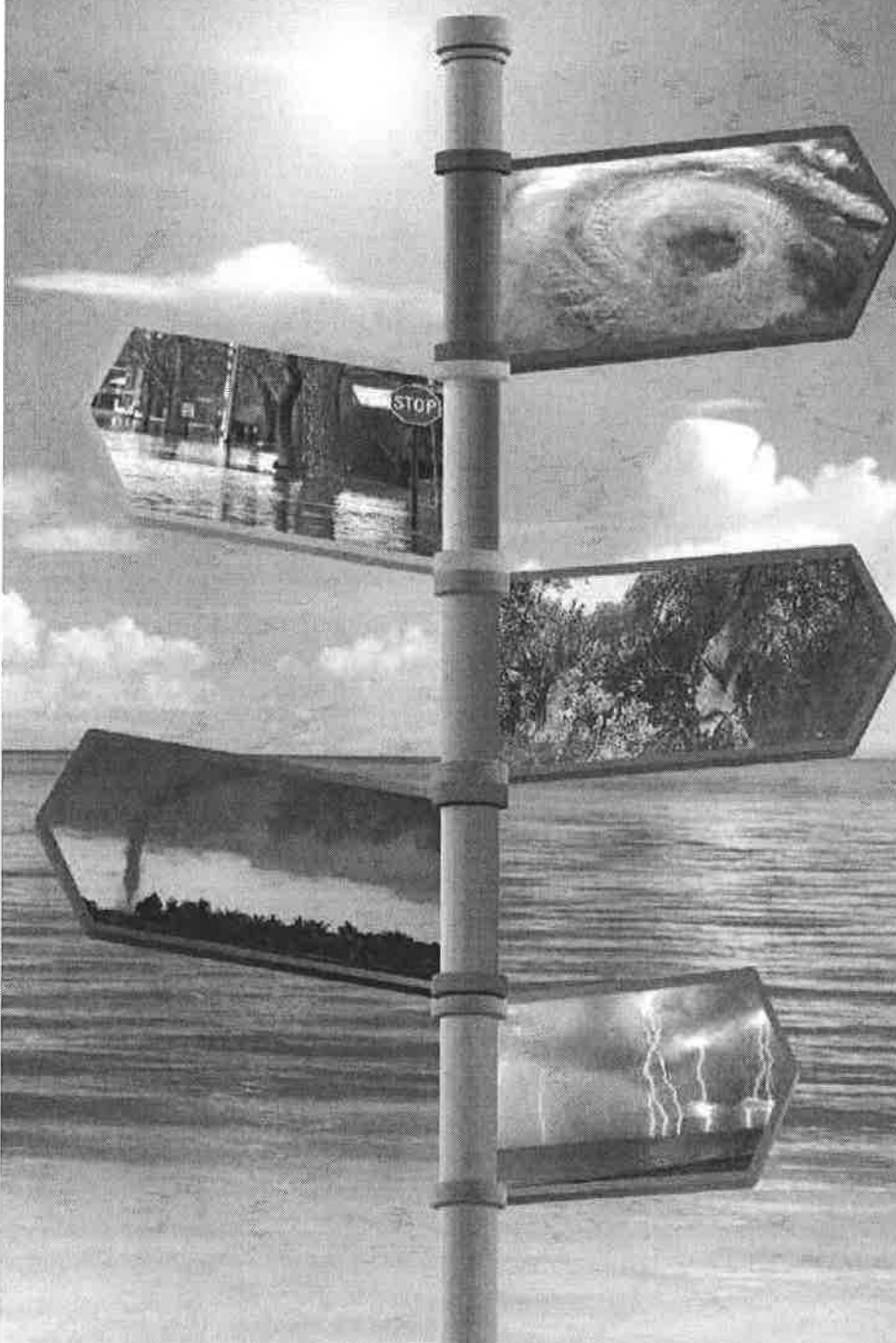


PINELLAS COUNTY

# ALL HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



Know your zone. Check your zone. Remember to re-check your evacuation zone every year for possible changes. See page 8.

## Inside

### 3 STEPS TO PREPAREDNESS

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#### 3. PLAN

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# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER – from panic to peace of mind



This All Hazards Preparedness Guide is produced in a continual effort to ensure public health, safety and welfare - a top priority for the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

Getting prepared for any type of disaster is a simple matter and it starts with knowing what you will need to do. It's the first step to keeping yourself and your family safe.

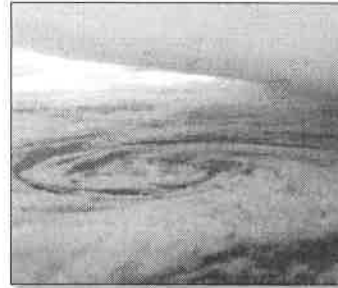
Here in Pinellas County, there is potential for hazards as a result of severe weather or man-made disasters. One of the greatest hazards we face is hurricanes, with the Atlantic Hurricane Season running June 1 to Nov. 30. This guide offers useful information to help everyone make a plan, whether you are a homeowner or renter, have a special need or know someone who does, and whether you have children, pets or a business. Tailor your plan to your life.

After you use this guide, put it in a safe place with your other important papers, and be rest assured that you have planned to replace panic with peace of mind.

All you need to know: **3 steps** to prepare for all hazards

- 1. CONNECT** to emergency information.
- 2. ASSESS** your risk.
- 3. PLAN & PREPARE** for during and after the storm – or other emergency.

The remaining sections of the guide offer advice to get ready for specific natural and man-made hazards.



On page 11, you'll find a **Personal Disaster Plan**. Once you have it filled out, you should be ready to face most of the hazards we may encounter here in Pinellas County.

Share this guide with your family and neighbors as we work together to make Pinellas County a

safe and resilient place to live, work and play. Free copies of the guide are available year-round at local government offices, libraries, community centers and online at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency).

## CONNECT to emergency information

in this section

- Sign up for Alert Pinellas
- Weather alerts by radio or phone
- Ready Pinellas App

The single most important step you can take to prepare is to know when a hazard is coming. You may expect to hear about a hurricane or other severe weather on the news, but what if a tornado unexpectedly strikes near your house and you only have a few minutes to act?

Make sure you are connected to one or more emergency notification systems.



### ALERT PINELLAS

The Alert Pinellas emergency notification service allows Pinellas County to send urgent messages by voice or text to landlines, mobile devices and via email. **ADVISORIES** are **LOCAL**, and may include evacuation orders, emergency road closures, boil water notices and other urgent messages. This service should be used in addition to an emergency alert system and weather alert weather radio.

Registration is **FREE** for multiple phone lines and devices. Register each address where you live and work, to get alerts for multiple locations. Sign up at [www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas).

### OTHER NOTIFICATIONS

**NOAA Weather Alert Radio** – A battery-operated radio that emits a loud alert signal when dangerous weather is in your area. Available in most hardware stores and online.

**Wireless Emergency Alerts** – Newer mobile devices are already equipped to send alerts for dangerous weather and other emergencies from local, state and federal authorities. Check your location settings on your phone. If you receive Amber Alerts, then your device is connected to the WEA system. Visit [www.ready.gov/alerts](http://www.ready.gov/alerts) to learn more.

**Local Weather Apps** – Most of the major news networks, as well as some agencies, offer mobile applications that alert you when severe weather threatens. Connect to one or two alert systems.

**Social Media** – You can set up email or text notifications on most social media. For urgent news, Pinellas County uses Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.



### WHAT IF YOU LOSE POWER?

Get emergency information when both power and cell service are down.

**Battery- or Crank-Powered Radio** – Tune in to National Weather Service advisories. Severe weather alerts are transmitted through the NOAA Weather Alert Radio. Local radio stations usually report on emergency situations and AM stations can broadcast longer than FM stations.



**Pinellas County FM HAR 96.3** – Use your battery or crank-powered radio to tune into the county station for information on local traffic.

**Mobile Text Messaging** – Text often works when other services do not. If your phone's digital clock works, then you can send and receive texts.

**Mobile Hot Spot** – Many mobile devices are equipped with a "hot spot" to get you online if you lose connection.

**Chargers** – Keep your phone and other devices charged. You may want to invest in a backup battery charger and car charger regardless of whether you drive. There are many models, including solar-powered. Don't forget the basic spare batteries for your radio, flashlight and other emergency items. Make sure the batteries you have are not expired.

### Pinellas County Emergency Activation Updates

When the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center is activated during a disaster, residents can find around-the-clock updates at:

Pinellas County Website: [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org)  
Pinellas County Connection TV: **Spectrum Channel 637; Frontier Channel 44; WOW! Channel 18**  
Citizens Information Center: (727) 464-4333, V/TDD (727) 464-3075

**Pinellas County Facebook, Twitter** (search for Pinellas County) and **Nextdoor** (sign up at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com))

**Remember ... Knowledge is Power.**

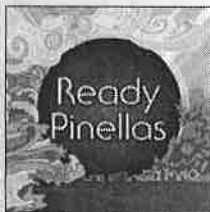
## NEW Get "Ready Pinellas"

Introducing the **Ready Pinellas** mobile app. Ready Pinellas was designed to help residents prepare themselves and their families before a storm and as a storm approaches.

Use all of the tools to stay safe and take the information with you as you finalize your preparations.

### Ready Pinellas App Features:

**Know Your Zone:** Look up your evacuation zone. Remember, even if you already checked up your zone, you must re-check it as some zones have changed. Enter your address and you will be provided information on your evacuation level, the closest hotel accommodations, the closest shelter and the closest



accommodations will be available in all storm levels. You can check on the app as the storm gets closer.

### Readiness Checklists:

- **Blue Sky Readiness Checklist:** well in advance of any hurricanes, this list provides guidance about pre-storm preparations.
- **5-Day Cone Readiness Checklist:** meaning that a hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days – the checklist includes tasks that are more immediate.
- **3-Day Cone Readiness Checklist:** the chance that the hurricane will affect our area is greater – the checklist will change again to reflect those late-stage items that need to get done.

**Get a Plan:** Enter information about the location of homes and businesses, family members, pets and family contact information and a personal emergency plan will be developed that users are able to print or maintain online.

**Alert Pinellas:** The Alert Pinellas emergency

messages by voice to landlines and by voice or text to mobile devices, TDD and via email.

**Storm Surge Protector:** This interactive tool depicts by evacuation level, the impact that storm surge flooding would have on a neighborhood, home or business.

**Special Needs:** Register for special needs shelters intended for those who need transportation or require minimal medical assistance while seeking public shelter. Registration is required.

