



ARE YOU READY FOR A
HURRICANE?

Your St. Lucie County Hurricane Preparedness Guide



**ST. LUCIE
COUNTY**
FLORIDA



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL

9-1-1

CALL 911 **ONLY** TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY: (772) 462-8100

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION: (772) 462-1100

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
(NONEMERGENCY): (772) 462-7300

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT (NON-
EMERGENCY): (772) 621-3400

LAWNWOOD REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER AND
HEART INSTITUTE: (772) 461-4000

MARTIN HEALTH AT
TRADITION (772) 345-8100

ST. LUCIE
MEDICAL CENTER (772) 335-4000


POISON CONTROL (800) 222-1222


FLORIDA POWER
AND LIGHT: (FPL) (800) 4-OUTAGE

FLORIDA DIVISION OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FDEM)
WWW.FLORIDADISASTER.ORG

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WWW.WEATHER.GOV

OFFICIAL EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION

 SLCTV Comcast Channel 28

 West Palm: WPTV NBC Channel 5
WPEC CBS Channel 12
WPBF ABC Channel 25
WFLX FOX Channel 29

 Radio WQCS - 88.9 FM

 Online www.stlucieco.gov



**ST LUCIE
COUNTY**

EMERGENCY INFORMATION LINE

 **(772) 460 4357**
OR
(772) 460 HELP

ST. LUCIE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

15305 W. Midway Rd. Fort Pierce, FL 34945

 (772) 462-8100  772-462-2308

 WWW.STLUCIECO.GOV/EOC

Alert St. Lucie

Sign up for Alert St. Lucie emergency notification system. By registering into Alert St. Lucie, you will be informed before, during, and after incidents that could impact your safety.



Register online at
www.stlucieco.gov/alert



**FORT
PIERCE**

CITY OF FORT
PIERCE ADMINISTRATION: (772) 467-3000

FORT PIERCE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
(NON-EMERGENCY) (772) 467-6800



**PORT
ST. LUCIE**

CITY OF PORT
ST. LUCIE ADMINISTRATION: (772) 871-5163

PORT ST. LUCIE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
(NON-EMERGENCY) (772) 871-500

KNOW THE Lingo

Hurricane - A tropical cyclone that has minimum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater.

Hurricane Watch - Hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours. Your preparations should be underway.

Hurricane Warning - Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.

Tropical Storm - A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds of 73 mph or less.

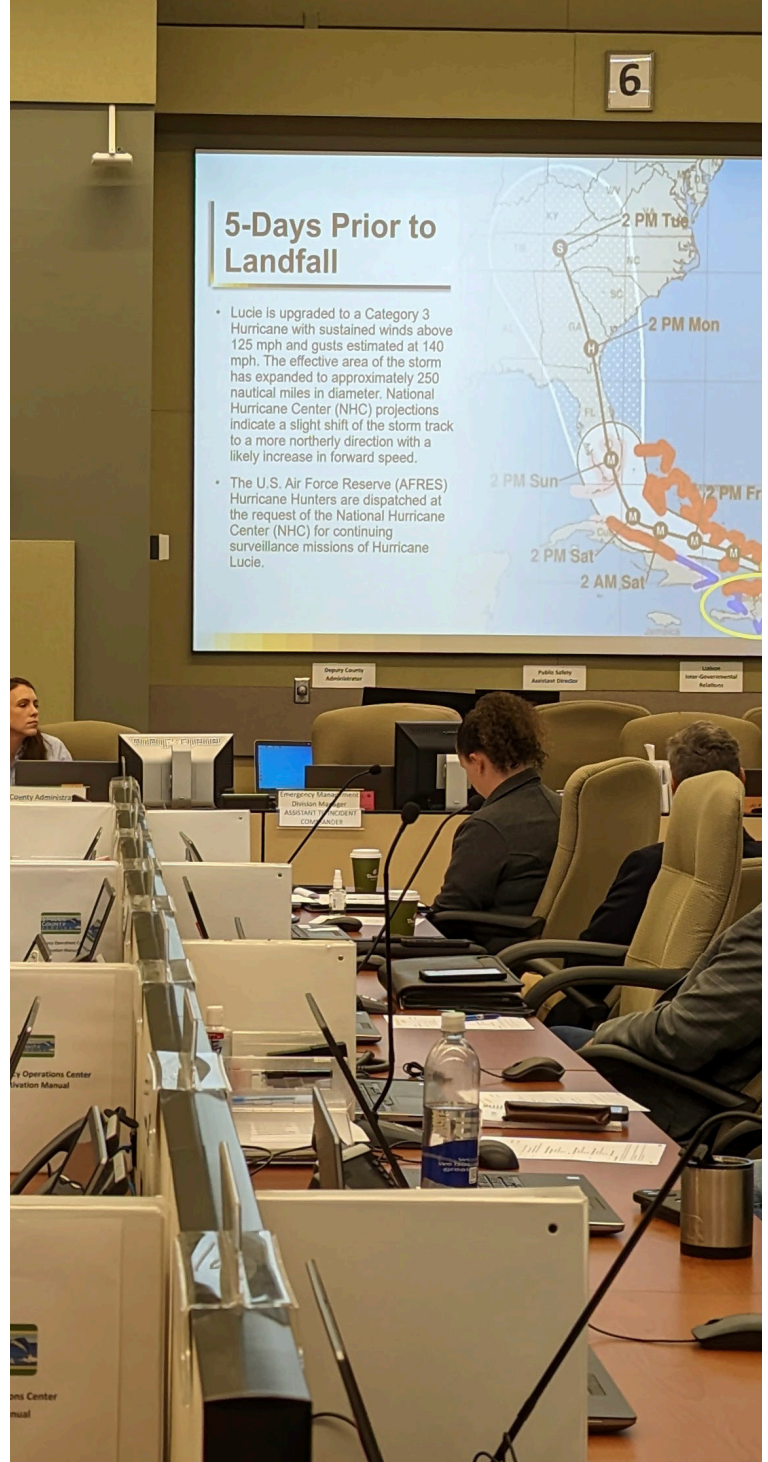
Tropical Storm Watch - Tropical storm conditions are possible within 48 hours. Your preparations should be underway.

