



Villa Del Sol Condominium Association, Inc.
2925 South Federal Highway ♦ Boynton Beach, Florida 33435
Phone: 561-369-5585 Fax: 561-369-4549
www.mirbellavilla.com



2016

Mirabella Villas

Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Guide



Villa Del Sol Condominium Association, Inc.
2925 South Federal Highway • Boynton Beach, Florida 33435
Phone: 561-369-5585 Fax: 561-369-4549

June 3, 2016

Hurricane season is upon us once again, June 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016. Our area can come under threat at any time during this period. The information contained in this guide will assist you in preparing for a storm emergency and understand how the Association will prepare your building. This guide has also been prepared to assist you in taking precautions to protect your family, property, and pets. Please take a moment to read this very important information.

The Board of Directors and Property Management would like to ensure that all residents receive as much information as possible to aid in the preparation of an upcoming storm season. During these months, special precautions need to be taken by everyone in the building. Please keep Management's after-hour's emergency number in a safe place: 954-843-2526.

The following links will aid you in those preparations:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

<http://www.fema.gov>

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>

South Florida TV stations websites also include hurricane preparedness links. Local supermarkets will also provide guides to hurricane safety.

Please be aware of the following timeline.

Atlantic activity-Local TV stations begin tracking storms as they come off the west coast of Africa. This is approximately 10-14 days off the coast of east Florida. As a storm forms and gains strength, approximately a week out, the management company and all personnel will begin to secure the building and its common areas. All personnel- manager, maintenance staff and front desk personnel will remain on property maintaining the building services and assisting residents if an evacuation is considered by local authorities. Taking these early precautions will prepare the building up until the time a Hurricane Watch is announced, approximately 4-6 days prior to scheduled arrival of the storm.

When sustained winds reach 45 mph, the essential personnel will begin to shut down the property's equipment such as HVAC equipment, domestic water pumps, and pool/spa equipment and make sure the Associations ornamental landscaping has been secured. This will help assure your systems will be operational after weather conditions return to normal and power has been restored. After shutdown has been completed, our essential personnel will evacuate, as all governmental essentials services do so also. Please note that the buildings emergency generator is for "life safety support system's" and WILL NOT provide power to individual units.

PRIOR TO EVACUATION

1. All furniture and loose objects must be removed from your balcony. Items left on the balcony could be swept away by wind causing injury and property damage. Owners will be held liable if this occurs. For absentee owners, please ensure that your balcony is clear before you leave, and or have a responsible person secure your unit for you. Please provide them you're your key and register them with Envera.
2. Firmly close and lock all sliding glass doors.
3. Close all shades, blinds, drapes, etc.
4. Turn your refrigerator up to the coldest setting in order to preserve foods as long as possible. Avoid unnecessary opening and closing of refrigerator and freezer doors.
5. Place folded towels or other absorbent material at bottom of your sliding doors and window sills.
6. Move fragile objects and valuable possessions away from windows/doors.
7. Check faucets to determine that they are in closed position.
8. Check stove and oven to be certain that they are turned off
9. Place all insurance information in water tight plastic bag.
10. Clean bathtub with bleach and fill with water. Be sure to shut-off faucet completely.
11. Any resident who has not left a set of keys to their unit should do so immediately. **Management must have** emergency keys to each unit. Your unit will most likely be forcibly entered if no key is available in case of emergency. Re-securing your unit could be delayed if locksmiths are not available.

OUT OF TOWN OR ON VACATION

If you don't reside in the unit during the hurricane season, many of the precautions listed above should be taken prior to leaving the unit for any extended period. Make arrangements ahead of time for someone to make emergency preparations. The Management Staff will not make these preparations for you.

Preliminary plans and precautions should be taken by all residents.

If your Association property is in an evacuation zone, which may experience flooding in all storms, residents should plan to evacuate for category one or greater hurricane.

The following are recommended supplies to have on hand.

1. Water for at least 7 days, one gallon per person per day.
2. Non-perishable, ready to eat food. If you have canned food, remember a manual can opener.
3. Disposable plates and utensils. Limited water supplies eliminate dishwashing
4. Battery powered flashlights. If candles must be used, use memorial type, in glasses, only and always use within your view. A broken window and sudden gust of wind could create a serious fire hazard.
5. Battery powered radio
6. Extra batteries
7. Fire Extinguisher
8. First Aid Kit
9. Cash
10. Prescription medications
11. Eye glasses or contacts
12. Toilet paper, soap, wipes, and personal hygiene items

Storm Warnings:

WATCH definition: A Hurricane WATCH means hurricane conditions (sustained winds of at least 74 mph) are possible in the area within 36 hours.

