

HURRICANE SEASON SAFETY STRATEGY-PREPAREDNESS

Make it your priority

Hurricane
Season:
June 1st through
November 30th

“Preparation
through education
is less costly than
learning through
tragedy.”

Max Mayfield



When a disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act.

Prepare now for a sudden emergency and hurricane season. Learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. Discuss

these ideas with your family and then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone will see it, on the refrigerator or bulletin board. Have a Disaster Survival Kit on hand and ready to take with you should you need to evacuate.

City of Weston 954-385-2000 | Broward County Hurricane Hotline 954-831-4000 or 3-1-1
Hours: 8am-5pm until a hurricane warning is issued; then 24 hour operation.



All residents need to ensure that they are registered with the City's CodeRED Emergency Notification System. CodeRED

Register now at www.westonfl.org on the homepage, or click on Police, Fire or Hurricane Information. Click on CodeRED Sign Up. Many people change cell phone numbers or move during the year and now is the time to update your current contact information if it has changed or you have added numbers.

START NOW – well in advance of a hurricane

- Make an emergency communication plan for family members. It is very possible that you may become separated (due to work or other issues); have a plan for getting back together. Have an out-of-state relative or friend serve as the “family contact”, as it is often easier to reach someone long distance after a hurricane hits an area.
- Make a plan for pets (they cannot be taken to regular shelters).
- Check your insurance policy now for hurricane and flood damage coverage. Once a Hurricane Watch is issued, insurance companies will not write any new policies or make adjustments to current policies. Be sure to keep vehicle policies updated and protected.
- Document your valuables by photographing/ videotaping them. Keep records secure in a safety deposit box or waterproof unit.
- Plan for protecting vehicles including cars, boats and RV.
- Protect your home. Plan in advance how to secure your home and who will do it.
- Pre-register for any special needs assistance by calling the Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services Division at 954-537-2888 if you or a family member require special assistance in evacuating or need to stay at a Special Medical Needs shelter. If a member of your family is elderly or disabled and may become vulnerable in the aftermath of a storm, register them with the Vulnerable Population Registry at 954-831-4000 or www.broward.org/atrisk.
- Gather plentiful supplies by determining your family’s food, water and medical needs.

CREATE AN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

- Meet with household members. Discuss with children the dangers of fire, severe weather and other emergencies.
- Discuss how to respond to each disaster that could occur.
- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two (2) escape routes from each room.
- Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches or valves.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near phones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated by disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the effected area).
- Teach children how to make long distance calls.
- Pick two (2) meeting places:
 - 1) A place near your home in case of fire.
 - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you can not return after a disaster.
- Learn about emergency plans for your children’s school or day care center.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR course.
- Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

HURRICANES & PREPARATION WATCHES & WARNINGS

A hurricane watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-48 hours. A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane

conditions are expected in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions equal winds of 74 miles per hour or greater.

WHEN A STORM IS APPROACHING – Hurricane Watch is issued

- Secure all outside objects. Bring loose objects such as patio furniture, garden tools and planters, inside.
- Remove any debris from prior storms such as loose roof tiles – they will become projectiles.
- Protect your windows. Permanent shutters are the best protection.
- Fill fuel tanks of vehicles and generators.
- Turn refrigerator & freezer to the coldest setting. Purchase or make additional ice.
- Fill bathtubs and any large containers with water for washing, cleaning and flushing toilets, since electric power may go out of service.

DISASTER SURVIVAL KIT

Emergency supplies should be adequate to last a minimum of 3-5 days. A 10-day supply of water, food and medicine is highly recommended.

- Water - 2 gallons per person/per day, 10 day supply.
- Food - Canned or packaged, pre-cooked foods for 10 days / Non-electric can opener.
- Coolers - At least 2 coolers for ice and food.
- Clothes/blankets - Change of clothes/rain gear/shoes/blankets or sleeping bags in plastic bag.
- Medicines/First Aid - Prescription medications, equipment, eye glasses and first aid kit/supplies.