Tropical Storm Warning - Tropical storm conditions are expected within 36 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.

Storm Surge - An abnormal rise of water generated by a storm. Nine out of 10 hurricane fatalities are attributable to storm surge, which often causes extreme flooding in coastal areas.

Storm Surge Watch - The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within a specified area, generally within 48 hours.

Storm Surge Warning - The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within a specified area, generally within 36 hours.



Rain - Because of the tropical nature of hurricanes, they contain rain, which can be torrential and cause flooding.

Flooding - A major threat during a hurricane or tropical storm is flooding. Whether you live on the coast or inland, hurricanes and tropical storms can produce widespread, torrential rain that may result in deadly and destructive floods.

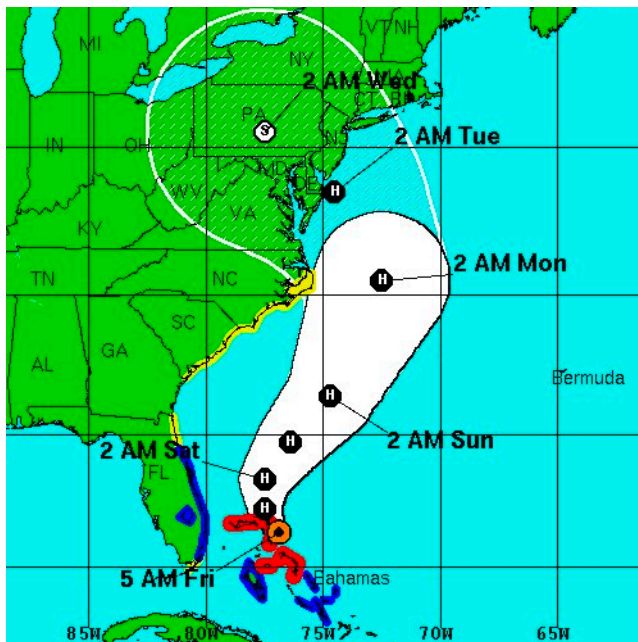
Tornados - Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce tornados. Usually, these tornados are relatively weak and short-lived, but they pose a significant threat to life and property.

Sand - Storm surge water carries the sand over the beach and deposits it further inland. Sand on beaches without dunes will deposit further inland.

KNOW THE Hazards

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5	157+ mph 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



Don't focus solely on the forecast track and cone.

Just because your area is outside of the storm's forecast, doesn't mean you are safe from its possible impact. Also, do not focus on the category of the hurricane, which is strictly wind-based. Actual impacts include storm surge, flooding, high winds and tornadoes, which typically occur well outside the cone. It doesn't take a major storm to produce major impacts. No matter how active or inactive a season may be, "it only takes one" storm to bring devastation. Residents should be prepared for hurricanes every year.



DEVELOP A *Hurricane Plan*

- ✓ Develop a hurricane emergency kit checklist. See Page 7 for hurricane emergency kit checklist.
- ✓ Determine whether you live in an evacuation zone and where you will go when an evacuation order is given. Staying with family and friends outside the evacuation zone is your best option. If evacuating, try to evacuate nearby. The further you travel, the more difficult it may be to return home.
- ✓ Inventory your home possessions and video/photograph items of value. Review all your insurance policies, including your vehicle policy.
- ✓ Look for vulnerabilities such as your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, tree branches near electric lines, etc. and determine what actions to take.
- ✓ Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat or RV.
- ✓ Protect your home by trimming trees at the proper time, installing shutters and/or purchasing a generator.
- ✓ Make arrangements in advance for people with special medical needs. See page 13 for special medical needs definition.
- ✓ Develop a plan for your pets.
- ✓ Determine your family's food, water and medical needs. Expand your purchases over an 8-week period to spread out the cost.
- ✓ Notify others of your plan and establish an out-of-town contact. Let family or friends know your hurricane plan so they can check on you in the aftermath of the storm.

