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THE OFFICIAL HURRICANE GUIDE FOR PINELLAS COUNTY



SURVIVING THE STORM

IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



Timing is Critical to Good Planning

When it comes to a hurricane evacuation, it is important to know what to pack, how to prepare and where to go, but it's also critically important to know when you should take certain actions. This is especially true because, despite improved forecasting, hurricanes are still unpredictable.

Weather forecasters start tracking storms and predicting paths as soon as they form. A "5-day cone" and a "3-day cone" are created which show the forecasted path for the center of the storm with as much as a 300-mile "cone of uncertainty." Because the storm could track anywhere within the cone, everyone in that area needs to begin preparations. If Pinellas County is within the 5-day cone, initial preparations should begin.



KNOW YOUR ZONE

5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

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

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast increases. If Pinellas County is within the 3-day cone, residents should step up their preparations.

3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

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

About 36-hours ahead of a storm, forecasters will issue a HURRICANE WATCH for areas within the cone that can expect hurricane conditions. Again, because hurricanes can be erratic, everyone in that area must prepare as if the storm is headed directly for their home. If the storm changes path or speed, the time between a WATCH and a WARNING

might be only six hours. During a WATCH, the focus should be on preparing for the WARNING.

If you are in an evacuation zone or a mobile/manufactured home, the goal is to be fully prepared to leap into action within one or two hours of the WARNING being issued. If you live in a non-evacuation zone, the goal is to be able to complete all preparations within one or two hours after the WARNING.

HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS

- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash and secure papers and valuables.
- Refill medications. (See page 5)
- 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.
- Help neighbors with their preparations.
- If your plans are to evacuate out of the local area, make final preparations to secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you are preregistered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need for your "go bag."

A storm will be about 24 hours from impact when the HURRICANE WARNING is issued. Generally, Pinellas County Emergency Management will issue official evacuation orders not long after a WARNING. Whenever any evacuation is ordered, all mobile and manufactured home residents must evacuate. For those not in mobile or manufactured homes, be sure to know your zone so you can understand and follow official emergency instructions. (See page 2)

HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS

- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete any 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, do so.

- If you are preregistered for transportation to a public shelter, have your "go bag" ready. Rescue workers will begin pick-ups shortly after an evacuation order is issued.

Once an evacuation order is issued:

- 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 you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the evacuation order. Be sure to check which public shelters are open. (See pages 6 and 7)
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave as quickly as possible to avoid traffic jams.
- If you are not required to evacuate, prepare a safe room in your home and stay off the roads to enable evacuation traffic to clear the area.

Even when the storm is a hundred or more miles away, weather conditions can begin to deteriorate; and driving conditions will worsen.

The most important thing to remember is to do as much as you can before the WARNING is issued. Waiting until then will only give you about 24 hours to complete preparations and evacuate if you are required. If you are preregistered for transportation to a public shelter, you will only have a few hours after the Evacuation Order before your ride will arrive. Also, waiting until the WARNING to drive hundreds of miles increases your risk of being caught in the storm on the road. Remember there are safe options within Pinellas County.

RECOVERY ACTIONS

When the winds stop, there is still danger from the storm. Downed power lines, gas leaks and debris can make your neighborhood and even your yard a danger zone. Take the time to assess the situation and act carefully with safety first in your mind. More people are killed during recovery than during hurricanes. If you have evacuated and are returning home, wait until you are told it is safe to re-enter your neighborhood.

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH THE SEASON

visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

for hurricane news, evacuation maps, shelter information and more.

sign up on www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

for the free, award-winning *Pinellas County E-Lert* electronic newsletter to receive current news, preparation tips, educational opportunities and emergency notifications year-round.

watch PCC-TV

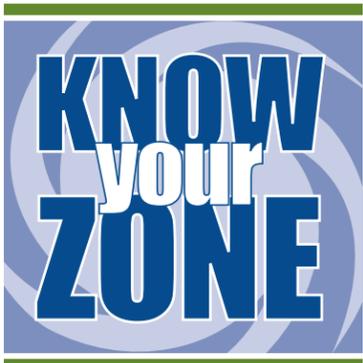
for hurricane programming and emergency operations center updates. Tune to Bright House 622, Knology 18 or Verizon 44.

sign up on your cell phone

to receive the community notification system's emergency text messages. Call (888) 689-8905 from your cell phone.

call the Citizens Information Center (CIC)

for information before, during and after the storm. Only open during emergencies. Call (727) 464-4333.



HOW TO FIND YOUR EVACUATION ZONE:*

- Look at the map on pages 6 and 7
- Visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency
- Call (727) 453-3150 and enter your ten digit home telephone number

*Mobile home residents must always evacuate!

Presentations and Classes Are Available

If your organization, school or place of employment would like to get better informed about hurricanes and preparedness, contact the Pinellas County Speakers Bureau to arrange for a speaker. Call (727) 464-3000 to schedule.

Presentation topics include:

- Becoming Storm Savvy
- Hurricane 101
- Busting Hurricane Myths
- Hurricanes for Kids



TO LOCATE A PRESENTATION CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PINELLASCOUNTY.ORG/EMERGENCY

Weather Alert Radios Save Lives of Residents



Severe weather can often strike quickly, even during the very early morning hours. An alarm from a weather alert radio can mean the difference between life and death because every minute counts in that kind of situation.

Pinellas County Emergency Management staff strongly urges residents to buy a weather alert radio. Just like a smoke alarm, this radio can save your life. Weather alert radios can be found at many retailers, in catalogs and online.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners wishes to thank you for reading this guide and arming yourself with information that can save your life and your property should a hurricane hit Pinellas County. Regardless of when the last storm impacted our coast or what the predictions are for the upcoming season, it only takes a hit from one storm to make a terrible season and devastate our area.

A good hurricane plan is your best strategy against disaster, so HAVE A PLAN! Know whether your home is in an evacuation zone. If it is, then you will need to evacuate from deadly storm-surge flooding when your evacuation level is ordered by the county. Take steps to secure your property and care for your pets. And finally, reach out a helping hand to the elderly and disabled. Don't assume they have a plan or have preregistered for special needs assistance. You can be the voice that encourages them to take these life-saving steps. Local authorities can help, but they need to know, before the storm threatens, who requires transportation, shelter or medical assistance.

**PREPARATION IS YOUR KEY TO SURVIVAL.
REMEMBER, SURVIVING THE STORM IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

Tune to PCC-TV for Informative Hurricane Programs

Tape Strikes Out
Shuttering Your Home
Hurricane 101
Evacuate Your Mobile Home
...and much more

Watch live EOC updates during activations.

All shows are available for download on our website
WWW.PINELLASCOUNTY.ORG/MEDIA



BRIGHT HOUSE 622 • KNOLOGY 18 • VERIZON 44

Surviving the Storm, the official guide for Pinellas County, is published on behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

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printed on recycled paper

CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTER

OPEN IN TIMES OF PENDING
COUNTY EMERGENCIES
CALL (727) 464-4333

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT HURRICANES

DO YOU NEED TO EVACUATE?

Q DO YOU LIVE IN A MOBILE OR MANUFACTURED HOME?

if yes Everyone in mobile and manufactured homes must always evacuate. **pg 4**

Q DO YOU LIVE IN AN EVACUATION ZONE?

if yes Know when to evacuate according to your zone and plan where you will go. **pgs 6-7**

Q DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS OR REQUIRE ASSISTANCE WITH EVACUATING?

if yes Make sure you have a plan and are registered for a special needs shelter or transportation. **pgs 8-9**

IF YOU ARE EVACUATING, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU WILL GO AND HOW YOU WILL GET THERE?

Are you going out of town? **pg 1**

If you plan to leave the area, leave as early as you can to avoid traffic jams and being stranded on the road when the storm makes landfall.

Are you going to a host home? **pg 10**

If you're going to a host home, call ahead to confirm details.

Are you going to a shelter? **pg 12**

Have your evacuation kit ready.

Do you have personal transportation? **pg 4**

Make sure your vehicle is ready.

Do you need to register for special needs transportation? **pg 8**

Will you take the bus? **pg 9**

PSTA (Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority) will run routes until it is unsafe to travel.