- Cooking - Grill, charcoal or propane, lighter. Plastic trash bags & resealable bags. Disposable cups and utensils, paper plates and paper towels, unscented bleach, aluminum foil.
- Toiletries - feminine products, toilet paper.
- Baby - Infant/baby food, supplies and medicines.
- Pet - food and supplies.
- Phone - Cell phone (fully charged), car charger, land line phone, print a list of phone numbers.
- Important Papers - Personal identification, medical cards, property/vehicle insurance, school records.
- Fire Extinguisher - Dry chemical, type ABC.
- Radio/TV- Battery operated with backup batteries. Reading materials, non-electric games.
- Flashlights - Stock extra batteries and bulbs. Glow sticks also work well.
- Fuel - Fill all vehicle and generator tanks with gasoline.
- Cash - Banks and ATM’s may not be open for a period of time.
- Safety/Tools/Misc. - Set of tools /trash bags/chlorine/soap/tarp/rope/broom/pen & paper/saw/duct tape/mosquito repellent.
- Keys

PROTECT PETS

Do not leave pets unattended. Ensure pets are wearing I.D. Have food, medication and sanitary supplies. Fish tank pumps should be equipped with an adaptor for battery power. Pets should be taken, in advance, to a veterinarian kennel, host home or pet friendly hotel.

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Broward County now has one pet-friendly shelter at Millennium Middle School in Tamarac. Pre-registration is required: 954-989-3977, press 6. Owners must shelter with their pets and care for them. Qualified service animals are allowed at all shelters.

GENERATOR SAFETY

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they also can be hazardous. Carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire are primary causes of injury and death stemming from electrical generator use each year.

Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home to warn you of any harmful fumes which may have seeped in from outside.

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PROTECT YOUR POOL

- Keep water in the pool. You can lower the level, but no more than 2 feet.
- Add extra chlorine to prevent contamination.
- Do not put pool furniture into the pool - it will damage the pool.
- Turn off the power to the pool equipment.
- Remove the pool pump and store indoors OR wrap the motor in a plastic material and secure with tape or rope.

GENERATOR SAFETY

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they also can be hazardous. Carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire are primary causes of injury and death stemming from electrical generator use each year. This storm season, use generators safely by following these simple tips:

- Never use a generator in enclosed spaces; it emits deadly carbon monoxide fumes.
- Use only heavy-duty, outdoor extension cords to plug appliances directly into generator.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet; this can cause fatal electrocution to utility workers trying to repair lines.
- Keep generator dry by setting it on a covered, elevated surface (i.e., canopy-like structures).
- Never store fuel for your generator in your home; invisible vapors may catch fire.
- Read all operating instructions and manufacturer warnings before using the equipment.

- If connecting a generator to your home electrical system, a qualified electrician is required to install an emergency power transfer system.

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and allow it to cool to avoid fire.

- If you feel sick, dizzy or weak while one is running, seek fresh air and call 9-1-1 immediately.

Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home to warn you of any harmful fumes which may have seeped in from outside.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

TV & Radio media are the primary vehicle through which Broward County public school information is provided to residents. Information will be posted on their web site at www.browardschools.com when possible before and after a hurricane.

Call the districts rumor control Hotline at 754-321-0321 for updated, recorded information.

All schools have individual safety plans that detail what action(s) are to be taken in the event of an emergency/crisis situation. These plans include procedures to respond to critical incidents, such as fire, gas leaks and bad weather (i.e. tornado, hurricane, etc.) Schools practice these drills regularly and the plans have been shared with the Broward Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies to assist them in the event an emergency response is needed at a particular location.

GOOD LESSONS LEARNED from Major Disasters

- Have a copy of all student school records - PRIOR to hurricane season. To accomplish

this, go to the Broward County Schools web site at <https://www.browardschools.com/virtualcounselor/> here you can register as a parent to view and print your child's school records from kindergarten through high school. Keep one copy in a secure location and another copy with you if you evacuate. For private schools, contact the school for record copies.

- Should you have to evacuate your home or business: Take all essential records and paperwork, such as insurance and medical policies, with you. In the event of a catastrophic event, you may not be allowed back into your home or business for some time.

