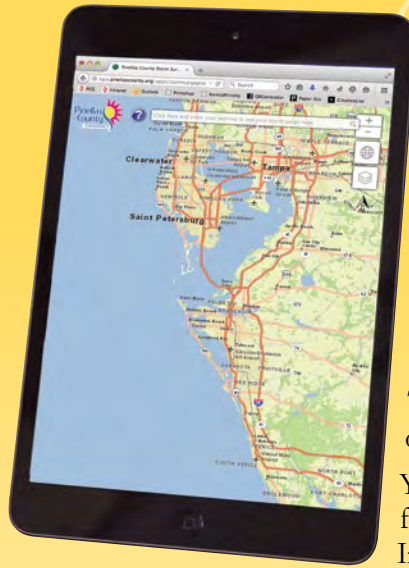


SURVIVING THE STORM

IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

IN THE KNOW PAGE 2
MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS PAGE 3
PREPARATION IS KEY PAGES 4 & 5
EVACUATION ZONE MAP PAGES 6 & 7
SPECIAL NEEDS PAGES 8 & 9
BOATS & PETS PAGES 10 & 11
DURING & AFTER A STORM PAGES 12 & 13
ALL-HAZARD PLANNING PAGES 14 & 15
CHECKLISTS & CONTACT INFORMATION PAGE 16

Storm Surge Protector App



Pinellas County is extremely vulnerable to surge flooding. In fact, a Category 3 storm could flood 42 percent of the county's households. For those who don't believe that a quick-rising storm surge is deadly, seeing might mean believing.

With Pinellas County's **Storm Surge Protector** Web application, you can see the impact storm surge flooding can have on your own home or business, and neighborhood.

After plugging your address in to this online tool, you will see a 3-D depiction of your home or business.

The application will display the evacuation level for the address, and the amount of storm surge for its evacuation level.

You can then move to higher evacuation levels to see the impacts to the structure from storm surge associated with that level. By clicking "Show Neighborhood Impact," an aerial view of the neighborhood will illustrate just how widespread the

storm surge flooding could be and the map becomes color-coded to show the depth of the water in surrounding areas.

The county developed the app to drive home the message that the greatest killer of people during a hurricane is not wind, but the onrushing waters of storm surge. Seeing your residence underwater reinforces the need to evacuate when an order is given and drives the dangers of storm surge home.

While homes in non-evacuation zones will be high and dry, those in evacuation zones are subject to storm surge that can range from a few inches to many feet of water.

Note that the zones depicted differ from FEMA flood zones. Additional information on the difference can be found on page 7 of this guide, and online at: www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm.

This app is the winner of the **2015 Innovation Award** presented at the **Governor's Hurricane Conference**.

Access it at: egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector/index.html

or scan this with a smart phone QR app ▶



DO YOU NEED TO EVACUATE?

Q DO YOU LIVE IN A MOBILE OR MANUFACTURED HOME?

if yes Everyone in mobile and manufactured homes must always evacuate . . . pg 5

Q DO YOU LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE?

if yes Know when to evacuate by your zone and plan where you will go . . .pgs 6-7

Q DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS OR REQUIRE ASSISTANCE WITH EVACUATING?

if yes Make sure you have a plan and are registered for a special needs shelter or transportation pg 8-9

IF YOU ARE EVACUATING, WHERE YOU WILL GO AND HOW YOU WILL GET THERE?

Are you going out of town? pg 3
Learn the forecasting terms.

Do you have personal transportation? pg 4
Make sure your vehicle is ready.

Do you need to register for special needs transportation? pg 8
Sign up today.

Will you take the bus? pg 9
PSTA will run routes until it is unsafe to travel.

Are you going to a Host Home? pg 9
Make arrangements early.

Are you going to a shelter? pg 16
Have your evacuation kit ready.

IF YOU ARE STAYING IN YOUR HOME, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE?

Get your home ready. pgs 4-5
Make preparations early for your home, yard, vehicles, papers, medications, pets and supply kits.

If you stay... pg 9
Be a Host Home for someone who needs to evacuate.

CONSIDER THIS WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO STAY IN YOUR HOME:

- Are you in a manufactured or mobile home?
- Is your home in a non-evacuation or non-storm-surge zone?
- Do your windows have hurricane shutters?
- Is the garage door braced?
- Do you have a safe room large enough for all occupants?
- Do you have a disaster plan and supplies in place for all members of the household, including pets?
- Do your vehicles have full tanks of gas?
- Do you have a survival kit prepared with one week's worth of nonperishable food supplies and water? See page 16 for checklist.
- Do you have a battery-operated radio with extra batteries, along with a cell phone and battery charger for the car?
- Do you have tarps and plastic sheeting available for emergency repairs?

Emergency Access Permit

When there is a mandatory evacuation, barrier island residents and business owners must leave their property behind to head to safer shelter. So, what happens when the evacuation is lifted?

To get back on the barrier islands, you will need to have an Emergency Access Permit.

The permit should be hung from a vehicle's rearview mirror for re-entry to the barrier island communities following an evacuation. Law enforcement officers who are posted at city entrances will scan the barcode on the permit to verify residency; so with your help the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will be able to keep trespassers from gaining easy access to your home or business.

It is important to get your permit now, so that you have it in the event of an evacuation. Property owners in the following cities should contact their municipality directly to apply for and obtain a permit.

Belleair Beach – (727) 595-4646

Belleair Shore – (727) 593-9296

Clearwater – (727) 562-4141

Indian Rocks Beach – (727) 595-2517

Indian Shores – (727) 595-5414

Madeira Beach – (727) 391-3400

North Redington Beach – (727) 391-4848

Redington Beach – (727) 391-3875

Redington Shores – (727) 397-5538

St. Pete Beach – (727) 363-9206

Tierra Verde – (727) 582-6636

Treasure Island – (727) 547-4575

For general information or questions online: www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit, or call the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Public Relations Division at (727) 582-6221.



For more on the overall county re-entry plan, see page 13 or go to www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/afterthestorm.htm#reenter.

STAY IN THE KNOW FOR ALL-HAZARD PREPAREDNESS

Visit the website www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for hurricane news, evacuation maps, shelter information and more.

Subscribe to **Pinellas County E-Lert**

The free, award-winning Pinellas County E-Lert electronic newsletter comes out monthly during hurricane season with updates on the latest emergency news and preparedness tips.

Sign up at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.



Download (the APP)

the Pinellas County “Doing Things For You” App for your Apple or Android device at www.pinellascounty.org.

Access the *Know Your Zone* web application, get real-time bus information from the PSTA, and report problems with flooding and other issues.



Watch PCC-TV

on Bright House 637, WOW! 18 or Verizon 44 for hurricane programming and emergency operations center updates.

Visit www.pinellascounty.org/tv.



Tune to your weather alert radio

to receive emergency weather alerts from the local National Weather Service bureau in Ruskin, Fla.

Contact FDOT'S FLORIDA 511

for statewide traffic updates, maps, twitter feed and app.

Visit www.fl511.com.

Call the Citizens Information Center

(727) 464-4333 or TDD (727) 464-3075 for Pinellas County information before, during and after the storm. Only open during emergencies.

Request a speaker or information

for your organization, school or place of employment.

Call the Pinellas County Speakers Bureau at (727) 464-4600,

or download a request form at www.pinellascounty.org/speak.

Follow Pinellas County on social media

Twitter



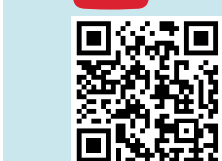
@pinellasem for preparedness information and emergency updates.

@pinellasconews for general county information, breaking news, preparedness tips and real-time updates.

@pinellastraffic for real-time traffic updates.

Sign up on www.twitter.com to receive tweets via text message.

YouTube



www.youtube.com/pccctv1 for videos on how to prepare for emergencies and historical hurricane information.

Featuring *Prepare to Survive*, a monthly 15-minute informative show on flooding, storm surge, bridges, animal preparedness and more.

Facebook



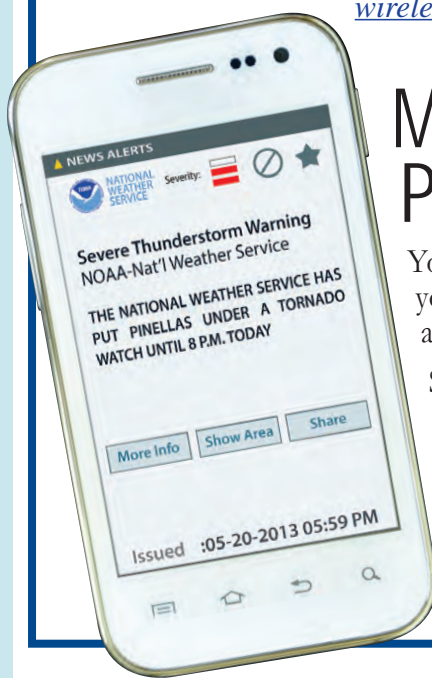
www.facebook.com/pinellascountynews for general county information, breaking news, preparedness tips and emergency updates.

Get The Latest **FAST** Weather Information

Severe weather can often strike quickly, even during the early morning hours.

An alarm from a weather alert radio or a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) equipped cell phone can mean the difference between life and death. Every minute counts.

The WEA system means you will receive texts on your cellphone warning of imminent threats to your safety. Contact your cellular service provider to see if your phone is equipped. For information on the alert system, go to www.fcc.gov/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea.



Mobile Phone Preparation

Your phone should have all of your insurance, medical, family and other contacts on it.

Speak to your cell carrier for tips on how to preserve battery power. Have multiple ways to charge your battery – your car, a battery backup, a solar charger or other – should the power go out.

Pinellas County is using **emergency notification**

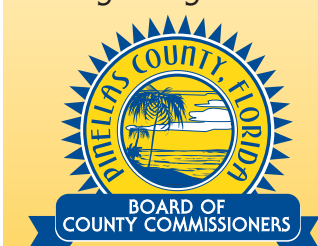
Pinellas County's emergency notification service is free to county residents and gives emergency managers multiple ways to get the word out whenever an emergency situation arises. You simply register your contact information with the emergency notification service and an automated message will be sent to alert you to local emergencies.

- This emergency notification service is provided by Pinellas County's Emergency Management Department to relay information in the event of an emergency situation and is separate from the WEA (see above).
- Each member of the subscriber's household who would like to receive emergency notifications can register for this **FREE** service.
- You will receive a notification on each contact method they provide – by phone, text message and/or email.
- An automated system will call land lines and cell phones at the same time an email and text message will go out, giving you the maximum opportunity to receive the message.
- The network allows emergency managers to send out alerts to the county as a whole or to smaller, more specific geographic areas.
- It's easy to sign up for this **FREE** service:
 - Visit <https://alertregistration.com/PinellasCoFLEMS/>.
 - Call (866) 484-3264.

All contact information will remain protected and confidential.



"Doing Things for You"



Surviving the Storm,

the official guide for Pinellas County, is published on behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in cooperation with the Pinellas County Department of Emergency Management.

Published by the **Pinellas County Communications Department**

333 Chestnut St. • Clearwater, FL 33756 • (727) 464-4600 • www.pinellascounty.org

Funding for this guide was provided by Pinellas County Emergency Management. 100,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$8,850 or \$ 0.0885 each. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please call (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD).

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT HURRICANES

Should I stay or should I go?

When it comes to evacuating, there are many decisions to make. One of those decisions is whether to stay in Pinellas County or drive many miles to an out-of-town location. Finding high ground in Pinellas County is possible. The white areas on the map to the right are high enough not to be impacted by surge flooding from any hurricane. Even for a Category 5 storm, a structure in these areas that is hardened to withstand high winds can provide safe shelter. Evacuating to a safe shelter within the county or a neighboring county has its advantages. You can avoid traffic jams and the uncertainty that comes with driving the crowded highways as other counties evacuate along with Pinellas. You can avoid going elsewhere in the state only to find that the storm has shifted and you are now in harm's way. And you will avoid the crowds when it comes time to head home. If staying in Pinellas County seems like a good decision, plan ahead to find safe shelter by asking friends, relatives or coworkers if they are willing to host you and your family during a storm or find a hotel or motel in the area in a non-evacuation zone.