WARNING definition: A Hurricane WARNING means hurricane-force conditions (sustained winds of at least 74 mph) are expected in your area in 24 hours or less.

According to the Saffir-Simpson Scale- there are five categories of Hurricanes and the anticipated damage that can be created by each.

CATEGORIES:

Category 1—Minimal (74-95 mph winds)

Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, foliage and unanchored homes; no real damage to other structures; some damage to poorly constructed signs. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.

Category 2—MODERATE (96-110 mph winds)

Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage; some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. No major damage to buildings. Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water two or four hours before arrival of hurricane center. Considerable damage to piers; marinas flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings. Evacuation of some shoreline residences and low-lying areas required.

Category 3—EXTENSIVE (111-130 mph winds)

Foliage torn from trees; large trees blown down. Many constructed signs blown down. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes, destroyed. Serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast destroyed; larger structures near coast damaged by battering waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Flat terrain five feet or less above sea level flooded inland eight miles or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of shoreline possibly required.

Category 4—EXTREME (131-155 mph winds)

Shrubs and trees blown down; all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors. Complete failures of roofs on many small residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Flat terrain 10 feet or less above sea level flooded inland as far as six miles. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering by waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Major erosion of beaches. Massive evacuation of all residences within 500 yards of shore possibly required, single-story residences within two miles of shore.

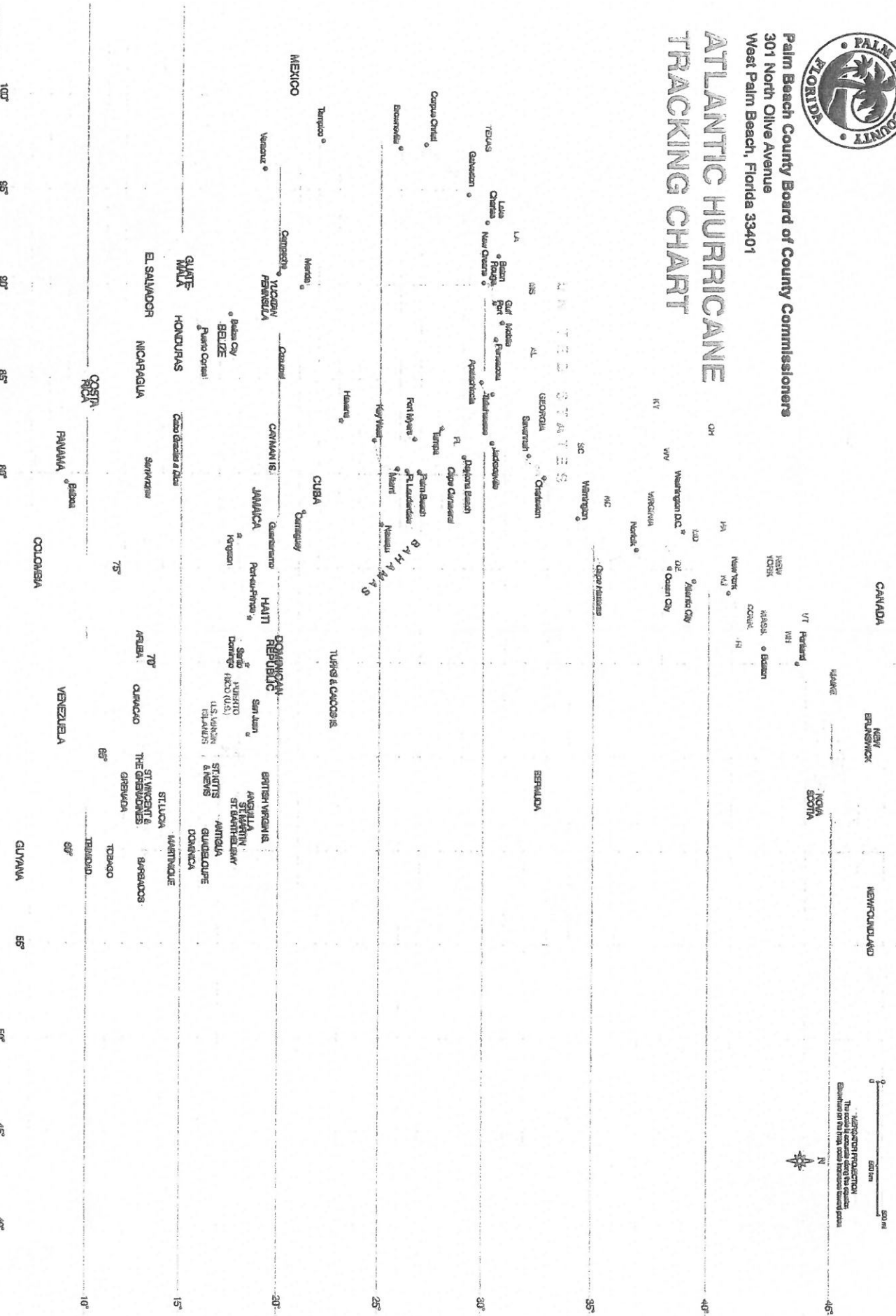
Category 5—CATASTROPHIC (155+ mph winds)