**Pet Preparedness:** Get information on sheltering your pet, how to register for a pet-friendly shelter and what you need to prepare.

### Connect to:

- Social Media
- National Hurricane Center
- All Hazards Preparedness Guide in Spanish language

Download the free app "Ready Pinellas" on your mobile device by searching the Apple App Store or

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS



## Emergency Preparedness

**Alert Pinellas Emergency Notification Service** ..... [www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas)  
**Find Your Evacuation Level**  
(727) 453-3150 (call from home phone) .... [www.pinellascounty.org/knownyourzone](http://www.pinellascounty.org/knownyourzone)  
**Pinellas County Citizens Information Center** (open only during emergencies)  
(727) 464-4333 V/TDD (727) 464-3075  
**Pinellas County Emergency Management**  
(727) 464-3800 ..... [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)  
**Ready Pinellas App** ..... Download on your mobile device

## County Agencies

**Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County**  
(727) 824-6900 ..... [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com)  
**Pinellas County Animal Services**  
(727) 582-2600 ..... [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices)  
**Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board** (contractor information)  
(727) 582-3100 ..... [www.pccfb.com](http://www.pccfb.com)  
**Pinellas County Consumer Protection**  
(727) 464-6200 ..... [www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/price\\_gouging.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer/price_gouging.htm)  
**Pinellas County Economic Development**  
(727) 464-7332 ..... [www.pced.org](http://www.pced.org)  
**Pinellas County Information Line**  
(727) 464-3000 / V/TDD (727) 464-4062 ..... [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org)  
**Pinellas County School Board**  
(727) 588-6000 / School Bus Info Line (727) 587-2020 ..... [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org)  
**Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (non-emergency)**  
(727) 582-6200 ..... [www.pcsoweb.com](http://www.pcsoweb.com)  
**Pinellas County Solid Waste**  
(727) 464-7500 ..... [www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste)  
**Pinellas County Utilities**  
(727) 464-4000 ..... [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities)  
**Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)**  
(727) 540-1900 ..... [www.psta.net](http://www.psta.net)  
**St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport**  
(727) 453-7800 ..... [www.fly2pie.com](http://www.fly2pie.com)  
**Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater**  
(Hotel/motel evac in Pinellas) ..... [www.visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com)

## State of Florida

**Florida Attorney General's Office** (price gouging)  
(866) 966-7226 ..... [www.myfloridalegal.com](http://www.myfloridalegal.com)  
**Florida Division of Emergency Management** (non-emergency)  
(850) 413-9969 ..... [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)  
**Florida Highway Patrol**  
\*FHP (mobile phone) / (727) 570-5010 ..... [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp)

## Federal Agencies

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
(800) 621-3362 ..... [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
**National Hurricane Center** ..... [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)  
**National Weather Service/Tampa Bay Area** ..... [www.weather.gov/tbw](http://www.weather.gov/tbw)  
**NOAA Weather Alert Radio** ..... SAME code for Pinellas County: 012103

## Utility Companies

**Clearwater Gas**  
(727) 562-4980 ..... [www.cgenergy.org](http://www.cgenergy.org)  
**Spectrum** (Charter Communications)  
(888) 289-8988 ..... [www.charter.com](http://www.charter.com)  
**Duke Energy** (report outages)  
(800) 228-8485 ..... [www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com)  
**Frontier** (formerly Verizon)  
(800) 921-8101 ..... [www.frontier.com](http://www.frontier.com)  
**TECO Peoples Gas**  
(877) 832-6747 ..... [www.peoplesgas.com](http://www.peoplesgas.com)  
**TECO** (report outages)  
(877) 588-1010 ..... [www.tampaelectric.com](http://www.tampaelectric.com)  
**WOW!**  
(866) 745-3685 ..... [www.wowway.com](http://www.wowway.com)

## Other Agencies

**2-1-1 Referral Line - Tampa Bay Cares** ..... [www.211tampabay.org](http://www.211tampabay.org)  
**American Red Cross**  
(727) 898-3111 ..... [www.redcross.org/fl/tampa-bay](http://www.redcross.org/fl/tampa-bay)  
**Federal Alliance For Safe Homes (FLASH)**  
(877) 221-7233 ..... [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org)  
**Insurance Information Institute** ..... [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org)  
**United Way**  
(813) 274-0900 ..... [www.unitedwaysuncoast.org](http://www.unitedwaysuncoast.org)  
**The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS)**  
(813) 286-3400 ..... [www.disastersafety.org](http://www.disastersafety.org)

## STAY IN THE KNOW FOR ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS

### Visit the website

[www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) for hurricane news, evacuation maps, shelter information and more.



### Sign up for Alert Pinellas notifications

**ALERTPinellas** Emergency Notification Service Get FREE emergency notifications from Pinellas County by voice or text at [www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas).

### Subscribe to Pinellas County E-Lert

The free, award-winning Pinellas County E-Lert electronic newsletter comes out monthly during hurricane season with updates on the latest emergency news and preparedness tips. Sign up at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/stayconnected.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/stayconnected.htm).



### NEW The "Ready Pinellas" App

For checklists, preparedness assistance and information, download the app at Google Play and Apple Store.

### Watch PCC-TV

at [www.pinellascounty.org/tv](http://www.pinellascounty.org/tv) or on Spectrum 637, WOW! 18 or Frontier 44 for hurricane programming and emergency operations center updates.



### Tune in on your weather alert radio

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

**Call the Citizen Information Center** at (727) 464-4333, V/TDD (727) 464-3075 for information before, during and after the storm; only open during emergencies.

**Call FLORIDA 511** provides real-time traffic information on Florida's interstates, toll roads and other metropolitan roadways, allowing motorists to know travel times and traffic speeds, as well as information on construction and road closures. Florida drivers can use **Florida 511** to learn about roadway closures caused by wildfires or flooding, and find evacuation routes. You can also download the mobile app, visit [FL511.com](http://FL511.com) or follow the statewide, regional or roadway-specific feeds on Twitter.

### Request a speaker or information

for your organization, school or place of employment. Call the Pinellas County Speaker's Bureau at (727) 464-4600, or download a request form at [www.pinellascounty.org/speak](http://www.pinellascounty.org/speak).

### Follow us on social media



**Twitter** - @pinellasnews for general county information,  
- @pinellasem for emergency preparedness,  
- @pinellastraffic for real-time traffic updates.

**Facebook** For general county information, breaking news, preparedness tips and emergency updates, visit [www.facebook.com/pinellascountynews](http://www.facebook.com/pinellascountynews).



**Nextdoor** - For emergency notifications that directly impact your area through a private social media network, visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

**YouTube** - For videos on how to prepare for emergencies and historical hurricane information, visit [www.youtube.com/pccvtv1](http://www.youtube.com/pccvtv1).







**There are changes this year to the evacuation map, so make sure you know your zone and update your plans if necessary.**

Knowing your evacuation zone is the first step in planning. Evacuation zones are based on how high water is expected to rise due to storm surge during a hurricane. Once you know your zone, you can start planning on what you will do, and what you will need, if a storm approaches.

Please note that some of the evacuation zones are different this year! Even if you knew your zone already, you need to check it again.

In addition to evacuation zones, properties are divided into flood zones. Evacuation zones are NOT the same as flood zones. Since conditions other than hurricanes can cause flooding, flood zones are different. **You need to check both.**

### EVACUATION ZONES VS. FLOOD ZONES

EVACUATION ZONES	FLOOD ZONES
Wind-driven hurricane	Rising waters from heavy rain
Based on ground elevation and proximity to water	Based on flood risk over period of years for insurance purposes
Determined by the National Hurricane Center	Set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

### Evacuation and Flood Maps

Find your evacuation zone and flood zone at [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps).

To see how storm surge would affect your property during a hurricane, see the Storm Surge Protector App at [egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector](http://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector).



### INSURANCE

#### Questions to ask yourself

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

Not all insurance policies are created equal. Check

your policy or talk to your agent to make sure you have sufficient coverage and to determine if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on premiums. Information on insurance policies can be found through the Insurance Information Institute at [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org).

### Flood Insurance

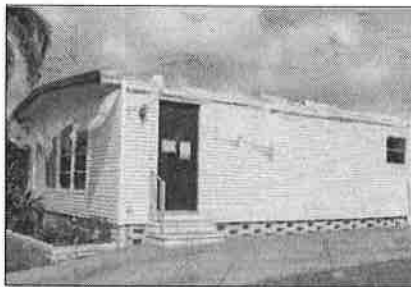
Homeowner insurance policies DO NOT cover damage from rising flood waters. If you own a home in a flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to carry a separate flood policy. Find out how much flood damage could cost you. Even if you don't live in a flood zone, purchase flood insurance for your home, business or rental. Check with your flood insurance agent to make sure your flood insurance policy is rated correctly and you are receiving the correct Community Rating System (CRS) discount. Learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Remember: a new policy takes 30 days to take effect.

### Home Hardening

Adding storm shutters, garage door braces and hurricane straps to the roof will make your home safer from wind damage and could lower your insurance costs.

### Renters

If you are renting, it is important to consider insurance to protect your belongings. If your personal belongings are damaged, the property owner's insurance will NOT cover your personal property, including furniture or any appliances you may have purchased.



### MOBILE HOMES ARE NOT SAFE HAVENS

Ninety percent of mobile homes in Miami-Dade County were destroyed during Category 5 Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Even newly built manufactured

homes are vulnerable to hurricane force winds or tornadoes. Any time Pinellas County is under threat of a hurricane, mobile home residents **MUST EVACUATE.**

Most mobile home park recreation centers are also generally not built to withstand high winds, so ask your park's management what plans they have for sheltering and communicating evacuation notices.

### Annual Maintenance

To help protect your home while you are away:

- Look for rusting of anchors and connections.
- Tighten the straps if necessary.
- Add anchors and straps where possible.
- Check for wood rot and termite damage at connections, joists and trusses.

### SANDBAGS

A search on the internet for "flood barriers" will show a wide variety of systems that are designed to help protect structures from rising water. Some flood barriers are

also available in home improvement stores. In general, these are much more effective than sandbags. Residents should NOT rely on sandbags to save their home or business from major flooding, especially fast-moving hurricane storm surge.



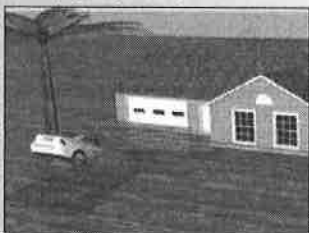
During some flooding events, the county and municipalities make sandbags available to residents. Updates about sandbags will be posted during an emergency at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency). Residents of municipalities should check with their city/town halls for availability and updates. Sandbags are also available at home improvement stores.