SURGE KILLS

The greatest killer of people during hurricanes is storm surge – the dome of water pushed ashore by powerful hurricane winds. Storm surge isn't a gradual rising of water. It rushes in and out, sweeping anything not secured back out to sea – people included. Pinellas County is extremely vulnerable to surge flooding because of its coastal and low-lying geography. In fact, a Category 3 storm could flood 42 percent of the county's households.

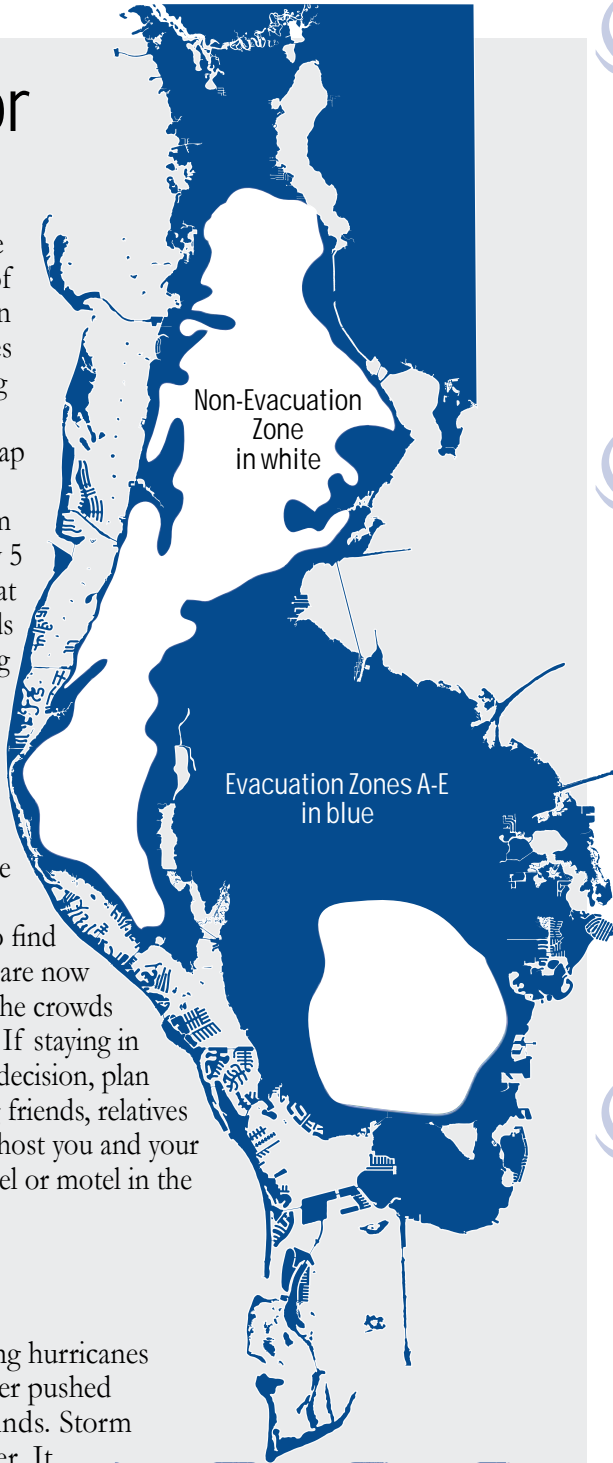
Why does storm surge do so much damage? Because water is so heavy. A cubic yard of water weighs close to 1,800 pounds – nearly a ton. Just 2 feet of water can float a car.

If a hurricane is predicted for Pinellas County and you live in a zone that has been ordered to evacuate, get out. Do not stay in an area at risk for surge flooding. Do not plan to escape to higher floors and do not wait until the last minute. Leave for higher ground and survive.

STORM SURGE

and you

5 feet
4 feet
3 feet
2 feet
1 foot



5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

- ☐ Know your evacuation zone. If you live in an evacuation zone, know where you will go and how you will get there.
- ☐ Review your family disaster plan.
- ☐ Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- ☐ Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- ☐ If you have special needs, be sure your caregiver begins to implement your plan and, if needed, you are registered for a special needs shelter.

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast increases. If Pinellas County is within the 3-day cone, residents should step up their preparations.

3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

- ☐ Double check your survival kit and make necessary purchases.
- ☐ Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors and pets.
- ☐ Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- ☐ If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

About 48 hours ahead of a storm, forecasters will issue a **Hurricane Watch** for areas within the cone that can expect hurricane conditions. Again, because hurricanes can be erratic, everyone in that area must prepare as if the storm is headed directly for their home. If the storm changes path or speed, the time between a watch and a warning might be only six hours. During a watch, the focus should be on preparing for the warning.

If you are in an evacuation zone or a mobile/manufactured home, the goal is to be fully prepared to leap into action within one or two hours of the warning being issued. If you live in a non-evacuation zone, the goal is to be able to complete all preparations within one or two hours after the warning.

HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS (48 hours ahead)

- ☐ Fill vehicle gas tank.
- ☐ Get cash, secure papers and valuables.
- ☐ Refill medications (see page 4).
- ☐ Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- ☐ Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- ☐ Shutter your windows.
- ☐ Help neighbors with their preparations.
- ☐ If your plans are to evacuate out of the local area, make final preparations to secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- ☐ If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need for your “go bag.”

A storm will be about 36 hours from impact when the **Hurricane Warning** is issued. Generally, Pinellas County Emergency Management will issue official evacuation orders not long after a warning. Whenever any evacuation is ordered, all mobile- and manufactured-home residents must evacuate. For those not in mobile or manufactured homes, be sure to know your zone (see pages 6 and 7) so you can understand and follow official emergency instructions.

HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS (36 hours ahead)

- ☐ Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- ☐ Complete any final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- ☐ If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, do so.
- ☐ If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, have your “go bag” ready. Rescue workers will begin pick-ups shortly after an evacuation order is issued.

Once an evacuation order is issued:

- ☐ Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order (does it include your evacuation zone or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?)
- ☐ If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the evacuation order. If public sheltering is your plan, be sure to check which public shelters are open (see pages 6 and 7).
- ☐ If you are traveling out of the local area, leave as quickly as possible to avoid traffic jams.
- ☐ Be aware of your evacuation time range, beginning and end.
- ☐ If you are not required to evacuate, prepare a safe room in your home and stay off the roads to enable evacuation traffic to clear the area.

Even when the storm is 100 or more miles away, weather conditions can begin to deteriorate and driving conditions will worsen.

The most important thing to remember is to do as much as you can before the warning is issued. Waiting will only give you about 24 hours to complete preparations and evacuate if required. If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, you will only have a few hours after the evacuation order before your ride will arrive. Also, waiting until the warning to drive hundreds of miles increases your risk of being caught in the storm on the road. Remember there are safe shelter options within Pinellas County.

PREPARATION IS KEY FOR A SAFE HURRICANE SEASON

PREPARE YOUR HOME

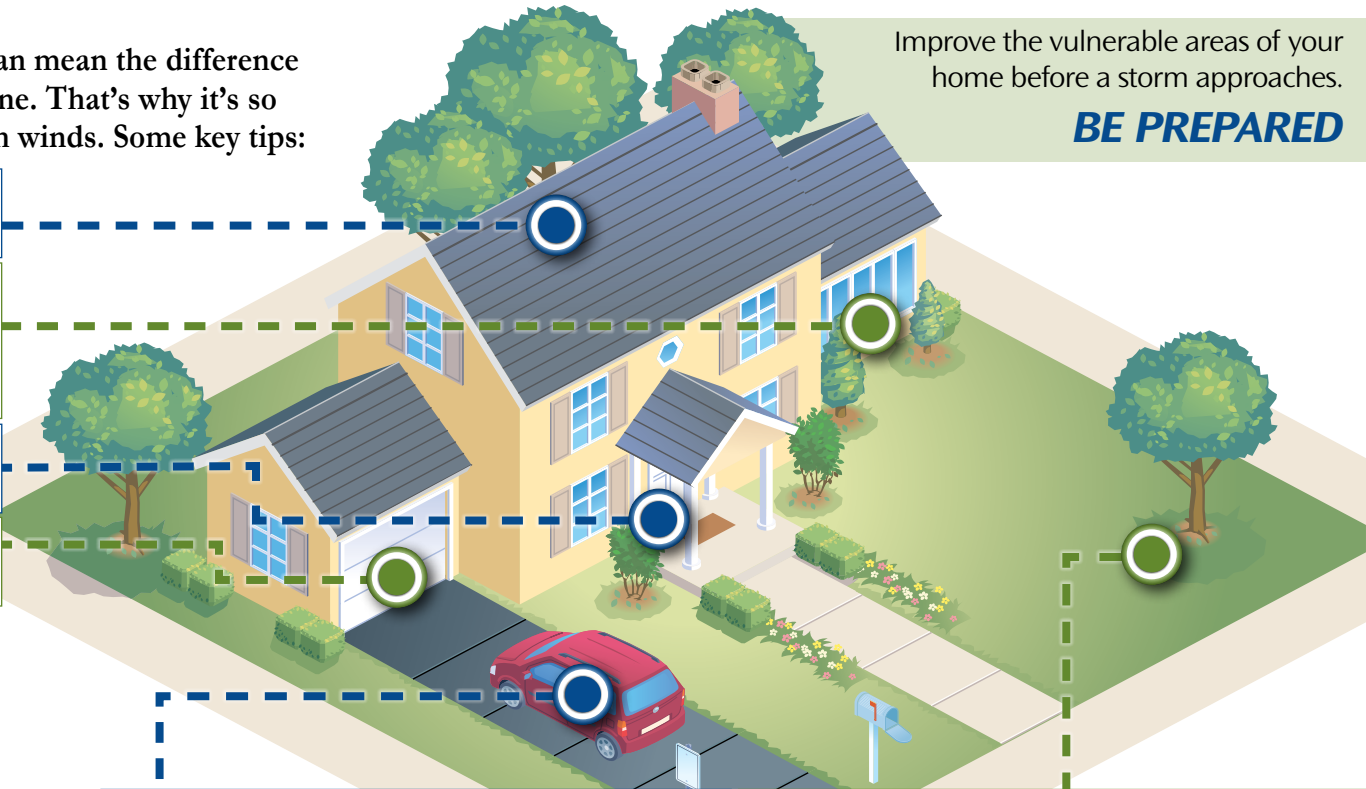
Preparing your home to withstand high winds can mean the difference between minor and major repairs after a hurricane. That’s why it’s so important to strengthen your home to resist high winds. Some key tips:

- ☐ If your roof needs replacement, a new one can be installed to meet stronger building codes adopted in 2002.
- ☐ Shutter your windows. Glass can be broken by flying debris. Protecting your windows can keep storm winds and rain out and your roof on. Duct tape provides no protection.
- ☐ Check weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors, replacing if necessary.
- ☐ Check your garage door. If your door needs replacing, look for a reinforced, wind-rated model.
- ☐ Think about other improvements. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes has step-by-step instructions for reinforcing your home’s roof, gable ends and other vulnerable areas.
- ☐ If you have questions about your home’s storm readiness, consider having a home inspector review your home’s condition.
- ☐ Double check your homeowner’s insurance policy.

If you are considering hiring help, be sure to use a licensed, reputable contractor. Before signing a contract, call Pinellas County Justice and Consumer Services at (727) 464-6200 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/consumer.

