

PREPARING FOR *STORMS* IN FLORIDA

Brought to you by the Florida Literacy Coalition



Welcome!

The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) is pleased to bring you this guide to help prepare you and your family for hurricanes and other weather emergencies. It is adapted from a wonderful resource entitled *Preparing for Storms in Louisiana* developed by the University of New Orleans, Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (UNO-CHART).

As we know, hurricanes and tropical storms are very real threat to Florida. The good news is that there are steps that you can take to prepare for a storm, minimize damage and keep yourself safe.

We are especially pleased that this plain language manual can be used by educators, including adult and family literacy programs, to share important safety information while teaching basic skills.

A special thanks UNO-CHART for making this publication possible. We hope it will be a useful resource as we prepare for another Hurricane Season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory Smith".

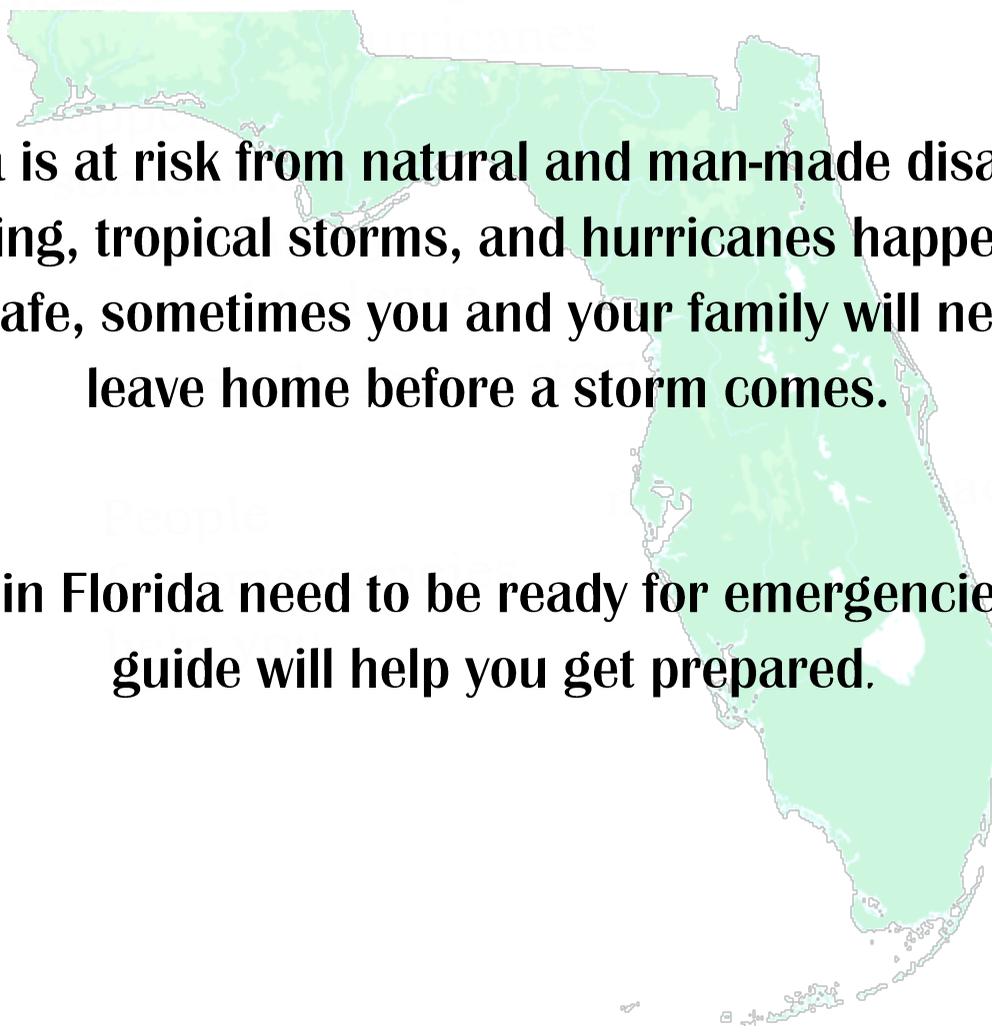
Gregory Smith
Executive Director
Florida Literacy Coalition

This publication is modified with permission from the University of New Orleans, Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology. "Preparing for Storms for Louisiana" was funded by FEMA through the LA Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Special thanks to the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education and the Florida Division of Emergency Management for their support.

Cover photo by Marit Jentoft-Nilson, NASA GSFC Visualization Analysis Lab.

Preparing for Storms in Florida



Florida is at risk from natural and man-made disasters. Flooding, tropical storms, and hurricanes happen. To stay safe, sometimes you and your family will need to leave home before a storm comes.

People in Florida need to be ready for emergencies. This guide will help you get prepared.

Table of Contents

Long-Term Protection for Your Home

Do you know...	3
Things to Know...	4
Things to Remember...	6

Hurricane Basics

Do you know...	7
Things to Know...	8
Things to Remember...	10

Preparing to Evacuate

Do you know...	11
Things to Know...	12
Things to Remember...	23

Leaving Town

Do you know...	24
Things to Know...	25
Things to Remember...	33

Returning Home

Do you know...	34
Things to Know...	35
Things to Remember...	37

Appendix

References	38
Hurricane Fact Sheet	39
Florida Department of Emergency Management	
County Manager Contact List	40
Family Meeting Discussion Guide	41
Disaster Supplies Check List	43
Document Check List	45
Contact Sheet	46
Florida Division of Emergency Management Brochure	

Long-Term Protection for Your Home

Key Words

- Hazard Mitigation
- Retrofitting



Long-Term Protection for Your Home

Do you know...

1. What is **hazard mitigation**?
2. What changes can you make to protect a building from flood waters?
3. After Charlie and Andrew, did you make changes to protect your home from future storms?

Things to Know...

Hazard Mitigation is taking steps to lower the long-term risk to people and property from floods, hurricanes, and other disasters.

