

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY INSIDE & OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE. OFFICIAL GUIDE FOR THE CENTRAL FLORIDA AREA. JUNE 1, 2021

# HURRICANE

## SURVIVAL GUIDE 2021



**FIRST WARNING** >>  
**WEATHER**



# TONY MAINOLFI

## WESH 2 CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

The 2021 hurricane season is here and like in 2020 when we had 30 named storms, this season is expected to once again be busier than normal! Remember it only takes one storm to make it an active season so now is the time to make sure your hurricane kits are ready for whatever Mother Nature throws our way!

As we look ahead to the 2021 season all signs point to an above average hurricane season. First, it looks like our La Niña pattern will be transitioning towards a neutral ENSO pattern. When this occurs upper level winds across the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and Tropical Atlantic tend to be weaker, allowing for storms to form while they are developing and moving across these regions. With the lack of considerable upper level wind shear storms can form more freely and more often. So as we start the season the upper level winds may be more beneficial for development, but as we get deeper into the season and La Niña weakens upper level winds may become stronger and potentially less beneficial for tropical development.

A second factor that we are monitoring for a higher number of storms are ocean water temperatures. Ocean water temperatures, right now, are running warmer than normal across the Subtropical Atlantic waters which could also contribute to a higher number of storms forming. March sea surface temperatures are also consistent with above normal tropical activity. Ocean water temperatures can vary from week to week, so we'll continue to monitor them all season long. We also watch pressure forecasts and when they run lower that could also lead



**WESH 2**  
FIRST WARNING WEATHER

## HURRICANE FORECAST

NAMED STORMS	12	13-20
HURRICANES	6	6-10
MAJOR HURRICANES	3	3-5

### 2021 STORM NAMES

ANA	LARRY
BILL	MINDY
CLAUDETTE	NICHOLAS
DANNY	ODETTE
ELSA	PETER
FRED	ROSE
GRACE	SAM
HENRI	TERESA
IDA	VICTOR
JULIAN	WANDA
KATE	

to a higher chance for storms to form. The Saharan Dust Layer could also initially suppress storm formation of the west coast of Africa...if it stays active. We'll also be watching the position of the Bermuda and Azores highs to see where storms could be "Steered" during the season.

Most forecasts for the 2021 season are looking to above average. We're predicting 15-20 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes and 3-6 major hurricanes. A normal season would have 12 named storms, 7 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes. We all need to remember not to focus in on the number of named storms but to be prepared for that one storm should it come our way! We use these outlooks as "Guidance".

The WESH2 First Warning Storm Team is here to help prepare and guide you through this storm season. WESH 2's hurricane guide is a great resource with all the information you need. You can find it at [www.wesh.com](http://www.wesh.com). There, you can also track live radar and get the latest advisories. Don't forget to download our free WESH App. It offers a ton of useful tips and information. My favorite part is the Threat Meter that alerts you to imminent danger that's headed for Central Florida. The best defense against any hurricane season is preparedness! Keeping you safe is what we do. Let's make it a safe hurricane season.

Sincerely,

**Tony Mainolfi**

WESH 2 Chief Meteorologist

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TonyMainolfi



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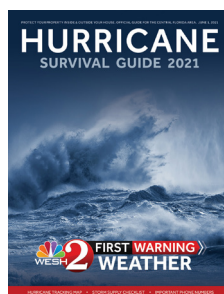
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# BEFORE THE STORM

## OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- ▶ Locate storm shutters, garage door supports, and any hardware or tools necessary for installation.
- ▶ Install shutters and supports. Install second story and other difficult shutters first.
- ▶ Fill all vehicles with gas and park them in garage or close to the side of your house.
- ▶ Turn off propane gas at the tank before evacuating.
- ▶ Check with your natural gas provider whether to turn off before leaving.