For more detailed information on the use of sandbags, see the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommendations available online at [www.saj.usace.army.mil/missions/emergencyoperations/sandbaginformation](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/missions/emergencyoperations/sandbaginformation)



## Storm Surge Protector Online Tool seeing is believing

You may know that storm surge is dangerous, but can you picture what it would look like in your own neighborhood, or your own home? An online interactive tool that Pinellas County developed actually gives you the picture.



Enter your own address to see a depiction of the type of structure you have, whether a house, condo,

business or other property. There may even be a car parked in the driveway. As you click through the different evacuation levels, the picture changes to show the levels of rising water and what it would look like on your property. People are usually surprised at how quickly their car is covered with

storm surge in a hurricane. They are shocked to see that the water rises very quickly as the evacuation levels change.

The view can also be changed to show the whole neighborhood. It has a zoom feature and users can toggle between an aerial and street map view.

Looking at the neighborhood is important because even if a specific property appears to be on high ground, the online tool might show that the surrounding area would be covered with storm surge, which is an important factor for you to know as you make your preparedness plans.

When you enter in your address, the online tool also shows your evacuation level, the potential surge height at your property location, the "Show Neighborhood Impact" button

and "Storm Surge Facts."

To go to the Storm Surge Protector tool, use the Ready Pinellas mobile app, the website at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency), or access it directly at <http://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector/index.html>.





During an approaching storm, it can be very stressful if you have not taken the time to make plans for you and your family to be safe. And chances are, you won't have time to get everything together at the last minute. If you take basic steps and plan ahead now, you won't have to worry when a storm is coming. Pages 5 - 11 will help you plan for an emergency and pages 12 - 13 will help you prepare.

Replace panic with peace of mind and get a plan. Start by answering these questions:

### 1. WHO WILL I CONTACT?

- How would I reach my loved ones if my phone did not work in an emergency?
- Do I have important numbers written down and stored in a safe place?
- Has my family talked about how we would reconnect if an evacuation was called while we were separated?

### 2. WHERE WILL I GO?

- If there's a tornado warning in your area, have you identified a "safe room" in your home where you can hunker down?

## At A Storm's Approach

### MAKING THE DECISION

Once you have assessed your risk, make your decision and make your plans. First, you must listen to the experts and figure out what the storm is forecast to do. Remember, forecasts are never exact. Always check for updates and be prepared for changes.

### UNDERSTANDING THE FORECAST

The National Hurricane Center uses a graphic of a "cone" to show the probable track of a storm that you see on weather forecasts in local media and on the center's website: [www.nhc.gov](http://www.nhc.gov).

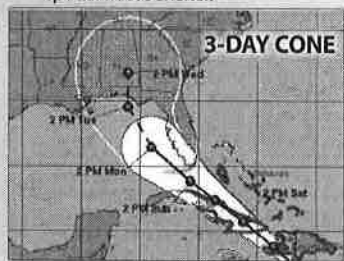


#### 5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

When the Tampa Bay area is in a 5-day cone, it's time to implement your plan and preparations.

A hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days.

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



#### 3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

- If you had to evacuate for a hurricane, would you try to drive out of town or to a friend's house in a safer area?
- In what situations would it be safe to stay home instead of trying to leave?

### 3. HOW WILL I GET THERE?

- If you plan on going out of town and you don't have a car, do you know the options of public transportation? (Remember, normal routes could change as a hurricane approaches.)
- Will you take public transportation to a shelter?
- If you have to leave your home in a hurry, is your car ready for a long trip?
- Do you have emergency supplies in your vehicle?

### DID YOU KNOW?

**DRIVERS:** Be aware that during a large-scale disaster, such as a hurricane, you may encounter heavy traffic on the limited routes out of Pinellas County. Fill up your gas tank and keep emergency supplies in your car.



the forecast increases and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

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

### HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS (48 hours ahead)

Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours if the storm remains on track and continue implementing your disaster plan.

- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash, secure papers and valuables.
- Refill medications. (If Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center is activated or the governor has declared a state of emergency, you can get a 30-day refill without the insurance company's usual restrictions).
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need for your "go bag."

### HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS (36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued and know which zone you're in so you can follow those orders.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be ready to leave. Rescue workers will begin pickups shortly after an evacuation order is issued.

**BUS RIDERS:** In an emergency, PSTA will run nearly all routes until it is no longer safe. **All rides are free during a hurricane evacuation.** Buses will also run from transfer stations to local shelters during an evacuation. Call the PSTA InfoLine at (727) 540-1900. Route information during a storm will also be posted at [www.psta.net](http://www.psta.net).

**SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORTATION:** The county offers transportation for special needs residents (see page 6). If you don't qualify and can't ride the bus, contact your local fire department

or Emergency Management in advance for help. **Don't stay in a dangerous situation just because you don't have transportation!**

### DISASTER PLAN

Fill out your own "Personal Disaster Plan" on page 11 of this guide.

### EVACUATION ORDER

Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order - does it include your evacuation zone or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home? If so, you must evacuate.

- If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave immediately.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times.

### WHERE CAN YOU GO?

**Hotel:** Identify hotels in a zone not being ordered to evacuate. Book early!

**Out of the area:** Make sure your vehicle is ready for a long ride with traffic. Also, remember the storm could change paths and still put you in harm's way in another part of the state.

**Last resort:** Public Shelter - Expect crowded quarters with few comforts at shelters located in local schools or church buildings. Pinellas County has limited shelter space so this should be your last resort.

- Register in advance for Special Needs and Pet-Friendly public shelters. Call Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800, your local fire department or your home healthcare provider, or register online:

[www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)

### HOST HOME

A Category 3 hurricane would drive about 400,000 people from their homes, yet the county has approximately 50,000 shelter spaces available. While many people may stay at a safe hotel, leave the county, or stay with a friend or relative, there are many residents who will need a local place to stay.

Residents of non-evacuation zones can offer their homes to those in lower-lying areas. Host Homes work best when the two parties are compatible - families with children or pet owners for example. The guests can help to prepare the home and contribute supplies.

There are many residents who don't know anyone that they can ask. This is when an organization can do a great service by setting up a Host Home program for their members. For more information go to [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/hosthomes](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/hosthomes).

## PLAN special needs

in this section

- Register for shelter
- Supply checklist
- Help for seniors



Pinellas County's special needs program is intended for those who need transportation or require MINIMAL medical assistance. The county has three special needs shelters for residents;



registration is generally required. Plan ahead and communicate with friends, family or caregivers if you'll need extra help evacuating and sheltering during a storm.

### REGISTER FOR SHELTER

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

Once registered, a medical needs review will determine your eligibility for a special needs shelter. If you don't qualify, other options will be discussed. If you have your own transportation, registration is NOT required but is strongly recommended. If you make other arrangements after registration, you are not obligated to go to the shelter.

Keep in mind that the shelter will be inside a school and will likely be crowded and noisy. It will be safe, but it's not for everyone.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Important things to know when going to a public shelter:

- It's recommended to bring family or a caregiver to a shelter.
- Service animals that are trained to assist a person with a disability are allowed in any shelter, hotel or motel – no registration required. Don't forget to pack their supplies too. If you have registered for a special needs shelter but your pet is not a service animal, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600 to register your pet. Animal

Services will make arrangements for your pet.

- Personnel from Pinellas County Schools and Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County staff special needs shelters.
- Assistance is limited to medical monitoring, oxygen and some backup electricity.
- Oxygen is available, but the shelter could lose air conditioning in a power outage.
- Bedding may not be provided. Feel free to bring a lounge chair or air mattress. Residents who are unable to sleep on a cot or the floor should consider a hotel or a host home. See page 5.
- Have your "go bag" ready and let an out-of-town contact know where you are going.
- Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes.

### SUPPLY CHECKLIST

In addition to items on the Survival Kit list on page 11, consider adding these items to your "Go Bag":

- Medical contacts list – phone numbers, medical records
- Medications list – get these from your pharmacy
- Wearable medical alert tag
- Special written instructions for emergency personnel
- Two-week supply of medication and any special medical materials you need
- Cooler for refrigerated medications
- Special dietary foods, non-perishable
- Air mattress and bedding

#### Wheelchairs

- Patch kit
- Extra battery or converter for charging battery

#### Visual Impairment

- Talking or Braille clock
- Extra cane, magnifier and glasses

#### Hearing or Speech Impairments

- Extra hearing aid batteries
- Pen and paper for communicating emergency information
- Preprinted key phrases for use in an emergency

### HELP FOR SENIORS



If you are an older adult who doesn't require special needs assistance, you don't have to ride out the storm alone. Many senior communities are in non-evacuation

zones, so start a network with residents in your community, social group or place of worship and plan ways to support each other.

- Sign up for Alert Pinellas at [www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas).
- Build a phone tree with your group to coordinate plans if there's a hurricane warning.
- If you live in a nursing home or assisted living facility, contact the administrator about emergency plans – let friends/family know the plan and share important contacts with them.
- If you are homebound, discuss your plan with your caregiver.



**Look around:** If you know an elderly person, don't assume he or she has a plan. **Ask. Offer help. You may save a life.**

## PLAN kids

in this section

- Supplies for your kids
- Talk to your kids
- Learn with your kids



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

### MAKE PLANS WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY

- Involve children in emergency planning, checking supplies and writing a shopping list.
- Use matter-of-fact language to discuss safety steps you will take.
- Play "let's pretend" games with young children to help them work out "what if" situations.

### SUPPLIES FOR YOUR KIDS

If you are evacuating or even if you're riding out the storm at home, don't forget the everyday items your children will need. Think through a typical day at home and plan accordingly.

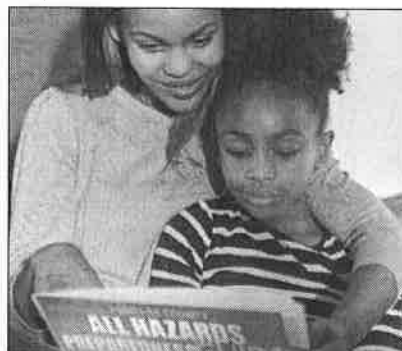
#### A few suggestions:

- Diapers and wipes
- Powdered milk
- Blanket and pacifier
- Stuffed animal or favorite toy
- Favorite non-perishable snacks

### TALK TO YOUR KIDS

Three major fears common in children during a storm are: death, darkness and abandonment. Emotional support from parents is critical, well after the storm is over.