IF YOU ARE STAYING IN YOUR HOME, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE?

Prepare Your Home **pgs 4-5**

Make preparations early for your home, yard, vehicles, papers, medications, pets and supply kits.

If you stay.... **pg 10**

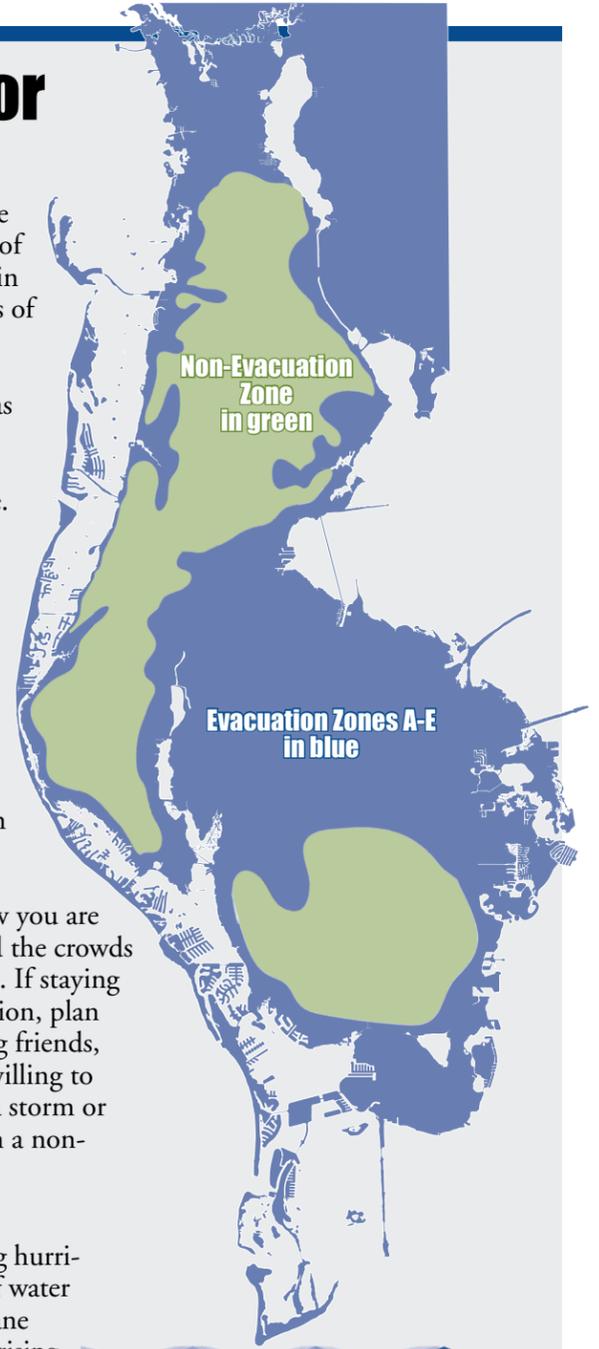
Be a Host Home for someone who needs to evacuate. Make the offer within your circle of friends, place of worship or at work.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHEN DECIDING TO STAY IN YOUR HOME:

- My home is not in an evacuation (or storm surge) zone.
- Windows have hurricane shutters and the garage door is braced.
- My home is not a manufactured or mobile home.
- My home has a safe room large enough for all occupants.
- A disaster plan and supplies are in place for all members of the household including pets.
- Vehicles have a full tank of gas.
- A survival kit is prepared with one-week's worth of nonperishable food supplies and water. See page 12 for checklist.
- A battery-operated radio is on hand with extra batteries, along with a cell phone and battery charger for the car.
- Tarps and plastic sheeting are available for emergency repairs.

Should I stay or should I go?

When it comes to evacuating there are many decisions to make. One of those decisions is whether to stay in Pinellas County or drive hundreds of miles to an out-of-town location. Finding high ground in Pinellas County is possible. The green areas on the map to the right are high enough to not be impacted by surge flooding from any hurricane. Even for a Category 5 storm, a structure in these areas that is hardened to withstand high winds can provide safe shelter. Evacuating to a shelter within the county has its advantages. You can avoid traffic jams and the uncertainty that comes with driving the crowded highways as other counties evacuate along with Pinellas. You can avoid going elsewhere in the state only to find that the storm has shifted and now you are in harm's way. And, you will avoid the crowds when it comes time to head home. If staying in Pinellas seems like a good decision, plan ahead to find safe shelter by asking friends, relatives or coworkers if they are willing to host you and your family during a storm or find a hotel or motel in the area in a non-evacuation zone.



SURGE KILLS

The greatest killer of people during hurricanes is storm surge – the dome of water pushed ashore by powerful hurricane winds. Storm surge isn't a gradual rising of water. It rushes in and out sweeping anything not secured back out to sea, people included. During Hurricane Katrina, residents of coastal Mississippi were caught off guard by storm surge flood waters. Entire buildings were moved, and some of the people who didn't evacuate are still among the missing. Pinellas County is extremely vulnerable to surge flooding because of its coastal and low-lying geography. In fact, a Category 3 storm could flood 42 percent of the county's households.

Staying safe from surge flooding is easy. If a hurricane is predicted for Pinellas County and you live in a zone that has been ordered to evacuate, get out. Do not stay in an area at risk for surge flooding. Do not plan to escape to higher floors and do not wait until the last minute. Leave to higher ground and survive the storm.