Shrubs and trees blown down; massive damage to roofs of buildings; all signs down. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors. Some complete building failures. Small buildings overturned or blown away. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 500 yards of shore. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within five to 10 miles of shore possibly required.

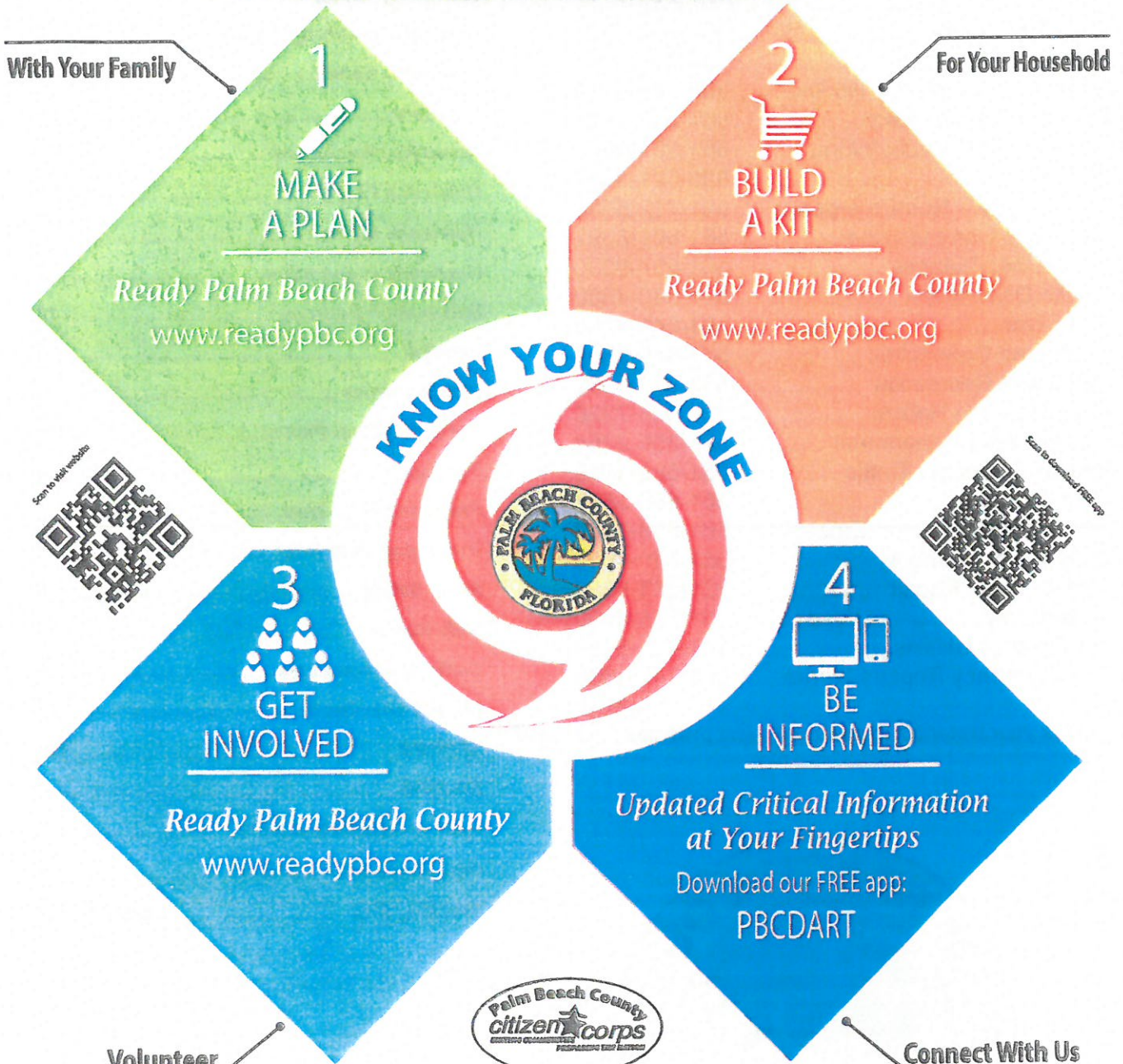


Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
301 North Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