Visit www.ReadyStLucie.org for more information.

BEFORE THE STORM





Hurricane Emergency Kit Checklist

- ✓ At least one gallon of drinking water per person, per day, for three to five days. Extra water is needed for food preparation, pets and personal hygiene.
- ✓ Enough food for three to five days, including nonperishable packaged or canned food, canned or shelf milk, cereal, snack foods, a three to five-day supply of special items for babies and/or the elderly: formula, wipes, diapers, special foods and toiletries.
- ✓ Manual can/bottle opener.
- ✓ Toilet paper, plates, bowls, napkins, paper towels and plastic eating utensils.
- ✓ Unscented household bleach and medicine dropper.
- ✓ Extra bedding such as blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, etc. in case you must evacuate.
- ✓ Clothing, including rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- ✓ First aid kit, medicines/prescription drugs.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes.
- ✓ Flashlight, extra batteries.
- ✓ Battery-operated or hand-crank radio and hardline telephone with jack (not cordless).
- ✓ Books, games and toys.
- ✓ Pet food, cat litter and other pet care items.
- ✓ Tool kit including cord, rope, hammer, wood nails, saw, hatchet or ax, crowbar, chainsablaes, tarp, duct tape, and heavy-duty work gloves and outdoor extension cords.
- ✓ Plastic trash bags and ties, extra re-sealable plastic storage bags, heavy-duty aluminum foil and disposable aluminum pans.
- ✓ Extra charcoal or propane fuel and matches in a waterproof container for outdoor cooking. Sterno can also be used. Never cook with any of these items inside your house. The smoke and fumes are deadly.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher (ABC type).
- ✓ Mosquito repellent with DEET and sunscreen.
- ✓ Any other special equipment or items you may need.
- ✓ USB power bank and a portable charger for cell phones.
- ✓ An extra set of car keys.
- ✓ Vehicle fuel tanks are filled with gasoline.
- ✓ Cash. Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- ✓ Important documents in a waterproof container, including insurance, medical records, bank account numbers and Social Security cards. Document all valuables with videotape or photos, if possible.

Stay home, stay safe, stay off the roads. If you are in a safe place, there is no need to evacuate unless advised otherwise. Weather the storm at home with your disaster supply kit.



Hurricane Home *Preparation*



Document Valuables

- Take pictures/video of your home (interior and exterior) in case your insurance company requests photos.

Look for Vulnerabilities

- Before hurricane season begins, walk around your home and look for vulnerabilities.

Assess Roof

- A great time to start securing or retrofitting your house is when you are making other improvements.
- Hire a licensed professional to check your roof.
- Shingles, tiles and panels should be fastened down tightly and loose ones should be replaced.
- Asphalt shingles should be attached using hotdipped, galvanized nails.
- Roof trusses should have braces and hurricane straps installed. Check that tarps are secured to the roof with two-inch by one-inch wood strips placed at 48 inches on center, especially at the edges.



Check Doors

- Solid wood or hollow metal doors are more likely to resist wind pressure and flying debris. Doors should have at least three hinges and a deadbolt security lock with a bolt throw of at least 1-inch.
- Install head and foot bolts on the inactive door of double entry doors. The surface bolt should extend through the door header and through the threshold into the subfloor.
- Garage doors should have steel bracing. Check with the manufacturer for braces or retrofitting kits. You can also attach wooden 2-inch by 6-inch stiffeners running the full width of the door, approximately 18 inches apart.

Shutter Windows

- If you have shutters, make sure they're in good working condition.
- Test accordion or roll-down shutters to see if they open and close easily. Clear the track of obstructions and lubricate. For panel shutters, check for excessive wear or rust on connectors.
- Using plywood may be more economical, but may not offer enough protection. Metal hurricane-resistant shutters are preferred. Plywood should be at least 5/8" thick and be sure to use the proper anchors and support beams.
- Approval, be installed by a licensed professional and inspected by a government agency such as the county's building code department.
- Do not use tape. Tape will not keep the windows from breaking.
- Do not leave any windows open for equalizing pressure between the inside and outside of your home. It is not necessary and could be a dangerous mistake.

Tree Pruning

- Do not begin any pruning or cleanup activities or place trash on the curb during a tropical storm or hurricane watch or warning.
- Trim trees and shrubs regularly. Remove weak branches, especially those resting on your roof and thin out the upper canopy.
- Do not attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines.
- Only specially trained professionals should work around power lines.