STORM SURGE

5 feet
4 feet
3 feet
2 feet
1 foot

and you



EVAC ZONE E
CAT5 20-24 feet above sea level

EVAC ZONE D
CAT4 15-20 feet above sea level

EVAC ZONE C
CAT3 12-15 feet above sea level

EVAC ZONE B
CAT2 7-12 feet above sea level

EVAC ZONE A
CAT1 5-7 feet above sea level

PREPARATION IS KEY FOR A SAFE HURRICANE SEASON

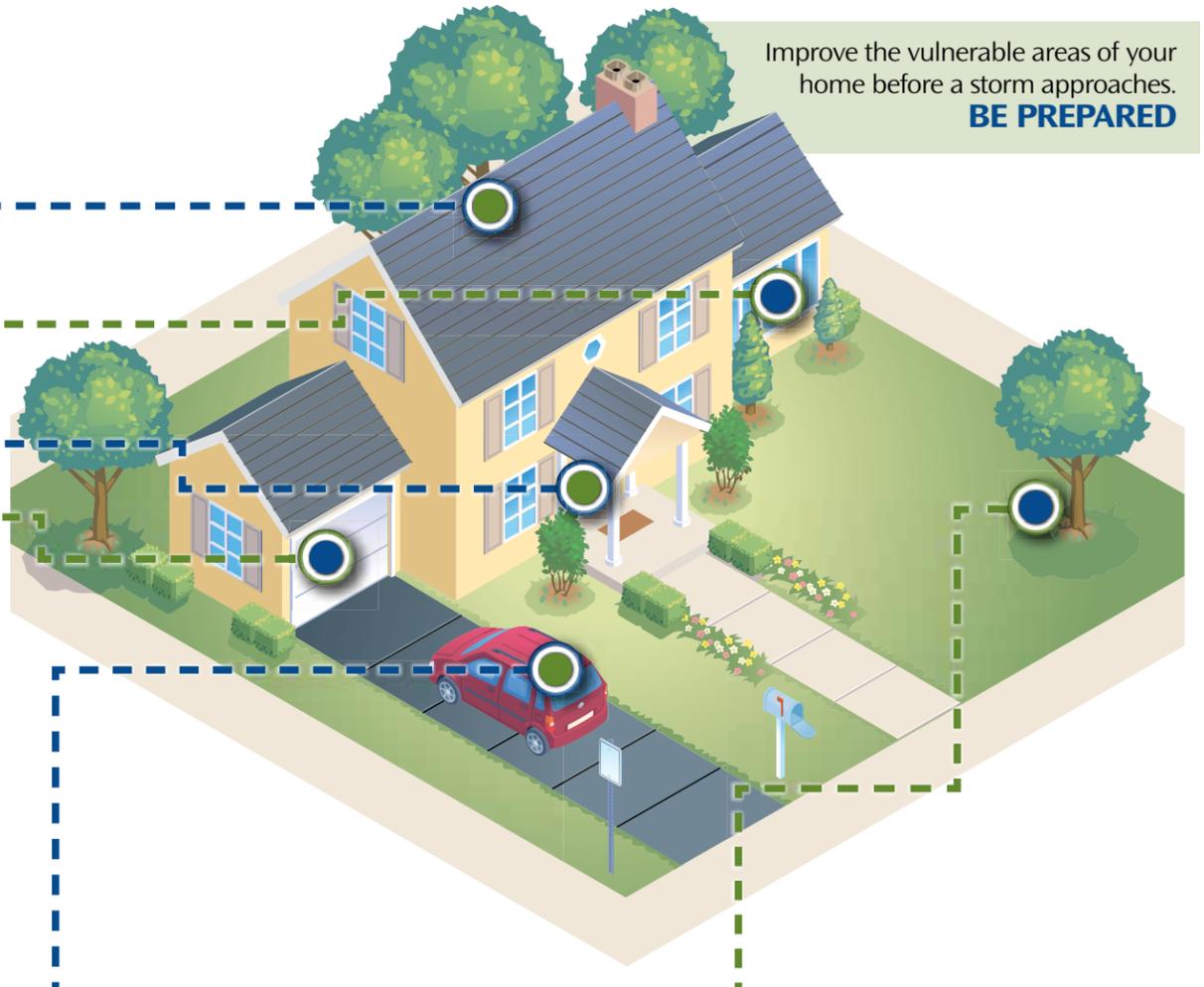
PREPARE YOUR HOME

Preparing your home to withstand high winds can mean the difference between minor and major repairs after a hurricane. That's why it's so important to strengthen your home to resist high winds.

Some key tips:

- If your roof needs replacement, a new one can be installed to meet stronger building codes adopted in 2002.
- Shutter your windows. Glass can be broken by flying debris. Protecting your windows can keep storm winds and rain out and your roof on. Duct tape provides no protection.
- Check weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors, replacing if necessary.
- Check your garage door. If your door needs replacing, look for a reinforced, wind-rated model.
- Think about other improvements. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes has step-by-step instructions for reinforcing your home's roof, gable ends and other vulnerable areas.
- If you have questions about your home's storm readiness, consider having a home inspector review your home's condition.

If you are considering hiring help, be sure to use a licensed, reputable contractor. Before signing a contract, call Pinellas County Justice and Consumer Services at (727) 464-6200 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/consumer.



Improve the vulnerable areas of your home before a storm approaches.
BE PREPARED

FOR MORE INFORMATION

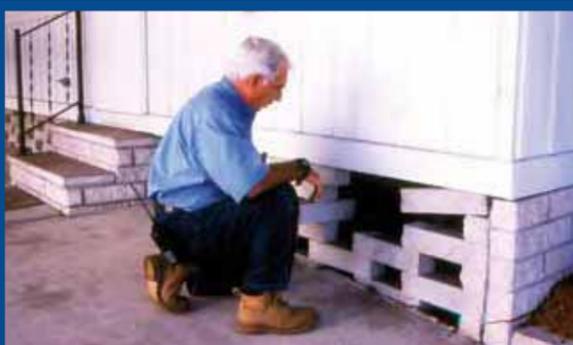
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes
www.FLASH.org

State of Florida
www.mysafefloridahome.com

To create a personal family plan
www.floridadisaster.org

Institute for Business and Home Safety
www.disastersafety.org

Hurricane Retrofit Guide for Homes
www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/rcmp/hrg/index.asp



MOBILE HOMES ARE NOT SAFE HAVENS

While mobile and manufactured homes are great places to call home, they must never be used as a shelter. Mobile and manufactured homes can be severely damaged from the hurricane-force winds and flying debris. This was proved true again during the storms of 2004 and 2005 when homes built after 1994, to the tougher standards after Hurricane Andrew, sustained damage when they were flipped off their foundations or damaged by flying debris.

No matter the category of storm, whenever an evacuation order is given, **all mobile and manufactured home residents must evacuate**. Mobile and manufactured home residents need to have an evacuation plan in case a hurricane threatens. One word of caution – most mobile home park recreation centers are not rated to withstand high winds either. Ask your park's management what plans – if any – are in place for sheltering options and for evacuation notification.

Annually check your tie down and anchoring system:

- Look for possible 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:

- Investigators have found that failures at these points allowed air to penetrate the home's air-tight envelope and led to structure failure.

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLES

Personal vehicles can be an important tool to help you get prepared, to evacuate and to get supplies after a storm. **To prepare:**

1. Get any basic maintenance (tune-ups, repairs) done before a storm threatens. Have your mechanic check belts, hoses, filters and vital fluid levels.
2. Keep your gas tank at least half full with gas. When a Hurricane Watch is issued, fill your tank.
3. Build a survival kit for your car, including:
 - A first aid kit
 - Nonperishable food and bottled water
 - A can of tire inflator
 - A basic tool kit
 - Jumper cables and road flares
 - A working jack and spare tire
 - A flashlight
 - DC to AC car power inverter
 - Chargers for cell phones and other devices
 - A map with shelter locations

PREPARE YOUR YARD

Getting your yard ready to weather the storm can keep you and your home safe. High winds can turn even the heaviest items into deadly projectiles that can break through your windows, doors and even walls. **To prepare:**

- Properly prune trees and shrubs before any storms threaten. Do not leave piles of branches that can become missiles in high winds.
- Keep your gutters and down spouts clear and in good repair.
- Replace rock mulch with shredded bark.
- Bring in all yard items such as furniture, toys, bird baths, bird feeders and barbecue grills when a Hurricane Warning is issued.
- Do not drain your pool. Super chlorinate the water and turn off all electricity to the pool for the duration of the storm.

If you are doing any home renovations that require digging, call **8-1-1** before you start. This free service will help you locate underground utilities before you damage them. Not only will it keep you safe, it's the law!

Top Three Tips to Save Your Home

While a thorough renovation of your home's structure will provide the best protection against the high winds a hurricane can bring, these three improvements can really make a difference:

1. BRACE YOUR GARAGE DOOR

After Hurricane Andrew, engineers looked at how the homes in South Florida failed during the high winds. Four out of five homes that had major structural damage lost their garage doors first. Older garage doors in good condition can be braced with retrofit kits available at most home centers. New garage doors must meet stringent wind load requirements.

2. PROTECT YOUR WINDOWS

By shuttering your windows with plywood or another commercially-available product, you can increase your home's ability to withstand wind by one category of storm strength. In other words, a home that could survive a Category 2 storm can now handle a Category 3. If the wind gets into your home, it can force the roof upward, possibly allowing high winds to tear it off.

3. BRACE YOUR GABLE END ROOF

A gabled roof has two slopes that come together to form a ridge or a peak at the top. Homes with gabled roofs are more likely to suffer collapse of the end wall from high winds because they are often not braced properly during construction.

To learn about bracing and other techniques to strengthen roofs, go to:
www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/rcmp/hrg/index.asp.

PREPARE YOUR INSURANCE

Review your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy and ask yourself five important questions:

- What is my 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?

Homeowners should check with their insurance agent to see if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on their insurance premiums. Information about insurance policies can be found through Florida's Department of Financial Services. Go to www.fldfs.com.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Flood losses are not covered by your homeowner's insurance policy. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners. Such policies offer security because the government will only assist if the area is declared a disaster area. Most often assistance comes in the way of loans that you must repay. In the case of flooding, when the area is not declared a disaster area, flood insurance will reimburse all your covered losses which can include structural damage and contents. For more information about this program, call (888) CALL-FLOOD or visit www.floodsmart.gov.

IS YOUR HOME HURRICANE READY?

The Home Repair Loan Program offered by the Pinellas County Community Development Department can help with low-interest loans for home improvements that are essential to hurricane preparation. Rates are as low as zero to 5 percent.

Improvements may include roof bracing or replacement, impact-resistant windows and doors, storm shutters, removal of trees and debris, kitchen repairs and more.