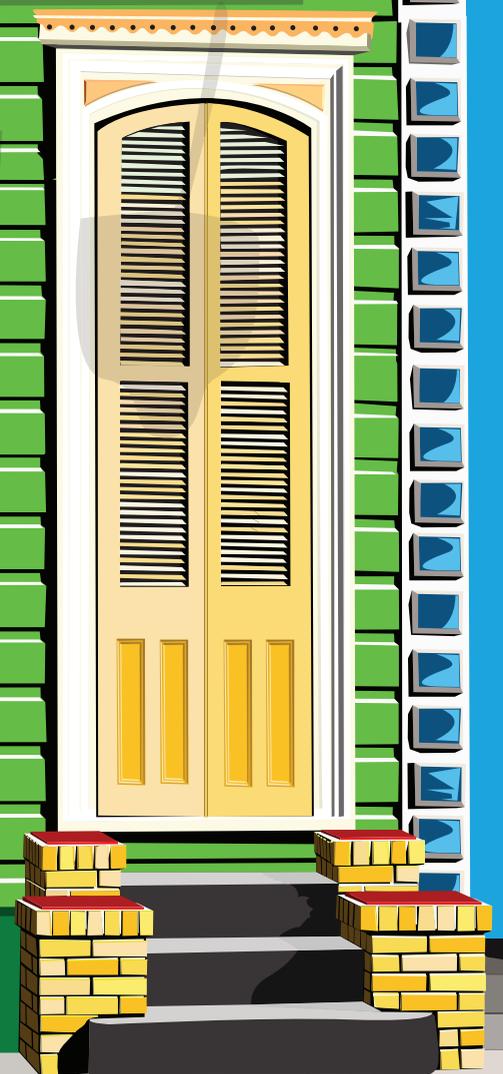
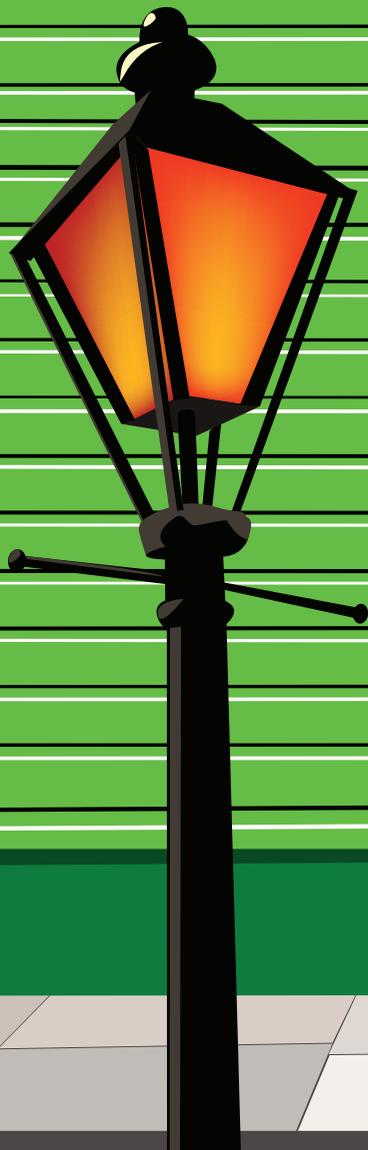
Retrofitting is making changes to an existing building to make it safer and stronger. It can be done in many different ways.



Fast Fact:

Only flood insurance covers flood damage. Homeowners and renters can get flood insurance.

To find out more, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531.



Different Ways to Retrofit a Building

Type of Change

Description of Change

Dry Floodproofing

Sealing your building to keep flood water out.

Elevation

Raising the lowest floor of your building above the flood level.

Levees and Floodwalls

Building a levee or floodwall around your building to keep water away.

Relocation

Moving your building to a safer spot.

Wet Floodproofing

During a flood, water can enter below the raised living areas and not cause damage to the structure.

Fast Fact:

Elevating houses is a common way people retrofitted their houses after Hurricanes Charley and Andrew.



Things to Remember...

1. Hazard mitigation involves taking steps to reduce long-term risk to dangers caused by flooding, fires, and other disasters.
2. Retrofitting allows people to use new technology to add extra protection to their buildings and homes.

Hurricane Basics

Key Words

- Evacuation
- Hurricane
- Hurricane Season
- Hurricane Wind Scale
- Storm Surge
- Tropical Storm

Hurricane Basics

Do you know...

1. What is a **hurricane**?
2. When is **hurricane season**?
3. What are the biggest dangers people face from hurricanes?
4. For which hurricane categories do you need to **evacuate**?

Things to Know...

Tropical Storms:

- Have wind speeds of 30 to 73 miles per hour (mph).
- Have heavy rains that can cause flooding.
- Have high winds that can cause property damage.

Hurricanes:

- Are stronger than tropical storms.
- Have wind speeds over 74 mph.
- Have high winds that create damage and storm surges.
- Have heavy rains and storm surges that cause flooding.
- May weaken as they travel over land.
- Can change directions at the last minute.
- Can damage large areas.

Storm Surges:

- Are a large dome of water pushed on land by a hurricane.
- Can be 50 to 100 miles wide.
- Get bigger when hurricanes are stronger.
- Can cause flooding because tides are higher.
- Are the biggest danger to life and property on the coast.

Hurricane Season for Florida:

- June 1 through November 30.
- Most hurricanes happen between mid-August and October.

Evacuation:

- Leaving home to find shelter in a safe place before a storm.
- Can involve going to a stronger building or a different area.

Hurricane Wind Scale:

The hurricane wind scale uses wind speeds to place hurricanes into groups or categories. The faster the wind moves, the more damage a hurricane can cause.

[See the tear out Hurricane Fact Sheet on page 39.]

Know When to Evacuate:

- Evacuation Zones are created by each county emergency Management
- Local officials and media will identify the areas that need to evacuate and target announcements to those areas.

Fast Fact:

Local governments announce when everyone MUST leave the area.



Things to Remember...

1. Hurricanes can be dangerous and cause a lot of damage.
2. For coastal communities, the storm surge causes the greatest property damage and loss of life.
3. Hurricane season lasts from June 1st until November 30th every year. Some storms have formed before and after what is considered Hurricane Season.
4. Hurricanes are grouped according to wind speed from Category 1-5. The higher category storms cause more damage.
5. For all storms, people need to listen to their local officials for evacuation information.

