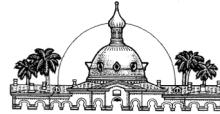


FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to **storm surge, flooding and wind**.
- Locate a safe room, usually an interior, windowless, reinforced room such as a closet or bathroom on the lowest floor. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet (Rally Points), including a child's school, a neighbor or a public place.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact. Have at least 2 ways of contact: e-mail, phone, etc.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your **pets** if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a **DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**.
- Use a **NOAA weather radio**. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes



Hillsborough
County

Solid Waste Management Dept.
Post Office Box 1110
Tampa, FL 33601

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

**For more information
call 272-5680 between
8AM and 5PM, Mon-Fri.
TTY 301-7173**

Se Habla Español.

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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MANAGING YOUR SOLID WASTE BEFORE AND AFTER A DISASTER

Prepared by the
Solid Waste Management Department




Hillsborough
County

MANAGING YOUR SOLID WASTE BEFORE AND AFTER A DISASTER

The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) provides residential solid waste (household garbage, recycling and yard waste) collection service for approximately 220,000 customers in unincorporated Hillsborough County and parts of “New Tampa”.

BEFORE A DISASTER

A disaster can happen quickly, without warning, anytime and anywhere. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. Therefore, before a disaster happens you should prepare a disaster kit that, at minimum, should include:

DISASTER KIT



- A large, covered household garbage can
- A camping back pack
- A duffel bag
- Water
- Food
- First Aid Kit
- Non-Prescription Drugs
- Tools and Supplies
- Sanitation supplies, (i.e., Toilet Paper, Plastic Garbage Bags...)
- Clothing and Bedding
- Special Items for family members, (i.e. formula, and extra eyeglasses...)
- Games and books
- Important family documents
- An extra set of car keys
- Credit card and extra cash or traveler’s checks

You should keep enough supplies at home to meet your needs for at least three days and assemble a disaster supply kit with items you may need for an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy backpacks or covered garbage cans.

Trim trees and shrubbery regularly. Cut weak branches and thin foliage into maximum 4 foot lengths and 6 inch diameter widths.

Do not trim trees once a hurricane/storm watch or warning is announced. Do not place any solid waste

materials at the curb or take any items to the County’s Community Collection Centers during a storm watch or warning. During a storm watch or warning, it is possible that normal solid waste collection service could be suspended and County facilities may be temporarily closed. Do not put garbage or bulky waste items at the curb in a “junk” pile because they will not be collected until after the storm/disaster event.

AFTER A DISASTER

After a disaster, your solid waste collection service may be interrupted and may not be restored for a while, so make sure you have enough sturdy, lidded containers to hold the solid waste that you may generate for at least two-weeks. It is also possible that kitchen sink garbage disposal units may be useless for awhile. You may want to buy a compost bin to set up in your yard. You can dump your organic food waste (except animal products) into your bin to use as compost for your garden or plants, etc. Your remaining solid waste should be stored in heavy plastic garbage bags until normal collection service has been restored. However, be sure to never put food waste in bags outside, as they will attract dogs, disease carrying rodents and other animals. Rodents, in particular, can be a major health threat where garbage accumulates. Be prepared to keep your yard clean. Do not allow garbage to accumulate outside your home. In some rural areas, garbage can be a particular attraction for a variety of wildlife. Store paper and other flammables away from any heat sources or open flames. If waste builds up, consider burying bags in a pit, and use lime to cut down smell and contamination.

Watch or listen for announcements about County solid waste collection service and debris removal schedules. Please understand that normal solid waste collection services will resume as soon as possible after disaster event. However, it may be several weeks before excessive amounts of yard waste and storm debris are removed by the County’s debris contractor.

Keep your solid waste separated from your storm debris for easier collection at the curb. Place smaller or loose debris-related items in garbage cans or plastic bags (weight limit 50 pounds) at the curb. The debris contractor will only pick up debris that has been placed at your curbside. Remember, it may take several weeks for debris to be removed.

Do not rely on county personnel to remove debris from locations other than curbside or public roadways. Do

not risk injury by placing debris near a fence, mailbox or on top of power line equipment. Avoid power poles, transformers and downed electrical wiring.

Do not place items in front of a vacant lot - they won’t be collected. Do not wait for a special debris removal date to be announced to place your debris at the curb; place it out as soon as possible. If you wait, your debris may be missed for pick-up by the debris contractor and you may be required to make your own arrangements to deliver your debris to a County-designated facility for proper disposal. As soon as possible following a disaster, Hillsborough County will notify you when to expect normal solid waste (household garbage, recycling and yard waste) collection service to resume as well as the debris removal schedule in your area. Until then, separate any debris materials, broken tree limbs and other yard waste resulting from the disaster into different piles for removal by the Debris Contractor.

NORMAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

When solid waste collection services have been restored, the County’s Solid Waste Franchise Collection Companies (Waste Management, Liberty Waste or Republic Waste Services) that provide solid waste collection services in your area will resume curbside collection of normal amounts of residential solid waste, including grass clippings, tree trimmings and shrubbery. If possible, leaves and tree trimmings should be placed in bags or containers such as garbage cans and placed at the curb for collection as soon as possible.

VEGETATIVE AND NON-VEGETATIVE STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION SERVICE

If you have over-sized or large amounts of vegetative storm debris (tree limbs and branches longer than four feet and larger than four inches in diameter), please place these items at the curbside as soon as possible for collection by the County’s debris contractors.

If you have non-vegetative storm debris (wet carpeting, drywall, shingles, fencing and water-damaged household items), please place these materials at your curbside as soon as possible for collection by the County’s debris contractors. Please be patient as the removal of storm debris will not be on the same schedule as your usual solid waste collection service.