For more information:

- Pinellas County Prepare Ahead: www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/prepareahead.htm
- Federal Alliance for Safe Homes: www.FLASH.org
- State of Florida: www.mysafe florida.org
- To create a personal family plan: www.floridadisaster.org
- Institute for Business and Home Safety: www.disastersafety.org
- Hurricane Retrofit Guide for Homes: www.floridadisaster.org/hrglindex.asp



Improve the vulnerable areas of your home before a storm approaches.
BE PREPARED

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLES

Personal vehicles can be an important tool to help you to prepare, to evacuate and to get supplies after a storm.

To prepare your vehicle:

- Get any basic maintenance (tune-ups, repairs) done before a storm threatens. Have your mechanic check belts, hoses, filters and vital fluid levels.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full with gas. When a Hurricane Watch is issued, fill your tank.
- Build a survival kit for your car, including:
 - ☐ A first aid kit
 - ☐ Nonperishable food and bottled water
 - ☐ A can of tire inflator
 - ☐ A basic tool kit
 - ☐ Jumper cables and road flares
 - ☐ A working jack and spare tire
 - ☐ A flashlight
 - ☐ DC to AC car power inverter
 - ☐ Chargers for cell phones and other devices
 - ☐ A map with shelter locations

PREPARE YOUR YARD

Getting your yard ready to weather the storm can keep you and your home safe. High winds can turn even the heaviest items into deadly projectiles that can break through your windows, doors and even walls.

To prepare your yard:

- ☐ Properly prune trees and shrubs before any storms threaten. Do not leave piles of branches that can become missiles in high winds.
- ☐ Keep your gutters and down spouts clear and in good repair.
- ☐ Replace rock mulch with shredded bark.
- ☐ Bring in all yard items such as furniture, toys, bird baths, bird feeders and barbecue grills when a Hurricane Warning is issued.
- ☐ Do not drain your pool. Super chlorinate the water and turn off all electricity to the pool for the duration of the storm.

If you are doing any home renovations that require digging, call 8-1-1 before you start. This free service will help you locate underground utilities before you damage them. Not only will it keep you safe, it’s the law!

GET YOUR PRESCRIPTION REFILLS!

One of the most important things to include in your emergency survival kit is your prescription medications in their original bottles. But what happens when an emergency is declared and your insurance company claims it is too early for you to get a refill? In 2006, the Legislature passed the Emergency Prescription Refill bill (Florida Statute 252.358 and 462.0275). This law requires all insurers and managed-care organizations to suspend refill-too-soon restrictions when a patient seeks a refill in a county:

- currently under a hurricane warning issued by the National Weather Service; or
- declared to be under a state of emergency in an executive order issued by the governor; or
- has activated its Emergency Operations Center and its emergency management plan.

This law also allows patients outside of these areas to get an emergency 72-hour refill if the pharmacist is unable to readily obtain refill authorization from the doctor. Please talk with your doctor and pharmacist now about how this new law can affect your prescriptions.

PREPARE YOUR INSURANCE

Review your homeowner’s or renter’s insurance policy and ask yourself five important questions:

- What is my deductible?
- What is my hurricane deductible?
- Do I have flood insurance?
- Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?
- Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

Homeowners should check with their insurance agent to see if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on their insurance premiums. Information about insurance policies can be found through the Insurance Information Institute at www.iii.org.

PREPARE FOR STORM DEBRIS

Prepare now to prevent storm debris by trimming trees and cleaning your property before a storm threatens.

Top Three Tips to Save Your Home

While a thorough renovation of your home’s structure will provide the best protection against the high winds a hurricane can bring, these three improvements can really make a difference:

1. BRACE YOUR GARAGE DOOR

After Hurricane Andrew, engineers looked at how the homes in South Florida failed during the high winds. Four out of five homes that had major structural damage lost their garage doors first. Older garage doors in good condition can be braced with retrofit kits available at most home centers. New garage doors must meet stringent wind load requirements.

2. PROTECT YOUR WINDOWS

By shuttering your windows with a code-approved, commercially available product or a minimum of 7/16” exterior plywood (FBC 2010 1609.1.2), you can increase your home’s ability to withstand wind by one category of storm strength. In other words, a home that could survive a Category 2 storm can now handle a Category 3. If the wind gets into your home, it can force the roof upward, possibly allowing high winds to tear it off.

3. BRACE YOUR GABLE END ROOF

A gabled roof has two slopes that come together to form a ridge or a peak at the top. Homes with gabled roofs are more likely to suffer collapse of the end wall from high winds because they are often not braced properly during construction. To learn about bracing and other techniques, go to: www.floridadisaster.org/hrglindex.asp.

Sandbags

Officials urge residents not to rely on sandbags to save their homes from flooding. Pinellas County does not offer sandbags. Individual cities in the county may offer sandbag sites. Residents should check with their municipality for exactly what is offered, the latest information and updates.

A quick Internet search will show many companies that manufacture systems to help reduce flooding. One of the options is physical barriers mounted to the home’s structure. Consumers are advised to check several sources, get customer reviews and check the license of any contractor installing a system at their home.



MOBILE HOMES ARE NOT SAFE HAVENS

While mobile and manufactured homes are great places to live, they must never be used as a shelter. Mobile and manufactured homes can be severely damaged from hurricane force winds and flying debris. This was proved true during the storms of 2004 and 2005 when even homes built after 1994, to the tougher standards after Hurricane Andrew, sustained damage when they were flipped off their foundations or damaged by flying debris.

No matter the category of storm, whenever an evacuation order is given, all mobile and manufactured home residents must evacuate. Mobile and manufactured home residents need to have an evacuation plan in case a hurricane threatens. One word of caution – most mobile home park recreation centers are not rated to withstand high winds either. Ask your park’s management what plans – if any – are in place for sheltering options and for evacuation notification.

ANNUALLY CHECK YOUR TIE DOWN AND ANCHORING SYSTEM:

☐ Look for possible rusting of anchors and connections.

☐ Tighten the straps if necessary.

☐ Add anchors and straps where possible.

☐ Check for wood rot and termite damage at connections, joists and trusses – investigators have found that failures at these points allow air to penetrate the home’s air-tight envelope, leading to structure failure.

BUSINESS SURVIVAL

Businesses of all sizes should have a continuity plan to help them survive the storm and stay in business. These are just a few items to consider when putting together a business continuity plan. Additional resources on business recovery are available at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/businessrecovery.htm.

GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

After an area is evacuated, business owners will need proper forms of identification for themselves and critical employees. Acceptable forms of identification include an employer-issued photo ID or a corporate placard, along with a current driver’s license or valid state identification card. A business owner will have to show a license, current utility bill or lease documents that include the address of the property. Another form of proper business identification is a work order or bill of lading requesting services or supplies by an entity within the county.

Provide your staff with a personnel list on company letterhead along with a company official’s signature. Additionally, you should provide contact information stating the need for early and immediate access and what form of identification your business has provided for these personnel.

If you own a business in one of the barrier island communities, you will need an Emergency Access Permit to re-enter following a mandatory evacuation (see page 1).

For more information on the county’s re-entry plan, see page 13.

KEEP EMPLOYEES INFORMED

Business owners should clearly communicate their business preparedness plan with their employees. Employees also need time to prepare their homes and discuss an emergency plan with their families. Business owner responsibilities include when to shut down operations and when to send their employees home.

APPLYING FOR BRIDGE LOANS

Florida’s small business emergency bridge loan program provides a source of expedient cash flow to businesses impacted by a major catastrophe, enabling them to quickly begin repairs and replace inventory. The short-

term loans are intended to “bridge the gap” between the time a major catastrophe hits, and when a business has secured other resources like sufficient profits from revived business, receipt of payments on insurance claims or secured longer-term loans to operate successfully.

Should a hurricane strike our region, Pinellas County Economic Development will quickly distribute information regarding available bridge loans to local businesses. Certified business analysts at the Small Business Development Center will assist business owners with the forms and applications needed to prepare for and recover from disasters. Florida small business emergency bridge loan program information is available at www.floridadisasterloan.org.

FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Florida Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development can help business owners prepare a comprehensive business continuity, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plan at no cost. Business owners in need of assistance can schedule an appointment online at www.pced.org/sbdc.

Business owners need to think about what they would do if their buildings were unusable after a storm. Business Interruption Insurance will compensate you for lost income if your company has to leave the site because of disaster-related damage. Be sure that the policy will cover your company for more than a few days. After a disaster, it may take more time to get back up and running. Ask what the waiting period would be before the insurance coverage begins. Explore the cost of adding this coverage to your specific business type. Some businesses might have to pay a higher premium based on risk.

BUSINESS PREPARATION TIPS

- ☐ For Pinellas County’s re-entry plan, see page 13.
- ☐ Prepare a “Go Box.”
- ☐ Inform employees of preparedness plan.
- ☐ Take precautions; as a storm threatens, secure and protect your building.
- ☐ Keep cash on hand, as there may be no electricity to conduct business.

RENTERS NEED A PLAN

If you rent, here are some steps that you can take to prepare for a hurricane:

- ☐ Know your evacuation zone. Pinellas County government offers several ways to locate your zone (see page 6). Remember, be ready to evacuate when ordered.
- ☐ Prepare yourself for the possibility of damage to your personal property. Flood insurance and renter’s insurance can help to replace your belongings should they be damaged. Be sure to take an inventory of your possessions.
- ☐ Ask questions of your landlord. Will your landlord take steps to protect the windows? If not, you will need to find another place to ride out the storm, even if you live in a non-evacuation zone.

Just as with homeowners, you have a responsibility to create a personal hurricane plan. Finding out now what you will need to do may save your life when a storm threatens.

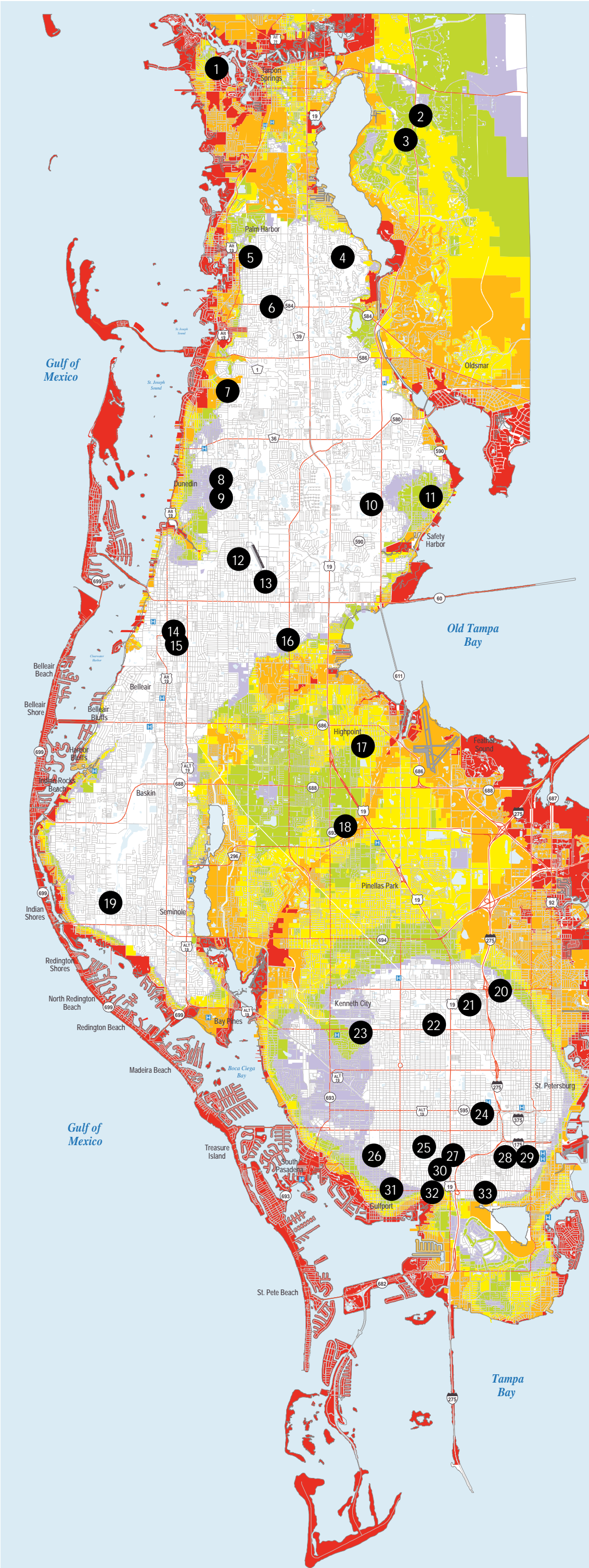


- ☐ Make plans to work with limited or no water, sewer or power for at least two weeks.
- ☐ Contact customers and suppliers regarding your continuity plans.
- ☐ Fill fleet cars and equipment gas tanks.
- ☐ If evacuated, turn off electricity, water and gas.
- ☐ If located in a non-evacuation area, think about having your business serve as a host home shelter for employees.
- ☐ Know your Business Zone:
Check the evacuation zone of your business at www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone.
- ☐ Know your storm surge risk:
Visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm.