Preparing to Evacuate

Key Words

- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Disaster Supply Kit
- ✓ Documents
- ✓ Facility
- ✓ Immunization

Preparing to Evacuate

Do you know...

1. When should you make your evacuation plan?
2. What goes in a **disaster supply kit**?
3. How can you find help if you and your family need to evacuate?

Things to Know...

Prepare for Hurricane Season:

1. Begin to prepare before hurricane season starts on June 1.
2. Have a family meeting early to make your evacuation plan.
3. Have everyone in the family, extended family, and close friends know the plan and your family's contact phone number.
4. Buy food, bottled water, and other emergency supplies before hurricane season begins.
5. Trim trees and bushes away from the roof and windows.
6. Cut and label plywood to cover windows.
7. If you rent, talk to your landlord about protecting your home from a storm.
8. Gather important **documents** and phone numbers.
9. Create your **disaster supply kit**.
10. Start saving money for evacuation housing, food, and gas expenses.



Have a Family Meeting:

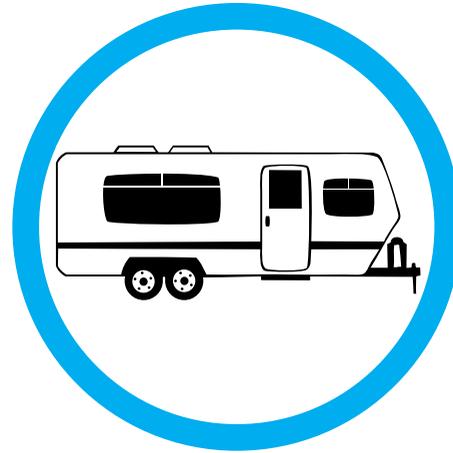


It is important to create your plan with your family because everyone needs to know this plan. This will help you remember each person's special needs, especially children, elderly, and pets.

If you take care of an elderly person, involve them in the meeting & know who is responsible for them. It is easier to act during an emergency when everyone knows the plan. The State of Florida created a Family Disaster Planning website to help you create your plan (www.floridadisaster.org/family-plan).

1. Create your evacuation plan as a family.
2. Think about the special needs of children, elderly, and pets.
3. Decide who is responsible for the elderly who live alone.
4. Talk about preparing the home.
5. Create a disaster supply kit.
6. Start to identify important documents.

See the tear out [Family Meeting Discussion Guide](#) on page 41.



If you live in a mobile home, on the coast, near water, or in a weak building, you may need two parts to your evacuation plan. The first part would be an evacuation to a safer place in your community.

Plan when you will go, what you will bring (clothes, food, water, bedding, medicine), and how you will get there.

The second part of your plan kicks in during an evacuation of the area. If the hurricane is really big, you will need a different place to go that is not inside the hurricane cone.

Remember to:

1. Have everyone in your family know your hurricane evacuation plan.
2. Share your plan with neighbors and friends.
3. Tell friends and family where you will evacuate, how to call you while you are gone, and how to call you after the disaster.



Pet Evacuation



Always include your pets in your evacuation plan. Before hurricane season begins, contact places on your evacuation route. Ask if they allow pets and ask for restrictions on animal types, weight limits, cages, and immunizations. If you are staying with someone you know, talk about your pets' needs.

If you want to evacuate but have no place to go with your pets, call your [Office of Emergency Management](#) (on page 40) for a list of shelters that allow pets. Check out their website (<https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/pet-plan/>) for more information.

Fast Fact:

Some hotels waive pet restrictions during evacuations.

Plan for Your Pets:

1. Call the place where you plan to stay to see if you can bring your pet.
2. Not all shelters allow pets. Call the **Florida Humane Society** or your local **Emergency Management** office to find a shelter for you and your pets.
3. Create a disaster supply kit for your pet. Include written instructions on how to care for your pet.
4. Keep all medical papers and proof of immunizations with your pet.
5. Write your emergency contact information on your pet's carrier.

See the tear out [Disaster Supplies Checklist](#) on-page 43.

The Cost of Evacuation

Evacuation is expensive. Plan ahead to know how much money you will need while you are gone. Start saving money early because you never know when a storm may come or how long you may be gone.

If you drive, evacuation means a very long trip for your car.



- ▶ Keep your car in good running order.
- ▶ Never let your tank go below half-a-tank so you won't need as much gas when filling at the gas station .
- ▶ Keep an extra gas can and extra water in your car.

Have Enough Money to:

1. Fill your gas tank 4 times.
2. Pay for 3 nights at a hotel. (\$80-\$120/night.)
3. Eat 3 meals a day at a restaurant for 3 days.



Fast Fact:

Avoiding traffic by leaving early can cut gas costs in half. If you cannot leave early, plan to spend \$0.50/mile on gas.

Remember, the goal is to drive 10s of miles, not 100s of miles. By relocating even 20 miles away, you can avoid hurricane force winds. Be sure to listen to your local Emergency Management Center for evacuation information.

Driving from Miami					
City	Avg. Time	Evac Time	Miles	Avg. Price*	Evac Price*
Palm Beach	1.5 hrs	5 hrs	75	\$17.50	\$37.50
Kendall	20 min.	1.5 hrs	17	\$4.00	\$8.50
Ft. Lauderdale	35 min	2.5 hrs	30	\$7.00	\$15.00

Driving from Tampa					
City	Avg. Time	Evac Time	Miles	Avg. Price*	Evac Price*
Lakeland	50 min.	4 hrs	40	\$9.30	\$20.00
Sarasota	1 hr	4 hrs	60	\$14.00	\$30.00
Orlando	1.5 hrs	5 hrs	85	\$20.00	\$42.50

Driving from Orlando					
City	Avg. Time	Evac Time	Miles	Avg. Price*	Evac Price*
Daytona	1 hr	4 hrs	55	\$12.80	\$27.50
Tampa	1.5 hrs	6 hrs	85	\$20.00	\$42.50
Ocala	1.5 hrs	6 hrs	80	\$19.00	\$40.00

Driving from Jacksonville					
City	Avg. Time	Evac Time	Miles	Avg. Price*	Evac Price*
Gainesville	1.5 hrs	6 hrs.	75	\$17.50	\$37.50
St. Augustine	50 min	4 hrs	40	\$9.30	\$20.00
Kingsland, GA	45 min	3 hrs	36	\$8.50	\$18.00

Driving from Tallahassee					
City	Avg. time	Evac time	Miles	Avg. Price	Evac Price*
Lake City	1.5 hrs	7 hrs	105	\$24.50	\$52.50
Panama City	2 hrs	8 hrs	98	\$23.00	\$49.00
Tifton, GA	2 hrs	8 hrs	90	\$21.00	\$45.00

*Round trip based on gas price of \$3.50 per gallon for a car that travels 15 miles per gallon.