## INSIDE YOUR HOME

- ▶ Review your family plan.
- ▶ Check your hurricane supply list.
- ▶ Have a conventional cord telephone that will work in case of power outage.
- ▶ Charge up your cell phones and have a car adapter.
- ▶ Stay tuned to WESH 2 News and WESH.COM for weather updates and evacuation orders.
- ▶ Check medical supplies and prescription medicines and have a minimum two-week supply on hand.
- ▶ Check all battery-operated TV's, radios, flashlights and lanterns. Make sure they are in good working order with fresh batteries.
- ▶ Have enough cash for up to a week. ATM may be out of cash or not working if power is out.



### TERMS TO KNOW

#### Hurricane Watch:

Hurricane conditions are possible within the specified coastal area. Hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

#### Hurricane Warning:

Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning. Hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

#### Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings:

Take these alerts seriously. Although tropical storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, they often bring life-threatening flooding and dangerous winds. Take precautions!



# BEFORE THE STORM

## HURRICANE WARNING

### OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- ▶ Cover or brace all windows and door openings.
- ▶ Remove a door or one screen panel on each side of your pool enclosure to allow wind to flow through, and cutting down wind resistance. This could save your pool enclosure.
- ▶ Disconnect propane gas at the tank.
- ▶ Secure your barbecue grill and propane tank during the storm. As a reminder, never use the grill inside your home.
- ▶ Have a mattress nearby to get under in case your home suffers structural damage.
- ▶ Place valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers or zip lock bags.

### SWIMMING POOLS

- ▶ Drain swimming pools 6"-12" to allow for possible heavy rainfall – do not drain completely.
- ▶ Shock the pool by adding additional chlorine to water.
- ▶ Disconnect power to your pool pump but do not wrap in plastic. If there is flooding, water will collect in the plastic and ruin the pump.
- ▶ Stock up on chlorine to keep your pool water clean. In the event of a prolonged power outage you will not be able to run the filter.
- ▶ Use your own discretion about throwing outdoor furniture in the pool. If it sinks to the bottom, it will not blow away, but you risk damaging the pool's finish. Do not throw in any metal furniture that is subject to rust.

### INSIDE YOUR HOME

- ▶ Turn your refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting.
- ▶ Freeze water in plastic jugs to help keep freezer cold when power goes out.
- ▶ Stock up on jugs of bottled water – at least seven gallons per person – one gallon per person per day.
- ▶ Fill bathtub with water for non-drinking use.
- ▶ Prepare your safe room. Stock it with a battery-powered TV and/or radio with spare batteries, sleeping bags, pillows, chairs, snacks & drinking water, and games for children.

### MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOME RESIDENTS

- ▶ Turn off main water supply source to your home.
- ▶ Turn off gas at the tank but do not disconnect.
- ▶ Bring in or secure all outdoor objects.
- ▶ Evacuate. Do not attempt to ride out the storm in a manufactured home.

### HIGH-RISE CONDO RESIDENTS

- ▶ Bring in loose objects from balconies.
- ▶ Install shutters on windows & doors.
- ▶ Evacuate if you are in an evacuation zone.
- ▶ Leave early since you have the furthest to travel from the coast.

### IF YOU EVACUATE TO A SHELTER

- ▶ Only do so as a last resort.
- ▶ Try to eat a meal before entering the shelter.
- ▶ Take pillows, blankets and other supplies.
- ▶ Check to make sure the shelter is open – all shelters do not open at the same time.

#### TIP

During hurricane season, designate a friend or family member who lives out of state to be your family's single point of contact. That way, you can be sure all your loved ones are accounted for after the storm.