The Business “Go Box”

- ☐ List of important phone numbers
- ☐ Contact information for employees, key customers and clients
- ☐ Insurance policies and agent contact information
- ☐ Backup files/drives of electronic data
- ☐ Copies of essential contracts, plans and policies
- ☐ Photographs of the business, inside and out
- ☐ Equipment, computer and furniture inventories
- ☐ Property management contacts/repair vendors





High winds, heavy rains or possible tornadoes are not the deadliest hazard during a hurricane. The deadliest hazard is the storm surge – a dome of water pushed ashore by high winds. In a worst case scenario, this can mean a surge of 29 feet above the normal water level, causing tremendous damage and danger of drowning.

While those residents who can see the gulf or the bay have a visual reminder of how vulnerable they are to the water, residents who live miles from these bodies of water can still be vulnerable to storm surge. That’s why it’s critical to identify your evacuation level and act appropriately should an order go into effect.

Even if you have lived in Pinellas County for a long time, it’s more important than ever to check your home’s evacuation level. To find your level:

- Visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency, click on *Know Your Zone*.
- Look up *Know Your Zone* on the Pinellas County *Doing Things for You* app.
- Call (727) 453-3150 and enter your 10-digit home phone number (does not work for cell phone numbers).
- Look on your Pinellas County water bill.
- Look on your Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.
- Call (727) 464-3800 and speak with Emergency Management staff.



EVACUATION GUIDELINES
(mobile homes MUST always evacuate)

EVACUATION ZONES	Potential Surge Heights (in feet)	
	A	4' to 8' Evacuate red areas and all mobile homes
	B	8' to 14' Evacuate red and orange areas and all mobile homes
	C	14' to 19' Evacuate red, orange and yellow areas and all mobile homes
	D	19' to 26' Evacuate red, orange, yellow and green areas and all mobile homes
	E	26' to 29' Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green and purple areas and all mobile homes
Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones.		

PINELLAS COUNTY EVACUATION ZONE MAP AND SHELTER LIST

Not every shelter will open for every evacuation. Please check www.pinellascounty.org/emergency or call the Citizens Information Center at (727) 464-4333 or TDD (727) 464-3075.

NORTH COUNTY	N	1	Tarpon Springs Middle School 501 N. Florida Ave. • Tarpon Springs	🏠
		2	Brooker Creek Elementary School 3130 Forelock Road • Tarpon Springs	🏠
		3	East Lake High School 1300 Silver Eagle Drive • Tarpon Springs	🏠
		4	Carwise Middle School 3301 Bentley Drive • Palm Harbor	🏠
		5	Palm Harbor University High School 1900 Omaha St. • Palm Harbor	🏠
		6	Palm Harbor Middle School 1800 Tampa Road • Palm Harbor	🏠
		7	Dunedin Community Center 1920 Pinehurst Road • Dunedin	🏠
		8	Dunedin Highland Middle School 70 Patricia Ave. • Dunedin	🏠🐕🦽
		9	Dunedin Elementary School 900 Union St. • Dunedin	🏠
		10	McMullen-Booth Elementary School 3025 Union St. • Clearwater	🏠
		11	Safety Harbor Middle School 901 First Ave. N. • Safety Harbor	🏠
		12	Clearwater Fundamental Middle School 1660 Palmetto St. • Clearwater	🏠
		13	Skycrest Elementary School 10 N. Corona Ave. • Clearwater	🏠
		14	Belleair Elementary School 1156 Lakeview Road • Clearwater	🏠
		15	Ross Norton Recreation Center 1426 S. MLK Jr. Ave. • Clearwater	🏠
		16	Oak Grove Middle School 1370 S. Belcher Road • Clearwater	🏠🐕🦽
SOUTH COUNTY	S	17	High Point Elementary School 5921 150th Ave. N. • Clearwater	🏠
		18	Pinellas Park High School 6305 118th Ave. N. • Pinellas Park	🏠
		19	Bauder Elementary School 12755 86th Ave. N. • Seminole	🏠
		20	John Sexton Elementary School 1997 54th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		21	Lealman Intermediate School 4900 28th St. N. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		22	New Heights Elementary School 3901 37th St. N. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		23	Northside Baptist Church 6000 38th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		24	St. Petersburg High School 2501 Fifth Ave. N. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		25	Fairmount Park Elementary School 575 41st St. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		26	Boca Ciega High School 924 58th St. S. • Gulfport	🏠
		27	Gibbs High School 850 34th St. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		28	John Hopkins Middle School 701 16th St. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠🦽
		29	Campbell Park Elementary School 1051 Seventh Ave. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		30	Jamerson Elementary School 1200 37th St. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠
		31	Gulfport Elementary School 2014 52nd St. S. • Gulfport	🏠
		32	Thurgood Marshall Middle School 3901 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠🐕
		33	James Sanderlin Elementary School 2350 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg	🏠

General Shelters

Special Needs Shelters

Pet-Friendly Shelters

Must register pets in advance



FLOOD ZONES AND EVACUATION ZONES DIFFER

Flood zones and evacuation zones are different. They measure different conditions that may not occur at the same time.

Flood zones are areas mapped by FEMA for use in the National Flood Insurance Program. Each flood zone designation, represented by a letter or letters, tells homeowners exactly what the risk is for flooding at their property over a period of years, regardless of the cause. By law, all homes in high-risk zones carrying a mortgage must be covered by flood insurance.

Evacuation zones, on the other hand, are based on hurricane storm-surge zones determined by the National Hurricane Center using ground elevation and the area’s vulnerability to storm surge from a hurricane. The evacuation zones are marked from A through E, plus non-evacuation zones.

The flood zones and evacuation zones are determined by different methods and have different purposes. A home may be located in a non-evacuation zone, yet still be located in a flood zone because of a nearby stream or pond.

Residents must check both zones.

An important thing to remember is that flood losses are not covered by homeowners insurance policies. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners. Any flooding damage covered under the policy – whether or not a federal disaster declaration is made – will be reimbursed per the policy limits, which can include structural damage or the loss of contents.

For more information on flood zones, visit the National Flood Insurance Program at www.floodsmart.gov or call (888) CALL-FLOOD (225-5356).

For more information on evacuation levels, check the map in this guide or visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

RECOMMENDED AND MANDATORY EVACUATIONS

Should a hurricane threaten the Tampa Bay area an evacuation order may be issued. What exactly does that mean?

An evacuation order is given to get people away from the deadliest part of a hurricane – storm surge. Evacuation levels are based on elevation above ground that could be inundated by the surge driven ashore during a storm. There is one notable exception to this: all mobile homes, regardless of their elevation, must be evacuated. They are vulnerable to the high winds of a hurricane and flying debris.

There are two types of evacuations that can be ordered. The first is a **recommended evacuation**. In the event of the approach of a tropical storm or a hurricane crossing the state and exiting over Pinellas County, the potential for storm surge may not be as great. In these cases, emergency managers may recommend that residents in mobile homes and historically flood-prone areas consider evacuating to higher ground and/or sturdier structures than they have available at home. This recommendation is made for the safety of those in areas known to be vulnerable.

The second type is a **mandatory evacuation**. Mandatory evacuations are issued when the probability of storm surge is high and loss of life could occur if residents don’t leave. These evacuations will be ordered up to a certain letter zone and will always include mobile homes. It is incredibly important that if your home is in an evacuation level, you know your level, plan for a “stay” and “go” option and, if your level is ordered to go, move quickly but safely outside of the evacuation area.

It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order. Under Florida Statute 252.38, the local authority has the ability to take necessary steps to provide for the health and safety of people and property. Chapter 252.50 sets refusal to follow an evacuation order as a second-degree misdemeanor.

This statute provides law enforcement the basis to remove anyone who is impeding the flow of an evacuation. Please evacuate and be safe.

PLAN FOR SAFE SHELTER NOW

Residents With Special Needs Should Register

Residents with certain medical conditions can get help during an evacuation. Three special needs shelters are designated for those requiring MINIMAL medical assistance. Registration is required. DO NOT WAIT until a storm arrives.

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Register now. Contact Pinellas County Emergency Management, your local fire department or your home healthcare provider.
- Once registered, you will be contacted for more information. After a medical needs review, your eligibility will be assessed. If you don't qualify for a special needs shelter, other options will be discussed with you. If you are registered and need transportation to a shelter, your local fire department will contact you before an evacuation.
- If you have your own transportation to a special needs shelter, registration is not required, but it is strongly recommended.
- You may bring your caregiver and/or family with you to a special needs shelter, in fact it is recommended.
- You are not obligated to go to a special needs shelter once registered, if you make other safe arrangements later.
- Service animals that have been individually trained to do work or perform a task for a person with a disability are allowed in any shelter; there is no registration requirement.
- Pets are only allowed in pet-friendly shelters with prior registration (see page 11). If you are registered for a special needs shelter and you have no other options for your pet, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600 to register your pet. Animal Services will make arrangements for your pet.

Things to Know and Do

- ☐ Learn how local authorities will warn you of a pending disaster. Carefully monitor weather conditions throughout hurricane season.
- ☐ Build a support network of friends, family and neighbors. Let them know your needs in an emergency situation and how they can assist you with your plan.
- ☐ Connect with a local neighborhood group such as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), neighborhood watch, a neighborhood association or a nearby place of worship.
- ☐ Make sure your local fire department knows your needs. Register if you need transportation or a spot in a special needs shelter.
- ☐ The National Weather Service has information on its website to help the hearing impaired utilize NOAA weather alert radios for emergency weather notifications. Go to www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/.
- ☐ A NOAA weather alert radio can wake you when severe weather is threatening.
- ☐ If you are going to a public shelter, wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes. Have your “go bag” ready and let an out-of-town contact know where you are going.
- ☐ If you stay home, never use candles when the electricity goes out. Stick to flashlights and battery-operated lanterns.
- ☐ Wheelchair users need to have more than one exit from their residence that is wheelchair accessible. Practice how to escape from your home.
- ☐ Service animals that have been individually trained to do work or perform a task for a person with a disability are allowed in hotels, motels and public shelters. Don't forget to pack their supplies too.
- ☐ Be an advocate for yourself!
 - Practice how to quickly explain your condition and your adaptive equipment to someone who is helping you.
 - Create an emergency health information card that is customized to you.
 - Keep important equipment and assistive devices in a consistent, convenient and secured place.
 - Conduct an ability self-assessment. Know what you can and cannot do. Talk with your health care provider about a realistic plan.
- ☐ Help your friends and neighbors by sharing this information!



What to Expect From a Special Needs Shelter

Pinellas County School Board and medical personnel from the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County will staff special needs shelters. Oxygen is available, but air conditioning may not be available if power is interrupted.

Before going to a shelter, arrange to bring at least a two-week supply of any medications you need along with any needed portable equipment. If you have special diet requirements, be sure to pack your own special nonperishable snacks. For your own comfort, bring items such as sheets, pillows and blankets. Special needs shelters do not have hospital beds; an air mattress is a good option to bring.