The Cost of Food



Average Price of a Meal:

Fast Food and Diners	\$	\$5-15/person
Chain Restaurants	\$\$	\$15-25/person
Fine Dining	\$\$\$	\$25-50/person

Ways to Save:

- Evacuate with food that may spoil if left home.
- Shop at grocery stores.
- Cook your own meals.

Fast Fact:

If you stay in a hotel, reserving a room with a microwave and refrigerator can cut food costs.

Disaster Supply Kit

Create your own disaster supply kit before hurricane season. It can be a few bags or a box that has everything your family will need in a disaster.

See the tear out [Disaster Supplies Check List](#) on page 43.



- You need 3 days of supplies for every family member.
- Pack canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and high energy snacks such as peanut butter and crackers.
- Put each person's items in their own backpack or bag. The group supplies can be in their own bag or box.
- Make a list of special items that must be packed right before you leave, such as a favorite toy or medications taken every day.



Remember Your Pets:

- They will need at least three days of supplies just like you. Bring their medicines and medical records.
 - Many places require proof of immunizations or they will not allow your pets.
- Get a pet carrier large enough for your pet to completely turn around inside and
- lie down. Write your name, phone number, address, and an emergency contact on the carrier.
- Talk with your vet to learn about any special needs your pet may have during an
- evacuation.

Important Documents



Documents are important papers that prove who we are, where we were born, what we own, where we live, where we work, and more.

It may be impossible to replace some documents if they are destroyed.



1. Pack documents in a waterproof container.
2. Pack original documents and copies.
3. Use a computer to scan documents and save them to a disk, flash drive, or the internet. Go to the library if you need a scanner or help to do this.
4. If your documents are not in your home, take them with you when you evacuate.

See the tear out [Document Check List](#) on page 45.

Communication

Sometimes during disasters people get lost or separated. Know your important numbers because cell phones can be lost or stop working.



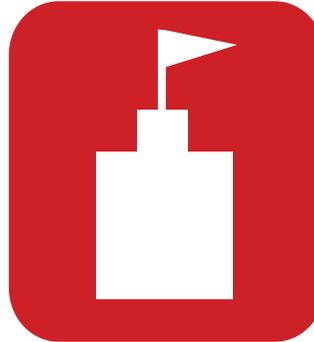
Stay in **communication** during a disaster:

1. Choose someone who lives in a different state as your family's contact person.
2. Everyone needs to know the contact person's phone number. When people reach safety, they should call the contact person to tell them where they are.
3. Take important numbers with you. Make sure each family member has a copy of the numbers in case you become separated.
4. You can also type the list and email it to yourself and a family member or friend. If you do not know how to do this, go to the library and ask someone for help.

See the tear out [Contact Sheet](#) on page 46.

Family in Facilities

You may have family in a **facility** such as a nursing home, hospital, school, assisted living facility, or prison.



If you have family in a facility:

1. Know the facility's evacuation plan.
2. Know if the facility will evacuate your family member. Plan ahead with the facility if you want to evacuate your relative.
3. Write down the contact information to the place your family member will be during an evacuation.
4. If possible, your family member should know your family's contact phone number. They should call when they are safe.
5. List your family's contact person as an emergency contact with your relative's nursing home, hospital, or assisted living facility.



Things to Remember...

1. Make your evacuation plan and get ready before hurricane season starts on June 1st.
2. Plan for your pets, family members, and the elderly, who will depend on you in a disaster.
3. Save money to cover the cost of evacuation.
4. Create a disaster supply kit and gather important documents and phone numbers.
5. Prepare your home by trimming tree branches and bushes away from the roof and windows or contact your landlord to have this done.

Leaving Town

Key Words

- Reverse lane or one-way
- Hurricane Warning
- Hurricane Watch

Leaving Town

Do you know...

1. How do you decide it is time to evacuate?
2. How is a **hurricane warning** different from a **hurricane watch**?
3. What is **reverse lane or one-way**?
4. Who do you call if you need help evacuating?

Things to Know...

Hurricane Watch:

A **hurricane watch** is a type of weather watch. The National Weather Service puts a watch into place when dangerous weather conditions are possible within the next **48** hours. Watch TV news channels or listen to the radio to learn when and where watches are active. Only the areas in danger are placed under the watch.



If a watch is in your area:

1. Listen to the radio or watch TV for updates on the storm.
2. Fill cars with gas even if you do not plan to evacuate.
3. Check mobile home tie downs.
4. Prepare to cover windows and doors with plywood or shutters.
5. Check batteries.
6. Have canned food, first aid kit, drinking water, and medicines on hand.
7. Prepare to bring inside light-weight objects like garbage cans or lawn furniture that could blow away.
8. Have extra money on hand if possible.

Hurricane Warning:

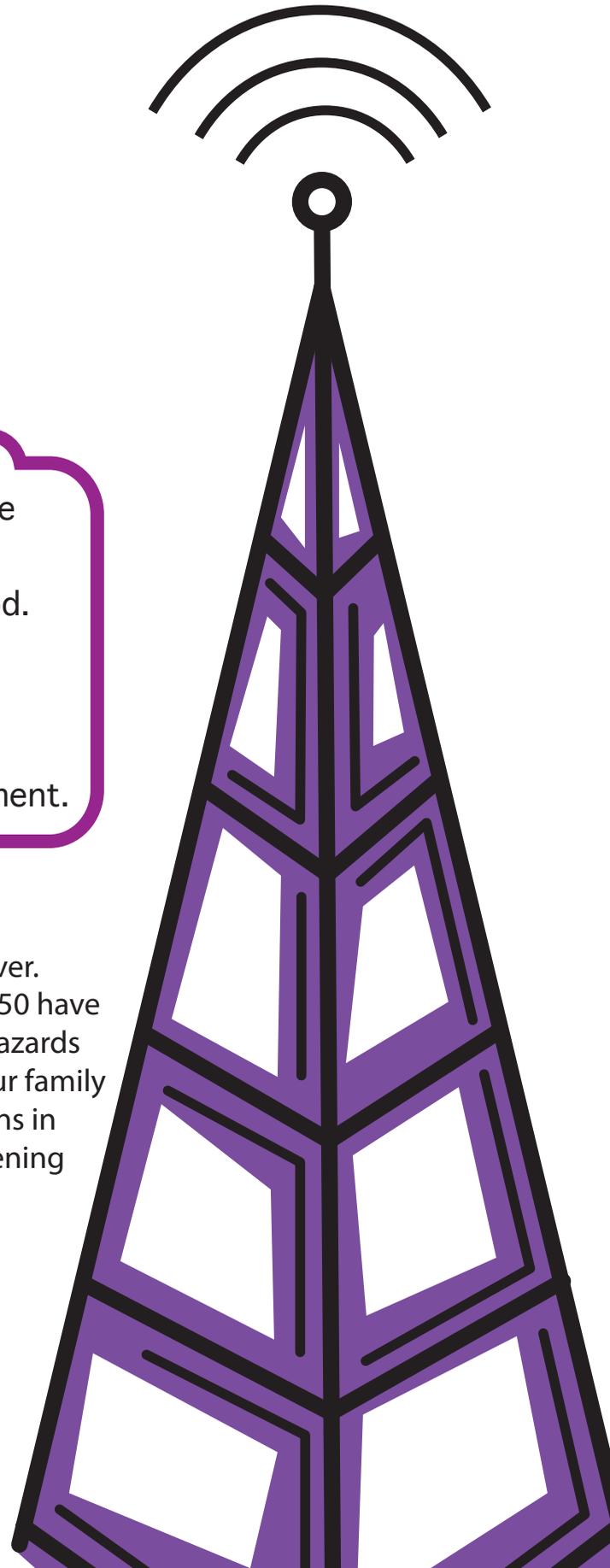
A **hurricane warning** is similar to a hurricane watch. There are two main differences between watches and warnings. When a hurricane warning is issued, the dangerous weather conditions are expected within **36** hours.

While a **watch** means dangerous weather **could** happen, a **warning** means dangerous weather **will** happen.

If a warning is in your area:

1. Listen to the radio or watch TV for the storm's progress.
2. Cover windows and doors with plywood.
3. Bring light-weight objects inside.
4. Evacuate mobile homes.
5. Follow instructions from local government.

A NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio can be a lifesaver. Nearly 75% of tornado fatalities in Florida since 1950 have occurred between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. A NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio is always ready to alert you and your family of an approaching weather threat. The radio remains in standby mode and will alert you of any life-threatening disasters in your area, 24 hours a day. They can be purchased at most retail stores that sell electronic merchandise.



Reverse Lane or One Way

Reverse Lane or One Way is when both sides of the interstate are used for drivers to evacuate an area.

You cannot enter some cities from the interstate during contraflow.

Some interstate exits will close. You must stay on the interstate until you reach a major city such as Jacksonville or Tallahassee.

Have a full tank of gas because you will have to travel a long distance before you can stop for gas.

Look for signs and directions.

Fast Fact:

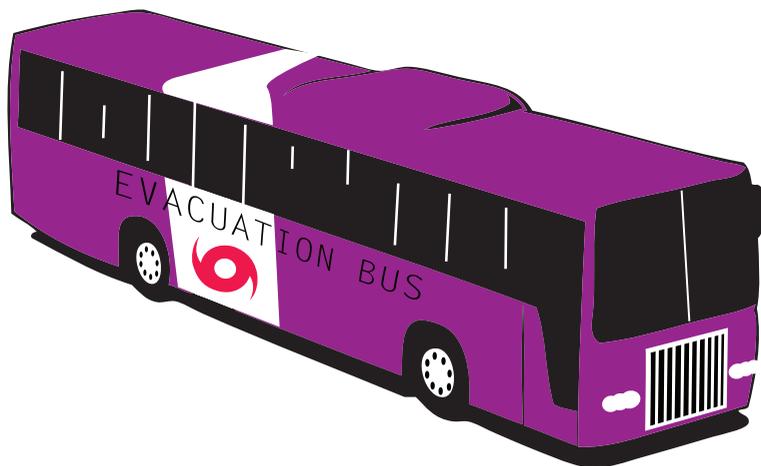
During reverse lane or one way, it can take 4 times as long to reach your destination.

Gas stations run out of gas when too many people fill up their tanks in 1 day.

Assistance for Evacuation

If you cannot evacuate on your own, your local government will help you. Local assistance for evacuation is **only** for people who cannot evacuate on their own. This includes people without transportation and people with medical needs.

Call your local sheriff's office to learn about government assistance for evacuation in your area. You do not have to wait until a storm to register.