For more information, contact the St. Lucie County Solid Waste Department at 772-462-1768.

Pool Protection

- Remove all loose items from the pool area, such as furniture, pool cleaning equipment and potted plants that may be blown about by winds.
- Lower the water level by six inches to one foot, but no more than two feet to allow for heavy rains.

Securing Boats

- Charge batteries for automatic bilge pumps.
- For a boat stored on a trailer, latch the boat and trailer down in a protected area. Let the air out of the tires before tying the trailer down.
- Place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Secure with heavy lines to fixed objects from four directions, if possible.
- Keep your vessel registration number and location information with you.
- Check your lease or ownership contract with your marina. Know your responsibilities.
- Seal all openings to make the boat as watertight as possible.
- Remove loose gear from the deck.
- Reduce dock or piling crash damage by securing old tires along the sides of the boat.
- Secure the boat in all directions. A boat could be pulled under as the tide rises.
- Never leave a boat in davits or on a hydro-lift.
- Do not block the passage of other boats that have moorings farther inshore.
- Boats in dry storage, lash the boat to its cradle with heavy lines. Based on the weight of the boat, consider adding water to the bilge to help hold it down.



Evacuations

Evacuation orders are issued for your protection. Evacuate if you live in an evacuation zone, low-lying area or mobile home. Evacuate if you do not feel safe at home or do not want to stay at home alone. Evacuate if you have a medical condition that requires assistance in the management of an illness, ailment or injury.

For more information, visit the Emergency Preparedness Portal: www.readystlucie.org.

Voluntary Evacuation: You are encouraged to leave and you should at the very least prepare to evacuate.

Mandatory Evacuation: These are issued when danger is imminent and conditions exist that seriously endanger the lives of those in a defined area. In this case, residents must seek shelter.

Shelters Options

Friends/Family: This is your first, best option. Stay with family or friends outside the evacuation zone.

General Population Shelters: These shelters are open to all individuals and provide basic care. Hurricane shelters should only be considered as a last resort. Registration is not required.

Special Medical Needs Shelter: Located at the Havert L. Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce For people with medical conditions who do not require hospitalization. The Special Medical Needs Shelter is for people who:

- Depend on health professionals to administer injectable medication.
- Require daily or more frequent dressing changes by a health care professional.
- Need assistance from a health care professional with ostomy management, continuous peritoneal dialysis, or indwelling catheters of any kind.
- Are restricted by immobility that their basic medical needs must be met by others.
- Require daily assessment of unstable medical conditions by professional nursing personnel, i.e., diabetes, cardiac, cystic fibrosis.
- Are terminally ill patients in need of professional assistance for administering heavy doses of medication.

- Depend upon electrically energized equipment within their residence like suction machines, home dialysis machines, O2 concentrators, but excluding electric wheelchairs without other qualifying conditions.
- Depend on oxygen therapy.
- Is bedridden and requires custodial care upon the advice of a personal physician.
- Needs caregiver for assistance 24/7 with assistance in daily activities due to cognitive impairment or other (strokes, dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, etc.) care.

Note: Registration is recommended, so staff can make sure the proper equipment is online and transportation to and from the special medical needs shelter is provided. Pre-registration is open year-round. . To register, visit: www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds.

Pet-Friendly Shelter: Owners must register their pet before admittance and owners must have proof of immunization records. Space is limited and registration is required. Register your pet at: <https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/public-safety/animal-safety-service-protection/pet-shelter-registration>.

For more information about sheltering pets, visit: <https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/public-safety/animal-safety-service-protection/emergency-preparedness-pets>.

Transportation

Transportation to and from emergency shelters will be provided, if necessary. Transportation registration can be done via the Special Medical Needs portal found at www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds. Transportation needs will be assessed through an automated system via email or telephone. If you need transportation after the website portal is shut down before a storm, please contact MV Transportation at **772-462-1778** and **press 1** for reservations.

Hurricane Shelter Evacuation Kit



Wherever you decide to seek refuge during a hurricane evacuation, the following suggested items will make your temporary stay more comfortable:

- Identification.
- Cash.
- Cellphones, chargers and cables.
- Foods (canned goods and non-perishable foods that do not need cooking).
- Drinking water in a non-breakable container one gallon per person, per day.
- Special dietary food if required.
- Valuable papers, insurance policies and photos in a waterproof container.
- Personal hygiene items such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, aspirin, antacids, diapers, washcloths, towels, etc.
- Utensils such as manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, napkins, etc.
- Personal aids: eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, etc.
- Prescription medications.
- Specific medical information.
- Quiet games, books, magazines, cards and toys.
- Infant care items such as formula, baby food and disposable diapers.
- Flashlight, radio, headphones and extra batteries.
- First aid kit: betadine solution, gauze bandages, adhesive tape, sterile pads, band-aids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, non-prescription medication, facial coverings, gloves and hand sanitizer.
- Bedding materials: cot, air mattress, sleeping bag, blanket, sheet and pillow.
- Change of clothing and rainwear.

