evacuate to a shelter elsewhere if conditions warrant. ALL mobile home residents must evacuate under PLAN A and PLAN B. In addition, mobile home residents may be required to evacuate if tropical storm conditions warrant.



PETS IN SHELTERS - What You Need to Know Before You go

Service animals are permitted in all shelters. Visit www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm for additional information.

A pet-friendly shelter is available to pet owners living in the County. The human side of the shelter is operated by the American Red Cross. The pet side of the shelter is operated by the Humane Society. Advance, in-person, preregistration is required. You can do so at the Humane Society, 2070 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale (one block west of I-95) weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., starting June 1. Call 954-989-3977 or visit HumaneBroward.com for details. Call ahead for details on what you will be asked to provide. This is a pet-friendly shelter only, and not a general population shelter. The shelter is located at Millennium Middle School in Tamarac.



HOMELESS SHELTERS

Broward County Transit buses will offer evacuation transportation from three assigned pick-up points to shelters when a hurricane warning is issued.

Quick Tip

DURING THE STORM

RIDING OUT THE STORM



Once the storm arrives, there are some additional measures you can take to keep everyone as safe as possible.

- Stay indoors in a secure location, or your "safe room." The strongest part of a house is usually away from windows and exterior doors.
- Place towels along window sills and the bottom of doors leading outside to keep water from coming in. Have buckets, mops and sponges handy in the event of flooding.
- Elevate valuables to table tops or high places if flooding occurs.
- Do not go outside as the calm eye of the hurricane passes over, unless repairs are absolutely essential. The storm is not over. The worst can happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Be aware that tornadoes can appear anytime during a hurricane. Monitor your local station and if a tornado warning is issued, take cover in an interior hallway or on the lower level if in a tall building. Stay away from

glass doors and windows. You can also take cover under heavy furniture in the center of a house.

- Leave the main breaker on unless the electricity goes off. If the electricity goes off, turn off air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, television sets and computers to avoid the possibility of damage due to power surges. If the power returns and is steady, these may be turned back on.
- Use flashlights for lighting when the power goes off. Do not use candles or any other type of open flame. The fire department may be unable to respond during a hurricane.
- Use the telephone for emergencies only. Jammed phone lines may obstruct emergency calls for police, fire rescue, emergency medical and Red Cross disaster units.
- Open refrigerator and freezer doors as little as possible.
- Stay away from the fuse box, main breaker and electrical outlets in the event of flooding. Normally, the electrical current will fail with flooding.

Retreat To "Safe Room"

Having a designated "safe room" can help you protect yourself from the dangerous forces of a storm. It can also relieve some of the anxiety of an oncoming tornado or hurricane. Keep in mind when choosing your

- A good "safe room" should be on the first floor of a house.
- Closets, bathrooms and bedrooms with only one door and no windows can be used as "safe rooms." They have the added advantage of being a toilet.
- Keep in mind that a "safe room" should be free of clutter, have a secure entry, and so occupants can protect themselves from falling objects. A basement is not as safe as a closet or storeroom.
- If you have the option, your "safe room" should not be in an area that is prone to flooding.
- Your "safe room" should be protected from all parts of the house.
- Your "safe room" must be able to be reached from the house foundation and should be able to be lifted.
- The walls, roof and floor should be protected against projectiles. Taping windows does not prevent wind from entering.
- Finally, buildings designed to withstand high pressures inside and out. Windows and doors should not be subjected to high pressure. This allows the building to withstand the pressure and increases the resistance of the windows and doors.

For Kids ...

Children who live in the track of hurricanes feel firsthand the threat of danger to themselves and those they care about. To comfort and reassure them, try these suggestions from the National Mental Health Association:

- Reassure them that they're safe
- Be honest and open about the disaster, but keep information "age-appropriate"
- Encourage them to express their feelings through talking, drawing or playing
- Try to maintain your daily routines as much as possible
- Limit their exposure to media reports

Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select *Hurricane Kids* for a sampling of kid-friendly hurricane sites with games and activities

We want you to be Ready. Set. Safe.



Commander Ready



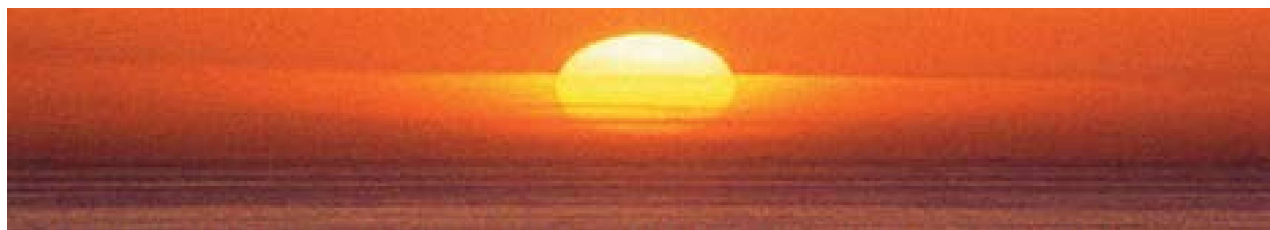
Captain SafeWay

For more information contact the Broward County Alliance for Safe Home. Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select "Safe Room."