ATLANTIC HURRICANE TRACKING CHART



ARE YOU DISASTER READY PALM BEACH COUNTY?



www.ReadyPBC.org

HURRICANE PREPARATION IS A YEAR-ROUND JOB IN SOUTH FLORIDA

USE THE INFORMATION BELOW TO PUT TOGETHER YOUR HURRICANE SURVIVAL PLAN

3 Months Before Hurricane Season:

- Begin purchasing supplies for your Family Disaster Supplies Kit. (This can be done a little at a time over three months.)
- Inspect your window protection for rust, missing bolts, damage, etc. (Repair immediately.)
- Inspect your walls, windows, garage door and roof for conditions that may allow wind damage.
- Use the Surge Area Mapping System (SAMS) on pbcgov.com to see if you are in an evacuation area.
- If you are in an evacuation area, make an evacuation plan for you and your family. (See page 5.)
- Do all major cutting/tree removal from December through April.

1 Month Before Hurricane Season:

- Check your utility bills to see who provides your water, gas and electric.
- Contact your city or the Solid Waste Authority of PBC to determine who picks up your trash and yard debris.
- Complete the assembly of your Family Disaster Supplies Kit. Purchase non-perishable foods and medicine last.
- Check with your doctor and/or pharmacy to determine how best to assure your prescriptions will last through a storm.
- If you need to register for the Special Needs Shelter, contact the Special Needs Coordinator at 561-712-6400.
- Assess your landscaping to determine if trees need to be trimmed or ornaments removed before a storm.
- Establish a contact number with your employer if you may need to report to work immediately following a storm.
- Make arrangements in advance for your pets; either contact Animal Care and Control about pet sheltering, or ask your vet. (See page 16.)

1 Week Before Hurricane Season:

- Review your family plan with your family and establish who will be your out-of-town contact.
- Double-check your shelter information and confirm the location; do not wait until you need to go.

June 1 through November 30:

- Stay alert to radio and television to receive updates on any tropical systems.
- Periodically check your Family Disaster Supplies Kit to make sure you still have the proper items.

During a Hurricane Watch

- See below

During a Hurricane Warning

- Turn to page 5.

Landfall

- Turn to page 18.

After the Storm

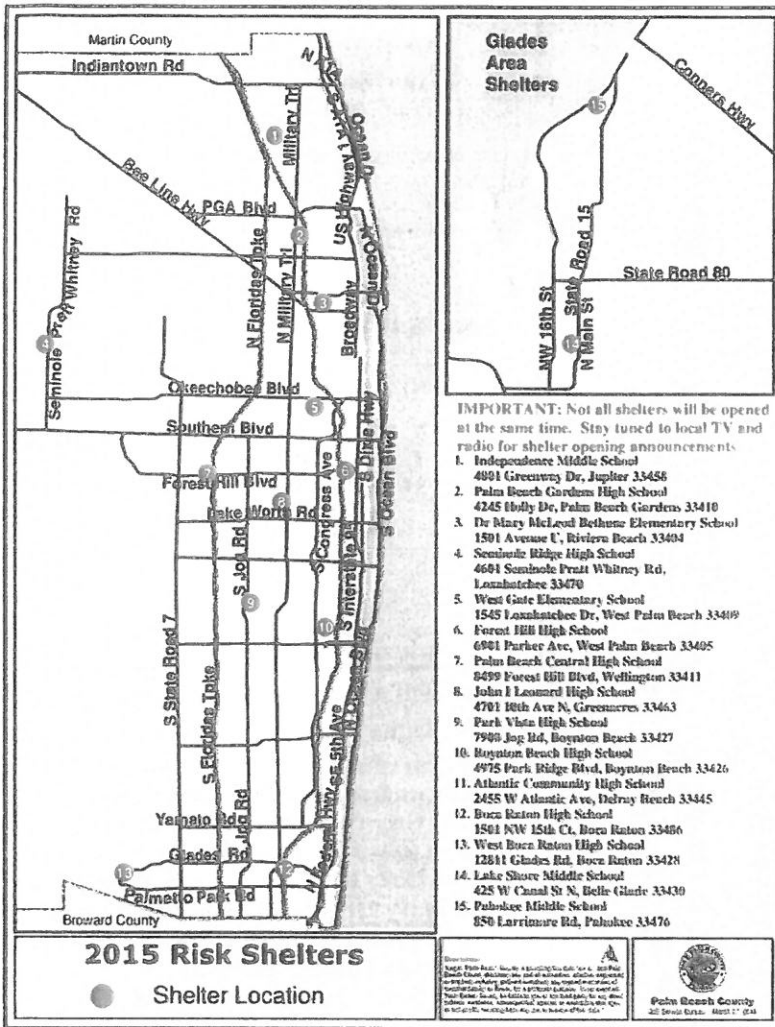
- Turn to pages 19-23.

