

THE CITY OF WESTON



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane Season | June 1 - November 30

Be Prepared

WestonFL.org/Hurricane

 [@WestonFLAlert](https://twitter.com/WestonFLAlert)

    [@CityofWeston](https://www.cityofweston.com)

  [@CityofWestonFL](https://www.cityofweston.com)

2024

Are you Weston Ready?

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The City of Weston takes storm preparation seriously. You should, too. It only takes one storm to severely impact your life and community.

Where to find information from the City of Weston:

- Online at WestonFl.org/Hurricane.
- Subscribe to [eNotifications](#) to receive our email newsletter with important information throughout a hurricane activation. eNotifications will be sent before, during, and after a storm.
- On the City of Weston's Official Social Media Platforms, including [@WestonFLAlert](#) on X, which will provide real-time notifications of an urgent nature, (we suggest that you set push notifications to receive such alerts.)
- Register to receive CodeRED Emergency Notifications to receive critical news and updates in the event of an emergency.

WHY PREPARE NOW?

It's easy to be complacent. You have seen the impacts a storm has on a community. Don't wait until a storm threatens our area. NOW IS THE TIME to make your plan.

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KNOW THE HAZARDS

STORM SURGE

The most dangerous element of a hurricane is the storm surge – a dome of ocean water that can be 20 feet high at its peak and up to 100 miles wide. Nine out of 10 hurricane fatalities are attributed to storm surge.

EXTREME WIND

An *Extreme Wind Warning* will be issued if sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to begin in a specific area within the hour.

RAIN

Hurricanes are storms comprised of wind and rain, which can be heavy and lead to isolated floods as well as flash floods.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH

A tropical cyclone containing sustained winds of 39-73 mph is *possible* in the next 48 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING

A tropical cyclone containing sustained winds of 39-73 mph is *expected* in the next 36 hours.

HURRICANE WATCH

Hurricane conditions (a tropical cyclone containing sustained winds of 74 mph or more) are *possible* within 48 hours. A watch lets you know that conditions are favorable for a hazard to occur and allows you to prepare.

HURRICANE WARNING

Hurricane conditions are *expected* within 36 hours. A warning is an urgent message that indicates that a weather hazard is imminent.

Check your local forecast at the National Weather Service at [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov).

HAVE A FAMILY PLAN

A family emergency and communication plan is an important part of preparations for the hurricane season.



Create an Emergency Preparedness Plan for your home or business at [FloridaDisaster.org/family-plan](https://www.floridadisaster.org/family-plan) or visit [Ready.gov/Plan](https://www.ready.gov/Plan).

Here is a step-by-step list:

STEP 1 Hold a family meeting and create a communication plan

Make a plan to secure your home and assist family members who need assistance with shutters, removing patio furniture and other items. Assign tasks to each family member so everyone knows their responsibilities. Make an [Emergency Communication Plan](#), so that all family members know where to go and who to contact should you become separated.

STEP 2 Discuss shelter options

Determine where you will go if a storm threatens our area. General Population Shelters provide only basic needs. A shelter should be your choice of last resort.

STEP 3 Ensure your assets are protected

Inventory (and photograph) your home possessions, review insurance policies to ensure for adequate coverage. Keep important records in a waterproof and fire-proof container.

STEP 4 Assess your home for vulnerable areas

Evaluate your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions can be taken now to help secure your home prior to a storm threatening our area.

STEP 5 Make a plan to protect your vehicles

Decide where you will store your vehicle, boat or recreational vehicles.

STEP 6 Secure your home

Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and property (shutters, generator, trim trees) once a storm watch is issued.

STEP 7 Determine if anyone in your home needs special assistance

Discuss whether anyone in your home is elderly or has special medical needs and, if so, register with Broward County to be on the [Special Needs](#) or [Vulnerable Population](#) registries.

HAVE A FAMILY PLAN (Continued)

STEP 8 Make a plan for your pet

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

STEP 9 Gather your supplies

Determine your family's food, water and medical needs and assemble your family's [Emergency Supply Kit](#).

STEP 10 Notify others of your plan

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



Hurricane Preparedness
Take Action Today

weather.gov/hurricane 

-  Determine your risk from water & wind
-  Begin preparing now, before a storm
-  Learn how to understand hurricane forecasts and alerts
-  Learn what to do before, during, and after a storm



Image courtesy of NOAA's National Weather Service

Additional tips and information to consider when developing your plan are available at [Weather.gov/Hurricane](https://www.weather.gov/Hurricane).