Before you go to the air raid shelter, make sure that operations may be affected. Be sure to contact your local emergency scheduling information. For more information, be found by visiting Broward.org/Hurricane or call the A-Z Planner then Air Raid Alert at 954-831-4000.

AFTER THE STORM



Keeping Safe In The Storm's Aftermath

Some of the greatest hurricane dangers present themselves after the storm has passed. Keep these important tips in mind.

- Treat all downed power lines as if they were live. If you see a power line that is sparking or arcing, call 911.
- Walk cautiously and avoid standing water which may hide downed power lines or hazardous objects. Don't venture out in the dark because you might not see a power line that could still be energized.
- Debris-filled streets are dangerous. Snakes and poisonous insects may be a hazard.
- Do not drive unless it is an emergency. If the power is out, traffic lights will not be working, stop signs and street signs may have blown away. Streets will be littered with debris. Washouts may have weakened road and bridge structures.

- Take precautions to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure in city mains and the interruption of other services will make firefighting difficult after a hurricane.
- Protect property from further damage. Plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber or other materials can be used to seal or protect property that has been exposed by the storm. Make temporary repairs that won't endanger your safety.
- Notify insurance representatives of any losses.
- Take photographs or a video of damaged areas to substantiate your claim.
- Prepare a detailed inventory of damaged or destroyed property for the adjuster. Include a description of the item, date of purchase, cost at time of purchase, and estimated replacement cost.
- Be patient. Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. In a major catastrophe, the insurance industry will have emergency offices and extra adjusters available to expedite claims and speed recovery efforts.



Generators are useful when electric power is needed. However, they are extremely dangerous if used incorrectly. They can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, or electric shock, electrocution.

- When installing a generator, be sure to obtain the permission of a licensed electrician.
- Use the generator in a well-ventilated area, away from garages, basements, and bedrooms.
- You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. If you start to feel sick, get out of the generator, get outside, and call 911.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not refuel a generator while it is running.
- Do not store fuel near the generator.
- Do not connect a generator to your house because it can backflow back into power lines and injure power workers.



Beware Of Flooding Hazards

- If there is flooding in your home or business, be sure the building is not in danger of collapsing, and watch for loose and falling debris.
- Remember that anything flood waters have reached must be considered contaminated, including food, canned goods, cosmetics and medicines.
- Call a licensed electrician if you have significant water damage to your home that might make it unsafe for you to receive electricity.
- If your home has gas service, be alert for gas fumes and call your local utility from outside the home if any are detected.
- Do not drink water from the faucet unless it has been declared safe.



Quick Tip

Protect against mosquito bites by taking these precautions: Stay indoors at dawn and dusk. Wear clothing that covers most of your skin. Use repellent containing DEET, except on children under two months. Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs.



The University of Florida recommends the following safety tips:

- Keep both hands on the handle.
- Never cut branches or limbs.
- Cut with the lower blade whenever possible.
- Don't force the saw.
- Wear protective clothing, sturdy shoes, gloves.



When traffic signals are out of order, they should be treated as stop signs. In times of chaos, please wait your turn and report downed traffic signals to the Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Engineering's

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IF THE POWER GOES OUT...

Keep Your Cool

Since hurricanes occur during the hottest time of the year in South Florida, heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses become a consideration when the power goes out and homes are without air conditioning. Problems can develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Drink cool, non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages. If your doctor limits the amount of fluid you drink or you take water pills, ask how much you should drink when the weather is hot. Also, avoid extremely cold liquids because they can cause cramps.
- Rest.
- Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath.
- If possible, seek an air-conditioned environment such as a mall or public library, if they have power.
- Wear lightweight clothing.
- If possible, remain indoors during the heat of the day.
- Avoid strenuous activities.
- Signs of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, cool and moist skin, fast and weak pulse rate, fast and shallow breathing. If you experience these symptoms, consider seeking medical attention.

Use Running Water Sparingly

During power outages, lift stations that normally pump raw sewage/wastewater may not be operating if they are not powered by a generator. Please restrict your use of running water as the system can eventually back up into your street, or showers, toilets and sink drains inside your home.