To be eligible, the home must be located in Pinellas County but not within the cities of Belleair Shore, Clearwater, Largo and St. Petersburg. The value of the residence needs to be below \$151,000. The household income must be less than 120 percent of the Area Median Income. For example, a household of four residents cannot earn more than \$65,280.

For more information, call (727) 464-8210 or go to www.pinellascounty.org/community.

GET YOUR BOAT SHIP-SHAPE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Boat owners need to have a plan to secure and protect their boats from hurricanes. Information is available on the Pinellas County Emergency Management website at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

A guide to moving your boat to a safe port when tropical winds threaten, The FDOT Pinellas County Bascule Bridge Hurricane Plan, is also available from Emergency Management by calling (727) 464-3800.

For more information, go to www.boatsafe.com or contact the U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliary at (727) 898-1324.



PREPARE YOUR MEDICATIONS

Your prescription medications are one of the most important things to include in your disaster survival kit. But in a declared emergency, what happens when your insurance company claims it is too early for you to get a refill?

In 2006, the Legislature passed the Emergency Prescription Refill bill (Florida Statute 252.358 and 462.0275). This law requires all insurers and managed-care organizations to suspend refill-too-soon restrictions when a patient seeks a refill in a county that:

- is currently under a Hurricane Warning issued by the National Weather Service, or
- is declared to be under a State of Emergency in an executive order issued by the governor, or
- has activated its Emergency Operations Center and its emergency management plan.

This law also allows patients outside of these areas to get an emergency 72-hour refill if the pharmacist is unable to obtain refill authorization from the doctor.

Keep a list of each medication you take, including the name of the doctor who wrote the prescription, the name of the drug, dosage instructions and the name and phone number of the pharmacy where you had it filled.



KIDS IN THE KNOW

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

Learning in advance will give kids a better understanding of what's taking place when disaster strikes. Some great resources for your family to check out together include:

RENTERS NEED A PLAN TOO

As a storm approaches, homeowners are urged to prepare their homes to withstand heavy winds. But, what should you do if you rent?

If you rent, here are some steps that you can take to prepare yourself for a hurricane:

- Know your evacuation zone. Pinellas County government offers several outlets to locate your zone. (See page 2) Remember, be ready to evacuate when ordered.
- Prepare yourself for the possibilities of damage to your personal property. Flood insurance and renter's insurance can help to replace your belongings should they be damaged. In conjunction with your insurance policy, take an inventory of your possessions to help during the recovery.
- Ask questions of your landlord. Will your landlord take steps to protect the windows? If not, you will need to find another place to ride out the storm, even if you live in a non-evacuation zone.

Just as with homeowners, you have a responsibility to create a personal hurricane plan. Finding out now what you will need to do may save your life when a storm threatens.

Weather Wiz Kids

www.weatherwizkids.com

See what makes weather tick in easy-to-understand terms and hands-on experiments.

FEMA for Kids

www.fema.gov/kids

Find ways to help prepare for hurricane season.

How Stuff Works: Hurricanes

science.howstuffworks.com/hurricane.htm

Get answers to commonly asked hurricane questions from this award-winning website.

Business Planning

Businesses that lack a continuity plan can find themselves out of business when a disaster closes their doors for a few days. Owners of both large and small businesses need to have secure storage plans for computer data and paper files, alternative sites for doing business, methods of communicating with employees and customers and appropriate insurance. These are just a few items to consider when putting together a business continuity plan.

Pinellas County Economic Development can help with hurricane planning and recovery for local businesses. Visit www.pced.org/hurricane.

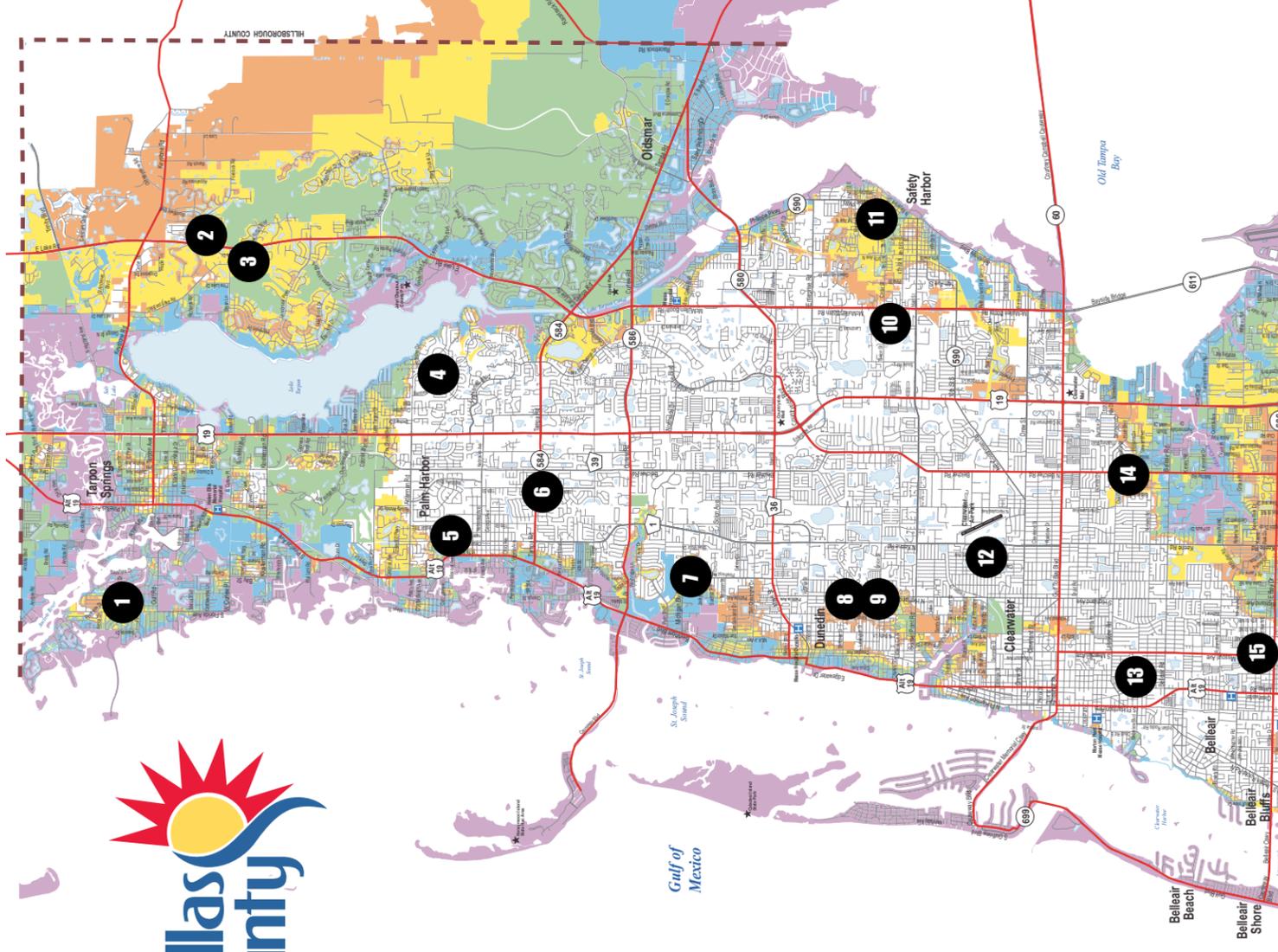
Business owners can also contact Emergency Management for planning assistance and to sign up to receive emergency situation reports that can help with evacuation planning and recovery. Find more information at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

SOME ITEMS FOR A BUSINESS "GO BOX"

- List of important business phone numbers
- Insurance policies
- Backup files/tapes of electronic data
- Copies of essential business contracts and plans
- Photographs of the business, inside and out
- List of repair vendors and property management