- Have a 3 month supply of all necessary medications on hand. Call your insurance company or pharmacy - as many have provisions to allow for the purchase of a 3-month supply if you live in a hurricane prone area.

- Special Needs Patients (ie: dialysis patients) - ensure that you have and carry with you, a copy of your prescription for any type of needed treatments.

- Homes with generators: You still need to prepare. You will still need to stock all supplies. If the power is out, stores will be closed. Also, generators run for only as long as you have a fuel supply. Be prepared for no access to or delivery of that fuel.

- Electricity - Underground utility lines do not guarantee power will not fail. Do not become overly confident that electricity within areas of the City of Weston will remain operational. Underground utility lines are supplied power from an above

ground sub-station. If the sub-station fails, areas supplied by the station will not have power.

SHELTERS

If you cannot stay with family or friends outside the area or in a secure home and need to go to a shelter: Mass Care Shelters are operated by the American Red Cross and provide a basic level of care and are open to everyone. No registration is required. For those with special medical needs contact the Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services Division now, to pre-register for a Special Medical Needs Shelter at 954-537-2888.

The City of Weston is not in an evacuation zone, but if your home is unprotected or unsafe, a local shelter that is activated during a hurricane is Falcon Cove Middle School, 4251 Bonaventure Blvd., Weston.

Shelters are intended to keep you safe, not supply entertainment or personal items, so you will need to bring the following essential items to make your stay as comfortable as possible:

- Personal hygiene items
- Bedding, including blankets, pillows, air mattress
- Books and games
- Non-perishable snacks
- Changes of clothing
- Baby supplies: food, formula, juice, diapers/wipes, portable crib, blanket
- Medications taken
- Driver's license or other ID
- Cash
- Glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids



TRAFFIC SIGNAL OUTAGES

While the City of Weston has purchased generators for all traffic signal locations, there may be a time period prior to them being operational. Areas outside of the City may not be as well equipped.

- When signals are out - **TREAT INTERSECTIONS AS A 4-WAY STOP.**
- Teach young drivers how a 4-way stop is handled: The first vehicle to reach the intersection and stop should be allowed to move forward first. When two cars reach the intersection at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right.
- Please wait your turn. It is essential for safety and to avoid chaos.
- It is not necessary to report signal outages.





*** If there has been a Hurricane where the City declares Disaster Debris Collection - please see the Disaster Debris Removal Guidelines*** in this newsletter and on our web site. For information call the Weston Public Works Services Center at 954-385-2600.

- Battery operated radio
- Flashlight
- Important documents: bank accounts, insurance policies, school papers, passports, social security cards, wills, etc. . .

DURING A STORM

Stay indoors, away from windows and exterior doors.

- Place towels along window sills and exterior doors, to keep out driving rain.
- Elevate valuables to table tops if flooding occurs.
- Do NOT go outside as the calm eye of the hurricane passes over. The worst damage can happen once the eye passes and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Be aware that tornadoes can occur at any time during a hurricane.
- Use flashlights or battery powered lights - Do NOT use candles or any other open flame.
- Use the telephone for emergencies only.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Open as little as possible to conserve cold air.
- EMS (paramedic) units cannot respond after winds reach 45mph and Fire Engines after 60mph. Emergency services can not assist in your evacuation once winds have reached these speeds.

AFTER THE STORM – THE DANGER CONTINUES

- DO NOT drive unless it is an emergency. There is no other reason to be on the roads.
- Outside - walk cautiously and avoid standing water, which may hide downed power lines or hazardous objects. Do not go out in the dark.

- Treat all downed power lines as if they were live. If you see one with sparks - move away and call 911.
- You don't need to call in a power outage - only downed power lines.
- Watch for spoiled foods... "when in doubt, throw it out".
- Remember that anything flood waters have reached must be considered contaminated, including food, canned goods, cosmetics and medicines.
- Water: Immediately following a hurricane, don't drink or use tap water until it has been declared safe, this includes not giving it to pets or brushing teeth. Boil at a rolling boil for one minute to kill infectious organisms.