# BE PREPARED

## HURRICANE SUPPLY LIST

### Check Boxes

- ☐ Prescription Medicine (two-week supply)
- ☐ Camera and Film
- ☐ Books, Magazines, and Games
- ☐ Ice Chest and Ice
- ☐ Disposable Plates, Glasses, and Utensils
- ☐ Manual Can Opener
- ☐ Battery-operated TV/Radio and Clock
- ☐ Spare Batteries
- ☐ Flashlights / Lantern
- ☐ Toilet Paper
- ☐ Diapers and Wipes
- ☐ Baby Food/Formula
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Plastic Sheeting / Tarp
- ☐ Duct or Masking Tape
- ☐ Nails, Rope, Lumber, Tools
- ☐ Plastic Garbage Bags
- ☐ Insect Repellent, Sunscreen
- ☐ Disinfectant
- ☐ Soap and Detergent
- ☐ Bleach for Sterilization (unscented with hypochlorite, the only active ingredient)
- ☐ Tincture of Iodine, or Water Purification Tablets
- ☐ Rain Gear
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Fuel for Generators and Cars
- ☐ Propane Gas (for grills)
- ☐ Charcoal and Lighter Fluid
- ☐ Waterproof Matches / Sterno
- ☐ Cash (ATMs may not work after the storm)



- ☐ Non-perishable FOOD
- ☐ Powdered Milk, Evaporated Milk
- ☐ Canned Meats / Fish (tuna, ham, etc.)
- ☐ Canned Fruit and Vegetables
- ☐ Dried Foods (spaghetti, rice, etc.)
- ☐ Canned Soups / Chili
- ☐ Dried Fruit and Nuts
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Crackers and Cookies
- ☐ Coffee and Tea
- ☐ Peanut Butter and Jelly
- ☐ Pudding
- ☐ Pet Food and Medicine

### TIP

During hurricane season, supplies are key to protecting your family. Set aside at least one gallon of water per person - per day. For a family of four that would be 28 gallons to see you through one full week.





# BE PREPARED

## ESSENTIAL PHONE LIST

### EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND HOTLINES

#### CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNTY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Brevard County	(321) 637-6670
Flagler County	(386) 586-5111
Lake County	(352) 343-9420
Marion County	(352) 369-8100
Orange County	(407) 836-3111
Osceola County	(407) 742-9000
Seminole County	(407) 665-0000
Sumter County	(352) 689-4400
Volusia County	(386) 254-1500
FEMA	(800) 621-3362

#### RED CROSS

Brevard County	(321) 890-1002
Flagler County	(386) 226-1400
Lake County	(863) 294-5941
Marion County	(904) 358-8091
Orange County	(407) 894-4141
Osceola County	(407) 894-4141
Seminole County	(407) 894-4141
Sumter County	(863) 294-5941
Volusia County	(386) 226-1400

#### HUMANE SOCIETIES & ANIMAL CONTROL

SPCA of Central Florida	(407) 351-7722
Humane Society of Seminole	(407) 665-5201
Animal Control - Brevard	(321) 633-2024
Animal Control - Flagler	(386) 246-8612
Animal Control - Lake	(352) 343-9688
Animal Control - Marion	(352) 671-8727
Animal Control - Orange	(407) 836-3111
Animal Control - Osceola	(407) 742-8000
Animal Control - Seminole	(407) 665-5110
Animal Control - Volusia	(386) 248-1790



The deadliest hurricane in history is believed to have been the cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1970, which is estimated to have killed about 300,000 people.

—Source: National Hurricane Center

#### TIP

Post all emergency numbers by your phone, store them in your cell phone, and make sure your kids know how to access them. Your phones could be your lifeline when a hurricane or severe weather hits.

# SAFETY & PREPARATION

## PET & ANIMAL SAFETY

Your pet should be a part of your family plan. If you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse.

### HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO TAKE YOUR PETS

Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets due to health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find a shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

- ▶ Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species.
- ▶ Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals.
- ▶ Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour numbers.
- ▶ Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.

#### TIP

**Your pet could be left out in the cold when a hurricane hits. Pets aren't allowed in most evacuation shelters, so plan now for what to do with your pet before severe weather hits.**

- ▶ Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- ▶ Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

### WHEN THE STORM APPROACHES

- ▶ Plan ahead to protect your pet.
- ▶ Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- ▶ Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- ▶ Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry.
- ▶ Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and are securely fastened, with up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with an indelible pen.
- ▶ For more information call your local animal control office number in this guide.

### ASSEMBLE A PORTABLE PET SUPPLIES KIT

- ▶ Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
- ▶ Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- ▶ Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- ▶ Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.