DURING A WATCH

DEFINITION: A HURRICANE WATCH MEANS HURRICANE CONDITIONS (SUSTAINED WINDS OF AT LEAST 74 MPH) ARE POSSIBLE IN THE AREA WITHIN 36 HOURS.

GENERAL PREPARATIONS

- Turn on TV or radio and listen for continuing updates
- Review your evacuation plan
- Check evacuation kit and/or family disaster supplies kit and gather any missing items
- Contact family members to coordinate storm preparations
- Notify your out-of-area host that you may be evacuating
- Place important documents and photos in waterproof plastic bags
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings; open only when necessary and close quickly



HURRICANE SHELTERS

There are 15 general populations shelters throughout Palm Beach County, 1 special needs shelter, and 1 pet friendly shelter. Shelters should be used as a **last resort**. You should choose one near your residence. Be sure you know the route, and do not go until you hear from officials that your shelter has opened. Also, be sure to advise family members or friends that you have evacuated and where you will be. Shelters have a limited capacity and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

PREPARE A PERSONAL EVACUATION PLAN

- Identify ahead of time where you could go if you are told to evacuate.
- Choose several places—a friend's home in another town, a motel or a shelter.
- Keep the telephone numbers of these places handy as well as a road map of your locality.
- You may need to take alternative or unfamiliar routes if major roads are closed or clogged.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio and TV stations for evacuation instructions.

IF YOU GO TO A SHELTER, YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR AN EXTENDED STAY.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Prescription medications and medical supplies
- Bottled water, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, first-aid kit, flashlight
- Bedding, including sleeping bags and pillows
- Infant necessities
- Clothing (five days)
- Car keys and maps
- Documents, including drivers license, Social Security card, proof of residence
- Insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.
- Personal hygiene products
- Light-weight folding chair/cot
- Personal items (books, toys, etc.)

No smoking, alcohol, firearms or pets are allowed in shelters.

PET SAFETY

Disaster shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety regulations. Service animals for people with disabilities are an exception. A pet-friendly shelter is now available to county residents living in an evacuation zone or in a mobile home.

Pre-registration with Animal Care and Control, is required, 233-1266 or www.pbcgov.com/pubsafety/animal.

Plan:

- Arrange for a neighbor to check on your pets and take care of them if a disaster occurs while you are not at home.
- Plan ahead for a friend or relative outside the affected area to shelter your animals, if necessary.
- Keep your pet's ID and rabies license tags up to date. Call 561-233-1271 to update records.
- Make sure your pet has a collar with a contact name and phone number.

Make a disaster Go-Bag for each of your pets, include the following:

- Sturdy leashes and/or carriers to transport pets. Most animal shelters require owners to provide a pet carrier large enough for animals to stand and turn around.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost. Pictures with the pet and owner are more valuable when trying to provide proof of ownership.
- Food and potable water, for at least one week. Bowls, cat litter and pan, plastic bags, manual can opener, medicines and pet toys. These items may not be immediately available in animal shelters.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, current immunization records, photographs of the pet with the owner and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets.

Response:

- Be prepared, make arrangements for your pet to be housed at a pet boarding facility or call motels/hotels in advance for reservations. Most hotels take pets during a hurricane evacuation. A deposit is usually required.
- Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed at all times. Transport cats in carriers. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, and try to escape or even bite or scratch.
- Animals react differently under stress. Pets do much better when they are with their owners during a stressful event such as a hurricane.