Know your Business Zone. WHY? zone = storm surge = vulnerability

NORTH COUNTY EVACUATION ZONE MAP AND SHELTER LIST



- 1** Tarpon Springs Middle School
501 N. Florida Ave. • Tarpon Springs
- 2** Brooker Creek Elementary School
3130 Forelock Rd. • Tarpon Springs
- 3** East Lake High School
1300 Silver Eagle Dr. • Tarpon Springs
- 4** Carwise Middle School
3301 Bentley Dr. • Palm Harbor
- 5** Palm Harbor University High School
1900 Omaha St. • Palm Harbor
- 6** Palm Harbor Middle School
1800 Tampa Rd. • Palm Harbor
- 7** Dunedin Community Center
1920 Pnehurst Rd. • 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 1st Ave. N. • Safety Harbor
- 12** Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
1660 Palmetto St. • Clearwater
- 13** Ross Norton Recreation Center
1426 S. MLK Jr. Ave. • Clearwater
- 14** Oak Grove Middle School
1370 S. Balcher Rd. • Clearwater
- 15** Largo High School
410 Missouri Ave. • Largo

General Shelters
 Special Needs Shelters
 Pet-Friendly Shelters



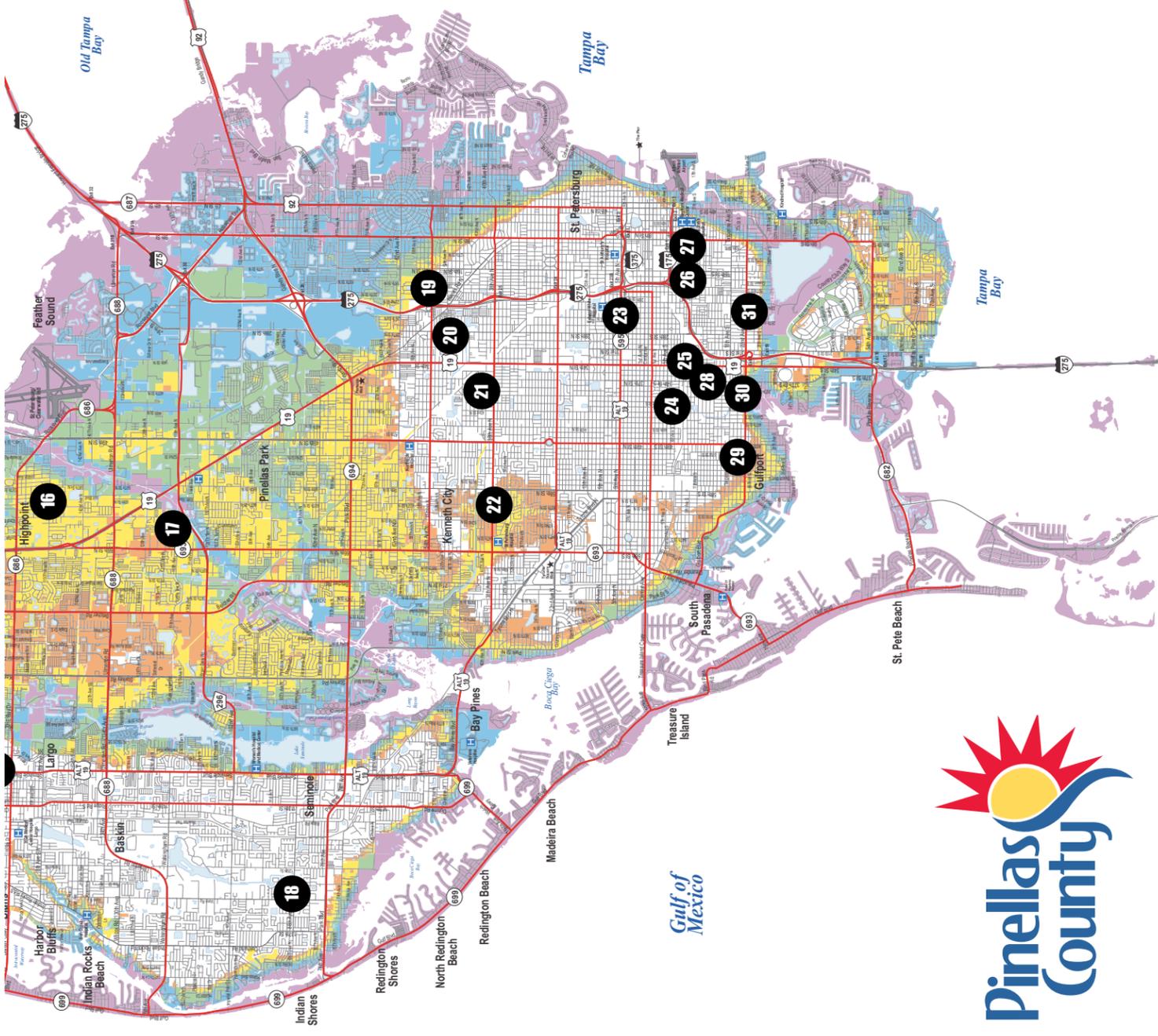
EVACUATION ZONE FOR SURGE FLOODING

Evacuation Zone	Wind Speeds (in mph)	Storm Surge (in feet)
A	74-95	5-7
B	96-110	7-12
C	111-130	12-15
D	131-155	15-20
E	156+	20-24

EVACUATION GUIDELINES (mobile homes MUST always evacuate)

Hurricane Strength	Wind Speeds (in mph)	Storm Surge (in feet)
cat 1	74-95	5-7
cat 2	96-110	7-12
cat 3	111-130	12-15
cat 4	131-155	15-20
cat 5	156+	20-24

SOUTH COUNTY EVACUATION ZONE MAP AND SHELTER LIST



- 16** High Point Elementary School
5921 150th Ave. N. • Clearwater
- 17** Pinellas Park High School
6305 118th Ave. N. • Largo
- 18** Bauder Elementary School
12755 86th Ave. N. • Seminole
- 19** John Sexton Elementary School
1997 54th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg
- 20** Lealman Intermediate
4900 28th St. N. • St. Petersburg
- 21** New Heights Elementary School
3901 37th St. N. • St. Petersburg
- 22** Northside Baptist Church
6000 38th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg
- 23** St. Petersburg High School
2501 5th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg
- 24** Fairmount Park Elementary School
575 41st St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 25** Gibbs High School
850 34th St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 26** John Hopkins Middle School
701 16th St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 27** Campbell Park Elementary School
1051 7th Ave. S. • St. Petersburg
- 28** Jamerson Elementary School
1200 37th St. S. • St. Petersburg
- 29** Gulfport Elementary School
2014 52nd St. S. • Gulfport
- 30** Thurgood Marshall Middle School
3901 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg
- 31** James Sanderlin Elementary School
2350 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg

General Shelters
 Special Needs Shelters
 Pet-Friendly Shelters



EVACUATION GUIDELINES (mobile homes MUST always evacuate)

Hurricane Strength	Wind Speeds (in mph)	Storm Surge (in feet)
cat 1	74-95	5-7
cat 2	96-110	7-12
cat 3	111-130	12-15
cat 4	131-155	15-20
cat 5	156+	20-24

EVACUATION ZONE FOR SURGE FLOODING

Zone	Wind Speeds (in mph)	Storm Surge (in feet)
A	74-95	5-7
B	96-110	7-12
C	111-130	12-15
D	131-155	15-20
E	156+	20-24



CARING FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Residents with special needs, the elderly, the homeless and those without transportation require extra attention in order to stay protected in weather emergencies.

Though Pinellas County government has education programs in place to help these citizens prepare and find safe shelter, the responsibility for storm preparation rests with individuals and their families or caregivers. That planning needs

to happen early. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE STORM IS RAGING.** Emergency personnel may not be able to respond when high winds make road travel hazardous. Plan for safe shelter now.

Even if you don't have special needs, you can help others who do. Look around your neighborhood, workplace or place of worship and reach out to offer a hand. Serve as a host home, help to answer questions or pick up a few extra survival kit items for someone else.



Residents With Special Needs Should Register

Residents with certain medical conditions can get help during an evacuation. Three special needs shelters will open for those requiring MINIMAL medical assistance.