Special Medical Needs Evacuation Kit

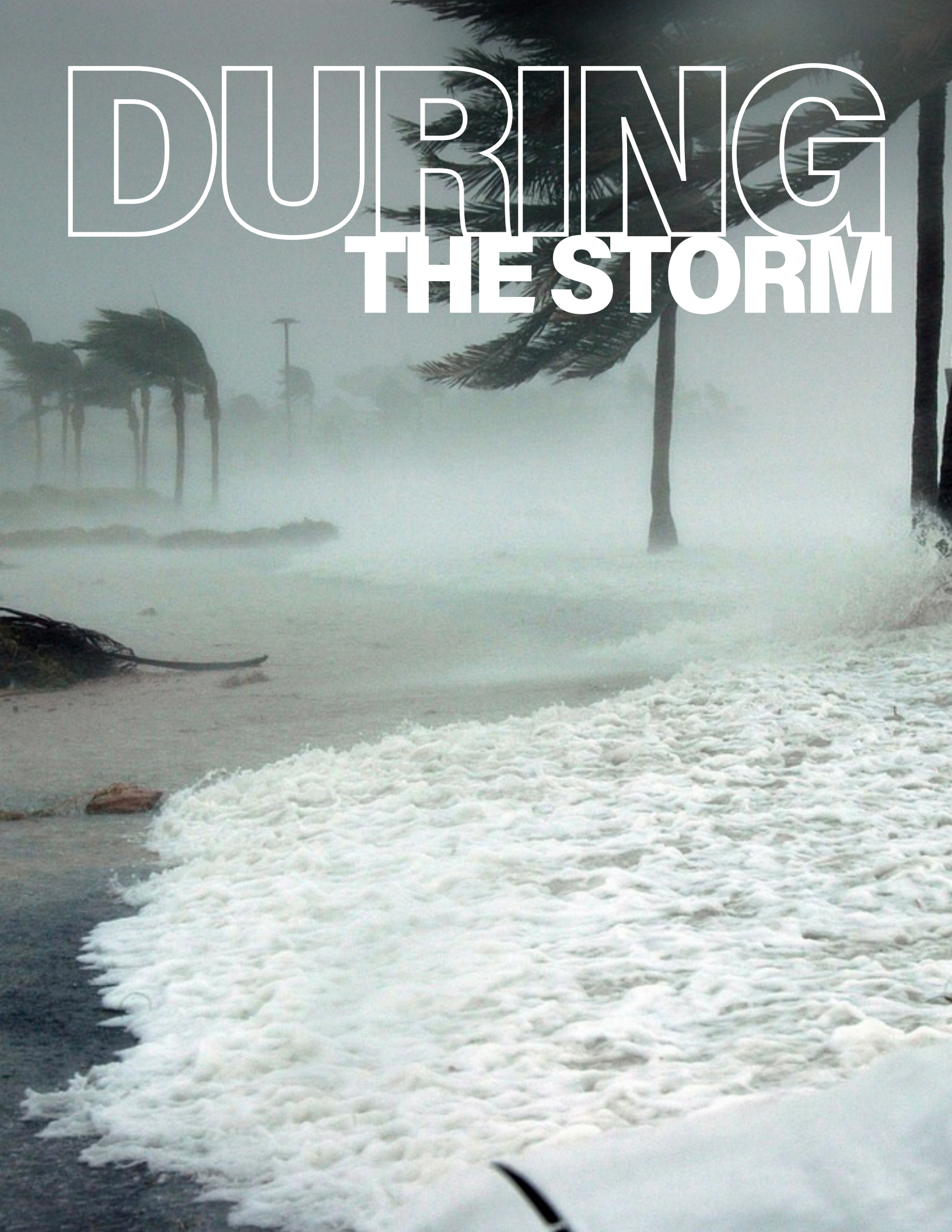
- Caregivers are required to stay with Special Medical Needs clients
- Communications aids such as paper, pencils, pens, and/or mobile devices.
- Batteries or chargers for communication aids.
- Emergency health information card and emergency contacts.
- Quiet games
- Mobility equipment, walkers and/or wheelchairs.
- Dressing devices for clothing.
- Sanitary supplies.
- Hearing devices and batteries.
- Health monitors.
- Dentures or retainers.
- Heavy-duty gloves for maneuvering wheelchairs.
- Special dietary foods, if required (meals are provided at the shelter).
- Compact bedding (medical cot provided).
- Folding lawn/lounge chair.