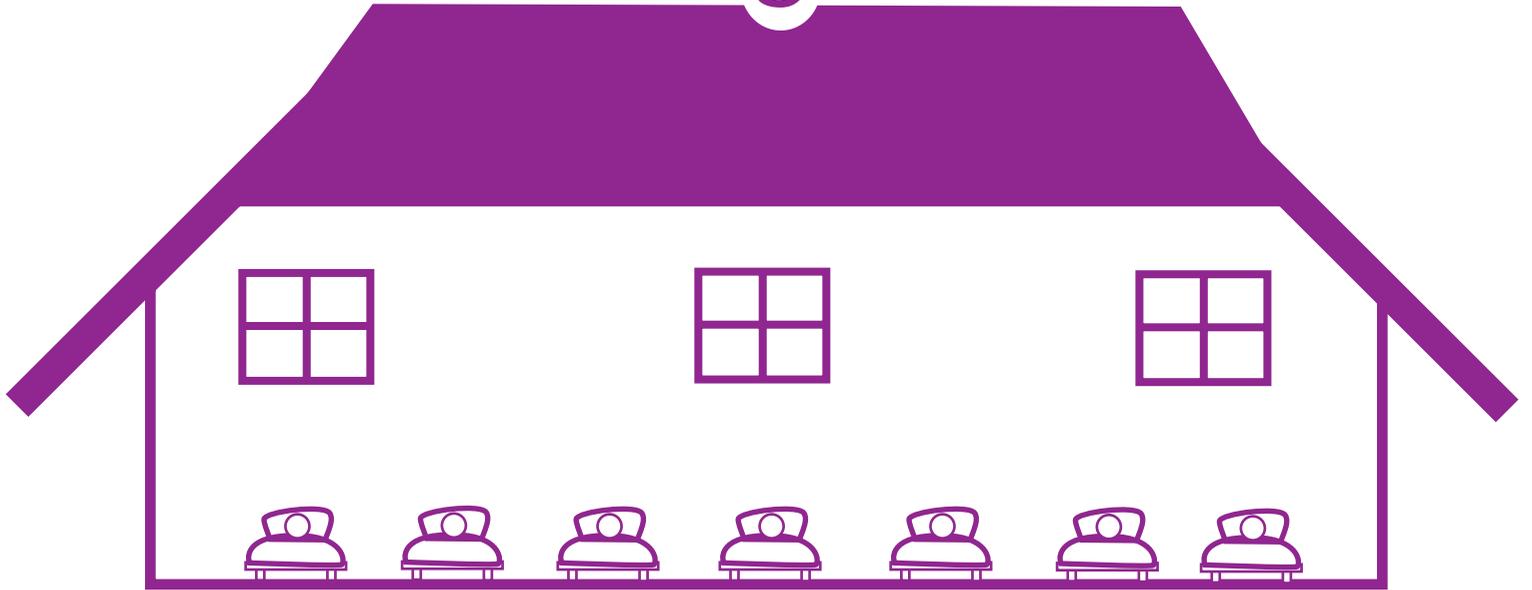
Fast Fact:

Call your Department of Emergency Management if you have transportation but need a list of shelters.

If you evacuate to a different city and need help:

1. If it is an emergency, call **911**.
2. If you need a shelter, call the sheriff's office.
3. If you do not know what number to call, listen to the radio. Radio stations announce hotline numbers with shelter locations and which shelters allow pets.

What to Bring to a Shelter



At a shelter you will need everything on the [Disaster Supplies Check List](#) (on page 43). Bring your own food and water to shelters because the shelters might not always have food. Bring any special foods your family may require.

Shelter for Your Pets:

For health reasons, human shelters do not allow pets, but some have pet shelters next to them. This allows owners to be close to their pets without breaking health code laws.



Fast Fact:

The law says that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has to evacuate pets. That does not mean you can take your pet with you anywhere you go. It means the government has to keep your pet safe during an emergency. A service animal, such as a seeing-eye dog, can stay with the owner at any shelter.



Know Your Rights

If you have to evacuate an area, shelters will be opened based on need.

State agencies that work with people with disabilities must have disaster planning provisions that include a requirement to contact all persons who need assistance, help them, place them in a special needs shelter, and continue to provide services during and following the disaster.

(Florida Statute 252.355 and 252.356)

While shelters are required to have supplies, the Florida Department of Emergency Management strongly encourages bringing your own because there are logistical issues for gaining more supplies before and after landfall.

If You Stay

You might stay if your local government has not declared a necessary evacuation. A necessary evacuation means everyone **must** leave. The Florida Division of Emergency Management created a brochure to help you determine the best plan (p. 47).



Fast Fact:

If you plan to stay, think about buying a generator. Even in a minor hurricane, electricity can be out for a week or more.

- Keep an axe in your attic in case you need to escape through the roof.
- To keep food fresh, turn the refrigerator to the coldest setting and only open it if you have to.
- Be prepared to turn off utilities (gas, water, electricity) if told to by your local government.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water. This water will allow you to flush toilets and wash up if the water is shut off.

If winds become strong:

1. Stay away from all windows, doors, and glass.
2. Close, lock, and brace all doors that lead outside.
3. Close all doors inside.
4. Stay on the first floor.
5. Stay in a small room in the middle of the building without windows such as a closet, bathroom, or hallway.
6. Lie under a table or a sturdy object.

If People Stay with You

Family or friends may stay with you if:

- You live away from where Hurricane Force Winds will occur.
- If your home is mitigated for the category hurricane you will experience.

Before a hurricane approaches:

- Go over the [Disaster Supplies Check List](#) (on page 45), and discuss what you can provide and what they should bring.
- Create a back up plan in case everyone has to evacuate.

Know how many people will be coming.

- Do you need a generator?
- Does anyone have special needs?
- Will you need to baby proof a room?
- Do you have space for pets?
- Can everyone climb stairs?
- Does anyone have allergies?

Make a back up evacuation plan. Know:

- When you will leave.
- Where you will go.
- How everyone will get there safely.
- What you will bring.





Things to Remember...

1. A watch means dangerous weather could happen, and a warning means dangerous weather will happen.
2. Only stay in your home during a hurricane if you do not live in an area that is ordered to evacuate and your house is properly mitigated.
3. If you need help to evacuate, call your Department of Emergency Management County Manager (p.40).

Returning Home

Key Words

- Debris
- Electrical Lines
- Life-Threatening
- Moving Water
- Standing Water

Returning Home

Do you know...

1. How do you know when it is safe to return?
2. What will you need to re-enter the area?
3. What should you watch out for when you return?
4. Who should you contact when you return home?