EMERGENCY ALERTS



ONSOLVE

CODERED

CodeRED is a high-speed communication service used by the City of Weston for emergency notifications. The system allows the City to send critical communications, to all subscribers or targeted areas, for situations that require immediate action (such as drinking water contamination, extended utility outages, evacuation notice and route, missing person, fires, floods, bomb threat, hostage situation, chemical spill or gas leak, hurricane response and cleanup, and other incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential). The system is used only in the event of a critical emergency.

REGISTER TODAY

Registration is simple and takes only a few minutes. Visit WestonFL.org and click on the **Connect** tab on the Home page. Click on **Connect with Your City** and register your information in **CodeRED Emergency Notification** and follow the prompts to input the required contact information. Call the Weston Communications Department at 954-385-2000 to register by phone.

HOW DOES CODERED WORK?

CodeRED delivers a recorded message from the City of Weston describing the emergency situation and any instructions for immediate or future action. The number will display on Caller ID as **866-419-5000**. To hear the last message delivered, simply dial the number back. If you opt-in for text message or email alerts, those will also be sent simultaneously.

ALREADY ENROLLED?

Be sure to verify your registration. Make it part of your annual hurricane preparedness plan to log on to **CodeRED** to update phone numbers, opt in to receive text message or email alerts. Your contact information remains private and is only used for critical communications.



All residents of Broward County are also encouraged to sign up for the County's emergency notification system, AlertBroward to receive notices from Broward County.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Remember, *the first 72 is up to you* – should have enough supplies to sustain yourself for at least 3 days after the storm.



EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

All residents are encouraged to prepare an [emergency supply kit](#) that would sustain your family for a minimum of 72 hours after a storm. This list identifies basic items to consider to sustain you and your family following a storm that may leave you without power and/or drinking water.

FOOD ITEMS (SUPPLY TO LAST AT LEAST 3 DAYS PER PERSON)

- **Drinking Water** At least one gallon per person, per day for three to five days. Extra water is needed for cooking and personal hygiene.
- **Bread** Crackers, pretzels, canned pasta, cereal, nutritional bars
- **Meat** Canned tuna, chicken/turkey, beans, peanut butter and beef jerky
- **Milk** Shelf stable milk, powdered milk, boxed pudding, nutrition drinks
- **Vegetable** Canned vegetables, soups of all types, canned 3-bean salad
- **Fruit** Canned fruit, applesauce, dried fruits and 100% fruit juice, apples
- **Snacks** Trail mix, granola/protein bars, cookies, hard candy, instant coffee

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES TO HAVE IN STOCK

- Items for infants, toddlers & elderly
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Manual can opener
- Coolers for ice and food
- Charcoal, sterno or propane for grill or camp stove
- Disposable paper goods, plastic utensils, garbage bags and re-sealable plastic bags
- Tool kit, including duct tape, gloves, saw, tarp, rope & other small tools.
- Garbage bags, broom, etc.
- Pet supplies for 3 – 5 days
- Clothing and blankets, including rain gear and closed shoes
- Portable AM/FM radio – Battery-operated or hand crank NOAA Weather Radio (*see next paragraph*)
- Corded telephone with jack (not cordless) if your home/business has landline service. Cell phone charger.
- First aid kit and prescription medicines (min 2-week supply)
- Mosquito repellent, sunscreen
- Cash and fuel for vehicles & generators

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A WEATHER RADIO

When shopping for a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio, look for either of the following logos:

PublicAlert™ Logo



or

NOAA All Hazards Logo



There are many brands of weather radios. It is recommended to find a receiver with one of the above logos to ensure that it meets the recommended technical standards and comes with features such as Emergency tone alerts, Specific Alert Message Encoding (SAME) technology to be able to program an area of interest for alerts, etc.

PREPARING YOUR HOME

DO AN ASSET INVENTORY OF YOUR HOME

Inventory your home possessions and take a video or photos of items of value inside and outside your home.

Once you have your inventory list, video and/or photographs, save to the files to the cloud, or place hard copies in an airtight fire proof storage container to ensure that water cannot permeate through – (a water-proof tacklebox works great.) This information is an important tool to have if any damage is sustained to your home or business during a storm and need to report it to your insurance company.