# 2021 HURRICANE

Ana Bill Claudette Danny Elsa Fred Grace Henri Ida Julian Kate

## SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE

CATEGORY	WIND
1	74-95 MPH
2	96-110 MPH
3	111-130 MPH
4	131-155 MPH
5	155+ MPH



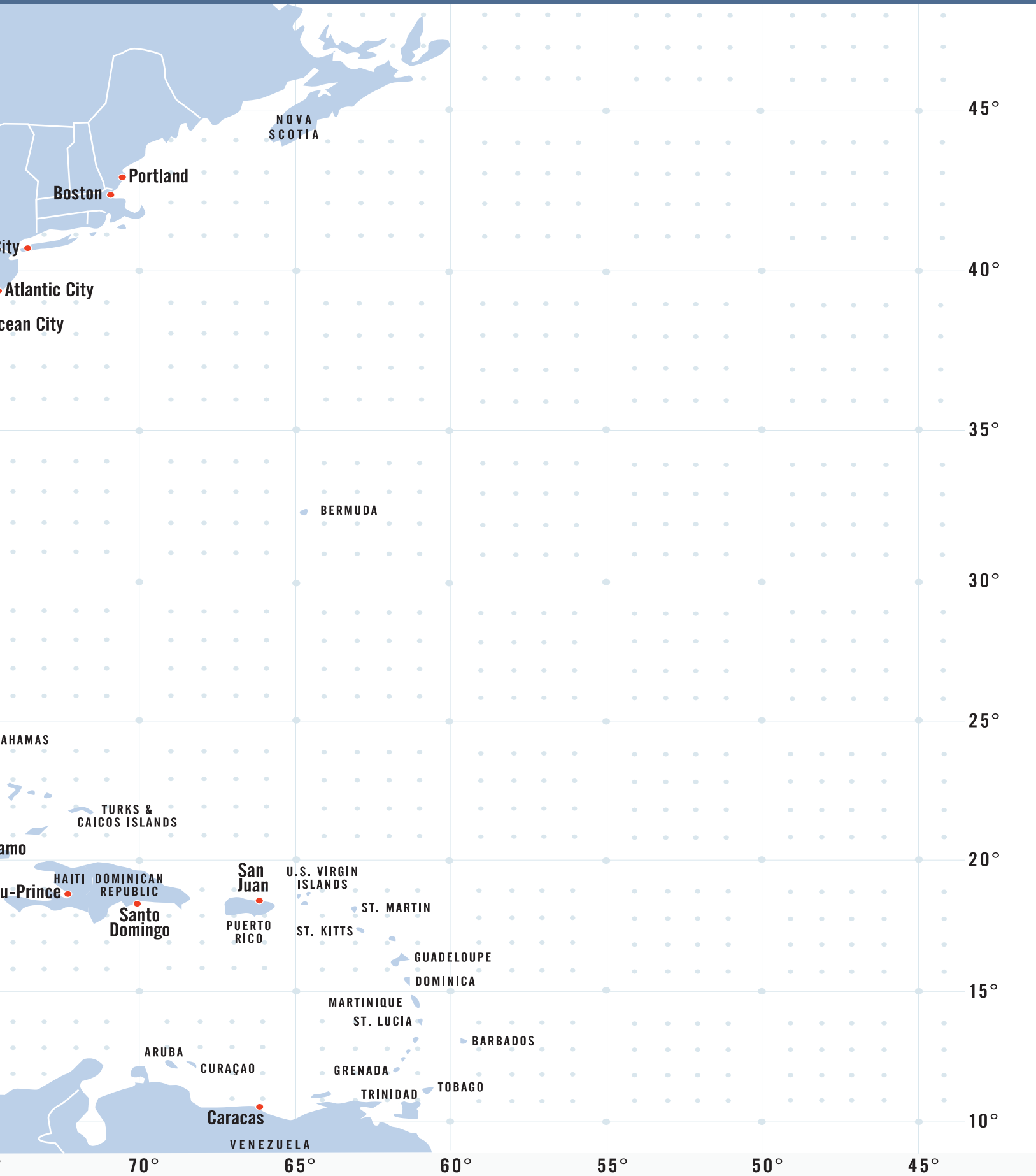
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# TRACKING CHART

Larry Mindy Nicholas Odette Peter Rose Sam Teresa Victor Wanda





# PREPARE YOUR YARD

## PRE-STORM MAINTENANCE

Trim your trees and branches that could hit your home in a storm. Thin out vegetation to lessen wind resistance. Place your tree trimmings at the curb on your vegetation collection day. Tie up in bundles of less than 50 lbs. and less than 6 ft in length. Clear your yard & property of any bulky waste items early, before hurricane season.