- Listen to fears and reassure children often.
- Encourage them to talk and ask questions, but limit discussion to basic facts.
- Spend extra time before bedtime; leave a door open and night-light on.
- Maintain close contact. Hold and touch your child.



- Don't discipline for unusual signs of anxiety during a crisis, like bedwetting or thumb-sucking.
- Do not lie to children about the dangers. Reassure them that you are focused on their safety.
- Be cautious of permitting young children to watch or listen to news.
- Allow for mourning and grieving over the loss of meaningful items.

### If you must leave your child...

Children who have been through a disaster are afraid of being separated from family and left alone. Avoid separation, even to go to the store. If you must leave children with friends or relatives, reassure them:

- Let your child know how long you will be away and how often you will be in touch.
- Make sure your child's needs are being met.

### LEARN WITH YOUR KIDS

Learning the steps to preparedness with your kids will help both them and you get a better understanding of what's happening when a disaster strikes.

For educational resources, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/kidsinchildhood.aspx](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/kidsinchildhood.aspx)



# PLAN pets

## in this section

- Sheltering with your pet
- Register early for shelter
- Pet plan & supply list



Just like other members of the family, pets need to be part of your disaster plan. If you have to evacuate, do you know if pets are allowed where you're planning to stay? If you are staying home, what will your pet need if your family must survive without basic necessities after a storm?

### SHELTERING WITH YOUR PET

**Pet-friendly?** If you will evacuate during a storm, make sure the host home, hotel or shelter where you're going accepts your type of pet.

**Pet-friendly hotels:** Call Visit St. Pete/Clearwater at (727) 464-7200 for options or search the web for **pet-friendly hotels** in the area. Some hotels have emergency policies to take pets in an evacuation.

Pet-friendly hotel info is also available through the **Know Your Zone** feature during evacuations (accommodations feature), as hotels report their availability and emergency pet policies. You can find this feature online at [www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone](http://www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone).

**Can I board my pet?** Don't assume a kennel or hotel will take your pet in an emergency. Call ahead to find kennels in non-evacuation zones that could take your pet. Kennels require proof of vaccinations.

**Can I take my pet to an animal shelter? NO -** Animal shelters, such as Pinellas County Animal Services or SPCA Tampa Bay, cannot accept your pets during an emergency.

**Can a family member outside the evacuation zone take my pet?** Ask them now.



### REGISTER EARLY FOR SHELTER

Pinellas County operates three pet-friendly public shelters for dogs and cats only. Owners can stay in the same building as their pets. **Pets must be in a carrier or crate.** Space is limited at these shelters and they should be considered a last resort in your plan. Mobile home residents get first priority.

If you will need to stay at a pet-friendly shelter, you must register ahead of time: Call (727) 582-2600 or fill out a form online at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/petpreparedness.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/petpreparedness.htm).

### HORSES

There are no public park areas to leave animals during an evacuation, so it's important to make arrangements in advance. Check the Sunshine State Horse Council website at [www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane.html](http://www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane.html).

### PET PLAN & SUPPLY LIST

- Keep current vaccination records.
- Take a photo of your pet to keep with you.
- Download the county's pet identification form at [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices); tape this to your pet's kennel if your pet will be sheltered apart from you.

### Pet "Go Bag"

- Identification
- Immunization records
- County rabies tag
- Food & water with bowls (two-week supply) – can opener if needed

- Carrier or portable kennel (with room to stand and turn around)
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Medications
- Toys/blanket
- Cat litter, pan and scoop
- Plastic waste bags
- Disinfectant
- Paper towels

Remember, if you must evacuate, you may have to care for your pet for an extended period of time – plan accordingly.

### Post-disaster animal collection

After a storm, stray animals will be collected and taken to temporary collection sites and then transferred to more permanent sites that will be announced to the public. If you lost your pet, look in the area around your home or call Animal Services at (727) 582-2600.

### Volunteer for pet pick-ups

Interested in helping the county transport pets for citizens with special needs during an evacuation? Call Animal Services for more information.

### Be responsible

If you have an exotic pet, special arrangements may be needed. Do not release your pets into the wild where they could be a danger to people, animals or the environment.



# PLAN boats & bridges

## in this section

- Prepare your boat
- Keep your boat secure
- Bridge operation in a storm



No matter how seaworthy you or your boat is, don't ever consider staying with your boat in a hurricane. Make preparations early and evacuate for your safety. Monitor weather and sea conditions closely. If watches or warnings are issued, don't venture onto the water.

Follow the tips below to minimize damage to your vessel during a hurricane:

### PREPARE YOUR BOAT

- Create a hurricane plan for your boat and file a copy with the marina operator.
- Take a photographic inventory of your boat and its contents.
- Purchase and stow mooring line for storms – line should be about twice the diameter of normal line.
- When a storm is approaching, remove loose items on the deck – bimini tops, dinghies, etc. – and store them on land. Shut off fuel lines at the tank.
- Keep batteries charged; make sure bilge pumps are operating properly.
- Keep insurance up-to-date.

### HIGH AND DRY

- Store boat and trailer in a secure covered building, such as a garage.
- If left outside, secure using ground hooks and straps.



- Fill boat partially with water for stability. Keep water away from engine/batteries.
- Put wooden blocks between trailer frame and springs for extra support with added weight.

### MOORED AT DOCK

- Secure hatches and doors.
- Double up on mooring lines and spring lines to secure boat in its mooring.
- Use several cleats to distribute the load on the boat.
- Allow extra line for tide and storm surge.
- Use chafing gear, such as reinforced radiator hose where lines will rub for protection – several feet on each side.
- Disconnect electric, water and other dock connections.
- Remove valuables.

### ANCHORED

- Anchor on the lee side of protective land rather than mooring to a dock.
- Use two anchors and no stern anchor.
- Line length should be six to nine times water depth for storm surge shift.
- Remember the boat's position may change drastically during the storm.

**Lastly... batten down the hatches!**

### BRIDGE OPERATION IN A STORM

During the approach of a hurricane, Pinellas County's 10 bascule bridges – or drawbridges – will operate in a modified mode to give preference to evacuating vehicle traffic until the bridges go into lock-down position to ensure barrier islands are evacuated and to protect the bridges from wind damage.

The U.S. Coast Guard will coordinate with local and state agencies to issue a special marine advisory when the bascule bridge operations will be modified. NOAA weather radios, local media and marine broadcasts will announce these changes.

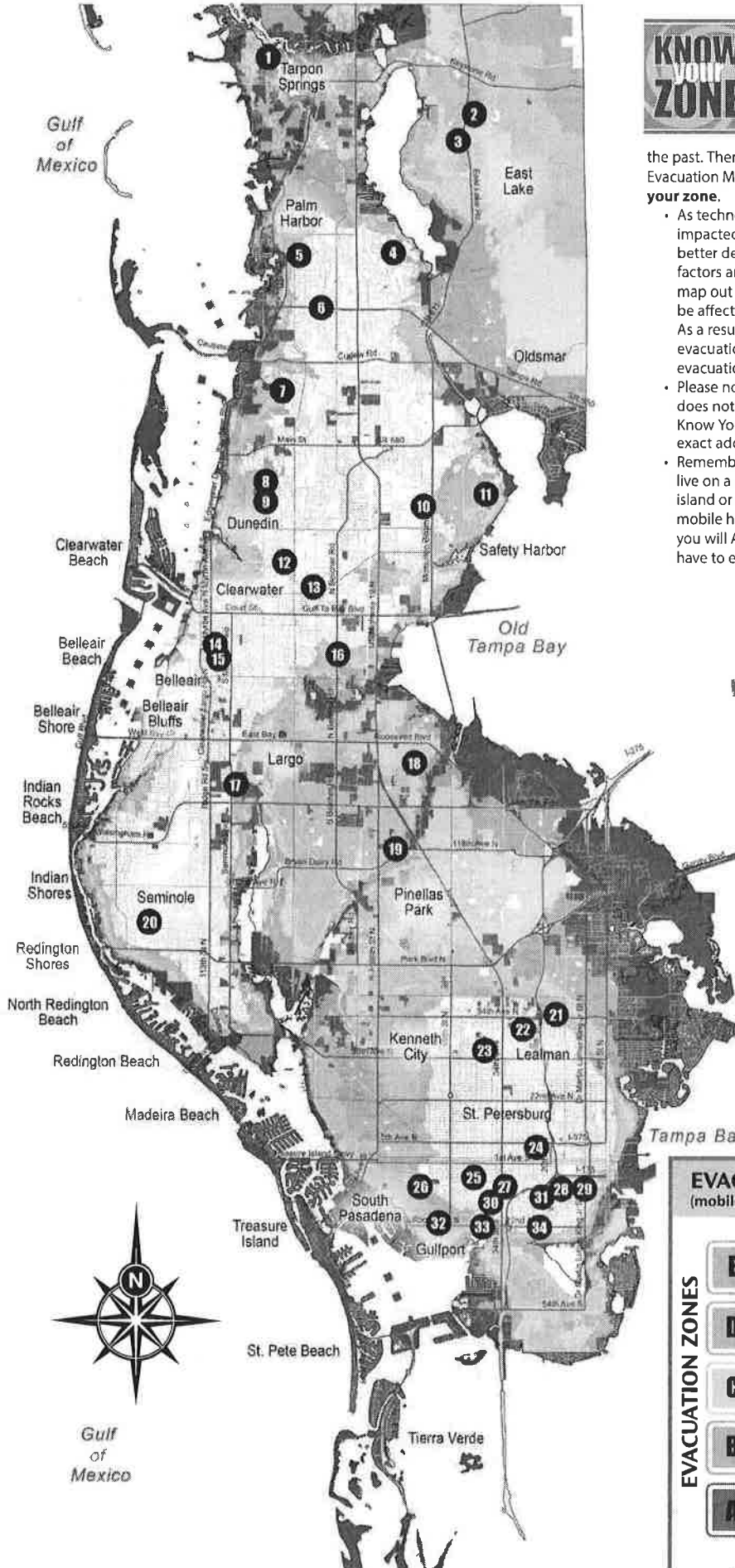
The 10 bascule bridges:

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



# PINELLAS COUNTY EVACUATION ZONE MAP

- Find your evacuation zone
- Ways to find your zone
- Evacuation guidelines



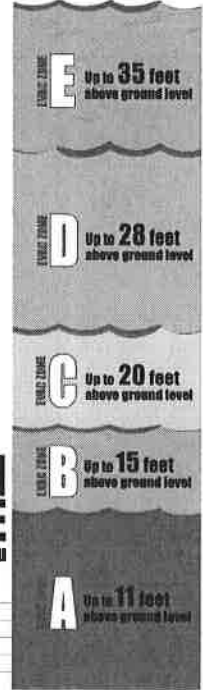
## Look up Your Evacuation Zone

Look up your evacuation zone to find out if and when you should evacuate – even if you have looked it up in the past. There are some changes in the Evacuation Map so please **double check your zone**.