Pet-Friendly Shelter Evacuation Supply Kit

- 3-day supply of pet food and water.
- Pet food/water bowls.
- Can opener and spoon (if applicable for your pet).
- Pet medications and pet first kit.
- Vaccination records.
- Pet carrier/crate.
- Leash and collar/harness.
- Pet identification tag.
- Photo of you with your pet.
- Blankets, toys and treats.
- Cat litter and litter box.
- Paper towels and plastic bags.
- Doggie pee pads or newspaper

DURING THE STORM



During Watch

- Turn on a TV or radio and listen for continuing updates.
- Set refrigerator and freezer to their coldest setting; open only when necessary and close quickly.
- Freeze plastic jugs or cartons of water.
- Fill up drinking water containers.
- Scrub your bathtub and fill it with water. Keep a bucket handy for flushing the toilet.
- Stow or cover irreplaceable items and move breakables away from windows.
- Bring outdoor furniture, wind chimes, flags, trash cans, grills and antennas indoors.

During Warning/Landfall

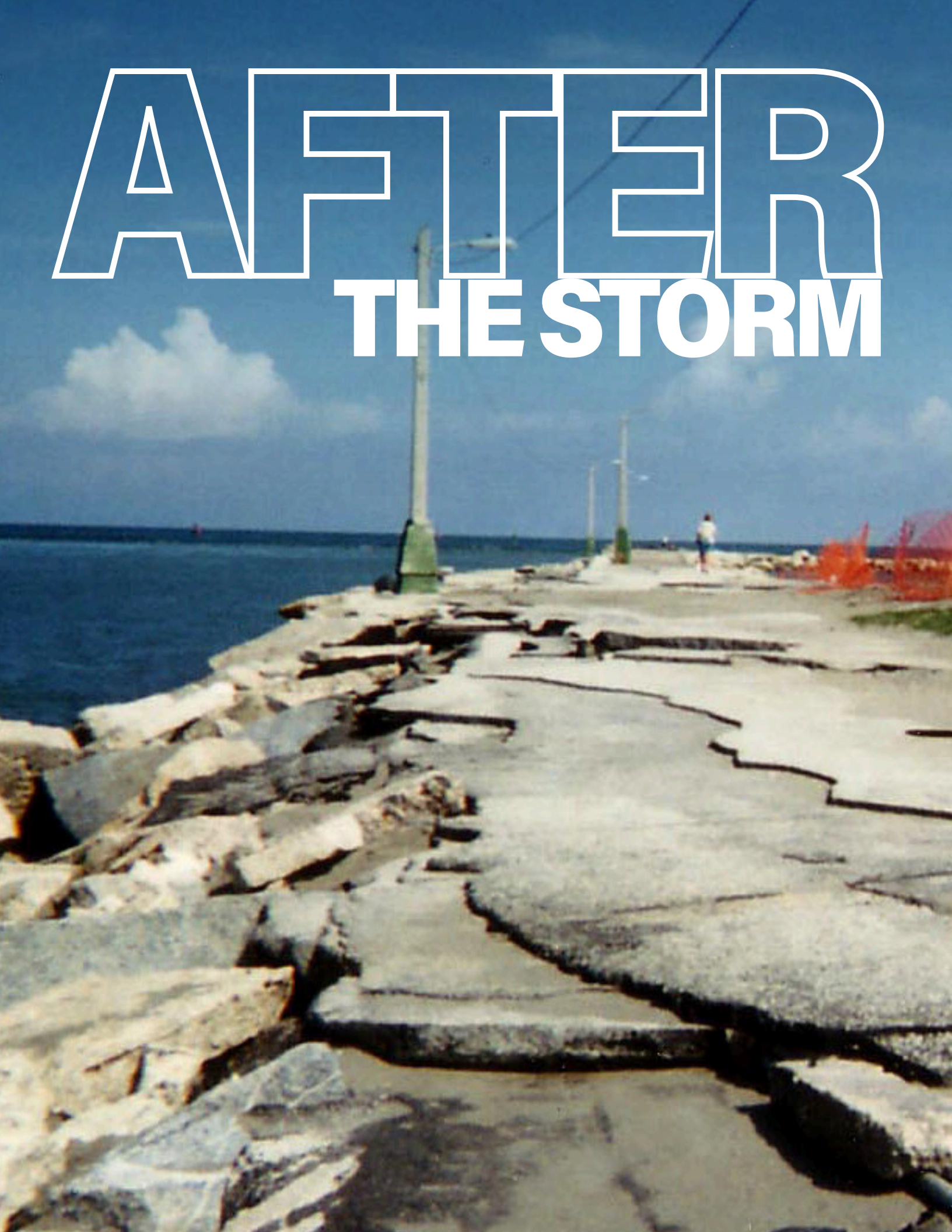
- Stay indoors in a secure location or your safe room. A good safe room location is an interior room on the first floor of the house. Closets, bathrooms and small storage rooms with only one door and no windows are well suited.
- Place towels along windowsills and the bottom of doors leading outside to mitigate water intrusion. Have buckets, mops and sponges handy in the event of flooding.
- Elevate valuables to tabletops or high places if flooding occurs.
- Do not go outside as the eye of the hurricane passes over unless repairs are absolutely essential. The storm is not over. The worst can happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Tornadoes can appear anytime during a hurricane. Monitor your local stations and if a tornado warning is issued, take cover in an interior hallway or on the lower level if in a tall building. Stay away from glass doors and windows. You can also take cover under heavy furniture in the center of a house.
- Leave the main breaker on unless the electricity goes out. If the electricity goes off, turn off air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, television sets, and computers to avoid the possibility of damage due to power surges. If the power returns and is steady, these may be turned back on.
- Use flashlights for lighting when the power goes out. Do not use candles or any other type of open flame, because the fire department may be unable to respond to a fire during a hurricane.
- Use the telephone for emergencies only. Jammed phone lines may obstruct emergency calls for police, fire rescue, emergency medical services and Red Cross disaster units.
- Stay away from the fuse box, main breaker, and electrical outlets in the event of flooding.
- Keep animals inside carriers or crates.