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Register now. Contact either Pinellas County Emergency Management, your local fire department or your home healthcare provider.
- Once registered, you will be contacted for more information. After a medical needs review, your eligibility will be assessed. If you don't qualify for a special needs shelter, other options will be discussed with you. If you are registered and need transportation to a shelter, your local fire department will contact you before an evacuation.
- If you have your own transportation to a special needs shelter, preregistration is not required, but it is strongly recommended.
- You may bring your caregiver and/or family with you to a special needs shelter.
- You are not obligated to go to a special needs shelter once registered, if you have made other safe and secure arrangements.
- Service animals may go with you, but other pets need to be cared for by making prior arrangements. If you are registered and eligible to go to a special needs shelter, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600 to register your pet. Animal Services will make arrangements for your pet to be taken to a host home.

Register Now

To register for a special needs shelter and/or transportation, do one of the following:

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

Are you a caregiver? Two recent surveys of Florida residents report that of those who are caregivers for an elderly or disabled relative, 31 to 39 percent do not know how to get help for their family members with special needs.

What to Expect From a Special Needs Shelter

The Pinellas County Health Department and School Board staff these shelters with nurses and other medical personnel. Oxygen is available, but air conditioning may not be available if power is interrupted.

Before going to a shelter, arrange to bring at least a two-week supply of any medications you need along with any needed portable equipment. If you have special diet requirements, be sure to pack your own special nonperishable snacks. For your own comfort, bring items such as bedding, sheets, pillows and blankets. Cots are available on a limited basis and are not guaranteed.

Special needs shelters do not have hospital beds and cannot assist those with acute medical problems.

Advice For All Residents With Special Needs

Whether you go to a special needs shelter or not, here's some good advice to keep in mind when preparing for hurricane season:

- Start a personal support network of people you can count on during an emergency.
- Create an emergency health information card that is customized to you.
- Complete an emergency contact list with names and phone numbers of family members, friends, doctors, insurance information and hospital preferences.
- Conduct an ability self-assessment. Know what you can and cannot do. Talk with your health care provider about a realistic plan.
- Maintain at least a two-week supply and a current list of medications.
- Keep important equipment and assistive devices in a consistent, convenient and secured place.

Your Doctor Can Help

Assistance at a special needs shelter is limited to basic medical monitoring and backup electricity for lighting. The shelter will be inside a school and will likely be crowded and noisy. Cots may not be available for everyone. While this is a safe location to ride out a storm, it is not for everyone. Many citizens require more comfortable accommodations as mobility restrictions make it impossible to sleep on the floor or a cot. In these cases, the host homes program is an excellent alternative. (See story on page 10)

For some, a stay in a nursing home or hospital is necessary. If your condition warrants this level of care, then your physician can make arrangements ahead of time. A pre-admission letter needs to be written by the physician and accepted in advance by the facility of choice. At the time of evacuation, emergency workers must see a copy of this letter in order to transport you to that facility. The facility must also see this letter. Another reason you need to pre-arrange your stay is that Medicare will only pay for visits that are medically necessary. If any costs arise from your stay, you may be responsible to pay for them out of pocket.

Special Needs Shelters

Dunedin Highland Middle School
70 Patricia Ave.
Dunedin

Oak Grove Middle School
1370 S. Belcher Rd.
Clearwater

John Hopkins Middle School
701 16th St. S.
St. Petersburg

Did You Know...

- Florida law requires that utility companies offer a "priority reconnection service" for people with disabilities who use power-dependent equipment. Contact your utility company to get placed on the list.
- Service animals are allowed in hotels, motels and public shelters. Don't forget to pack their supplies, too.
- Wheelchair users need to have more than one exit from their residence that is wheelchair accessible. Practice how to escape from your home.
- Wear medical alert tags. Also write down special instructions for emergency personnel in a brief and direct format, such as, "I am deaf, please write down your instructions" or "Please take my medication from the refrigerator."
- The National Weather Service has information on its website to help the hearing impaired utilize NOAA Weather Alert Radios for emergency weather notifications. Go to www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/special_need.htm.
- Keep cash available in case you need to buy special supplies.
- Be an advocate for yourself! Practice how to quickly explain your condition and your adaptive equipment to someone who is helping you.

On Track With Transportation

For those who need to evacuate, but don't have their own transportation, a hurricane can cause anxiety. Pinellas County officials want to make sure that everyone can get to safe shelter.

If you sign up for the special needs registry, you will be asked about your transportation plans. If you need a ride to a shelter, your local fire department will be in contact with you to make arrangements when the time comes to evacuate.

If you don't require special needs transport, PSTA buses will run nearly all their routes until it's no longer safe to travel. During an evacuation, buses will also run from transfer stations to local shelters. **All rides are free during an evacuation.** Prepare in advance by locating your nearest bus stop.

Some people may not qualify for special needs transport, cannot ride the bus and have no other means of transportation to evacuate. If you are in that situation, contact your local fire department or the Department of Emergency Management, in advance, for special assistance. Take advantage of the help that is there for you. Don't stay in a dangerous situation just because you don't have transportation. Call the PSTA InfoLine (727) 540-1900.

For current route information during a storm, go to www.psta.net/hurricanerideralert.htm.



Helping Seniors

Older adults, especially those living alone, have unique concerns that should be addressed before a storm nears Pinellas County. Increased stress and anxiety can be a factor leading to more incidents of illness, particularly for those seniors with heart disease or respiratory troubles.

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 hurricane club with other people from your neighborhood, social group or place of worship. Meet to discuss preparations such as who might serve as a host home and make a list to divide up supplies to gather before a storm.

Sign up for the free community notification service to get up-to-date storm information. (See page 2) This news can be passed along through a phone tree to friends and neighbors. If a Hurricane Warning should be issued, the phone tree would then advise all members to meet at the host home and remind them to bring emergency supplies.

It bears repeating that, regardless of age, if you live in a mobile or manufactured home, you must leave when the evacuation order is given. A clubhouse is likely not a safe place to weather a storm. Get together with others in your neighborhood to find host homes.

If you are an older adult living in a nursing home, assisted living facility or boarding home, contact the administrator to learn about emergency preparations. Let your friends and family members know about the facility's plans and give them important contact information before a hurricane threatens the area.

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 assistance. You might be saving a life.

Special Needs Supply List

Some additional items to be considered:

Wheelchairs:

- A patch kit and extra inner tubes
- Gloves in case of broken glass or debris
- An extra battery and/or a converter for charging the battery

Visual impairments:

- Talking or Braille clock
- An extra white cane, magnifier and glasses
- Mark your disaster supplies with fluorescent tape

Hearing or speech impairments:

- Extra batteries for hearing aids
- Pencil and paper for communicating emergency information
- Power converter for your laptop
- Preprinted key phrases you would use in an emergency

Personal supplies:

- Two-week supply of dressing materials, nasal cannulas or suction catheters
- Two-week supply of prescriptions
- Cooler for refrigerated medications
- Special dietary foods

Things to Know and Do

- Learn how local authorities will warn you of a pending disaster.
- Build a support network of friends, family and neighbors. Let them know your needs in an emergency situation and how they can assist you with your plan.
- Connect with a local neighborhood group such as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), neighborhood watch, neighborhood association or a nearby place of worship.
- Make sure your local fire department knows your needs. Pre-register if you need transportation or a spot in a special needs shelter.
- A NOAA Weather Alert Radio can wake you when severe weather is threatening.
- Carefully monitor weather conditions throughout hurricane season.
- If you are going to a public shelter, wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes. Have your "go bag" ready and let an out-of-town contact know where you are going.
- Take at least two-weeks worth of medication with you. (See page 5)
- Be sure to get your prescriptions refilled.
- Have a list of contact numbers and a copy of your personal medical information.
- If you stay home, never use candles when the electricity goes out. Stick to flashlights and lanterns.
- Help your friends and neighbors by sharing this information!



Take a moment to remember the devastation caused by Katrina's surging flood waters.

The truth is that Pinellas County is at risk for severe storm surge flooding. Despite ongoing education, there are citizens who live in evacuation (or storm surge) zones in Pinellas County who still do not have plans for safe shelter when a storm approaches.

If a Category 3 hurricane is headed to Pinellas County, about 391,000 people would need to evacuate surge-vulnerable areas or mobile homes. With approximately 74,000 public shelter spaces, alternative shelter is needed. Some people stay in the county at a hotel or a relative's house in a non-evacuation area. Others may be able to leave early enough to drive hundreds of miles out of harm's way.