Don't Drink The Water

Immediately following a hurricane, don't use tap water until you know it is safe. This includes not giving it to your pets, or using it for washing, cleaning, cooking, brushing your teeth, making ice or making formula. If a boil water order is issued for your area, follow these guidelines from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County:

- Boil water at a rolling boil for one minute to kill infectious organisms
- If you don't have power, you can mix 8 drops (1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water and allow to stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, add 16 drops (1/4 teaspoon) and let stand for 30 minutes. The water will not be toxic, though it may have a chlorine odor and taste.
- If a boil water order is issued, remember that water system boundaries do not always correspond to city boundaries. Residents who are not sure of their water service provider should check their water bill or call their individual city.

Report sparking and arcing power lines immediately by calling 911. To report an outage, call 800-4-OUTAGE (468-8243).

Observe Curfews

Listen to local radio and television stations for curfew announcements. Curfews are not unusual for communities that suffer a direct hit from a storm. Roads and highways may be blocked, and hidden dangers may exist after dark such as downed trees and power lines, especially in flooded areas. Law enforcement and emergency services may be strained. All residents and businesses are expected to follow curfew laws. Exemptions to this are essential personnel such as law enforcement, fire-rescue, hospital or other healthcare workers, emergency management and others involved in recovery efforts.

Gas Safety Tips

- Evacuate immediately if you smell natural gas, rotten eggs, or see flames in the area by opening the door. Do not light matches, switches, or use the phone.
- Call the gas company or telephone outside the house. Energy/Peoples Gas will respond to natural gas emergencies 24 hours a day. If unable to contact your gas company, call 1-800-4-A-SAFE or 1-800-4-4-SAFE.
- If you evacuate, do not return to the main meter. If personnel should tell you to do so, you can turn off the appliances.
- If you have difficulty with gas appliances or if gas appliances have been damaged, do not attempt to repair them. Contact a plumber or your gas company.

Telephone/Cell Phone Tips

- Be patient. Expect delays because of the high volume of calls.
- Use your phone or cell phone for leaving lines open for emergency calls.
- Your phone line may be busy. If you have phone equipment, use a hardline phone (not a cordless phone jack to verify if the line is busy).
- Use your cell phone for emergencies, which often get through.
- Use your cell phone for non-emergency calls.

Quick Tip

Always keep a thermometer in your refrigerator. The temperature should read 41° F or lower. Thawed food can usually be eaten if it is still "refrigerator cold." However, you should discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture. *Remember - when in doubt, throw it out!*

Quick Tip

Analog broadcast stations in 2009. Televisions purchased before that date will no longer work. Batteries that receive a digital signal will work. For more information, visit www.fcc.gov.

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PICKING UP THE PIECES

Put Debris In Its Place

In the wake of the hurricane, debris pick-up will vary by city. While trash and debris may not be picked up immediately due to sheer volume, if properly bundled, it will eventually be removed. As a resident, you can expedite the clean-up process by properly separating debris into:

- Yard debris, cut and stacked (including limbs, branches and other vegetative materials); collect small and loose material in bags and place on swales
- Building debris and building contents (fence material, roof tiles, screens, windows, carpet, broken framework, torn porch/pool screening)
- Regular garbage and trash

Place the separated debris piles on the swales, away from power lines, mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, valves, water meters, gas lines and storm drains. The collection of debris may cause temporary road closures on narrow neighborhood streets while heavy equipment is used to remove downed trees. Try to be patient during these temporary disruptions.



Quick Tip

Many older homes in South Florida were constructed with materials containing asbestos. When clearing debris after a storm, homeowners should use caution when handling building materials. To learn more about the dangers of asbestos and proper disposal procedures, visit Broward.org/PollutionPrevention/AirQuality and select the



Make Sure Your Contractor Is Licensed

To check on the status of your contractor, or to file a complaint, visit Broward.org/PermittingandLicensing, go to **Regulated Businesses** and select **Consumer Complaints** or call 954-357-5350 or the State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395. In addition, consider the following when working with a contractor:

- Ask for references.
- Check references by calling persons for whom the contractor has done work.
- Ask how long the contractor has been in business.
- Check the contractor's reputation with local suppliers.
- Check with your local building Department.
- Get all proposals, contracts or agreements in writing and read all the fine print.
- Obtain a current copy of the contractor's insurances including worker's compensation, property damage and liability.
- Avoid any contractor who requires large advance payments.
- Avoid paying cash, and make all payments by check to the company contracted to do the work. Do not write a check to cash or to an individual's name.