Assistance at a special needs shelter is limited to basic medical monitoring, oxygen and some backup electricity. The shelter will be inside a school and will likely be crowded and noisy. Cots may not be available for everyone. While this is a safe location to ride out a storm, it is not for everyone. Many citizens require more comfortable accommodations as mobility restrictions make it impossible to sleep on the floor or a cot. In these cases, the Host Homes program is an excellent alternative (see story on page 9), or a hotel or motel located in a non-evacuation zone.

Special Needs Supply List

In addition to the kit lists on page 16:

BASICS

- ☐ Medical contacts list (contact numbers and a copy of your personal medical information, including a list of medication.)
- ☐ Extra cash – in case you need to buy special supplies.
- ☐ Wear medical alert tags.
- ☐ Keep available special instructions for emergency personnel in a brief and direct format, such as: “Please take my medication from the refrigerator.” “I am deaf, please write down your instructions.” “I need a __ (medication) at __ (time)” or “Contact __ (a friend/relative/physician.)” Keep with contact list. It may be difficult to write if you are in an emergency situation.
- ☐ At least two-week supply of medication. (See Get Your Prescription Refills!, page 5)
- ☐ Timed and dated medication containers
- ☐ Air mattress



PERSONAL SUPPLIES

- ☐ Two-week supply of dressing materials, nasal cannulas or suction catheters
- ☐ Cooler for refrigerated medications
- ☐ Special dietary foods

WHEELCHAIRS

- ☐ A patch kit and extra inner tubes
- ☐ Gloves in case of broken glass or debris
- ☐ An extra battery and/or a converter for charging the battery

VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

- ☐ Talking or braille clock
- ☐ An extra white cane, magnifier and glasses
- ☐ Fluorescent tape to mark your supplies

HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS

- ☐ Extra batteries for hearing aids
- ☐ Pencil and paper for communicating emergency information
- ☐ Power converter for your laptop
- ☐ Preprinted key phrases you would use in an emergency

Special Needs Shelters

- **Dunedin Highland Middle School**
70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin
- **Oak Grove Middle School**
1370 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater
- **John Hopkins Middle School**
701 16th St. S., St. Petersburg

Register Now

To register for a special needs shelter and/or transportation, do one of the following:

- Call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800.
- Call your nearest fire department or home healthcare provider.
- Submit a form online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.



Help for Seniors

Older adults, especially those living alone, have unique concerns that should be addressed before a storm nears Pinellas County. Increased stress and anxiety can be a factor leading to more incidents of illness, particularly for those seniors with heart disease or respiratory troubles.



If you are an older adult who doesn't require special needs assistance, you don't have to ride out the storm alone. Many senior communities are in non-evacuation zones, so start a hurricane club with other people from your neighborhood, social group or place of worship. Meet to discuss preparations such as who might serve as a host home and make a list to divide up supplies to gather before a storm.

Sign up on your cell phone at (866) 484-3264 for a free emergency notification service to get up-to-date storm information. This news can be passed along through a phone tree to friends and neighbors. If a Hurricane Warning should be issued, the phone tree would then advise all members to meet at the host home and remind them to bring their emergency supplies.

It bears repeating that, regardless of age, if you live in a mobile or manufactured home, you must leave when the evacuation order is given. A clubhouse is likely not a safe place to weather a storm either due to wind or storm surge. Get together with others in your neighborhood to find host homes in non-evacuation zones.

If you are an older adult living in a nursing home, assisted living facility or boarding home, contact the administrator to learn about emergency preparations. Let your friends and family members know about the facility's plans and give them important contact information before a hurricane threatens the area.

If you are homebound, discuss your plan with your caregiver.

Look around.

If you know an elderly person, don't assume he or she has a plan.

Ask. Offer assistance.

You might be saving a life.

Pinellas County Evacuation On Track With Transportation

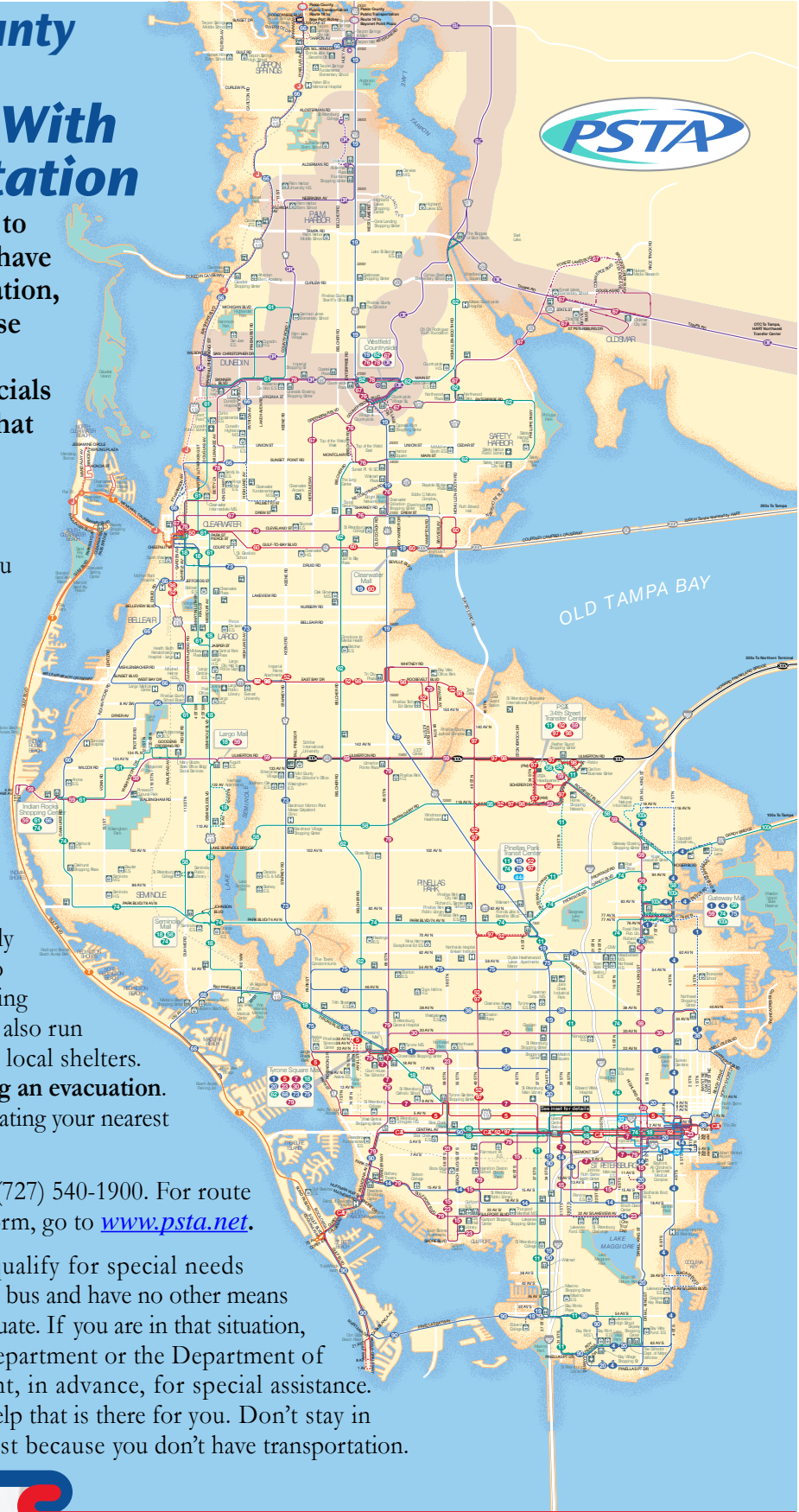
For those who need to evacuate, but don't have their own transportation, a hurricane can cause additional anxiety. Pinellas County officials want to make sure that everyone can get to safe shelter.

If you sign up for the special needs registry, you will be asked about your transportation plans. If you need a ride to a shelter, your local fire department will be in contact with you to make arrangements when the time comes to evacuate.

If you don't require special needs transport, PSTA buses will run nearly all their routes until it's no longer safe to travel. During an evacuation, buses will also run from transfer stations to local shelters. **All rides are free during an evacuation.** Prepare in advance by locating your nearest bus stop.

Call the PSTA InfoLine (727) 540-1900. For route information during a storm, go to www.psta.net.

Some people may not qualify for special needs transport, cannot ride the bus and have no other means of transportation to evacuate. If you are in that situation, contact your local fire department or the Department of Emergency Management, in advance, for special assistance. Take advantage of the help that is there for you. Don't stay in a dangerous situation just because you don't have transportation.



Host Homes shelter from the storm

If a Category 3 hurricane is headed to Pinellas County, about 391,000 people would need to evacuate surge-vulnerable areas or mobile homes. With approximately 74,000 public shelter spaces, alternative shelter is needed. Some people may stay in the county at a hotel or a relative's house in a non-evacuation area. Others may be able to leave early enough to drive hundreds of miles out of harm's way.

But for some – many of whom are elderly or pet owners – additional local opportunities are needed. For them, organizations that set up a voluntary Host Homes program can help.

Employers, places of worship, civic organizations and community groups are among the organizations that can establish their own voluntary Host Homes programs that they operate for their own employees or members. It gives an opportunity for those within an organization who live in a secure home in a

non-evacuation area to open their home to a fellow member of the same organization who must evacuate.

Keeping the host/guest matches within the organization takes away some of the fear associated with the thought of helping strangers. It allows the volunteer coordinators the freedom to run the program according to the needs of the participating organization.

The program can also benefit pet owners who might otherwise stay home with their pets regardless of the danger.

Host Homes is not a government program; it is a voluntary program for community organizations. Pinellas County has prepared a toolkit and additional information to help organizations get started.

To find out more go to: www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

KIDS in THE KNOW

Hurricane season can be a scary time for kids. It's confusing to evacuate and leave personal belongings behind. Adults in the home may be stressed by the weather updates. How can you help younger family members work their way through these stressful times?



Learning in advance will give kids a better understanding of what's taking place when disaster strikes. For some great resources for your family to check out, visit:

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/helpingchildrencope.htm

Weather Wiz Kids

The fascinating world of weather in easy-to-understand terms and hands-on experiments

FEMA for Kids

Ways to help prepare for hurricane season

How Stuff Works: Hurricanes

Scientific answers to commonly asked questions

Red Cross

Disaster preparedness coloring book

StormStruck: A Tale of Two Homes

An interactive weather experience

Kids Get A Plan

An interactive preparedness game





Boat owners need to have a plan to secure and protect their boats from hurricanes. Take these actions to help lessen the damage to your vessel and lead the way to smooth sailing through the hurricane season. Some key tips to prepare:

- Always keep your watercraft in good condition. Be sure that all systems are functioning.
- Review your insurance policies and keep them up-to-date.
- Keep batteries fully charged and make certain bilge pumps are fully operational.
- Create a hurricane plan for your boat. Be sure to file a copy of the plan with your marina operator.
- Take photographs of your boat, write a description along with an inventory and put them with your important papers.
- Write up a checklist of actions to take if a hurricane or tropical storm develops. Begin implementing your hurricane checklist when a Hurricane Watch is issued by the National Hurricane Center. Don't wait for a Hurricane Warning or evacuation order to act.
- Purchase and stow mooring line to use in the event of a hurricane. As a general rule, line should be twice the diameter of your normal line.
- Talk with your marina about their hurricane plans and how to protect your boat.
- Remove all loose items on deck including bimini tops, plastic side enclosures, sails and dinghies. Store them on land. Store small, loose items below deck, including antennas.
- Shut off fuel lines at the tank and close through hull fittings.

It is suggested to keep your boat high and dry on shore. Some of the recommended steps to take:

- Remove your boat and trailer from the water and take it to a safe location on dry land.
- Partially fill your boat with water to provide extra weight and stability. Be sure the water does not touch the engine or batteries.
- Put wooden blocks between the trailer frame and the springs for extra support with the added weight.
- Store the boat and trailer unit in a secure covered building, such as your garage.
- Secure the unit to the ground using ground hooks and straps, if left outside.