Pet-Friendly Shelter Requirements:

- The pet friendly shelter is for pets and people living in mandatory evacuation zones or in mobile homes.
- Pet owners are required to bring a kennel or carrier, food for two to three days, bedding, bowls, toys, and any special medications for their pet(s).
- Birds must have a health certificate and a carrier cage with cover.
- No livestock or reptiles will be accepted.
- All dogs and cats must have a current rabies vaccination and license tag, microchip, and provide date of last application of flea and tick preventative medication.
- No aggressive animals or animals classified as dangerous or potentially dangerous will be accepted.

When you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines.
Consult your veterinarian if any behavioral or medical problems persist.

Medications

Week 5

- Extra supply prescription medication(s)
- Aspirin and/or acetaminophen
- Anti-diarrhea medicine
- Adult vitamins
- Thermometer



Special Needs Shelter

The county Special Needs Shelter only accepts residents with a physical condition requiring medical or nursing care that cannot be provided for in a general population shelter. Individuals must be able to sleep safely on a cot or mat and meet one of the following criteria:

- Need nursing assistance with medications or medical care administration
 - Monitoring vital signs or medical conditions or activities of daily living but do not need hospitalization
 - Need constant electrical power for medical equipment
- Pre-registration is required for individuals needing to use the Special Needs Shelter. To register call: (561) 712-6400

Common Tools

Week 6

- Battery operated radio
- Flashlights
- Flashlight batteries
- Assorted safety pins
- Scissors
- Screwdrivers
- Pliers
- Vise grips
- Hammers(s)
- Heavy-work gloves
- Stove fuel/charcoal, lighter fluid
- Camping or utility knife
- 1 Box disposable dust mask
- Plastic safety goggles

Tune In

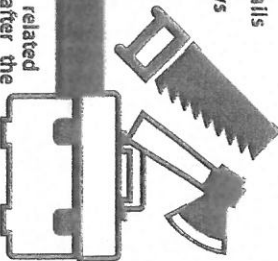


Local media are your primary source of information during disaster. They work with the Emergency Operation Center to provide up-to-date information that can keep you safe. Be sure to have a battery-operated radio and stock up on plenty of batteries. Stay informed about weather conditions, hazards, closed roads, curfews, and relief center locations.

Heavy Tools

Week 7

- Plywood & fasteners to cover windows
- Tarpaulin, canvas for temporary roof repair
- Handsaw and/or chain saw & fuel
- Assorted nails
- Wood screws
- Hatchet
- Crowbar



Safety

Most hurricane related injuries occur after the storm when people are cleaning up debris. Wear proper safety gear, make sure you know how to properly use power tools and machinery and never work alone. It may be best to hire skilled and insured professionals to do some work.

Special Items

Week 8

- Special foods for special diets
- Extra hearing aid batteries
- Items for denture care
- Spare eyeglasses or contact lens supplies
- 1 Gallon of water per pet
- Leash or pet carrier
- Pet food
- Baby food
- Diapers
- Baby wipes



What You Need

Only you know what you need. Some families will need special items added to their disaster list. These include baby food and baby care items as well as items for your pet. Make sure you have spare batteries for your hearing aid and a spare pair of eyeglasses. Remember pets are not allowed in general shelters. If you live in an evacuation zone, pets can be pre-registered for the Pet Friendly Shelter by calling (561) 233-1266. pbcgov.com/publicsafety/animalcare

Smart Supplies

Week 9

- Batteries for camping lantern
- Battery powered camping lantern
- Portable camp stove or grill
- Video or disposable camera

Your Property

Before hurricane season, make a complete inventory of your valuables and personal property. Store important documents and valuables in a safe dry place. If you evacuate, take them with you if you can. Take a photo inventory before the storm and then take photos of any damage after the storm and then take photos of any damage after the storm for your insurance adjuster. Be sure that you are properly insured and understand all of the conditions of your policy prior to a disaster. This will save you from unfortunate surprises during recovery.



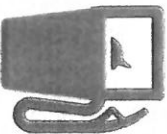
Helpful Supplies

Week 10

- Games/activities for kids/family
- Extra radio batteries
- Local and state road maps
- Gas cans
- Manual can opener

Have Patience

Damage after a hurricane is unpredictable. It can take several days, and in some cases, several weeks to restore power. Crews will begin work as soon as they can to clear roads and restore services. Be patient. Plan for loss of power, phones, water, and cable television. Have activities on hand for your family. Remember that everyone in the community is experiencing the same disaster. DO NOT HOARD FUEL.