Tips For Saving Fallen Trees

If you have a downed tree in your yard and it is not blocking a road and has not downed a power line, it is your responsibility to remove the tree. Downed trees on private property are the responsibility of the homeowner. However, remember that trees that have been overturned are not necessarily lost. To protect the tree until you know whether it can be saved, immediately cover the root ball with soil, mulch or burlap to protect the exposed root ball, then keep the root ball moist. To determine whether a tree can be saved, and to learn the correct procedures for doing so, see the publication, "Management Tips for Storm-Damaged Trees" at Broward.org/Hurricane



Disaster Rec

Stay tuned to local media about disaster relief and may be available to you. distributions of water services, Operation B Recovery Centers. De recovery efforts are u

The Broward County Small Business Development network of disaster Business centers are designed to business disaster recovery financial assistance pre operational at the ons

Quick Tip

Call before you dig! O damage to underground and electric lines; save groundwater contamination two business days before lines can be located and

To Help You C

- **Talk About It!** Re experiences and fe
- **Take One Thing c** complete it, then se task at a time will g and you will feel le
- **Get Back Into a R** routine as quickly a is important, espec a sense of normal revitalizes a family.
- **If You Can, Help** prepare "care pack experienced a loss effort. Helping othe purpose in a situat
- **Avoid Drugs and** and alcohol might better, but in the lo additional problem you are already ex
- **Ask For Help If Y** level doesn't begin trusted relative, or professional, or

Lend A Helping Hand

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross South Florida Chapter needs hurricane evacuation center volunteers. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and must submit to a background check. Visit BrowardRedCross.org.

Center for Independent Living

The Center offers assistance to people with disabilities in Broward County before and after the storm. Call 954-722-6400 (Voice/TTY).

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

CERT offers basic skills training in disaster preparedness through fire, police and other emergency management agencies that will enable you to assist. Call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3900.

Neighbors to the Rescue

This program of Hands On Broward will teach you everything you need to know to volunteer safely, then send you on a worthwhile mission to help your neighbors in need. Call 954-233-1300 or visit handsonbroward.org.

United Way

United Way of Broward County is a volunteer driven, community-based, nonprofit organization that unites resources from across the community to target the most pressing needs. For information, visit unitedwaybroward.org.

Important Numbers

Emergency	911
First Call for Help	211
Broward County Hurricane Hotline	311 or 954-831-4000 TTY 954-831-3940
Broward Emergency Management For Special Needs Shelter Registration	954-831-3902 TTY 954-831-3940
Broward County School District Hotline	754-321-0321
FEMA Hotline	1-800-342-3557 1-850-413-9900 TTY 1-800-462-7585
Broward County Emergency Management	954-831-3900
Pet-Friendly Hurricane Shelter Registration	954-989-3977
Broward County Animal Care & Regulation	954-359-1313
Insurance—State of Florida Department of Financial Services Hurricane Helpline	1-800-22-STORM (78676) TTY 1-800-640-0886
Price Gouging Hotline	1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) In Spanish 1-800-FLA-AYUDA (352-9832)
Broward County Environmental Licensing and Building Permitting Consumer Complaints	954-831-4000
Broward County Solid Waste and Recycling Services	954-765-4202 TTY 954-765-4999
Broward County Paratransit Services	954-357-6794 TTY 954-357-8330
Miami Transit Ride Share	954-357-8400

HOME DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Broward County's Home Damage Assessment program enables residents to assist in quickly identifying areas of devastation, even before damage assessment teams are able to canvass the County. It's easy and a great service to the community!

The Home Damage Assessment Program asks residents to report hurricane damage to their home as soon as it is safe to go outside. Here's how it works:

Before an event:

- Include this information in your emergency preparedness kit.
- Bookmark the Home Damage Assessment App on your smartphone or other mobile device at: gis.broward.org/ReportHomeDamage.

After an event:

- When it is safe to go outside, survey the damage to your home and compare your home to the five Home Damage Assessment photos.
- Select the photo that best represents the condition of your home for damage and/or flood level. It doesn't matter if you live in a single family home, condo, townhouse, apartment, duplex or mobile home.

To report, call 311, log on to Broward.org/Hurricane and select **Home Damage Assessment Program**, or use the mobile app at gis.broward.org/ReportHomeDamage.

Remember, you must have access to the photos to make a report, as Hurricane Hotline call takers will only be able to accept numbers "1-4" as damage levels and "5-6" for flood levels.

Resident reports will provide a critical early indication of where major damage has occurred. These reports do not constitute a request for individual assistance and do not replace the normal grid-by-grid assessments performed by County assessment teams.

HOME DAMAGE

Level 1 - No or minor damage



Level 3 - Major damage



Level 2 - Major damage



Level 4



Level 5 or 6