Do not even consider staying with your boat. Make preparations early and evacuate for the safety of you and your family. For more information, visit www.boatsafe.com.

If you are leaving your boat on the water, remember to take special precautions if your boat will be moored at dock:

- Secure all hatches and doors, and tape all windows from the inside.
- Double up on mooring lines as well as spring lines to secure the boat in its mooring.
- Use several cleats to distribute the load on the boat.
- Allow as much line as possible for tide and storm surge.
- Attach chafing gear, such as reinforced radiator hose, where lines will rub. Provide several feet of chafing hose on each side of rub locations.
- Disconnect electric, water and other connections from dock.
- Remove all electronics and valuables to prevent destruction or theft.

If your boat will be anchored out during the hurricane, it is important to remember:

- Anchoring your boat on the lee side of protective land rather than mooring to a dock might be a better option.
- Use two anchors and no stern anchor.
- Line length should be at least six to nine times the depth of the water to compensate for possible storm surge and swing.
- Use chafing gear.
- When making preparations, remember that the position of the boat may change drastically as the storm passes and winds shift.

If you leave your boat on the water, be sure it is as watertight as possible. Fuel tanks should be filled and water tanks emptied. Put your own personal safety first when tying up your boat.

Remember that battening down the hatches before a hurricane can protect your boat and the property around it.

BASCULE BRIDGE OPERATIONS DURING AN EVACUATION

Pinellas County has the second highest number of registered boat owners in Florida. During a hurricane or other disaster, automotive and boating traffic needs must be addressed in regards to the operations of a bascule bridge, also known as a drawbridge. There are nine bascule bridges within the county's boundaries.



Local boat owners and operators are advised, before moving their vessel, to obtain the latest available weather forecast for the boating area. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, local media and marine broadcasts are the best way to keep informed of expected weather and sea conditions. If watches and/or warnings are issued, do not venture out on the water unless you are confident your vessel can be navigated safely under the forecast conditions for wind and seas.

In order to address both automobile and marine traffic during evacuations, the operation of bascule bridges will be coordinated between Pinellas County Emergency Management, Pinellas County Public Works, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Department of Transportation and the city of Treasure Island. This joint coordination begins when an evacuation order takes place; the U.S. Coast Guard will issue a special marine advisory that bascule bridge operations and schedules will be modified.

Bridge operations will continue in a modified mode, providing preference to evacuating automobile traffic, until bridges go into a lock-down position to ensure evacuations from the barrier islands can be completed. This position also protects the bridges from wind damage from the approaching storm.

The nine bascule bridges are:

- **Tierra Verde Bridge**
- **Corey Causeway Bridge**
- **John's Pass Bridge**
- **Tom Stuart Causeway Bridge**
- **Indian Rocks Bridge**
- **Dunedin Causeway Bridge**
- **Beckett Bridge**
- **Park Boulevard Bridge**
- **Treasure Island Bridge**

During the mandatory evacuation, you should closely monitor marine broadcasts, local radio and television stations for current updates on anticipated weather and specific bridge closures.

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR PET

Pinellas County pet owners have options when it comes to pet-friendly emergency shelters. Pinellas County Schools and Pinellas County government have three pet-friendly shelter locations (per federal law, service animals are allowed in any public shelter). Those registering for special needs shelters should read page 8 for more information on sheltering.

Each of these facilities is substantially built, has a large indoor gym and separate air handlers to ensure the comfort and safety of allergic citizens who shelter there. Pet shelters accept only cats and dogs, and availability is limited. Please consider these shelters as a last resort in your planning process.

Animal shelters, such as Pinellas County Animal Services, the Humane Society of Pinellas and the SPCA Tampa Bay, cannot accept your pets during emergencies.

Don't assume that a boarding kennel or hotel/motel will accept your pet. Check ahead and look for kennels in non-evacuation zones.

POST-DISASTER ANIMAL COLLECTION

After a storm, stray animals will be collected and staged at temporary collection sites prior to transfer to more permanent shelters. The location of these collection sites will be determined, based on prevailing conditions. Every effort will be made to inform the public of these locations so that animals can be returned to their owners as quickly as possible. Once the site(s) have been determined you should look for your pet(s) at the location nearest your home and where you last saw your pet. To report a lost pet, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600.

THINGS TO DO:

- ☐ Take your pet when you evacuate. Do not leave your pet at home!
- ☐ Ask friends or family living outside of evacuation areas if they can keep your pet.
- ☐ Keep a pet carrier (portable kennel) for each pet – one that allows your pet to stand and turn around. The carrier should be marked with your pet's identification.
- ☐ Make sure all your pet's vaccinations are current and have proof available of its current county-issued license.
- ☐ If you must use a kennel as a last resort, make sure it is not in an evacuation zone, and reserve space as soon as possible. Kennels require proof of vaccinations.
- ☐ Download a pet identification form from the Pinellas County Animal Services website. Follow the heading *Pet Hurricane Planning*, fill out the form and tape it to your pet carrier or kennel. This form will contain all needed information about your pet for your stay at Pinellas County pet-friendly shelters.
- ☐ Snap a photo of your pet and keep it with you.



www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices



MAKE SURE ALL PETS ARE PART OF THE PLAN

Horse and livestock owners need to have preparations in place well in advance. Pinellas County does not provide any public areas to leave these animals during evacuations, so residents need to make arrangements for shelter. The Sunshine State Horse Council has an informative web page that provides guidance on how to prepare your horse to weather the storm. Visit www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane. Make sure all pets are part of the plan.



Looking for Volunteers to Help with Pet Pick-ups

A love of animals and enthusiasm for helping others are qualities adult volunteers need to assist special needs citizens who must evacuate their homes during an emergency such as a hurricane. Pinellas County Animal Services welcomes applications to volunteer with transportation teams that take pets to safe locations during a declared emergency. This service helps special needs citizens who might otherwise decide not to evacuate because of their pets. With this service, these citizens feel more comfortable about leaving their homes knowing their animals are safe.

Volunteers help transport pets of special needs citizens to safe, predetermined locations. Those interested in volunteering should call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600. Helpers need to fill out a Pinellas County volunteer application and must complete specialized training.



PET SHELTERS Register

The Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County government provide these three pet-friendly shelter locations:

- **Dunedin Highland Middle School**
70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin
- **Oak Grove Middle School**
1370 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater
- **Thurgood Marshall Middle School**
3901 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg

Residents must register themselves and their pets for these shelters, as space is limited. Mobile home residents are given first priority. Find a registration form online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/petpreparedness.htm or call (727) 582-2600.



PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS/MOTELS

Call **Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater** at (727) 464-7200 or check the following websites during an evacuation:

- www.visitstpeteclearwater.com
- www.floridapets.net
- www.petswelcome.com
- www.LetsGoPets.com
- www.petfriendlyhotels.com
- www.petfriendlytravel.com
- www.Iclickpethotels.com
- www.travelpets.com
- www.dogfriendly.com

Check with other hotels. Many have emergency policies and will accept pets during an evacuation.

Pet Disaster Supply Kit

- ☐ Proper identification
- ☐ Immunization and medical records
- ☐ County-issued rabies tag
- ☐ Food and water (2 weeks supply)
- ☐ Food/water bowls
- ☐ Carrier or portable kennel
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Muzzle, collar and leash
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Current photo of pet
- ☐ Favorite toys and blanket
- ☐ Cat litter/pan and scoop
- ☐ Grooming items
- ☐ Plastic bags to handle waste
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Disinfectant

You're Prepared and the Storm is Bearing Down

NOW WHAT? TIPS FOR DURING AND AFTER THE STORM

DURING a storm

WHEN THE STORM'S IMPACT IS FELT



While the approach of a hurricane can be an anxious time, living through the storm can be terrifying. If you live in an ordered evacuation zone, you should already be at your safe place (host home, hotel or shelter). If you are not evacuating, it's time to brave the storm.

Here are some important tips to remember:

- Stay tuned to local news for updates.
- Close interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- If power goes out, use your weather radio for alerts. For light, use flashlights, battery-operated lanterns or chemical light sticks. Avoid burning candles and do not run a generator inside.
- Stay indoors and most importantly, stay calm.
- Parents should extend greater patience and understanding to children having difficulty coping with the situation. Be honest about the danger and reassure them that you are focused on their safety. Do your best to keep them entertained or occupied.
- Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm and winds may pick up again.

IF YOUR HOME IS BREACHED

Even though you have taken the necessary precautions to protect your home, the exterior can be breached. Debris can break through windows, and trees can crash through your roof. When this happens, take these immediate actions:

- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level of your home. Remember, the center of your house is the safest.
- Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object if you cannot make it to a safe room.
- Consider leaving your home ONLY if remaining poses an imminent threat to your life.
- Wait until the storm has passed to tend to any damage.

DRIVING SAFELY

A hurricane can turn a familiar road into an unfamiliar and dangerous one very quickly.

DRIVING SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not drive through standing water. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.
- Match your speed to road conditions. Cars can quickly become uncontrollable when driving on damaged, debris-choked roads.
- Visibility may be limited. Large trucks and increased traffic on congested roadways can obstruct your line of sight.



AFTER a storm

After the storm, it's time to assess the damage. Keep your battery-operated radio close for news reports about damage, road closures, power outages and other emergency instructions. With three to seven days of uncertainty, depending on the storm, you'll need to rely upon what you've stored for food, water, medications and entertainment. If the county is hit with a Category 3, 4 or 5 hurricane, it could be weeks or months before life gets back to normal. Use the following safety steps during recovery:

GENERATOR SAFETY

Home generators provide limited power during a prolonged power outage. Use them to keep a refrigerator cold, run a fan, recharge your cell phone or operate a microwave oven. Generators can help make your storm recovery more comfortable, but they can be life threatening if not used correctly. Read instructions carefully and fully understand how to use your specific generator.

GENERATOR DANGERS

Carbon Monoxide (CO) hazard

Carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas produced from burning fuel, is deadly in very small amounts.

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. **NEVER** use them in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Install battery-operated or battery-backup carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test these alarms often and replace batteries when needed.



ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Generators create electricity which can kill if you receive a shock.

- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface in an open area. Dry your hands before handling it.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is free of cuts or tears and has all three prongs.
- **NEVER** plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If necessary to connect a generator to house wiring for appliances, have a qualified electrician install needed equipment and teach you how to use it.

FIRE HAZARDS

Generators use flammable fuels, increasing the chance of an accidental fire that can threaten your life and property.

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in labeled containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

While it is necessary to clear downed trees and branches, use great caution when operating a chainsaw.

Safety tips to help keep you safe and injury-free:

BEFORE STARTING THE SAW

- Read your owner's manual.
- Wear proper safety gear, including eye and hearing protection, heavy work gloves and work boots.
- Check controls, chain tension and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Fuel your saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.
- Clear debris that may interfere with cutting.

WHILE RUNNING THE SAW

- Keep both hands on the handles.
- Make sure you have secure footing.
- Do not overreach or cut directly overhead.
- Be prepared for kickback.



- Maintain a safe distance from the car in front of you.
- Traffic patterns may be shifted in work zones; obey posted work-zone speed limits at all times. Be aware of equipment and workers.
- Constantly scan for pedestrians who can quickly lose their footing.
- Obey all "road closed" signs. Just because you can't see road damage doesn't mean it is safe.
- Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.
- Not all damaged or destroyed road signs will have been replaced.
- Be prepared to yield to a pedestrian or another driver or to stop unexpectedly.
- Know where you are going and give yourself ample time to get there.
- Drive with car lights on, and slow down.