But for others – many of whom are elderly or pet owners – additional local opportunities are needed. For them, organizations that set up a voluntary Host Homes program can help.

Employers, places of worship, civic organizations and community groups are among the organizations that can establish their own voluntary Host Homes programs that they operate for their own employees or members. It gives an opportunity for those within an organization who live in a secure home in a non-evacuation area to open their home to a fellow member of the same organization who must evacuate.

Keeping the host/guest matches within the organization takes away some of the fear associated with the thought of helping strangers. It allows the volunteer coordinators the freedom to run the program according to the needs of the participating organization.

In particular, faith organizations can reach out to their elderly and disabled members to make sure those members have safe shelter. A bonus is matching them with fellow members who can offer moral support and comfort during a scary and uncertain time.

The program can also benefit pet owners who would otherwise stay home with their pets regardless of the danger.

Host homes is not a county program. It is a voluntary program for community organizations. The county has prepared a toolkit and additional information to help organizations get started. To find out more go to: www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR PET



Pinellas County pet owners have options when it comes to pet-friendly emergency shelters. The Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County government have three pet-friendly shelter locations.

Each of these facilities are substantially built, have large indoor gyms and separate air handlers to ensure the comfort and safety of allergic citizens who shelter there. Pet shelters accept only cats and dogs.

Animal shelters, such as Pinellas County Animal Services, the Humane Society and the SPCA, cannot accept your pets.

Don't assume that a boarding kennel or hotel/motel will accept your pet. Check ahead and look for kennels in non-evacuation zones.

Things to do:

- Take your pet when you evacuate. Do not leave your pets at home!
- Ask friends or family living outside of evacuation areas if they can keep your pet.
- Keep a pet carrier (portable kennel) for each pet – one that allows your pet to stand and turn around. The carrier should be marked with your pet's identification.
- Make sure all your pet's vaccinations are current and have proof available of its current county-issued rabies vaccination.
- If you must use a kennel as a last resort, make sure it is not in an evacuation zone and reserve space as soon as possible. Kennels require proof of vaccinations.

Download a Pet Identification Form from the Animal Services website www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices

Follow the heading Pet Hurricane Planning, fill out the form and tape it to your pet carrier or kennel. This form will contain all needed information about your pet for your stay at Pinellas County pet-friendly shelters.



Pet Disaster Supply Kit

- Proper identification
- Immunization and medical records
- County-issued rabies tag
- Food and water (2 wks. supply)
- Food/water bowls
- A carrier or portable kennel
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Manual can opener
- Current photo of pet
- Favorite toys and blanket
- Cat litter/pan and scoop
- Grooming items
- Plastic bags to handle waste
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant

WHAT ABOUT HORSES AND LIVESTOCK?

Horses and livestock can go to Walsingham Park at 12615 102nd Avenue North, in Largo for large animal evacuation. The park provides a perimeter fence, native vegetation and available water. Bring proof of recent Coggins test with you to the evacuation site.

Register

Residents must register themselves and their pets for these pet-friendly shelters, as space is limited. Mobile home residents are given first priority. Call (727) 582-2150 or download a registration form at www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/ASHurPrep.pdf and return it to:
Pinellas County Animal Services
12450 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774
fax (727) 582-2637

PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS/MOTELS

Call the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at (727) 464-7200 or check the following websites during an evacuation:
www.visitspetclearwater.com
www.floridapets.net
www.petswelcome.com
www.LetsGoPets.com
www.petfriendlyhotels.com
www.petfriendlytravel.com
www.1clickpethotels.com
www.travelpets.com
www.dogfriendly.com

PET SHELTERS

- Oak Grove Middle School**
1370 S. Belcher Road
Clearwater
- Thurgood Marshall Middle School**
3901 22nd Ave. S.
St. Petersburg
- Dunedin Middle School**
70 Patricia Ave.
Dunedin

POST-DISASTER ANIMAL COLLECTION

After a storm, stray animals will be collected and moved to fenced areas at the following designated sites. Check the locations nearest your home and where you last saw your pet. To report a lost pet, call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600.

Temporary Collection Sites:

- Meadowlawn Middle School
6050 16th St. N.
St. Petersburg 33703
- Dixie Hollins High School
4940 62nd St. N.
St. Petersburg 33709
- Boca Ciega High School
924 58th St. S.
Gulfport 33707
- Lakewood High School
1400 54th Ave. S.
St. Petersburg 33705
- Clearwater High School
540 S. Hercules Ave.
Clearwater 33764
- Palm Harbor Middle School
1800 Tampa Rd.
Palm Harbor 34683
- East Lake High School
1300 Silver Eagle Dr.
Tarpon Springs 34688
- Dunedin High School
1651 Pinehurst Rd.
Dunedin 34698



Pinellas County Animal Services
(727) 582-2600
www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices

You're Prepared and the Storm is Bearing Down

NOW WHAT? TIPS FOR DURING AND AFTER THE STORM

DURING a storm

WHEN THE STORM'S IMPACT IS FELT

While the approach of a hurricane can be an anxious time, living through the storm can be terrifying. If you live in an ordered evacuation zone, you should already be at your safe place (host home, hotel or shelter). If you are not evacuating, it's time to brave the storm.

Here are some important tips to remember:

- Stay tuned to local news or PCC-TV for updates.
- Close interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- If power goes out, use your weather radio for alerts. For light, use flashlights, lanterns or chemical light sticks. Avoid burning candles.
- Stay indoors and most importantly, stay calm.
- Parents should extend greater patience and understanding to children having difficulty coping with the situation. Be honest about the danger and reassure them that you are focused on their safety. Do your best to keep them entertained or occupied.
- Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm and winds may pick up again.

IF YOUR HOME IS BREACHED

Even though you have taken the necessary precautions to protect your home, the exterior can be breached. Debris can break through windows, and trees can crash through your roof. **When this happens, take these immediate actions:**

- Take refuge in a small 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 the damage.



DRIVING SAFELY

A hurricane can turn a familiar road into an unfamiliar and dangerous one very quickly.

Driving safety tips:

- Do not drive through standing water. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.
- Match your speed to road conditions. Cars can quickly become uncontrollable when driving on damaged, debris-choked roads.
- Visibility may be limited. Increased traffic on congested roadways and large trucks can obstruct your line of sight.
- Maintain a safe distance from the car in front of you.
- Traffic patterns may be shifted in work zones; obey posted work zone speed limits at all times. Be aware of equipment and workers.
- Constantly scan for pedestrians who can quickly lose their footing.
- Obey all "road closed" signs. Just because you can't see road damage doesn't mean it is safe.
- Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all-way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.
- Not all damaged or destroyed road signs have been replaced. Be prepared to yield to a pedestrian or another driver or to stop unexpectedly.
- Know where you are going and give yourself ample time to get there.
- Drive with car lights on and slow down.



After the storm, it's time to assess the damage. Keep your battery-operated radio close for news reports about damage, road closures, power outages and other emergency instructions. With three to seven days of uncertainty, depending on the storm, you'll need to rely upon what you've stored for food, water, medications and entertainment. If the county is hit with a Category 3, 4 or 5 hurricane, it could be weeks or months before life gets back to normal.

Use the following safety steps during recovery:

GENERATOR SAFETY

Home generators provide limited power during a prolonged power outage. Use them to keep a refrigerator cold, run a fan, recharge your cell phone or operate a microwave oven. Generators can help make your storm recovery more comfortable, but they can also kill if not used correctly. Read instructions carefully and fully understand how to use your specific generator. **Generator safety tips:**

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas, produced from burning fuel, that is deadly in very small amounts.

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. **NEVER** use them in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces or other enclosed or partially-enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Install battery-operated or battery-backup carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test these alarms often and replace batteries when needed.

Electrical Hazards

Generators create electricity, which can kill if you receive a shock.

- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface in an open area. Dry your hands before handling it.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is free of cuts or tears and has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- **NEVER** plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If necessary to connect generator to house wiring for appliances, have a qualified electrician install needed equipment and teach you how to use it.