Work together and help your neighbor.

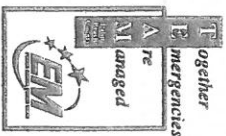
Everyday Safety

Week 11

- ABC certified fire extinguisher
- Smoke detector with battery
- Carbon monoxide detector

Everyday Supplies

Disasters can happen without warning. It is a good idea to have disaster supplies on hand year-round. Make sure you always have a working fire extinguisher, smoke detectors, and a carbon monoxide detector. These items save lives and reduce property damage. To reduce risk of fire, DO NOT USE CANDLES. Never use a generator or charcoal grill inside your home or inside your garage.



Palm Beach County
Public Safety Department
Division of Emergency Management

www.ReadyPBC.com

Palm Beach County
Public Affairs Department

www.pbcgov.com

LANDFALL

- Stay inside a well constructed building or home only if you have NOT been ordered to leave
- Go to your safe room if conditions warrant
- Keep battery-operated radio or TV on an emergency information station
- Keep flashlight with you
- Do not open doors or windows, not even "just to take a look"
- Stay away from windows
- Do not operate gas grill or portable generator
- Stay off the phone unless absolutely necessary
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities
- Turn off propane tanks
- Unplug small appliances
- Do not go outdoors until the storm has passed; winds can die down and begin again at anytime
- Be alert for tornadoes which are often spawned by hurricanes

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

ROAD SAFETY

Palm Beach County Emergency Management officials urge residents to stay at home and not venture out in the hours immediately following a hurricane. More injuries and fatalities occur after a major storm event than as a result of the weather itself.

- 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 bed may not be intact under flood waters.
- If there is 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 lights are dark, the intersection should be treated as a four-way stop.
- The following four-way stop procedure should be used at intersections where traffic signals are not functioning or stop signs are missing:**
 - 1. All vehicles must stop.**
 - 2. The driver of the first vehicle to stop at the intersection shall be the first to proceed.**
 - 3. If two or more drivers reach the intersection at the same time, the driver on the left shall yield to the vehicle on the right.**

HURRICANE MYTHS

It will never happen here!

That's probably what people in New Orleans, Homestead, and the Keys have said. But the entire coast from Texas to Maine is vulnerable to hurricanes. Hurricanes are forces of nature, and nature is not always predictable.

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 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 going to be 15 or 20 feet 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 a very bad idea. Wind speeds increase the higher you go, so you will be evacuating into a more dangerous place. Plus, the high winds and water will make getting help to you nearly impossible after the storm passes.

We get high winds in our summer thunderstorms. A hurricane can't be much worse.

While summer thunderstorms can produce wind gusts in excess of 60 miles per hour, the winds of a major hurricane can be twice as fast — or even faster. And, these winds will be sustained for hours, much longer than a brief thunderstorm. Remember, each time the wind speed doubles, the force it exerts is four times as strong. A Category 2 hurricane, with winds of 96 to 110 miles per hour, can do considerable damage to roof structures and trees.

I've got my mobile home tied down and braced. It will be a safe place to ride out the storm.

A mobile home is NEVER a safe place to weather a hurricane. In fact, once a mandatory evacuation is ordered, all mobile and manufactured home residents are required to leave their dwellings, no matter how well secured they are.

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

Even with Palm Beach County's long coastline, not all near-coastal areas are subject to evacuation. In fact, in some locations, beach residents need 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. And, the further you go to evacuate, the longer it will take you to get there and to your home after the storm passes.

Why do I need an evacuation plan? When the order comes down, I'm going to go to an emergency shelter.

Emergency shelters are safe places to ride out a hurricane, but they are not the most comfortable. They will be crowded and noisy, and, most likely, you will be sleeping on the floor. Your first and best option is to evacuate to a host home, the house of a friend, coworker or associate living in a non-evacuation zone.

The weather looks great, I'm going to wait until the weather gets bad before I evacuate.

This can be one of the most dangerous decisions you can make. Storm paths are extremely unpredictable, and waiting until the last minute can leave you with no place to go to escape a storm's fury. Evacuation orders are given based on the best information available and are issued early enough to allow sufficient time for people to get to shelters. Don't take chances with your life. Gather your important papers such as your homeowner's insurance policy, deeds to property and birth certificates, your hurricane survival kit, prescriptions and cash, as you may not be able to use credit cards after the storm. Secure your home and leave as quickly and safely as possible.