AFTER a storm

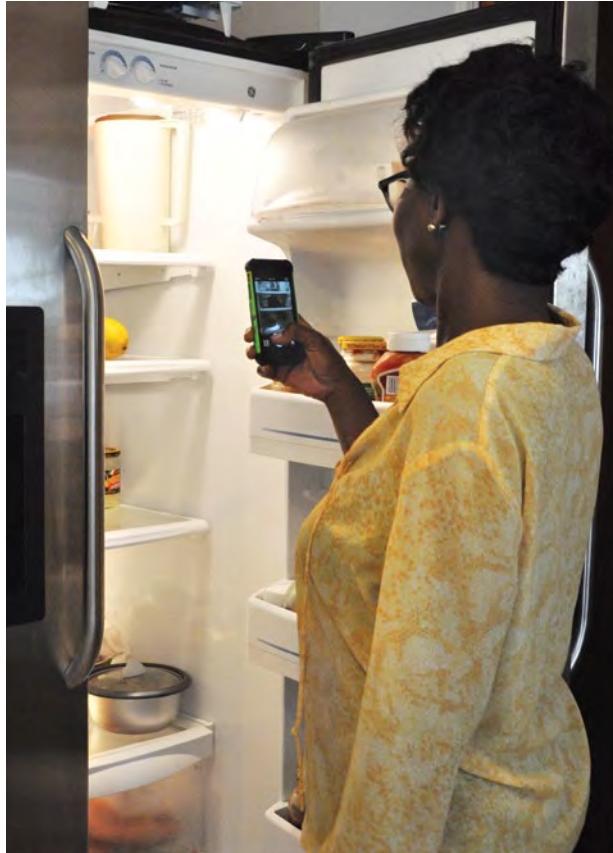
FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES

Power outages caused by hurricanes can present health concerns from food spoilage.

TIPS TO HELP KEEP YOU SAFE:

- Before the storm, photograph or take an inventory of the items in your refrigerator and freezer. Put this photo or list on the refrigerator door so you know where everything is located.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Minimal freezer-door openings can keep frozen items safe for about two days.
- Refrigerated foods should be safe if the power is out for no more than four to six hours. Discard any food that has been above 40°F for two hours and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture. Never taste food to determine safety!
- If power will be off more than six hours, transfer refrigerated foods to an insulated cooler filled with ice or frozen gel packs. Keep a thermometer in the cooler to be sure the food stays at 40°F or lower.

For more information about food safety, call the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas at (727) 824-6900, or visit www.pinellashealth.com.



RESTROOM FACILITIES

Improper disposal of human waste can lead to outbreaks of cholera, dysentery and other diseases.

TIPS FOR A SEWER OUTAGE:

- When instructed, do not use or flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be out of order, which could lead to a sewage back-up into homes.
- Use a chemical toilet if one is available.
- Create an emergency toilet by using your toilet bowl or a five-gallon plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid. Line with a heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as a disinfectant. If using your toilet bowl, first turn off water and flush one time to empty before lining with trash bag.
- DO NOT use kitty litter in your emergency toilet. This cannot be flushed after the sewage system is operational.
- Once given the OK, dispose of the emergency toilet's contents into your household commode.
- Thoroughly sanitize your emergency toilet with bleach before storing or disposal.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling the emergency toilet.

DRINKING WATER

A boil-water order can be issued during a hurricane or any other significant event that affects the drinking water supply. This means there is a possibility of some microbial contamination in tap water. While there are advanced and expensive filters and specialized water treatment tablets on the market that can make your water safe to drink, there are two methods that are typically used by homeowners:

BOILING

Boiling is the most effective way to kill bacteria, viruses and parasites in water. According to the Florida State Health Department and the Center for Disease Control, a pot of water that has been brought to a full rolling boil for one minute is enough to kill pathogens and make the water safe to consume. Let the water come to room temperature before drinking.

BLEACH

Bleach is a less effective way to sanitize water but it can work if you don't have access to power or cooking fuel. Add 1/8 teaspoon of common unscented household bleach (containing 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite) to a gallon of water and let the water stand for at least 30 minutes. Remember, these methods work with water that is clear but possibly contaminated, not with murky water taken from a ditch, for example.

For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control's food and water safety page at www.emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.asp.

CURFEWS

After the storm passes, authorities may announce a curfew. This is a safety measure usually initiated because roads are still blocked with trees or downed power lines. To assist in the recovery efforts and to keep everyone safe, it is important to comply.



RE-ENTERING PINELLAS COUNTY



If you have evacuated out of the area, returning home can have some challenges if a storm has done significant damage to the county. Bridges and roads may be closed due to damage, flooding or debris. Officials may have entire areas closed off to everyone, even residents. It's important to remember that coming home is not a guarantee. So before heading home, be sure to watch or read the news to learn the latest information about road conditions and damage reports for Pinellas County and surrounding areas.

As part of the Pinellas County Re-entry Plan, you will be required to provide a proper form of identification for resident access. These include a current driver's license, valid state identification card, utility bill, mortgage deed, property tax documents, city- or county-issued resident hangtag or car registration, any of which includes an address or other means that identifies the location of their property.

Business owners and employees must also have proper forms of ID (see page 5).

Residents and businesspeople also need emergency access permits to re-enter barrier island communities (see page 1).

You can find the countywide re-entry plan at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/afterthestorm.htm#reenter.

PRICE GOUGING

It is illegal for anyone to sell necessary goods or services at higher than normal prices during a state of emergency.

Normal average retail prices are based on the average of two prices recorded over the past 12 months.

If you believe that a business or individual is price gouging during a declared state of emergency, call (727) 464-6200 to report.

The Citizens Information Center is activated during times of emergency. If you require assistance or if you have questions during these times, call (727) 464-3800.

Mobile phone prep on page 2 is especially critical for receiving info for these types of hazards.

All-Hazard Planning

While hurricanes pose a major threat to Pinellas County, there are any number of other potential disasters that may threaten lives and property.

From violent tornadoes to hazardous chemical spills, it is critical to know what to do when warnings are issued. See page 2 of this guide for information on how to receive warnings.

It is critical to develop an **emergency communications plan** among family members, as well as identify a **secondary meeting location** should an incident prevent you from getting home.

The importance of a survival kit for all potential disasters can't be overstated. The items you use to prepare for a hurricane can be augmented by a few items to increase your readiness. For example, an N95 face mask might prove to be valuable in the event of a pandemic, and some plastic sheeting and duct tape can help seal cracks around your doors and windows if a dangerous chemical is in the air from a hazardous material spill.

Most importantly, **identify a safe room** you can retreat to in the event of severe weather. Your safe room should be a small interior room with stout walls, such as a bathroom or closet on the ground floor away from windows. Offices, public areas and schools should also identify safe havens to go to in the event something is to happen.

While some hazards such as blizzards, tsunamis and meteorite strikes are highly unlikely in Florida, there are other threats.

SEVERE WEATHER

While most Floridians may equate severe weather with hurricanes, we face a number of hazardous weather threats year-round.

As with hurricanes, the National Weather Service issues watches and warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding. The difference is:

- **Watch:** Issued by the National Weather Service when severe weather is possible in your area. You should remain alert for approaching storms. Remind family members of where the safe areas are within your home and carefully monitor radio or television reports for further developments.
- **Warning:** Indicates that a tornado has been sighted in your area or is indicated on weather radar. You should proceed to safe shelter immediately.

Most importantly, check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors and watch for signs of approaching storms while outside. Postpone outdoor activities if storms are imminent.

THUNDERSTORMS

At any moment there are an estimated 1,800 thunderstorms occurring around the world. That's 16 million thunderstorms a year! Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, about 10 percent are classified as severe. The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail the size of a quarter or larger, or winds of 58 mph or stronger. Severe thunderstorms are known to cause significant damage to well-built structures and injure people. Winds are frequently mistaken for those of tornadoes.

What actions should you take to be prepared?

- **Discuss** thunderstorm safety with all members of your household or business.
- Locate or build a **safe room** in the interior of your home or business that can help provide protection for you and your family or your employees. This room should be located away from all windows.

TORNADOES

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. It is spawned by a thunderstorm or as a result of severe weather associated with hurricanes. A funnel cloud is formed as cool air overrides a layer of warm air, forcing the warm air to rise rapidly. The damage from a tornado results from high wind velocity and wind-blown debris.

Between 1959 and 2013, Pinellas County has experienced 119 tornadoes, surpassed in Florida only by Polk County (145 tornadoes) and Hillsborough County (132). The deadliest of these storms hit between January and March as strong cold fronts can create super cell thunderstorms that can produce powerful tornadoes.

When a **Tornado Warning** goes into effect, **act immediately:**

- **At home:** All family members should proceed to your safe area immediately. If you have designated a bathroom as your safe area, get into the bathtub and cover yourself with a couch cushion. This will provide you with protection on all sides. If there are no downstairs bathrooms, and closets are inaccessible, a hallway may be your next best area of refuge. As a last resort, tip over a heavy piece of furniture, such as a couch or heavy chair, move it to the center of the room and take cover underneath.
- **In a mobile home:** Mobile homes offer poor resistance to tornado winds. You should plan on leaving your mobile home to seek shelter elsewhere. Most mobile home communities have a recreational building or laundry room which could offer safe haven. As a last resort, seek refuge in a ditch or culvert or other low-lying area of ground.



- **In your vehicle:** Vehicles are easily overturned by tornado winds. Leave your vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. Do not try to outrun or outmaneuver a tornado! Use the time to seek appropriate shelter outside your vehicle.
- **In schools:** All public schools have reliable ways to monitor tornado watches and warnings, and each school has a designated emergency plan that will lead pupils and faculty to designated safe areas.

FLOODING

Flooding is one of Florida's most frequent hazards. There are different reasons a community may flood: storm surge, river flooding or heavy rainfall. Low-lying or poorly drained areas can also increase a community's flood risk. To protect yourself, learn what flood threats affect your community. Are there rivers or creeks that flood frequently? Is your home located in a low-lying area?

To prepare for flooding:

- **Determine how vulnerable** your home, office and frequent driving routes are to rising water.
- **Develop a plan** on what you will need to do if you have to leave your home or if you can't get back home.
- For the latest information on flooding risk in an unincorporated area, visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding or call (727) 464-3471. If you live in one of the Pinellas County municipalities, contact your city for flood information, www.pinellascounty.org/municipalities.

Most importantly, **do not drive through areas of standing water of unknown depth.** It takes just one foot of flowing water to sweep a car off of a roadway. Also, with lane markers not visible underwater, it can be easy to lose track of where you are – possibly leading to you leaving the road into a drainage ditch. **When in doubt, turn around, don't drown.**

LIGHTNING

In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million lightning flashes each year. In an average year, Florida sees around 1.4 million of these lightning strikes. Lightning occurs with every thunderstorm and, on average, Florida sees around 70 to 100 days a year with at least one thunderstorm in the state. This makes central Florida the lightning capital of the United States.

Because of Florida's vulnerability to thunderstorms and lightning, lightning is one of the most deadly weather hazards in the Sunshine State.

How far away is lightning?

In order to tell how close a lightning strike is, count the seconds between the lightning flash and the resulting thunder. For every five seconds you count, lightning is one mile away. A good rule of thumb is to remember that if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Even if it is not raining where you are, lightning can still travel as far as 10 miles away from its thunderstorm and has been observed as far as 25 miles away. This is why the best thing you can do when you see lightning is seek safe shelter as soon as possible.

Remember, **when thunder roars, go indoors.**



EXTREME HEAT



Each summer, millions of residents and tourists enjoy the warm weather and sunny beaches, but most are unaware of just how hot it can get in Florida. Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the state is always influenced by tropical moisture, especially in the summer.

Scientists measure the impact of extreme heat on us with the heat index - the apparent temperature that describes the combined effect of high air temperature and high humidity. The higher this combination, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Any time you are in the summer heat outdoors, it is critical that you remain aware of the heat index and take the appropriate precautions.