Fire Hazards

Generators use flammable fuels, increasing the chance of an accidental fire that can threaten your life and property.

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in labeled containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

While it is necessary to clear downed trees and branches, use great caution when operating a chainsaw. **Safety tips to help keep you safe and injury-free:**

Before Starting the Saw

- Read your owner's manual.
- Wear proper safety gear, including eye and hearing protection, heavy work gloves and work boots.
- Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Fuel your saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.
- Clear debris that may interfere with cutting.

While Running the Saw

- Keep both hands on the handles.
- Make sure you have secure footing.
- Do not cut directly overhead or overreach.
- Be prepared for kickback.

AFTER a storm

FOOD SAFETY AND GUIDELINES

Power outages caused by hurricanes can present health concerns from food spoilage.

Tips to help keep you safe:

- Before the storm, take an inventory of the items in your refrigerator and freezer. Put this list on the refrigerator door so you know where everything is located.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Minimal freezer door openings can keep frozen items safe for about two days.
- Refrigerated foods should be safe if the power is out for no more than four to six hours. Discard any food that has been above 40°F for two hours and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture. Never taste food to determine safety!
- If power will be off more than six hours, transfer refrigerated foods to an insulated cooler filled with ice or frozen gel packs. Keep a thermometer in the cooler to be sure the food stays at 40°F or below.

For more information about food safety, call the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6900 or visit www.pinellashealth.com.

RESTROOM FACILITIES

Improper disposal of human waste can lead to outbreaks of cholera, dysentery and other diseases.

Tips for a sewer outage:

- When instructed, do not use or flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be out of order, which could lead to a sewage back-up into homes.
- Use a chemical toilet if one is available.
- Create an emergency toilet by using your toilet bowl or a five-gallon plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid. Line either with a heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as a disinfectant. If using your toilet bowl, first turn off water and flush one time to empty before lining with trash bag.
- **DO NOT** use 'kitty litter' in your emergency toilet. This cannot be flushed after the sewage system is operational.
- Once given the OK, dispose of the emergency toilet's contents into your household commode.
- Thoroughly sanitize your emergency toilet with bleach before storing or disposal.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling the emergency toilet.

DRINKING WATER

A "boil-water order" can be issued during a hurricane or any other significant event that affects the drinking water supply. This means there is a possibility of some microbial contamination in tap water. While there are advanced and expensive filters and specialized water treatment tablets on the market that can make your water safe to drink, there are two methods that are typically used by homeowners:

Boiling

Boiling is the most effective way to kill bacteria, viruses and parasites in water. According to the Florida State Health Department and the Center for Disease Control, a pot of water that has been brought to a full rolling boil for one minute is enough to kill pathogens and make the water safe to consume. Let the water come to room temperature before drinking.

Bleach

Bleach is a less effective way to sanitize water but it can work if you don't have access to power or cooking fuel. Add 1/8 tsp. of common unscented household bleach (containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite) to a gallon of water and let the water stand for at least 30 minutes.

Remember, these methods work with water that is clear but possibly contaminated, not with murky water taken from a ditch, for example.

For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control food and water safety page at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater.asp.

Important Contact Information

Pinellas County Emergency Management
(727) 464-3800 www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

Pinellas County Information
(727) 464-3000 / TDD (727) 464-4431 www.pinellascounty.org

Pinellas County Citizens Information Center *open only during emergencies*
(727) 464-4333 / TDD (727) 464-3075

Pinellas County Animal Services
(727) 582-2600 www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices

Pinellas County Construction and Licensing Board *for contractor information*
(727) 536-4720

Pinellas County Utilities
(727) 464-4000 www.pinellascounty.org/utilities

Pinellas County Health Department
(727) 824-6900 www.pinellashealth.com

Pinellas County School Board
(727) 588-6424 www.pinellas.k12.fl.us

Pinellas County School Bus Info Line
(727) 587-2020

St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport
(727) 453-7800 www.fly2pie.com

PSTA Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority *public transportation buses*
(727) 540-1900 Info Hotline www.psta.net/hurricanerideralert.htm

Pinellas County Sheriff
(727) 582-6200 www.pcsoweb.com

Florida Highway Patrol
(813) 631-4020 www.fhp.state.fl.us

Progress Energy Outage Information
(800) 228-8485

TECO Power Outage Information
(877) 588-1010

National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
(800) 621-3362 www.fema.gov

Florida Division of Emergency Management
(850) 413-9969 (*non-emergency*) www.floridadisaster.org

Florida Attorney General's Office *to report price gouging*
(866) 966-7226

Hotel/Motel Evacuation Information *within Pinellas County*
www.visitstpeteclearwater.com

Survival Kit...staying home

If you are staying home during a hurricane:
Here's a list of items to consider for your survival kit. Keep items in airtight plastic bags or containers. Replace stored water every six months and double-check battery expiration dates.

Suggested items for a "Stay Kit"

- One-week supply of fluids to drink and food that requires no cooking
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Nuts, beef jerky and trail mix
- Raisins, peanut butter and granola bars
- Formula or baby food
- Canned juices or sports drinks
- One gallon of water per person per day
- Non-electric can opener
- Utility knife
- Cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cooler and ice
- Pet food

First Aid Supplies

- Adhesive bandages, gauze pads and tape
- Soap and antibacterial hand gel
- Antiseptic
- Latex gloves, scissors and tweezers
- Thermometer
- Sunscreen
- Over-the-counter pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medicine and laxative
- Anti-itch cream

Tools and Emergency Supplies

- Flashlight and lanterns
- Battery-operated radio
- Extra batteries
- Matches or lighter in a waterproof container
- Compass and local maps with shelter locations
- A shut-off wrench and other tools
- Paper and pencil
- Plastic sheeting and tarps
- Elastic cords or rope

Sanitation

- Portable toilet (5-gallon bucket, heavy trash bags, chlorine bleach)
- Toilet paper and moist towelettes
- Feminine supplies
- Personal hygiene items

Clothing and Bedding

- One complete change of clothing and shoes per person
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Sunglasses

Kids and Entertainment

- Favorite nonperishable snacks
- Powdered milk
- Stuffed animal or favorite toy
- Blanket and pacifier
- Diapers and wipes
- Card and board games
- Books for all ages

Evacuation Kit...what to take

If you are evacuating to a public shelter:
Pack your essentials, but pack light as space is limited. It is possible you may only have a space that measures 5 feet by 2 feet. Remember, a public shelter is not a cruise ship, it is a life boat with the mission to save lives.

Suggested items for a "Go Bag":

- Medications and copies of prescriptions
- Nonperishable food
- Special nonperishable dietary food
- Several gallons of drinking water to keep in your vehicle. A minimum of one gallon per person per day.
- Bedding for a small space
- Infant or child necessities (wipes, diapers, bottles)
- Personal hygiene items
- Change of clothes
- Eyeglasses
- Quiet games, toys or reading materials
- Important papers and valid ID
- Cash
- Phone list

If you are evacuating to stay with friends or relatives or in a host home:

Take your "Go Bag" and ask in advance what kind of space you'll have for your possessions and vehicles.

Prepare your home to leave:

Regardless of where you are evacuating, before you leave your home, be sure to do the following:

- Take your valuables and important papers
- Turn off all utilities (water, electricity, gas) at the main switch
- Lock windows and doors
- Fill your gas tank
- Advise friends or relatives of where you are going



Document Checklist

Personal papers to take with you:

- Driver's license or ID card
- Important numbers and emergency contacts
- Credit cards and list of creditors
- Medical records and blood type
- Prescription information (list of medications, dosage, prescription numbers, etc.)
- Doctor's contact information
- Cash and bank account numbers
- List of savings and investments, including CDs, stocks, bonds and mutual funds
- Household inventory: paper copy, photos, video tape or computer disk
- List of insurance policies with name of company, type of policy and policy number
- Copy of wills, trust documents and living wills
- Titles for your house, car and other property
- Birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption certificates, and passports
- List of advisors, such as accountant, attorney and religious leader
- Educational and military records
- Other special papers that would be difficult or impossible to replace if lost