- As technology improves, those areas impacted by deadly storm surge are better defined based on multiple factors and we are able to better map out which properties would be affected by deadly storm surge. As a result, there are changes to the evacuation map. Please confirm your evacuation zone.
- Please note that the map to the left does not show the detail needed to Know Your Zone. Always use your exact address to look up your zone.
- Remember: If you live on a barrier island or in a mobile home, you will ALWAYS have to evacuate.

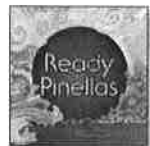
## STORM SURGE and you

5 feet  
4 feet  
3 feet  
2 feet  
1 foot



## Ways to Find Your Evacuation Zone:

- Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency), click on "Know Your Zone."
- Look at "Know Your Zone" at <http://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/knowyourzone/>.
- Look up the Storm Surge Protector interactive tool at [egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector/](http://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector/).
- Download the Pinellas County "Doing Things for You" app on your mobile device. Search for "Pinellas County" and choose the app with the county logo. Look for the "Know Your Zone" button. You can also find your evacuation zone on your Pinellas County Utilities bill.
- Call (727) 453-3150 and enter your 10-digit home phone number (does not work for cell phone numbers).
- Download the "Ready Pinellas" app on your mobile device. Enter your address and you will be provided information on your evacuation level, the closest hotel accommodations and closest shelter.



## EVACUATION GUIDELINES (mobile homes MUST always evacuate)

EVACUATION ZONES		Potential Surge Heights (in feet)
E	Up to 35'	Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green and purple areas and all mobile homes
D	Up to 28'	Evacuate red, orange, yellow and green areas and all mobile homes
C	Up to 20'	Evacuate red, orange and yellow areas and all mobile homes
B	Up to 15'	Evacuate red and orange areas and all mobile homes
A	Up to 11'	Evacuate red areas and all mobile homes

Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones.



# SHELTER OPTIONS

in this section

- Why evacuate
- Dangerous wind
- Types of evacuations



**N**

**NORTH COUNTY**

- 1 Tarpon Springs Middle School  
501 N. Florida Ave. • Tarpon Springs
- 2 Brooker Creek Elementary School  
3130 Forelock Road • Tarpon Springs
- 3 East Lake High School  
1300 Silver Eagle Drive • Tarpon Springs
- 4 Carwise Middle School  
3301 Bentley Drive • Palm Harbor
- 5 Palm Harbor University High School  
1900 Omaha St. • Palm Harbor
- 6 Palm Harbor Middle School  
1800 Tampa Road • Palm Harbor
- 7 Dunedin Community Center  
1920 Pinehurst Road • Dunedin
- 8 Dunedin Highland Middle School  
70 Patricia Ave. • Dunedin
- 9 Dunedin Elementary School  
900 Union St. • Dunedin
- 10 McMullen-Booth Elementary School  
3025 Union St. • Clearwater
- 11 Safety Harbor Middle School  
901 First Ave. N. • Safety Harbor
- 12 Clearwater Fundamental Middle School  
1660 Palmetto St. • Clearwater
- 13 Skycrest Elementary School  
10 N. Corona Ave. • Clearwater
- 14 Belleair Elementary School  
1156 Lakeview Road • Clearwater
- 15 Ross Norton Recreation Center  
1426 S. MLK Jr. Ave. • Clearwater
- 16 Oak Grove Middle School  
1370 S. Belcher Road • Clearwater

**S**

**SOUTH COUNTY**

- 17 Largo High School  
410 Missouri Ave. N. • Largo
- 18 High Point Elementary School  
5921 150th Ave. N. • Clearwater
- 19 Pinellas Park High School  
6305 118th Ave. N. • Pinellas Park
- 20 Bauder Elementary School  
12755 86th Ave. N. • Seminole
- 21 John Sexton Elementary School  
1997 54th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg
- 22 Lealman Innovation Academy  
4900 28th St. N. • St. Petersburg
- 23 New Heights Elementary School  
3901 37th St. N. • St. Petersburg
- 24 St. Petersburg High School  
2501 Fifth Ave. N. • St. Petersburg
- 25 Fairmount Park Elementary School  
575 41st St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 26 Boca Ciega High School  
924 58th St. S. • Gulfport
- 27 Gibbs High School  
850 34th St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 28 John Hopkins Middle School  
701 16th St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 29 Campbell Park Elementary School  
1051 Seventh Ave. S. • St. Petersburg
- 30 Jamerson Elementary School  
1200 37th St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 31 St. Petersburg College Midtown Campus  
1300 22nd St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 32 Gulfport Elementary School  
2014 52nd St. S. • Gulfport
- 33 Thurgood Marshall Middle School  
3901 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg
- 34 James Sanderlin Elementary School  
2350 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg

Not every shelter will open for every evacuation. Please check [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) or call the Citizens Information Center at (727) 464-4333 V/TDD (727) 464-3075, which is open during emergencies.

## WHY EVACUATE?

### STORM SURGE

Hurricanes push a dome of water ashore called storm surge that rushes in and sweeps anything that's not attached to the ground out to sea – including people. Pinellas County is extremely vulnerable to storm surge due to its coastal and low-lying geography. Storm surge is actually the greatest killer of people during hurricanes.

Storm surge is the primary reason evacuations are ordered prior to hurricanes. You may not have to go far to escape evacuation zones – think tens of miles, not hundreds.

### THE FORCE OF STORM SURGE

Three feet of water in a 1,500 square foot home weighs just under 135 tons; an average pool holds just under 21 tons of water.

### STORM SURGE AND YOU

Want to see how high that wall of water would get at your home during a major hurricane? Plug in your address and see a 3-D depiction of your home or business. This web-based application also shows the evacuation zone of the property. Find the app here: [egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector](http://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/stormsurgeprotector).

## Run from the water. Hide from the wind.

### DANGEROUS WIND

The other danger from tropical storms and hurricanes is high wind. The wind is figured out using a wind scale called the Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale. This chart should convince you that staying in a high building is not safe if an evacuation order is called. Buildings can be badly damaged by wind, even blowing out walls and causing roofs to collapse.

"Going up" to escape storm surge will not keep you safe from high wind. Hide from the wind by seeking shelter in areas of the county that are not under an evacuation order.

### Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale

More information visit: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php)

Category	Sustained Winds	Wind Damage
1	74-95 mph	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding, gutters. Snapped tree branches. Power outages likely.
2	96-110 mph	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many trees snapped or uprooted. Near-total power loss.
3 (major)	111-129 mph	Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking & gable ends. Many trees snapped. Electricity & water unavailable for days to weeks.
4 (major)	130-156 mph	Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage, including roof structure & some exterior walls. Most trees snapped. Power outages for weeks or months. Most of the area uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 (major)	157 mph or higher	Catastrophic damage will occur: High percentage of framed homes destroyed, total roof failure & wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks or months. Most of the area uninhabitable for weeks or months.

## RECOMMENDED OR MANDATORY EVACUATION?

**Recommended Evacuation:** A tropical storm is approaching or a hurricane is expected to cross Florida and exit over Pinellas County, and there is a chance of severe weather. Emergency managers may recommend that residents in mobile homes or flood prone areas evacuate to higher ground or sturdier shelter.

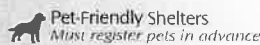
**Mandatory Evacuation:** The probability of storm surge is high and could be deadly for residents who don't leave. Mobile homes must always evacuate during a mandatory order regardless of where they are located. All residents should pay attention to which letter zone is being ordered to leave. It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order.

### Shelter Options

On the left is a list of public shelters that MIGHT be opened during an evacuation. **NOT ALL SHELTERS WILL BE OPENED FOR EVERY EVACUATION.** Before going to a public shelter, check to see if it is open.

Online: [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org)

Citizens Information Center: (727) 464-4333 V/TDD (727) 464-3075.





## TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

**\*PROTECT YOUR WINDOWS** – Your best option is to install impact resistant windows or hurricane shutters. Otherwise, be ready to cover your windows with commercial exterior plywood – 7/16" minimum – when a storm is approaching. Duct tape provides NO protection.

**\*BRACE YOUR GABLE ROOF** – Gabled roofs – two slopes that come together to a peak at the top – are prone to failure if not properly braced in construction. High winds could cause your end wall to collapse. See the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Hurricane Retrofit Guide for advice: [www.floridadisaster.org/hrq](http://www.floridadisaster.org/hrq).

**PREPARE YOUR YARD** – Rock mulch, sagging tree limbs and yard furniture are among the objects that could become deadly missiles in high winds. Keep your trees pruned, clean out your gutters on a regular basis, and when a storm is coming...

- Dispose of any piles of loose tree limbs or debris.
- Bring in all large yard items, such as furniture, grills and bird baths.
- Do not drain your pool. Super chlorinate the water and turn off the electricity.

**Note:** The bottom of the pool is one storage option for outdoor furniture.

**\*BRACE YOUR GARAGE DOOR** – Old garage doors in good condition can be braced with retrofit kits while new doors must meet stringent wind requirements. After Hurricane Andrew, engineers determined four out of five homes that suffered major structural damage lost their garage door first.

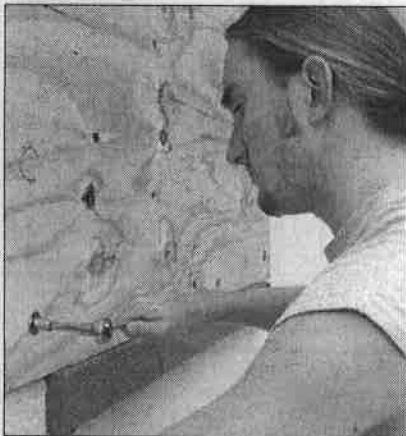
### PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

- Keep up with your car's maintenance.
- Keep gas tank half full – fill tank during a Hurricane Watch.
- Build a survival kit for your car: first aid, non-perishable food/water, tire inflater, tool kit, jack and spare tire, jumper cable, road flares, flashlight, DC/AC power inverter, mobile device chargers, map with shelter locations.

**CHECK SEALS** – Replace any worn out weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors.

\*Protecting windows, gable roofs and garage doors are the most important steps to take.