FOR CITY INFORMATION AFTER A STORM: WE WILL CALL YOU

CodeRED Emergency Notification System: This high-speed telephone notification system will be employed by the City when necessary to notify residents of essential information.

Calls received from the CodeRED system usually come up on caller I.D. as 999-999-9999. If you see this number, please do not disconnect. If you have "privacy blocker" you may not get these calls, so please disable during any emergency.

For City emergency information, boil water orders and other important local notifications such as debris pickup, if operational go to:

- www.westonfl.org – see Latest News, on the Weston Home page
- Tune your TV to channel 25 (Advanced Cable), channel 62 (Direct Path) or channel 78 (Comcast), for up-to-date City information on boil water orders, debris pickup and other related information.

- Tune your car radio to 1680AM. The 1680AM Emergency Information Radio will be operational even with a power outage for approximately four (4) days. 1680 AM broadcasts within the City of Weston only.

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DEBRIS - PUTTING IT IN ITS PLACE

Residents can expedite the clean-up process by properly separating debris. Due to sheer volume it may not all be picked up for sometime, but if properly piled, it will eventually be removed. If trash collection is suspended, regular household waste will be collected first, prior to yard debris.

- Treat household waste (regular garbage and trash) normally - place into a garbage cart curbside on collection days.
- Vegetative Debris (yard waste): stack curbside in a separate pile, including limbs, branches and other vegetative materials.

- Structural Debris: from damage to items or structures. Place in a separate pile curbside.

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SAVING TREES

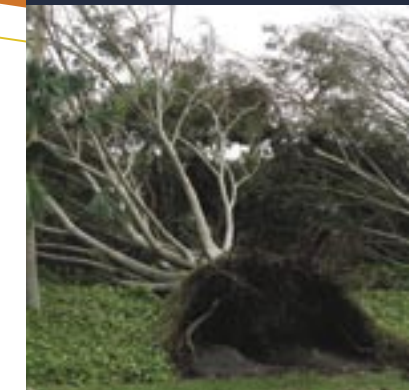
Immediately cover any exposed tree roots or root balls with soil, mulch or burlap to protect it and keep it moist.

For detailed information on tree first aid after a storm, visit our web site, under Hurricane Information, click on and download: Helping Trees Survive Storm Season & Beyond

LIFESAVING GIFTS

Think about giving gifts now that save lives. A gift can be for a special occasion or given as a random act of kindness. Give a gift that could save lives; FEMA recommends showing how much you care by giving emergency preparedness items as gifts, including:

- Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Appropriate fire extinguishers.
- Foldable ladders for second-story escape routes.
- Disaster kits for home and vehicle.
- NOAA Weather radios and extra batteries.
- Enrollment in a CPR or first aid class.



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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency

9-1-1

First Call for Help

2-1-1

City of Weston

954-385-2000

Weston Public Works

954-385-2600

Broward County Hurricane Hotline

954-831-4000 or 3-1-1

Special Needs Shelter Registration

954-537-2888

Vulnerable Population Registry

954-831-4000

Paratransit (disabled)

Transport Registration

954-537-2888 (TTY:954-537-2882)

Broward County School District Hotline

754-321-0321

FEMA Hotline

1-800-342-3557

Pet-Friendly Hurricane Shelter Registration

954-989-3977

Large Animal Registration

954-370-3725

Insurance, State of Florida

Department of Financial Services

– Hurricane Hotline

1-800-227-8676 (TTY: 1-800-640-0886)

Price Gouging Hotline

1-800-HELP-FLA / 1-800-FLA-AYUDA
(Spanish)

Power Outage Reporting

1-800-4-OUTAGE (468-8243)

Report Sparking and Arcing Powerlines

9-1-1

- Broward County Emergency Management, www.broward.org/disaster
- City of Weston, www.westonfl.org
Hurricane Information: <http://www.westonfl.org/Content.aspx?f=/Content/Police/hurricanePreparedness.aspx?2>
- National Hurricane Center, www.noaa.gov
- Florida Division of Emergency Management, www.floridadisaster.org
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, www.fema.gov
- National Flood Insurance Program, www.fema.gov/business/nfip/
- Local American Red Cross, www.arcbcc.org

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