## AS THE STORM APPROACHES

It's a good idea to plan ahead and trim your trees at the beginning of storm season. Do not trim trees once a hurricane watch or warning has been issued. Do not take your trash to the curb or to landfills during a hurricane watch or warning. Services will be temporarily halted and facilities may close early for storm preparation.

## AFTER THE STORM PASSES

- ▶ Stay tuned to WESH 2 News for information about waste collection service. Residents will be notified when normal pick-up service resumes, although it may be several weeks before yard waste is removed.
- ▶ Keep household garbage separate from other waste materials in tied plastic bags in case of a delay in garbage collection.
- ▶ Place small debris, loose items and household refuse in garbage cans or tied plastic bags.
- ▶ Keep debris away from fences, mailboxes, power poles, transformers, and any downed electric wires.
- ▶ Trash and debris will be collected only from curbside or public roadways.



### DO YOU KNOW?

When the National Hurricane Center began giving official names to storms in 1953, they were all female. This practice of using only women's names ended in 1978.

— Source: National Hurricane Center



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# YOUR FAMILY PLAN

## WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

Your family needs to be prepared with a disaster plan at the beginning of hurricane season. Taking time now to develop your plan will save time, reduce stress, even save lives. Use the resources in this guide and on WESH.com to develop your family plan.

### PREPARE A PERSONAL EVACUATION PLAN

- ▶ Decide ahead of time where to go if you are told to evacuate. Due to the unpredictability of storm tracks, choose several places; a friend's or relative's home in another town, a motel, or as a last resort, a Red Cross shelter.
- ▶ Keep handy the telephone numbers of these places as well as a road map. You may need to take alternate routes if major roads are closed or clogged.
- ▶ Stay tuned to WESH 2 News for evacuation instructions. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- ▶ Take these items with you when evacuating:
  - Prescription medications and medical supplies.
  - Bedding and clothing, including sleeping bags and pillows.
  - Bottled water, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, first aid kit, flashlight.
  - Car keys and maps.
  - Documents, including driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.

### ASSEMBLE A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT FOR YOUR HOME INCLUDING:

- ▶ First aid kit and essential medications.
- ▶ Canned food and can opener.
- ▶ At least seven gallons of water per person.
- ▶ Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- ▶ Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- ▶ Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
- ▶ Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.

### PREPARE FOR HIGH WINDS

- ▶ Locate your hurricane shutters, installation hardware, and tools or purchase pre-cut 1/2"-5/8" outdoor plywood boards for each window of your home. Install anchors for the plywood and pre-drill holes in the plywood so that you can put it up quickly.
- ▶ Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, then strategically removing branches so that wind can blow through.



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#### DO YOU KNOW?

A hurricane makes "landfall" when its center, not its edge, crosses the coastline.

— Source: Hojem, Benjamin. 2010



## KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

- ▶ Stay tuned to WESH 2 News, WESH.COM, or NOAA Weather Radio for storm updates.
- ▶ Prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
- ▶ Prepare to cover all windows of your home. If shutters have not been installed, use precut plywood as described above. Note: Tape does not prevent windows from breaking, and is not recommended.
- ▶ Fill your car's gas tank.
- ▶ Check manufactured home tie-downs.
- ▶ Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.

## KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED

- ▶ Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if they tell you to do so.
- ▶ Complete preparation activities.
- ▶ If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
- ▶ Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can become projectiles as the winds return.
- ▶ Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over. Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- ▶ Stay away from flood waters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way.