Bracing your home for high winds can make the difference between minor damage and a devastating loss in a hurricane. Homeowners should consider upgrading an old roof, windows or garage door to a higher standard of wind resistance when making improvements.



### STEPS BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Be sure to let friends and family know your evacuation plan.
- Turn off the water and gas utilities.
- Lock windows and doors.

### LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE

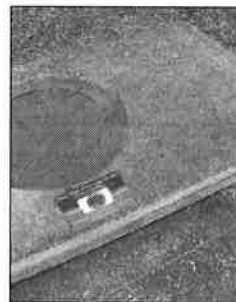
Not sure if your home is storm ready? Roofs and windows on older homes, may not be up to current code for wind resistance. Consider hiring a home inspector to review your home's condition.

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes has step-by-step instructions for reinforcing your home's roof, gable ends and other areas: [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org).

If you hire a contractor, make sure they're fully licensed. Pinellas County Consumer Protection can verify this. Call (727) 464-6200 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/consumer](http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer).

### PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODS

Depending on your property's elevation, it may only take a few inches of rising water to infiltrate



your home. Here are a few steps you can take to mitigate the impact of flooding:

- Protect natural floodplains by keeping lawn clippings, leaves and other debris out of streets and storm drains. Flood plains provide storage for floodwaters and buffer coastal areas from storm surge. Only rain down the drain!
- Elevate your utilities, such as water heaters, AC units, etc.
- Evaluate your property's drainage and implement floodproofing measures.

For detailed information about flood risks, insurance and flood mitigation techniques, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding) or call Pinellas County Flood Information Services at (727) 464-7700.

### MORE RESOURCES

Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/prepareahead.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/prepareahead.htm) for more detailed steps and links to other resources to prepare your home.

# PLAN personal disaster plan



Fill out the information in this plan and let friends and family know your evacuation plan.

An online version is available at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/personaldisasterplan.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/personaldisasterplan.pdf)

## ALL HAZARDS DISASTER INFORMATION

Central Family Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

School(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Day Care: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Important Contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Do I have everything I need for my survival kit?  Yes  No

Have I signed up to receive Alert Pinellas emergency notifications?  Yes  No

Do I have a battery-powered radio for emergencies?  Yes  No

Does my family have a central meeting place if we're separated in an emergency?

Yes  No Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Are important papers – and copies – stored with valuables in a waterproof, safe place?

Originals: \_\_\_\_\_

Copies: \_\_\_\_\_

## Insurance Policy Information

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Health: \_\_\_\_\_

Flood: \_\_\_\_\_

Auto: \_\_\_\_\_

Renters: \_\_\_\_\_

## HURRICANE PREPARATION

Evacuation Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Where we'll go if/when we need to evacuate: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation location, address and phone (host home, hotel, shelter): \_\_\_\_\_

Does my employer provide a shelter for me and my family?  Yes  No

If Yes, list address and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Does my evacuation location allow pets?  Yes  No

My pet(s) name/type of pet(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What will I do with my pet(s) if I evacuate? \_\_\_\_\_

If required, have I registered for Special Needs Evacuation Assistance?

Yes  No

Can I be a host home?  Yes  No If yes, how many/who will I host? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a neighbor who needs help?  Yes  No

What preventative measures will I take to safeguard my home? \_\_\_\_\_

Are my windows and doors protected?  Yes  No

Where is my safe room? \_\_\_\_\_

How will I secure my boat? \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGN UP FOR ALERT PINELLAS

[www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas](http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas)

# PLAN build a survival kit

in this section

- Survival kit checklist
- Medications in emergencies
- Special considerations



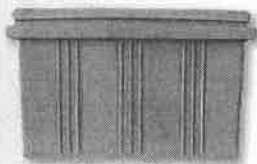
Imagine life without power, water or safe roads to take you to the grocery store. Think through what you and your family members would need if a disaster strikes and you need to be on your own for an extended period of time. To be ready, you need a basic survival kit.

A large plastic storage bin can hold most of the items and you don't need to spend a lot to get what you need to survive.

## SURVIVAL KIT CHECKLIST

### Basic Necessities

- One-week supply of fluids to drink and non-perishable food that doesn't require cooking, for example, dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.
- Water – at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for drinking/hygiene
- Non-electric can opener
- Medications and copies of prescriptions
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils
- Cooler with ice
- Utility knife
- Clothing/Bedding
- One change of clothes and shoes per person
- Rain gear
- Sturdy work shoes
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Flashlight or lantern
- Battery-operated or hand-cranked radio
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Contacts in mobile device and in print for backup



- Extra batteries
- Matches or lighter in waterproof container
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Rope or elastic cord
- Whistle to signal for help
- Tools, including wrench to shut off water
- Map with shelter locations
- Paper and pencil
- Tarps
- Dust mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape to help filter contaminated air

### Health and Sanitation

- First aid supplies – antibacterial hand gel, soap, over-the-counter pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medicine/laxative, allergy and itch relief medicine, antiseptic
- Sanitation – toilet paper, hygiene supplies, towelettes, feminine supplies
- Portable toilet – 5-gallon bucket with lid, trash bags, chlorine bleach
- Household chlorine bleach with medicine dropper to disinfect or treat water

### Other

- Cash or travelers checks
- Books, cards, board games for entertainment
- Full tank of gas in vehicle

### "Go Bag"

If you have to evacuate, you will need to add a couple of more items. If you are evacuating to stay with friends or relatives in a host home, take a "go bag" and ask in advance what supplies you can bring and what kind of space you'll have for possessions and vehicles



If you're staying in a public shelter, picture yourself sleeping every night in a room full of people in a space that measures about 10 square feet. Pack accordingly. Feel free to bring a chair or a mat.

### "Go Bag" Suggestions:

- Vital papers & ID
- Cash
- Phone number list
- Medications and copies of prescription paperwork
- Eyeglasses
- Non-perishable food/snacks
- Bedding
- Hygiene items
- Change of clothes, rain gear
- Kids' supplies and entertainment

## MEDICATIONS IN EMERGENCIES

Restrictions on refilling medications early are suspended by state law during hurricane warnings, when the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center is activated or when the governor has declared a state of emergency. Make sure you get your 30-day refills if you know a hurricane is coming. Ask for a printout of your medications, dosages and prescriber information from your pharmacist as well.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Life is very different for different people. Consider your own situation, budget and needs when planning. Think about special medical needs, dietary preferences, allergies, pets and any unique situation that you will need to include in your plans

# DURING & AFTER THE STORM

in this section

- Stay safe during the storm
- What to expect
- Who to call



Once a hurricane hits, utility outages could be long-lasting and widespread. Prepare ahead for the possibility of no power, no water and no sewer service during and after the storm. Prepare as if you were going primitive camping for a week.

## STAY SAFE DURING THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local news for updates.
- Close interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- If power goes out, use your weather radio for alerts. For light, use flashlights, battery-operated lanterns or chemical light sticks.
- Stay indoors and stay calm. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm and winds may pick up again.
- Parents should be patient with children struggling to cope with the situation.

## If your home is breached

- Take refuge in your safe room, an interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level of your home. Remember, the center of your house is the safest.
- Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object if you cannot make it to a safe room.

- Consider leaving your home ONLY if remaining poses an imminent threat to your life.
- Wait until the storm has passed to tend to any damage.

## SURVIVE AFTER THE STORM

- As soon as it is safe to do so, county/city crews will begin clearing the roadways so that emergency personnel can assist residents and supplies can be brought into the area.
- It could take days for all of the roads in Pinellas County to be cleared. During this time, stay in your home. Wait for updates from officials.
- The conditions that you faced during the storm will likely continue while crews work to restore power, water and sewer service. Continue to use safety measures, such as boiling water, until officials announce that it is safe. Make use of your survival kit to meet your everyday needs.
- If emergency water and supplies are needed, they will be made available at specific staging areas. Announcements will be made at this time.

## Floodwaters

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- **Turn around - don't drown.** Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- **Six inches** of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- **One foot** of water will float many vehicles.
- **Two feet** of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-ups.



## What to Expect

### UTILITY OUTAGES

#### Power Outages

Electricity powers your lights, air conditioning, refrigerator, possibly your stove and all of the outlets that charge your phone, computers, radio, televisions, etc. Plan on what you will do without these items.

When power and water go out, there is a chance for danger in your own home, such as spoiled food, loss of safe drinking water and toilets that won't flush. You need to plan for these possibilities for during the storm, and in the days and even weeks afterward. Some things to prepare for:

#### Food Safety

It's important to know how long to keep your food before throwing it out. This is when non-perishable food is necessary.

**TWO DAYS** - The time frozen items can be stored safely if you keep the freezer door shut.

**SIX HOURS** - If the power is out for longer than this time, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler. Put a thermometer in the cooler to make sure it stays below 40°F. Meats and other perishable foods can stay above 40°F without spoiling for two hours. For more food safety information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County at (727) 824-6900 or [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com).

#### Generators

Whatever kind of generator you have, you should be running it at least once a month. If you bought a generator during past hurricane seasons and haven't run it, you need to test it and you may have to have it serviced. Call a generator repair service for expert advice.

A fuel-powered generator can keep your appliances going after a disaster and would keep you more comfortable, but there are several dangers:

- **CARBON MONOXIDE:** Use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors to avoid exposure to this deadly, colorless, odorless gas.

- **FIRE:** Make sure the generator is cool when refilling the tank and store flammable fuel away from fuel-burning appliances.
- **ELECTRICAL SHOCK:** An electrical shock from your generator can also cause extreme harm.
- Keep the generator in a dry place.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, three-pronged extension cord.
- **NEVER** plug the generator into a wall outlet; this can cause electrocution.

#### Water Outages

It is always possible that the drinking water supply could be impacted during a disaster. Monitor the news for boil water notices, which means there's a possibility of contamination. In this case, you should be prepared to disinfect the water. **BOIL** - Bring a pot of water to a **rolling boil for 1 minute** to ensure bacteria, viruses or parasites are gone.

**BLEACH** - Add 1/8 tsp. of unscented bleach per gallon of water and **let stand for 30 minutes**; bleach should contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. This is **less effective**, but will work if there's no way to boil water. Bleach can also be used as a disinfectant by mixing - use nine parts water to one part bleach.

#### Sewer Outage

If a sewer outage is announced, DO NOT flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be down, which could cause a sewage back-up in your home. Use a portable toilet, like one used on a boat or camper. Or, set up an emergency toilet by using one of the following methods:

- **5-GAL BUCKET:** Line with heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as disinfectant. Make sure it has a tight lid.
- **TOILET BOWL:** Turn off your outside water supply first and flush once to empty before lining with a trash bag.