REVIEW INSURANCE POLICIES

Also, be sure to review your insurance policies now to ensure you have adequate coverage during the storm season.

✘ Once a Hurricane Watch has been issued, insurers **WILL NOT** issue new policies or allow you to purchase additional coverage.

When photographing an electronic, be sure to take a picture of the serial number panel, usually found on the back. This will give you all the information necessary to file it on a claim. Make sure to take the picture close enough so you can read the numbers for the most accurate information. You should have two pictures for each item, one to depict the item itself and one for the serial number panel (see sample images below).



Photo of iPhone box with serial number

Although you can save everything to a portable drive, it is also helpful to save your images and other information in a cloud-based platform that you can access anywhere.

FOOD SAFETY

It is important to have enough non-perishable foods for your family to sustain everyone for at least three days following the storm. It is also a good idea to freeze ice bags to help keep fresh food items chilled following an extended power outage. Prior to the storm, turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings. After the storm, discard questionable items that may have spoiled due to lack of refrigeration.

POWER OUTAGES

Even though many utility lines are buried underground throughout Weston, electricity likely will be impacted during a storm due to wind and flooding. If you have a generator, be sure to have it ready to go (tested and fueled up) before a watch is issued. Don't forget to stock up on fresh batteries for flashlights.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Make sure prescription medications are available for several weeks. Plan for the special needs of infants, the elderly, family members with special needs and pets.

SECURING YOUR HOME/BUSINESS

If you do not have hurricane-rated impact windows, shutters are a good option to protect doors and windows from objects that may become projectiles during a windstorm, and to prevent damage caused by sudden pressure changes when windows or doors fail. Shutters can be made of metal, wood or plastic and are available in different styles; the most common are steel or metal panels, accordion style and roll-down. Do not use tape to prevent the windows from shattering.



Make sure you are familiar with how your shutters operate. You will be able to identify problems with your shutters that you might not be able to fix if a storm was approaching.

If you are using plywood to cover windows and doors, select a thickness of at least 5/8". Drill holes into the plywood sheets and into the exterior masonry of your home. Use screws and anchors to secure the plywood.



Handle metal shutter panels with heavy work gloves. The panels are heavy and the edges

can be sharp. It is important to have help when working on a ladder, as someone will need to hold and stabilize the ladder. Emergency rooms report a number of injuries every hurricane season due to falls.

When a storm has passed and it's safe to venture outside, remove the shutters or plywood as soon as possible. A fully-shuttered house may be safe in a hurricane, but presents a **fire hazard** by blocking escape routes. Establish an emergency escape plan and make sure everyone is aware of the plan in the event of a fire.

SWIMMING POOL PREPARATION

Prepare your pool by lowering the water level (no more than 2 feet) and adding extra chlorine to prevent contamination. Do not drain the pool or put pool furniture in the pool. Be sure to turn off the power to the pool pump and remove the pump and store indoors or wrap the motor in heavy-duty plastic and secure with tape or rope.

AROUND YOUR YARD

Bring loose items inside, including any lawn furniture, BBQ grills, garbage/recycling carts, hanging plants, etc. that may be picked up by the wind and become projectiles. Check your home for loose drain gutters and down spouts.



Do not trim trees prior to a storm's arrival. Piles of branches will become projectiles, and garbage/trash pickup will be postponed at the onset of high winds.

OTHER LAST-MINUTE PREPARATIONS

Fill gas tanks in your vehicles.

and **withdraw enough money** from your bank to have cash to last for several days. ATMs will not work when the power is out.

Disinfect a bathtub in your home and fill it with water to use for washing dishes and flushing toilets.

Garbage, Recycling and Bulk Trash Pickup

Once a Hurricane Watch is issued, check City advisories before placing garbage and recycling carts out as garbage service will be suspended in advance of the storm as sustained winds reach 30 mph. Items left out become dangerous projectiles.

AFTER THE STORM

DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS

Broward County's Home Damage Assessment assists by quickly identifying areas of devastation before damage assessment teams are able to canvass the County. The Home Damage Assessment Program asks residents to report damage to their home, as soon as it is safe to go outside.



Bookmark the [Broward County Home Damage Assessment Webpage](#) on your cell phone for easy access.