If Your Home Becomes Damaged During the Storm

- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.
- Close all interior doors.
- Secure and brace external doors.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room, such as a bathroom or closet.
- If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in interior rooms away from windows.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.



AFTER THE STORM



Keeping Safe in the Aftermath

Some of the greatest hurricane dangers present themselves after a storm has passed.

- Keep these important tips in mind.
- Treat all downed power lines as if they are live. If you see a power line that is sparking or arcing, call 911.
- Walk cautiously and avoid standing water, which may hide downed power lines or hazardous objects. Do not venture out in the dark because you may not see a power line that could still be energized.
- Do not drive unless it is an emergency. If the power is out, traffic lights will not be working and stop signs and street signs may have blown away. The streets will be littered with debris. Washouts may have weakened road and bridge structures.
- Take precautions to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure and the interruption of other services will make it difficult for the fire department to respond after a hurricane.
- Protect property from further damage. Plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber, and/or other materials can be used to seal or protect property that has been exposed by the storm. Make temporary repairs that won't endanger your safety.
- Notify insurance representatives of any losses.
- Take photographs or a video of damaged areas to substantiate your claim.
- Prepare a detailed inventory of damaged or destroyed property for the adjuster.
- Include a description of the item, the date of purchase, the cost at the time of purchase and the estimated replacement cost.
- Be patient. Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. In a major catastrophe, the insurance industry will have emergency offices and extra adjusters available to expedite claims and speed up recovery efforts.
- If there is flooding in your home or business, be sure the building is not in danger of collapsing and watch for loose and falling debris.
- If floodwaters have reached your belongings, they are considered contaminated. This includes canned food goods, cosmetics and medicines.
- Call a licensed electrician if you have significant water damage to your home that might make it unsafe for you to receive electricity.
- If your home has natural gas service, be alert for gas fumes and call your local utility from outside the home if any are detected.
- Do not drink water from the faucet unless it has been declared safe.
- Secure pools with temporary barriers at least 4 feet high with no holes or gaps wider than four inches.

Generator Safety Tips

Generators are useful on a temporary basis, but they can be extremely dangerous. Hazards include carbon monoxide poisoning from toxic engine exhaust, electric shock, electrocution and fire.

- Use a licensed electrician to install a permanent generator. Obtain the necessary permits.
- Use the generator according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Place portable generators outside in a well-ventilated area, never inside a home, including garages or crawl spaces. Do not connect it directly to your house, as the power generated may flow into power lines causing damage.
- You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, get outside for fresh air immediately.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup in your home.
- Do not refuel a generator while it is running.
- Do not store fuel indoors.
- **DO NOT RUN GENERATORS INDOORS.**

Road Safety

- Driving is extremely hazardous with storm debris on the roads, traffic signals that aren't working, signs that are down, flooding and downed power lines.
- Do not drive unless absolutely necessary. Drive slowly and approach all intersections with extreme caution. Treat

intersections with missing/non-working traffic signals or missing stop signs as a four-way stop.

- Never drive through flooded roadways. The depth of the water is not always obvious. Also, the road may not be intact under flood waters.
- If there is a danger of flooding and your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants, sweeping them away.
- Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may slow down emergency operations.
- Obey curfews. They are mandatory and will be re-evaluated daily. Anyone out during curfew could be subject to arrest.
- When a traffic signal regains power, it may flash red or yellow. Drivers should stop at the flashing red light and proceed cautiously through a flashing yellow light. If the power is out and the signal is dark, the intersection should be treated as a four-way stop.