## EVACUATING

Make plans to leave as early as possible.

- ▶ **By Car** – Bring maps. Hurricanes are very unpredictable. If you drive out, the storm could change direction and you could be driving into the path of the storm. Be prepared to re-direct your evacuation. The later you leave, the more likely you will encounter long delays & traffic jams. Leave early and have a backup plan.
- ▶ **Air Travel** – Be prepared for delays, airport closings, full or canceled flights.

## IF YOU DO NOT EVACUATE

- ▶ Install shutters or check shutters to ensure they are operable.
- ▶ Stock up on hurricane supplies on the list in this guide.
- ▶ Identify a safe room in your house. A safe room has no windows and will protect your family if your house should sustain damage. Large interior closets, hallways, bathrooms, or stairwells make good safe rooms.

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# PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

## BOAT SAFETY

### BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

- ▶ Check insurance policies for adequate coverage, making sure you understand any exclusions, and your duties as a vessel owner.
- ▶ Inventory all equipment on board. Remove or secure loose items.
- ▶ Check deck hardware, electronics, and the bilge pump. Keep batteries charged.
- ▶ If you use a boat trailer, check the tires, bearings & hitch.
- ▶ If you plan on moving your boat on the water, know your route well. Rehearse and time your hurricane plan, then double that time to allow for traffic delays & weather.
- ▶ When an evacuation order is issued, bridges may be locked in the down position to speed evacuation of the barrier islands. Set sail early to avoid blocked waterways.

### WHEN STORM THREATENS

- ▶ If you leave your boat in a marina, double all lines. Rig crossing spring lines fore and aft. Attach lines high on pilings to allow for storm surge. Protect all lines from chafing. Remove as much electronic gear as possible.
- ▶ NEVER attempt to ride out any tropical storm or hurricane on your vessel.

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- ▶ If you leave your boat on a trailer try to store it in a garage or warehouse, if not park as close to the house as possible.
- ▶ With the manufacturer's approval, fill the hull with water, and put the anchor out. If the storm surge reaches your property the anchor may help the boat stay in your backyard.
- ▶ A final note on liability: You are responsible for any damage to someone else's property caused by your boat so secure it well.

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME

### AFTER THE HURRICANE

- ▶ Make temporary repairs to protect your home or property from further damage. Cover holes in the roof or walls with plywood and use heavy-duty plastic to cover windows.
- ▶ Before hiring a contractor, verify the contractor's license and insurance company.
- ▶ Get an estimate first and discuss payment terms. Get receipts for the labor and materials.
- ▶ Keep records, bills, and paid invoices until your insurance representative visits.
- ▶ Price gouging is a significant increase in the cost of goods or services following a disaster and is illegal.
- ▶ Take photos of damaged areas and possessions.
- ▶ Note: Federal disaster assistance may be available.

### FILING A CLAIM

- ▶ Notify your agent as soon as possible. Give an address and phone number where you can be reached if you have vacated your home.
- ▶ Present your photos and inventory to help your adjuster assess the damage.
- ▶ Be patient. Cases are expedited based on severity or hardship.

# PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

## FLOODING

- ▶ **WHEN IT COMES TO HURRICANES**, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes produce storm surges, tornadoes, and often the most deadly of all – inland flooding. While storm surge is always a potential threat, in the past 35 years, more people have died from inland flooding. Intense rainfall is not directly related to the wind speed of hurricanes. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts occur from weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area.
- ▶ Inland flooding can be a major threat to communities hundreds of miles from the coast as intense rainfalls from these huge tropical air masses.
- ▶ When you hear hurricane, think inland flooding.
- ▶ Learn your vulnerability to flooding by determining the elevation of your property.
- ▶ Evaluate your insurance coverage; floodplains can change due to construction and development of surrounding areas.
- ▶ In highly flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves. Call your local emergency management agency to learn how to construct proper protective measures around your home.
- ▶ Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off.
- ▶ Avoid driving into water of unknown depth. Moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away.
- ▶ Restrict children from playing in flooded areas.
- ▶ Test drinking water for potability; wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.
- ▶ Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with floodwaters. Wash canned goods that come in contact with floodwaters with soap and hot water.