Similarly, if your business was affected, be sure to complete the Florida Business Damage Assessment Survey at: business.floridadisaster.org/BusinessDamageAssessments.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR PROPERTY

Print the sample photos and place with your important papers in a waterproof container. This will help you classify any damage to your own property after the storm.

INSPECT YOUR PROPERTY AFTER THE STORM

Continue to stay tuned to local media and/or NOAA radio. Return to your home or venture outdoors only after local officials tell you it is safe to do so.

Inspect your home for damage. If your home is unsafe or badly damaged, locate other accommodations. Report damage to your home to Broward County by calling 311 or complete the form on the [Broward County Home Damage Assessment Webpage](#). This will assist local government agencies with emergency response priorities.

AFTER THE STORM (CONTINUED)

Beware of fallen power lines. While electricity may be out, service can be restored at any time and lines may become “hot.”



Avoid driving, if possible. If you must be on the roads, remember that many traffic signals may be inoperative. **If traffic signals are not working, treat all intersections as a 4-way stop.**

Do not let children play in flood waters. Be sure to take precautions if you are wading in water. The water could be electrically charged due to a downed power line. Snakes, alligators and other wildlife could also pose danger in the flooded water and water has bacteria and other contaminants.

IF A BOIL WATER NOTICE IS ISSUED

1. Begin by filtering water with a coffee filter to remove any solid materials.
2. Bring the water to a rolling boil for one minute, then allow the water to cool for 30 minutes.
3. Add 16 drops of regular chlorine bleach (not scented or perfumed) per gallon of water, or 8 drops per 2-liter bottle. The only active ingredient in the bleach should be hypochlorite of a concentration of 5.25% to 6%.
4. Let water remain standing for thirty minutes.
5. Use the water only if it smells of chlorine. If it doesn't, add another round of drops (16 per gallon and 8 per 2-liter bottle). If you still don't smell chlorine, discard the water and find another source.

TIP: Up-to-date information during and following a storm will be posted on X, follow our [@WestonFLAlert](#) on X for important real-time notices. Information will also be shared on all of the City of Weston’s official social media platforms. Status updates will also be sent out via email regularly during a storm. [Click here](#) to subscribe to eNotifications from the City of Weston.

If deemed necessary, a CodeRED call will be done to notify Weston residents of important news. Be sure to subscribe to [CodeRed online](#) or by calling 954-385-2000.

EMERGENCY BUILDING REPAIRS



Following a hurricane or any other type of incident that may cause damage to your property, it is important to know the steps necessary to stabilize conditions and prevent further damage to your home and other property.

If you will be submitting an insurance claim, your adjuster will want to inspect the damage before a full repair is done. Be sure to take photos of all damage prior to doing any type of emergency repairs.

It is important to hire a licensed professional. Be sure they are properly licensed and insured to perform the work in accordance with the Florida Building Code. Most repairs will require a permit and inspections by the City of Weston Building Department to ensure your safety and to maintain the integrity of your home.

EXAMPLE OF A NON-DISASTER TYPE EMERGENCY REPAIR

Some repairs may be classified as an “emergency” even if it is not related to a disaster. For example, if an air conditioning unit fails and there is a chronically ill person in the home that requires air conditioning. A new unit can be installed prior to a permit being received, but it must be done by a licensed professional, with a permit pulled and the work inspected after completion.

QUESTIONS REGARDING BUILDING REPAIRS AND PERMITTING?

Contact the City of Weston Building Department at 954-385-0500.

ARE YOU WESTON READY?

City of Weston Hurricane Preparedness Information

Subscribe to all our electronic communications [online](#) including eNotifications, CodeRED Emergency Notifications, Newsday Tuesday and on [social media](#).

Find More Tips and Resources at WestonFL.org/Hurricane.

Important announcements will also be linked from the homepage at WestonFL.org.

Broward County Emergency Management

Call 311 or visit Broward.org/Hurricane.

Broward County

Special Needs and Vulnerable Population Registries

If you or a loved one will require assistance during or after a storm, register now at: Broward.org/AtRisk.

Weather Forecasts and Storm Predictions

National Weather Service – Miami: Weather.gov/MFL

National Hurricane Center: nhc.noaa.gov

Get Social!

Follow [@WestonFLAlert](https://twitter.com/WestonFLAlert) on X for real time announcements.

Information will also be shared on the City's official accounts on Facebook, NextDoor, and Neighbors App by Ring.