**Do not use cat litter** - Once given the OK by officials, dispose of the emergency toilet's contents into household commode. Thoroughly sanitize your emergency toilet with bleach before storing or disposal.

#### HAZARDOUS DRIVING

After a storm, roads may be littered with debris and many routes may be flooded. Avoid unnecessary travel and, if you must venture out, always obey "road closed" signs. **NEVER** drive

Don't drown. Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.



#### DELAYS IN ASSISTANCE

Emergency crews will be dispatched as soon as conditions are safe to clear major roads of debris and open up routes to reach places that have been severely damaged. **Be patient and stay home if it's safe.**

#### PRICE GOUGING

In a declared state of emergency, it is illegal to sell necessary goods or services at increased prices. If you believe a business or individual is price gouging, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or the Attorney General's office at (866) 966-7226.

#### WHO TO CALL

- **9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies.** Be aware that even emergency responders may not be able to help you during the height of the storm and they may not be able to reach you until roads are cleared. County crews will begin this work as soon as possible.
- **Citizen Information Center, (727) 464-4333 or V/TDD (727) 464-3075** - During and immediately after an emergency, county staff is available to answer residents' questions.
- **Duke Energy Outage Line, (800) 228-8485** for power outages or downed power lines.
- **Pinellas County Utilities customers, (727) 464-4000.** Other utilities customers, call your city's utility department for water or sewer issues or questions.
- **Pinellas County Public Works** - Residents in unincorporated Pinellas County can call Public Works Operations at (727) 464-8900. Residents of municipalities, can call your city's Public Works department.





# DURING & AFTER THE STORM

in this section

- Re-entry
- Identification
- Returning home



## RE-ENTRY

After an evacuation, many parts of Pinellas County may be inaccessible due to damage, flooding, or debris blocking major roadways. Coming home is not a guarantee. Get the latest news for information on damage before heading home.

## HAVE YOUR ID

- Be prepared with proper ID that identifies you and the address of your residential or business property for re-entry after a storm.
- Barrier Island residents need a special emergency access permit (pictured above). These are available at the city halls or town halls of the beach communities. Visit or call during regular business hours. Contact the Sheriff's Public Relations Bureau for general information or questions at (727) 582-6221. Visit: [www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit](http://www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit)
- The Citizens Information Center will continue to be staffed to answer questions during this critical period. Call (727) 464-4333.



## RETURNING HOME

- Use caution when returning home.
- Follow re-entry orders and road closures.
- Avoid flooded areas and standing water.
- Water may be contaminated or electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. Report them to the power company.
- Flood waters can contain raw sewage, bacteria, viruses, and other germs that can cause disease.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Watch for critters such as snakes, raccoons, possums and insects that may have "moved" into your evacuated home, since they too look for shelter and relief from flood waters.
- Photograph and list all damaged or lost items including their age and value where possible. Take photos of water in the house. Adjusters



need evidence of the damage to prepare your estimate.

- File your flood insurance claim as soon as possible.
- Remove wet contents immediately to prevent mold. Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding and other items holding moisture can develop mold within 24 to 48 hours.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Hire a licensed contractor.
- Get required permits before you start any home repair, improvement or construction.
- Be on the lookout for price gouging. It is illegal for anyone to sell necessary goods or services at higher than normal prices during a state of emergency. If you suspect price gouging, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or the County Attorney General's office at (800) 966-7226 to report it.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Take extra care in the prevention of mosquitoes breeding in standing water and remember the 3 Ds: Drain water when possible; Dress in light colors and cover all parts of the body; Defend with DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

Pinellas County has a comprehensive website on our area's flood hazards and how residents can become more prepared. For more information on flooding, go to [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding).

# BUSINESSES

in this section

- Emergency notifications
- Business disaster plan
- Steps to prepare your business

- Business "Go Box"
- Getting back to business



A hurricane or other major disaster could shut down your business for weeks. It's critical to plan ahead for a possible evacuation and determine how your business would recover in the aftermath of a catastrophe.

## BUSINESS DISASTER PLAN HELP

You can get help preparing a comprehensive business continuity, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plan at no cost. Schedule an appointment with the Florida Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development at [www.pced.org/sbdc](http://www.pced.org/sbdc).

The Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center provides businesses with information on government operations, a place to report business damages, a resource sharing site between businesses and a portal for businesses with multi-county operations to coordinate re-entry information. Pinellas County will utilize FLVBEOC during emergencies. For more info or to register for an account, visit <http://flvboc.org>.

## STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS

- Assess your risk – internally and externally – especially your business' evacuation zone.
- Analyze your critical business functions.
- Plan for an alternate location; expect to be able to work with limited or no water, sewer or power for at least two weeks.
- Communicate your disaster plan to employees; specifically, when will you shut down operations and send them home?
- Consider supply chain preparedness.
- Back up your data and practice restoring.
- Create an employee, vendor and key client

communication plan; share this plan and test it with your employees.

- Assemble an emergency kit.
- Review your business insurance coverage.
- Keep cash on hand in the event you must work without electricity.
- Secure your building as a storm is approaching.
- Turn off electricity, water and gas if you are evacuated.

Consider making your business a host home shelter for employees if you are located outside the evacuation zone. See page 5.

## ID for Re-entry

- Business owners and critical employees should have identification such as an employer-issued photo ID to gain access to their facilities in a disaster area.
- Business owners should also be prepared to show a license, utility bill or lease document with the property's address.
- Provide staff with an annual emergency personnel list on company letterhead, including contact information. State the need for early access and the forms of Identification your company has provided to key personnel.
- Barrier island business owners need an Emergency Access Permit to re-enter after a mandatory evacuation.



## GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

### Business Interruption Insurance

Business Interruption Insurance will compensate you for lost income if your company must leave the site because of disaster-related damage. Talk to an agent about whether this coverage is a good option for you.

### TYPES OF LOAN ASSISTANCE

#### SBA Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations and even homeowners and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace these items in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business

assets. For more information, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

#### Bridge Loans

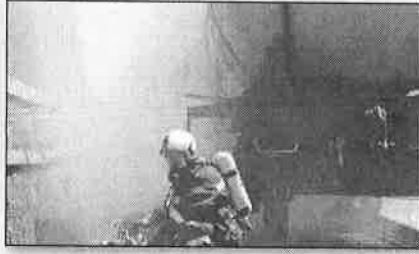
Pinellas County Economic Development will help businesses apply for Florida's emergency bridge loan program. This program provides a source of expedient cash flow to businesses

impacted by a catastrophe so they can begin repairs and replace inventory. For more information, visit [www.floridadisasterloan.org](http://www.floridadisasterloan.org).

# ALL HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS

in this section

- Thunderstorms
- Lightning
- Tornadoes



While hurricanes pose a major threat to Pinellas County, there are any number of other potential disasters that threaten lives and property. From violent tornadoes to hazardous chemical spills, it is critical to know what to do when warnings are issued.

### Steps to take for all hazards:

- Develop an emergency communications plan.
- Sign up to receive emergency information from the county through Alert Pinellas.
- Identify a meeting location should an incident

prevent you from getting home.

- Build a survival kit for all potential disasters.
- Locate a safe room you can retreat to in the event of severe weather events such as thunderstorms and tornadoes.



# THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

in this section

- Seek shelter
- Avoid electrical conductors



Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Florida, especially during the summertime. The Sunshine State sees about 1.4 million lightning strikes in an average year and we lead the nation in lightning-related deaths. About 10 percent of thunderstorms are severe, with winds 58 mph or stronger and quarter-sized hail. Keep an eye on the weather forecast before you venture outdoors and heed nature's warning when you hear the sky start to rumble.

### SEEK SHELTER

- Every thunderstorm produces lightning. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike.
- Go inside or find shelter immediately.

- If you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder: every five seconds means lightning is 1 mile away.

### When thunder roars, go indoors!

**Safe Rooms:** Severe thunderstorms could produce wind strong enough to down trees and damage your home. See more about "safe rooms" below.

### AVOID ELECTRIC CONDUCTORS

If you're indoors during a thunderstorm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.

- Get off any elevated areas.
- Do not lie flat on the ground.

- Do not shelter under an isolated tree.
- Get as far away from water as possible.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity.

### If someone is struck by lightning

Immediate medical attention can save a lightning victim's life. Call 9-1-1 and start CPR until medical crews arrive.



For additional information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other\\_hazards.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other_hazards.htm).

# TORNADOES

in this section

- Weather alerts
- Watches vs. Warnings
- Safe rooms



Tornadoes can form quickly during thunderstorms any time of year creating high velocity wind and blowing dangerous debris. In Florida, the average warning time before a tornado hits is only 12 minutes. You may only have moments to make a life-or-death decision. Most tornado deaths occur at night when people are asleep and don't get the warning.



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### WEATHER ALERTS

A NOAA Weather Alert Radio and Wireless Emergency Alerts on your mobile device are especially critical for tornado warnings, which could be issued in the middle of the night.

**NOAA Weather Alert Radio:** When a warning is issued, these radios will emit a loud tone that will awaken you to take protective cover. Purchase one online or at local retailers.

**Wireless Emergency Alerts:** Many mobile networks provide free Wireless Emergency Alerts that will send a text alert in the event of an emergency. Learn more: [www.ready.gov/alerts](http://www.ready.gov/alerts).

### WATCHES vs. WARNINGS

**Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes are possible in your area; monitor radio or TV reports for further developments.

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted in your area. Proceed to safe shelter immediately.

### SAFE ROOMS

Designate a safe room where you can stay during

go frequently. Bathrooms or interior hallways are often good options.

- Center of the building
- No windows
- Ground floor

### Mobile Homes

Mobile homes are not safe from the violent winds of a tornado. Identify a safe place you can go now, or plan to leave your home when tornadoes are possible.

### Vehicles

Vehicles are easily overturned in a tornado, so get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. Do not try to outrun or outmaneuver a tornado!

For additional tornado information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/tornado.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/tornado.htm).

### When a Tornado Warning goes in effect, put your safety plans in action.

**At home:** Have all family members immediately proceed to your safe area such as a bathroom. If there is no bathroom on the lower level, and closets are inaccessible, a hallway may be your next best area of refuge. As a last resort, tip over a heavy piece of furniture, such as a couch or heavy chair, move it to the center of the room and take cover underneath.

**In a mobile home:** Mobile homes offer little

resistance to tornado winds; hurricane straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from



gusts associated with tornadoes.