## Do you need flood insurance?

Flood insurance is available to any property owner located in a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. All areas are susceptible to some degree of flooding, although 25% of all flood claims occur in the low-to-moderate risk areas.

For more information, contact your insurance professional, your local emergency management office, or building department. You may also order a flood map from FEMA's Map service, for a fee, by calling 1-800-358-9616.





# DURING & AFTER STORM

## DURING THE STORM

- ▶ Stay inside until the hurricane passes. Make sure the storm has completely passed before going outside your house.
- ▶ Stay tuned to WESH 2 News for updates.
- ▶ Turn off circuit breakers if the power goes out. Leave one circuit breaker on with a lamp so you will know when power is restored.
- ▶ Do not use candles or kerosene lamps during the storm.
- ▶ As winds become more intense, go to your safe room and do not expose yourself to the hurricane's winds.
- ▶ Keep windows closed. It is a myth that opening a window on one side of the house will equalize pressure.
- ▶ If your house begins to sustain damage, cover yourself with a mattress and pillows. If your safe room is a bathroom with a bathtub, get in the tub under a mattress.
- ▶ Use the phone for urgent calls only. Don't use a land line phone if you hear thunder.
- ▶ If you're in a tall building, avoid the top floors as wind speeds are stronger the higher you go. Go to a safe room.

### TIP

When hurricanes strike Central Florida there is an increased risk of tornadoes. Be alert to these fast moving weather changes by keeping your weather radio turned on and tuned in. Also, rely on the WESH 2 First Warning Weather Team, WESH.com, and the WESH 2 App.



## AFTER THE STORM

- ▶ Use extreme caution. There may be dangerous situations all around you!
- ▶ If your house is damaged, move carefully to get out. Do not return until inspected by officials.
- ▶ Always supervise children.
- ▶ Do not drink the tap water until officials have announced it's safe.
- ▶ Avoid driving if possible because of debris and road blockage.
- ▶ If power is out, gasoline will be in short supply and filling stations will have long lines.
- ▶ At intersections with traffic lights out, treat it as a 4-way stop and use extreme caution.
- ▶ Phone lines and cell towers will be damaged or overloaded. Try making calls at "off peak" times.
- ▶ If power remains out for an extended period, FEMA will set up relief stations to provide free ice, water and other necessary items.





# DURING & AFTER STORM

## RESTORING ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Repair crews work to return power to the facilities that serve the largest number of affected customers first. Priorities are not established by location, your payment history or how often you call. Crews focus on facilities that provide essential services to your community, such as hospitals, police, fire stations and television or radio stations. Once major repairs have been made, work begins to restore smaller groups and individual customers.



## AFTER THE STORM

Many areas may experience wide spread power outages. For the safety of repair crews, power companies will not begin restoration efforts until wind speeds are below 35 miles per hour. Power outages can last several hours to several weeks. During the wait, a portable generator can help restore life to normal, but its safe use requires care and planning.

- ▶ Always run portable generators outside the house.
- ▶ Never run generators inside, or in a garage.
- ▶ Be sure to turn the generators off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts can and does ignite causing injury and death.
- ▶ Keep generators well away from open windows – including neighbors' – so deadly exhaust does not enter the home.
- ▶ Never attempt to connect a generator directly to your home's wiring. Power from the generator will "back feed" into utility lines with the potential to severely injure or kill a neighbor or utility crew working to restore service. Instead, plug appliances directly into the generator's outlet.
- ▶ Use heavy-duty extension cords rated for outdoor use and place the generator safely outdoors.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for grounding the generator.
- ▶ Observe noise ordinances and be considerate of your neighbors.



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### DO YOU KNOW?

Hurricane Andrew (1992) ripped an 80-foot steel beam weighing several tons off a building and flung it more than a block away.

—Source: Oxlade, Chris. 2006. *Violent Skies: Hurricanes*. Chicago, IL: Raintree.



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