- **Never leave children or pets in a parked car:** The temperature can rise to 135 degrees in less than 10 minutes, which can cause death to children or pets. If you see a child or pet left unattended in a parked car, you should call 9-1-1 and alert authorities.
- **Slow down:** Strenuous activities should be reduced, eliminated or rescheduled to the coolest time of the day. Individuals at risk should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.
- **Dress for the conditions:** Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight, and helps your body maintain normal temperatures.
- **Drink plenty of water:** Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty. Do not drink alcoholic beverages.
- **Spend more time in air-conditioned places:** Air conditioning markedly reduces danger from the heat.
- **Don't get too much sun:** Sunburn makes the job of heat dissipation that much more difficult.

TERRORISM

Unlike a hurricane or flood, there will likely be no warning for a terrorist attack. We can make sure that our families know what we would do to account for each other in a disaster. A survival plan – similar to the one assembled for a hurricane - is critical and should be in place at all times. Your communications plan is critical, and back-up plans for places to meet are a must in case normal means of communication are disrupted or inoperable.

One important step you can take is to **be alert and aware** of your surroundings. If you see something, say something to a law enforcement officer or call 9-1-1 to report it.

Terrorism does not mean you have to change your life. You only need to be prepared as you would for any other potential disaster.

What your community can do

In a disaster, our most important resource is each other. To help coordinate this effort, why not become a part of a Community Emergency Response Team? These teams are local or neighborhood groups that receive special training to enhance their ability to recognize, respond to and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. Visit <https://pinellascountyflccc.samariteam.com> to find out more about Pinellas County CERT teams.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are all around us. The chlorine that keeps pools sparkling clear. The tanker trucks that carry chemicals along our highways. The manufacturing facilities that store chemicals for cleaning, production and other business needs. Should these chemicals be accidentally released, immediate action may be required to save lives.

Should a chemical release take place, authorities may ask you to shelter-in-place where you are - at home, work, school or in between. This may require you to take steps to prevent outside air from coming in, which may include:

- **Turning off** the air conditioning/ventilation system, and securely closing all windows and doors.
- **Remain indoors and listen for instructions** to take additional steps to protect yourself and your family.

PANDEMIC

People can be infected with dangerous diseases in a number of ways. Some germs, like those causing malaria, are passed to humans by animals. Other germs, like those that cause botulism, are carried to people by contaminated food or water. Still others, like the ones causing measles, are passed directly from person to person.

Contagious diseases that pose a health risk to people have always existed. While the spread of many of these diseases has been controlled through vaccination and other public health efforts, emerging worldwide illnesses have raised concerns about the possibility of a disease risk. That makes it important for people to understand what can and would be done to protect the public from the spread of dangerous contagious diseases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the U.S. government agency responsible for identifying, tracking and controlling the spread of disease. With the help of the CDC, state and local health departments have created emergency preparedness and response plans to control the spread of a contagious disease by limiting people's exposure to it. For more information, visit:

- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov
- Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County: www.pinellashealth.com

Some simple steps you can take to reduce the likelihood you will get sick include:

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Try to **avoid close contact** with sick people.



- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Practice **good health habits**. Get plenty of sleep and exercise, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat healthy food.
- **Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

If you feel sick, **stay home** until you recover.

Stay up-to-date on your immunizations. Listen for local guidance during emergencies.

FIRE

Even in densely populated Pinellas County, the threat of fires is present. Planning is critical should a fire emergency occur. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will need to take.

- **Contact numbers** are extremely important. Make sure everyone in the family knows how to get in touch with each other.
- Know at least two **escape routes** out of your home and out of your neighborhood. Unlike a hurricane evacuation, you may have only a moment for a fire evacuation. Make sure your plan accounts for pets.

Most importantly, **practice this drill** so everyone knows what to do if a fire disaster occurs.



Evacuation Kit

If you are evacuating to a public shelter: Pack your essentials, but pack light as space is limited. It is possible you may only have a space that measures 5 feet by 2 feet. Remember, a public shelter is not a cruise ship; it is a life boat with the mission to save lives.

Suggested items for a “go bag”:

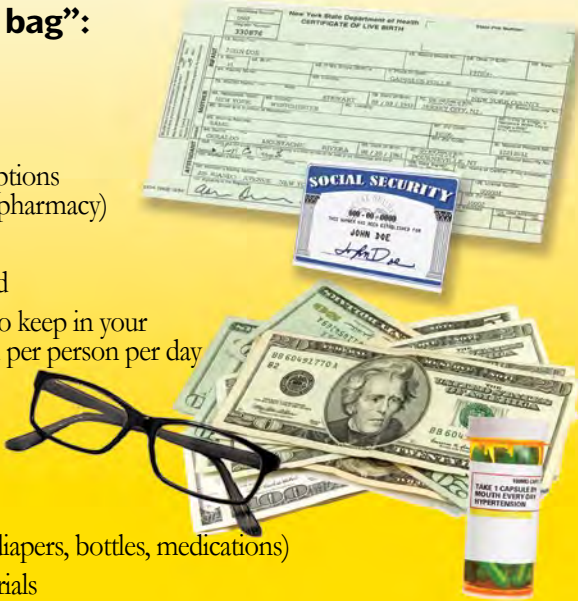
- ☐ Important papers and valid ID
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Phone list
- ☐ Medications and copies of prescriptions (or prescription record printed by pharmacy)
- ☐ Non-perishable food
- ☐ Special non-perishable dietary food
- ☐ Several gallons of drinking water to keep in your vehicle. A minimum of one gallon per person per day
- ☐ Bedding for a small space
- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Eyeglasses
- ☐ Infant or child necessities (wipes, diapers, bottles, medications)
- ☐ Quiet games, toys or reading materials

If you are evacuating to stay with friends or relatives or in a host home: Take your “go bag” and ask in advance what you can bring for food and water and what kind of space you’ll have for your possessions and vehicles.

Prepare your home when you leave:

Regardless of where you are evacuating, before you leave your home, be sure to do the following:

- ☐ Take your valuables and important papers
- ☐ Turn off all utilities (water, electricity, gas) at the main switch
- ☐ Lock windows and doors
- ☐ Fill your gas tank
- ☐ Advise friends or relatives of where you are going



Document Checklist

Personal papers to take with you:

- ☐ Driver’s license or ID card
- ☐ Important numbers and emergency contacts
- ☐ Credit cards and list of creditors
- ☐ Medical records and blood type
- ☐ Prescription record (printed by pharmacy. List doctors, medications, dosages, prescription numbers, etc.)
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Bank account numbers
- ☐ List of savings and investments, including CDs, stocks, bonds and mutual funds
- ☐ List of insurance policies with company names, policy types and policy numbers
- ☐ Household inventory: paper copy, photos, flashdrive, video tape and/or computer disk
- ☐ Doctor’s contact information
- ☐ Copy of wills, trust documents and living wills
- ☐ Titles for your house, car and other property
- ☐ Birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption certificates and passports
- ☐ List of advisors, such as accountant, attorney and religious leader
- ☐ Education and military records
- ☐ Other special papers that would be difficult or impossible to replace if lost

Survival Kit

If you are staying home during a hurricane: Here’s a list of items to consider for your survival kit. Keep items in airtight plastic bags or containers. Replace stored water every six months and double-check battery expiration dates.

Suggested items for a “stay kit”

- ☐ One-week supply of fluids to drink and food that requires no cooking
- ☐ Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- ☐ Nuts, beef jerky and trail mix
- ☐ Raisins, peanut butter and granola bars
- ☐ Formula or baby food
- ☐ Canned juices or sports drinks
- ☐ One gallon of water per person per day
- ☐ Non-electric can opener
- ☐ Utility knife
- ☐ Cups, plates and plastic utensils
- ☐ Cooler and ice
- ☐ Pet food

Sanitation

- ☐ Portable toilet (five-gallon bucket, heavy trash bags, chlorine bleach)
- ☐ Toilet paper and moist towelettes
- ☐ Feminine supplies
- ☐ Personal hygiene items

Kids’ supplies and entertainment

- ☐ Favorite nonperishable snacks
- ☐ Powdered milk
- ☐ Stuffed animal or favorite toy
- ☐ Blanket and pacifier
- ☐ Diapers and wipes
- ☐ Card and board games
- ☐ Books

First aid supplies

- ☐ Adhesive bandages, gauze pads and tape
- ☐ Soap and antibacterial hand gel
- ☐ Antiseptic
- ☐ Latex gloves, scissors and tweezers
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Over-the-counter pain reliever
- ☐ Anti-diarrhea medicine/laxative
- ☐ Anti-itch cream

Clothing and bedding

- ☐ One complete change of clothing and shoes per person
- ☐ Sturdy shoes or work boots
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Blankets and sleeping bags
- ☐ Sunglasses

Tools and emergency supplies

- ☐ Flashlight and battery-operated lanterns
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Matches or lighter in a waterproof container
- ☐ Compass and local maps with shelter locations
- ☐ A shut-off wrench and other tools
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and tarps
- ☐ Elastic cords or rope
- ☐ Insect repellent

Important Contact Information

Pinellas County Information (727) 464-3000 / V/TDD (727) 464-4062	www.pinellascounty.org
Pinellas County Emergency Management (727) 464-3800	www.pinellascounty.org/emergency
Pinellas County Citizens Information Center (open only during emergencies) (727) 464-4333 / TDD (727) 464-3075	
Find Your Evacuation Level (727) 453-3150 (call from home phone)	www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone
Pinellas County Emergency Notification Service (emergency text service) (866) 484-3264 - service provider may add charges	
Pinellas County	
Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater (Hotel/motel evac info inside Pinellas County)	www.visitstpeteclearwater.com
St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (727) 453-7800	www.fly2pie.com
Pinellas County Animal Services (727) 582-2600	www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices
Pinellas County PCC-TV (727) 464-4600	www.pinellascounty.org/tv
Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (for contractor information) (727) 582-3100	www.pcclb.com
Pinellas County Consumer Protection (727) 464-6200	www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/price_gouging.htm
Pinellas County Economic Development (727) 464-7332	www.pced.org
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (727) 824-6900	www.pinellashealth.com
Pinellas County School Board (727) 588-6000 / School Bus Info Line (727) 587-2020	www.pcsb.org
Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office (non-emergency) (727) 582-6200	www.pcsoweb.com
Pinellas County Utilities (727) 464-4000	www.pinellascounty.org/utilities
Pinellas County Solid Waste (727) 464-7500	www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) (727) 540-1900	www.psta.net
State of Florida	
Florida Highway Patrol *FHP (mobile phone) / (727) 570-5010	www.flhsmv.gov/fhp
Florida Division of Emergency Management (non-emergency) (850) 413-9969	www.floridadisaster.org
Florida Attorney General’s Office (to report price gouging) (866) 966-7226	www.myfloridalegal.com
Federal	
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (800) 621-3362	www.fema.gov
NOAA Weather Alert Radio SAME code for Pinellas County: 012103	
National Hurricane Center	www.nhc.noaa.gov
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay Area	www.weather.gov/tbw
Utility Companies	
Bright House Networks (888) 289-8988	brighthouse.com/tampa-bay/default
Clearwater Gas (727) 562-4980	www.clearwatergas.com
Duke Energy (to report outages) (800) 228-8485	www.duke-energy.com
People’s Gas (877) 832-6747	www.peoplesgas.com
TECO (to report outages) (877) 588-1010	www.tampaelectric.com
Verizon (800) 837-4966	www.verizon.com
WOW! (866) 745-3685	www.wowway.com
Other Agencies	
American Red Cross North County (727) 446-2358 South County (727) 898-3111	www.redcross.org/fl/tampa-bay
United Way (813) 274-0900	www.unitedwaysuncoast.org
Federal Alliance For Safe Homes (FLASH) (877) 221-7233	www.flash.org
The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) (813) 286-3400	www.disastersafety.org
Insurance Information Institute	www.iii.org
2-1-1 Referral Line - Tampa Bay Cares	www.211tampabay.org