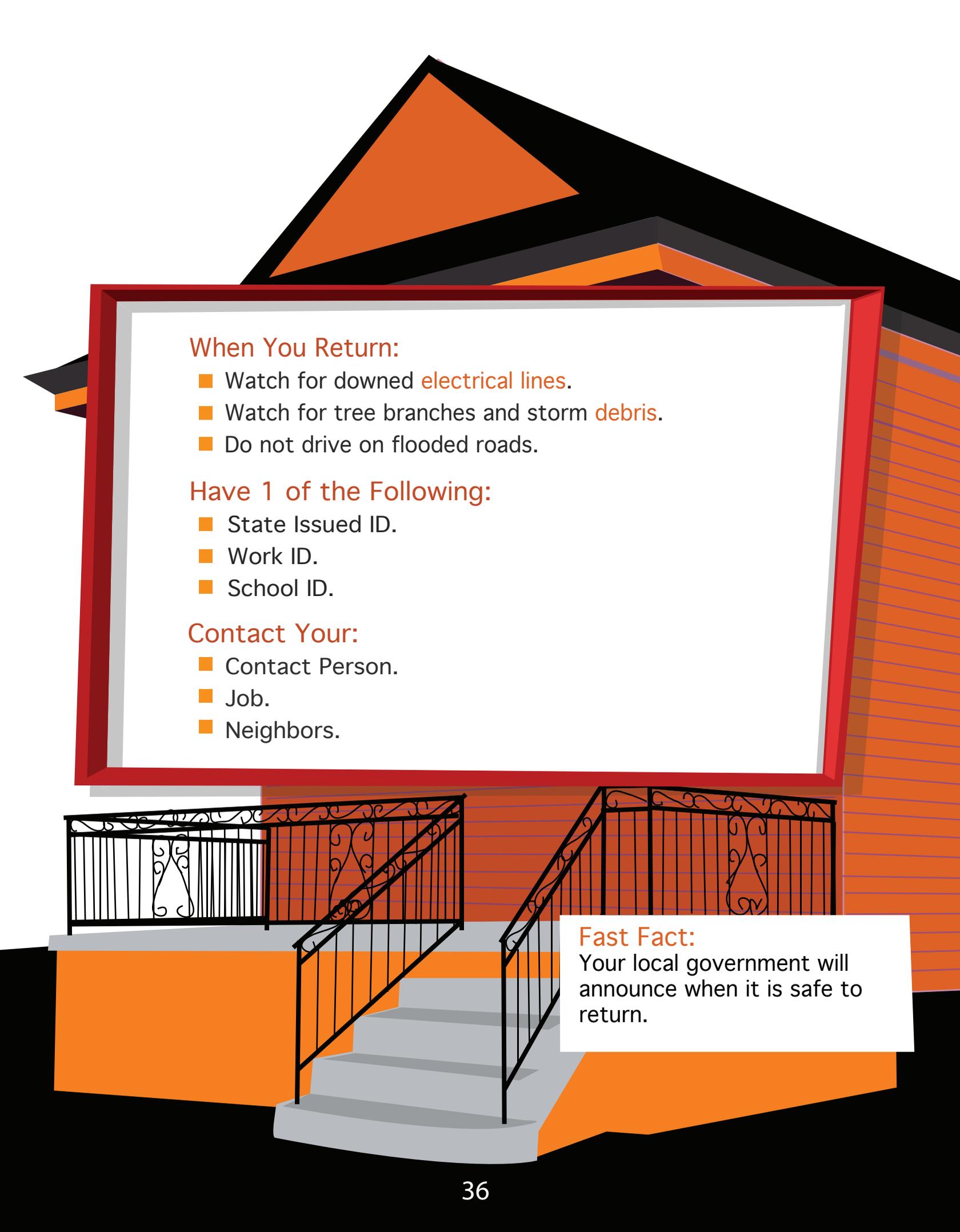
Things to Know...

- Turn around and find another way if a road is closed or flooded. “Turn around, don’t drown.”
- Stay on firm ground.
- Stay away from **standing** and **moving water**.
- Be careful of downed **electrical lines**.
- Be aware of the smell of gas and try to safely leave the area if there is a leak.
- Boil tap water until your local government says it is safe.
- Use flashlights, not candles or open flames, to check for damage.
- Only use the phone to report **life-threatening** emergencies.
- Be careful using a chainsaw to cut trees.
- Call your contact person to let them know you are safe.

Fast Fact:

Water can be dangerous. 6 inches of moving water can knock a person off their feet. Standing water may be charged from downed power lines.





When You Return:

- Watch for downed **electrical lines**.
- Watch for tree branches and storm **debris**.
- Do not drive on flooded roads.

Have 1 of the Following:

- State Issued ID.
- Work ID.
- School ID.

Contact Your:

- Contact Person.
- Job.
- Neighbors.



Fast Fact:

Your local government will announce when it is safe to return.



Things to Remember...

When to Return:

- ▣ Once your local government says it is safe.

What to Bring:

- ▣ Have your photo ID ready to prove where you live.

What to Do:

- ▣ Stay away from standing and moving water.
- ▣ Turn around if roads are closed, blocked, or flooded.
- ▣ Check appliances and gas, water, and electrical lines.
- ▣ Boil tap water until local government says it is safe.
- ▣ Use flashlights to check for damage.
- ▣ Call your family's contact person.

References

Emergency preparedness guide: an integrated family literacy instructional curriculum. (2009) Even Start: New Orleans, LA.

National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center. (2010). The saffir-simpson hurricane wind scale. Retrieved from <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/sshws.shtml>

Parish homeland security & emergency preparedness contact numbers. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://gohsep.la.gov/ABOUT/PARISHPA>

National Weather Service- National Hurricane Center: Watches and Warnings. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/wwa.php>

American Red Cross: What should you bring to a shelter? <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

About the Authors

Kim Mosby is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Orleans. She is a graduate assistant for UNO-CHART and is currently conducting her thesis research on the experiences of African Americans returning to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Juli Van Brunt is a writer and literacy advocate currently pursuing her MFA in playwriting at the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Pamela Jenkins is a professor of Sociology at the University of New Orleans. She is also a founding member of UNO-CHART and is involved in a variety of community education projects.

Hazel Spaulding Parker has worked in the field of education for 20 years as a classroom teacher, a trainer, an instructor and a consultant. She has presented at several state and national conferences and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Petrice Sams-Abiodun is the Executive Director for the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy at Loyola University, where she has an opportunity to combine her research and social justice agendas to address the issue of adult literacy. As a family demographer, her goal is to use research for the development and liberation of traditionally marginalized and oppressed people.

Rachel B. Nicolosi is the Executive Director of the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans. She is originally from Iberville Parish, Louisiana and has resided in New Orleans for the past 16 years. She is a plain language fanatic and holds a Masters Degree in Adult Education with a focus on public policy in adult literacy.

Maggie Olivier is a full-time research associate at UNO-CHART. She received her MA in Sociology from the University of New Orleans with a focus on disaster studies.