Re-entry After Evacuation

- Be patient. You won't be able to return to your home or business until search and rescue operations are complete and safety hazards, such as downed power lines are cleared. It may take time for emergency crews to reach your neighborhood.
- Residents must have a valid ID with their current address, or proof of residence (lease/deed).
- Businesses owners must have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/rental, county business tax license and names of authorized individuals on business letterhead.





Debris Clean-up

Debris pick-up varies by municipality. While trash and debris may not be picked up immediately, if properly bundled, they will eventually be removed. To help expedite the clean-up process, properly separate the debris into:

- **Yard Debris:** Cut and stack (including limbs, branches, and other vegetative materials); collect small and loose materials in bags and place them on swales. Be careful if using a chainsaw.
- **Building Debris:** Fence material, roof tiles, screens, windows, carpet, broken framework, torn porch or pool screening.
- **Regular Garbage:** Place the separated debris piles on swales, away from power lines, mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, valves, water meters, gas lines and storm drains.

Blue Roof Program

The US Army Corps of Engineers implements the Blue Roof Program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Operation Blue Roof provides homeowners with free temporary blue plastic roof coverings for eligible homes damaged by a hurricane. This program allows victims to go back to their homes, so that they can return to their routines as quickly as possible. After a hurricane, registration sites will be established in the county. Registrants must fill out an application and sign a right-of-entry form. The Corps will employ contractors to install plastic sheeting on the homes of pre-qualified applicants. The sheeting is for free-standing homes, not apartments or commercial establishments. The sheeting cannot be installed on tile or flat roofs. No individual tarps will be available for distribution at the registration sites.

Make Sure Your Contractor is Licensed

To check the status of a contractor or to file a complaint, contact Contractor--Licensing@stlucieco.org or call 772-462-1672. You can also call the State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395. In addition, consider the following:

- Ask how long the contractor has been in business and check references by calling people who hired the contractor in the past.
- Check with your local building department and check the contractor's reputation with local suppliers
- Get all proposals, contracts, or agreements in writing and read all the fine print.
- Obtain a current copy of the contractor's insurance, including worker's compensation, property damage, and liability.
- Avoid paying cash and make all payments according to a provided payment schedule. Avoid any contractor who requires large advance payments

Hurricane Myths & FAQs



It will never happen here.

It only takes one storm to devastate our community.

My windows are ready. I have them taped.

Taping windows to prevent breakage or limit the amount of shattering is not an effective form of window protection and can create airborne daggers of glass should the windows break. Window coverings made of 5/8-inch plywood or metal and fastened correctly can improve the chances of having your home survive the impact of a storm.

I'm going to open the windows on the side opposite the wind, so the air pressure doesn't explode my house.

The best way to keep your home safe is to keep the wind out. Studies have shown that opening a window can increase the amount of damage done by the wind. When a hurricane threatens, keep your home sealed up tight.

Why should I prepare my house? When the big one comes, it's going to be destroyed anyway.

While a hurricane's winds can destroy even the most solid structures, taking some basic precautions can significantly reduce damage from a storm. Pictures of areas devastated by hurricanes will often show one house standing while a neighbor's lies in ruins. The difference? The owners of the house in good shape took some basic precautions to safeguard their property. Shuttering windows, bracing garage and entry doors and bringing in yard items can mean the difference between destruction and minor damage.

The storm surge is only 9 feet at the most and my condo is on an upper floor, so I'm riding the storm out.

Vertical evacuation or escaping the rising storm surge by going to the upper stories of a building, is an option. However, wind speeds increase the higher you go, so you may be evacuating into a more dangerous place. If so, the high winds and water could make getting help to you nearly impossible after the storm passes.

When I get the evacuation order, I'm leaving. There is no high ground here and it will be much safer inland.

Even with St. Lucie County's long coastline, not all near-coastal areas are subject to evacuation. In fact, in some locations, beach residents need to travel no more than one mile to get to safe areas. Traveling a great distance to escape the effects of the storm may actually lead you into danger if you become stranded in evacuating traffic when the storm nears. Also, the further you go to evacuate, the longer it will take you to get there and to your home after the storm.

Are there sufficient shelters for people if we're threatened by a Category 4 or 5 storm?

Yes. Studies have shown that less than 10 percent of the people in evacuation zones go to local shelters. If people do not live in evacuation zones or mobile/manufactured homes or substandard housing, they do not need to go to shelters and should make plans to either leave the county or stay home or with friends.

Should I evacuate during a Category 4 or 5 storm?

Mandatory evacuations are issued for people living along the coastal area and barrier islands subject to seawater surge; mobile/manufactured homes regardless of location; and persons living in substandard housing. We encourage people to "run from water and hide from the wind".

Is St. Lucie County prepared?

Yes. Our hurricane response and recovery plans are well-seasoned and our staff is prepared. The county and the cities have developed a well-coordinated response to provide public safety and health services to those areas affected by a hurricane.

TEN MILE CREEK

NATURAL AREA



ONE LANE
ROAD



St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

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