You should plan on leaving your mobile home to seek shelter elsewhere. Most mobile home communities have a recreational building or laundry room which could offer safe haven. As a last resort, seek refuge in a ditch or culvert or other low lying area of ground.

**In your automobile:** Motor vehicles are easily overturned by tornado winds. Leave your vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. As a last resort, seek shelter in a ditch or culvert. Do not try to outrun or outmaneuver a tornado! Use the time to seek appropriate shelter outside your vehicle.

**In office building, hotels, shopping centers:** Take shelter in an interior hallway on a lower floor. A closet, bathroom or other small room with short, stout walls will give some protection from collapse and flying debris. Otherwise, get under heavy furniture and stay away from windows. A corner area, away from a window, is safer than the middle of a wide span wall.

**In schools:** All public schools have reliable ways to monitor tornado watches and warnings, and each school has a designated emergency plan that will lead students and faculty to designated safe areas. Students should stay away from glass, both in windows and doors. They should crouch down and seek shelter under a classroom desk, if possible.

**In theaters, warehouses, auditoriums:** Move quickly to a small interior room such as a rest room or closet. Otherwise, evacuate these buildings and seek shelter in nearby sturdy buildings, if time permits.

**Out in open:** When severe weather approaches, seek inside shelter immediately. The chances of encountering falling trees, downed power lines and lightning is far greater than encountering a tornado itself. If a tornado approaches, lie flat in the nearest depression, such as a culvert or ditch, and cover

# WILDFIRES

in this section

- Fire plan
- Wildfire hazards
- Get your home ready



Even in densely populated Pinellas County, the threat of wildfires is present. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home.

## FIRE PLAN

- Make sure all family members have contact numbers to reach each other.
- Identify at least two escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Practice fire drills so everyone knows what to do.
- Remember to include pets in your plan.

For more information on wildfire prevention, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/wildfires](http://www.pinellascounty.org/wildfires).

## WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Drought and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. A discarded cigarette or a lightning strike can ignite a flame that could consume hundreds of acres and prove deadly.

### When a wildfire is threatening...

- Call 9-1-1 to report a fire.
- If advised, evacuate immediately.
- Be ready to leave by parking in the direction of escape.
- Move pets to one room while you prepare to evacuate.



### If you know there's time, get your home ready:

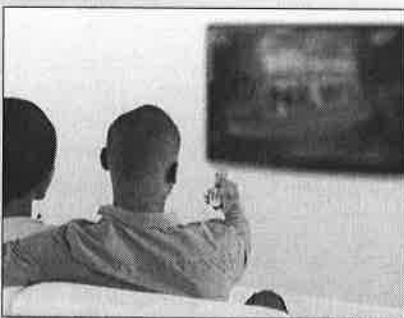
- Close all windows, vents, doors and any non-flammable window coverings and heavy drapes. Remove lightweight curtains and flammable drapes.
- Close gas valves and turn off pilot lights.
- Move flammable furniture to center of home away from openings.
- Direct sprinklers to the roof and close to any fuel tanks.
- Wet shrubs around home.
- Move flammable patio furniture inside.



# MAN-MADE & BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

in this section

- Terrorism & active shooters
- Pandemic
- Hazardous materials



Tune in to world news on any given week and you will hear about any number of deadly hazards ranging from pandemic diseases to acts of terrorism. During an unexpected large-scale emergency, your best decision may be simply to stay tuned to local media, stay indoors and wait for help or further information.

In certain types of emergencies, there are active steps you can take to protect yourself. For more detailed information on these hazards and others, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other\\_hazards.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other_hazards.htm).

## TERRORISM & ACTIVE SHOOTERS

Unlike a hurricane, there may be no warning for a terrorist attack, but you can plan ahead by taking the steps referenced earlier: emergency contacts, emergency alerts, a meeting place and a disaster supply kit. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something – report it to law enforcement.

### Active shooter tips

Active shooter situations happen quickly, often before law enforcement arrives on the scene.

- Be aware of your environment and possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit – escape should be your first choice.
- If you cannot escape, stay where you are and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway and can't escape, get into a room and secure the door.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to

- Lastly, call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so.
- When law enforcement arrives, remain calm, follow instructions, put down any items in your hands and raise your hands to make them visible. Avoid making quick movements toward officers, pointing or yelling.

## PANDEMIC

In our global society, infectious diseases can spread quickly by human contact, animals, insects or food. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is the agency responsible for warning the public about pandemic health hazards. The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County may also issue warnings and advice. CDC: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County: [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com)



### General tips to stop the spread of infectious disease:

- **WASH** your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer.
- **AVOID** close contact with sick people and touching eyes, nose or mouth – that's how germs spread.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- **STAY** home if you feel sick until you recover.
- If advised by authorities, use a face mask or



## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. They are in the chemicals that keep pools clear or tanker trucks that deliver chemicals commercially. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Shelter in place if local authorities instruct you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from coming in. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for instructions through the local media and emergency notification service, such as Alert Pinellas.



## ALWAYS AWARE

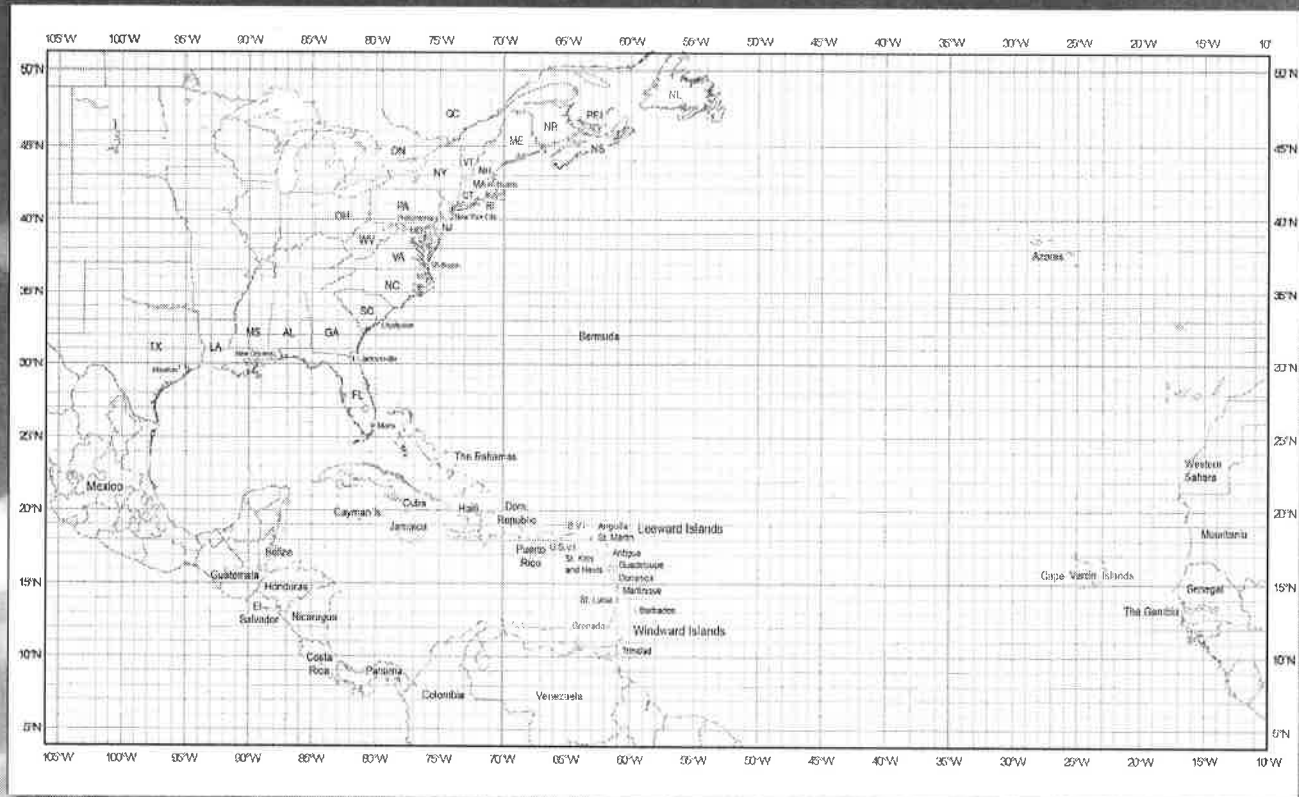
Each year, we have asked that our citizens maintain a heightened level of preparedness during hurricane season. In these uncertain times, your personal emergency preparedness strategy needs to be in place all year long. Though we hope for the best, we prepare for all hazards to make sure everyone stays safe during unexpected emergencies.

We ask that citizens make sure they are connected to the news and alerts they will need to receive official instructions from officials, if an emergency does occur. Make sure that the information you receive is from a trusted source, like the Alert Pinellas or other alert systems that are recommended in this guide. Get the facts from Emergency Management and any instructions to ensure your personal safety. Be calm and be patient until the all clear signal is given by emergency officials.

By being prepared and armed with knowledge, we replace panic with peace of mind, knowing that

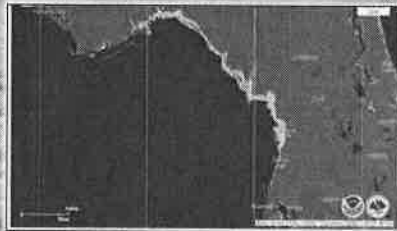


# From the National Hurricane Center



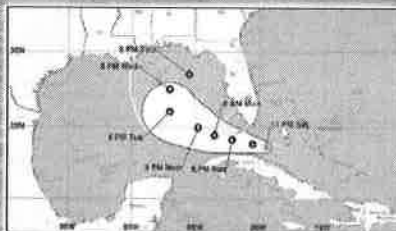
The Traditional Hurricane Tracking Chart Available for download at [www.nhc.noaa.gov/tracking\\_charts.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tracking_charts.shtml)

## Updated Features for Forecasts



### Storm Surge Watch/Warning

The National Weather Service now issues storm surge watches and warnings to highlight areas along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the continental United States that have a significant risk of storm surge.



### Time of Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Wind

This feature charts the "earliest reasonable" arrival time for sustained tropical-storm-force winds. A second graphic shows the "most likely" arrival time. This additional information is helpful in determining when all storm preparations should be completed.



### Added to the "Cone of Uncertainty"

The Tropical-Storm-Force wind information is now added to the graphic of the forecast cone. The interactive online maps allow users to toggle on and off various elements of the cone graphic. For more information on these and other charts visit [www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml).



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