GLOSSARY

Advisory Official information issued by tropical cyclone warning centers describing all tropical cyclone watches and warnings in effect along with details concerning tropical cyclone locations, intensity and movement, and precautions that should be taken.

CCOT – County Community Outreach Teams The CCOT will be comprised of medical and mental health professionals, individuals representing county and community services agencies, volunteer agencies and security personnel.

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team The CERT program trains people to be prepared for emergency situations in their community and neighborhood. CERT members give critical support to first responders in emergencies, provide immediate assistance to victims and collect disaster information to support first responder efforts. For more program information, contact Brian Hanley at 712-6400.

Damage Assessment Damage Assessment Teams are trained inspectors looking for damage to public infrastructure or to residential and business properties.

DRC - Disaster Recovery Center A facility established in, or in close proximity to, the community affected by the disaster where persons can meet face-to-face with represented federal, state, local and volunteer agencies to:

- Discuss their disaster-related needs
- Obtain information about disaster assistance programs
- Teleregister for assistance
- Update registration information
- Learn about measures for rebuilding that can eliminate or reduce the risk of future loss
- Learn how to complete the SBA loan application
- Request the status of their application for assistance to individuals and households

EOA – Emergency Operating Area An area for coordination of the post-disaster response and initial recovery activities within a defined geographic region of the county. County and service agency response and recovery efforts will be coordinated through the EOAs to ensure rapid identification of impacted populations (based on impact assessment) and to ensure the swift response of life-safety needs to the general and vulnerable populations.

EOC - Emergency Operations Center A central headquarters established by a government entity to coordinate efforts in response to a disaster event.

Eye The roughly circular area of comparatively light winds that encompasses the center of a severe tropical cyclone. The eye is either completely or partially surrounded by the eyewall cloud.

Eyewall An organized band or ring of cumulonimbus clouds that surround the eye, or light-wind center of a tropical cyclone.

Fixed-Feeding Site A fixed location where meals are served to affected populations after a disaster. These sites are used to support overall feeding operations.

Gale Warning A warning of one-minute sustained surface winds in the range 39 mph to 54 mph inclusive, either predicted or occurring and not directly associated with tropical cyclones.

Hurricane / Typhoon A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface winds reach 74 mph or more. The term hurricane is used for Northern Hemisphere tropical cyclones east of the International Dateline to the Greenwich Meridian. The term typhoon is used for Pacific tropical cyclones north of the equator west of the International Dateline.

Hurricane Season The portion of the year having a relatively high incidence of hurricanes. The hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico runs from June 1 through November 30.

Hurricane Warning A warning that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

Hurricane Watch An announcement for specific coastal areas that hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours.

Landfall The intersection of the surface center of a tropical cyclone with a coastline. Because the strongest winds in a tropical cyclone are not located precisely at the center, it is possible for a cyclone's strongest winds to be experienced over land even if landfall does not occur. Similarly, it is possible for a tropical cyclone to make landfall and have its strongest winds remain over the water.

Mobile Feeding Unit Also known as a mobile feeding kitchen. These vehicles travel a set route providing hot meals for people affected by a disaster and are used to support feeding operations at emergency events.

POD – Point of Distribution A location managed by county or municipal personnel that provides for the distribution of water, ice and ready-to-eat meals to the general public on a drive-through basis.

RIAT – Rapid Impact Assessment Team Specially-trained teams that perform an evaluation, on the ground or airborne, following a disaster for the purpose of characterizing the extent and nature of damages to establish the response and recovery needs.

Storm Surge An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm, and whose height is the difference between the observed level of the sea surface and the level that would have occurred in the absence of the cyclone.

Storm Tide The actual level of sea water resulting from the astronomic tide combined with the storm surge.

Tropical Cyclone Originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well-defined center. Once formed, a tropical cyclone is maintained by the extraction of heat energy from the ocean at high temperature and heat export at the low temperatures of the upper troposphere.

Tropical Depression A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. one-minute average) is 38 mph or less.

Tropical Disturbance A discrete tropical weather system of apparently organized convection — generally 100 to 300 nautical miles in diameter — originating in the tropics or subtropics and maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more.

Tropical Storm A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed ranges from 39 mph to 73 mph.

Tropical Storm Warning A warning that sustained winds within the range of 39 to 73 mph associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours or less.

Tropical Storm Watch An announcement for specific coastal areas that tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours.

Tropical Wave A trough or cyclonic curvature maximum in the trade wind easterlies. The wave may reach maximum amplitude in the lower middle troposphere.