Hurricane Fact Sheet

Wind Speed

Example

Storm Surge

Damage

Flooding

Evacuate



Category 1

74-95 mph

1988 Florence

4-5 feet

Mobile homes
Trees

Some coastal roads flood

Mobile homes



Category 2

96-110 mph

2008 Gustav

6-8 feet

Mobile homes
Trees
Roofs
Doors
Windows

Coastal roads flood 2-4 hours before

Mobile homes and low lying coastal areas



Category 3

111-130 mph

2005 Katrina

9-12 feet

Mobile homes
Trees
Roofs
Doors
Windows
Small buildings

Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before

Destroys small buildings on coast

Be ready to evacuate all areas in cone



Category 4

131-155 mph

1974 Carmen

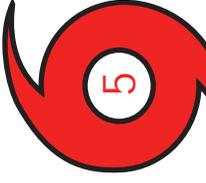
13-18 feet

Mobile homes
Trees
Roofs
Doors
Windows
Most buildings

Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before

Major damage to ground floor of all buildings on coast

Evacuate all areas in cone



Category 5

Above 155 mph

1969 Camille

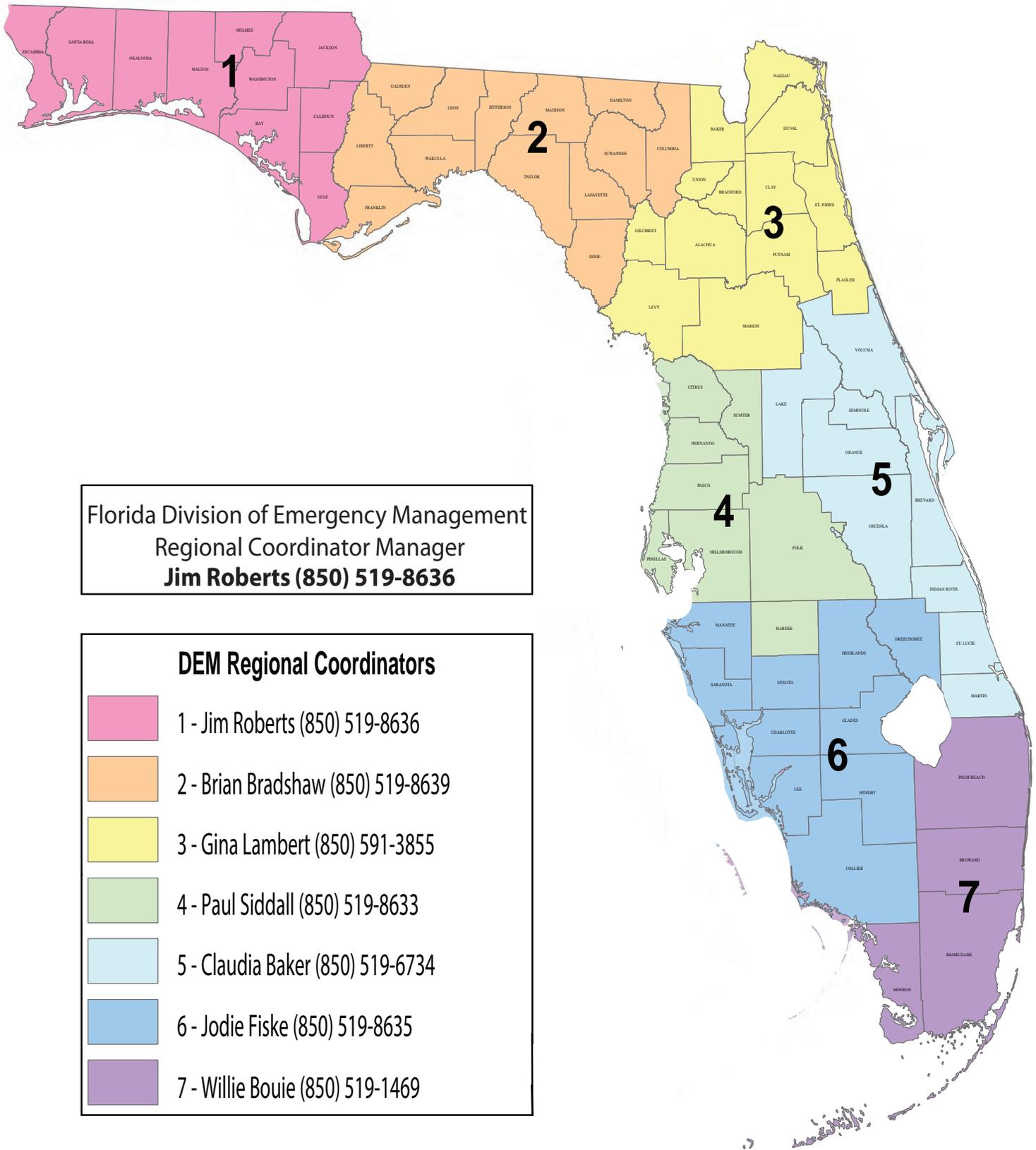
Over 18 feet

Mobile homes
Trees
Roofs
Doors
Windows
All buildings

Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before

Major damage to ground floor of all buildings inland

Evacuate all areas in cone



You can find the contact information for your County Emergency Manager at www.floridadisaster.org.

Family Meeting Discussion Guide



Here are a few questions your plan needs to answer.

Who needs to be at the meeting? _____

Evacuation:

1. Where are you going? _____

2. How will you get there? _____

3. Who is going with you? _____

4. When will you leave? _____

5. How will you stay in contact with people while you are gone? _____

Supplies needed:

6. What will you eat while you are gone? _____

7. What clothes and shoes will you bring? _____

8. What special supplies including medicines will your family need? _____

9. What important documents should you bring? _____

10. How much money will you need while you are gone? _____

Work, school, and pets:

11. When do you need to tell your job you want to leave? _____

12. How will you stay in contact with your job while you are gone? _____

13. Do you have a phone number to contact your family's schools? _____

14. What do your pets need? _____

Assign tasks:

15. Who is responsible for the elderly who live alone? _____

16. Who will prepare the home or call the landlord to prepare the home? _____

17. Who will create the disaster supply kit? _____

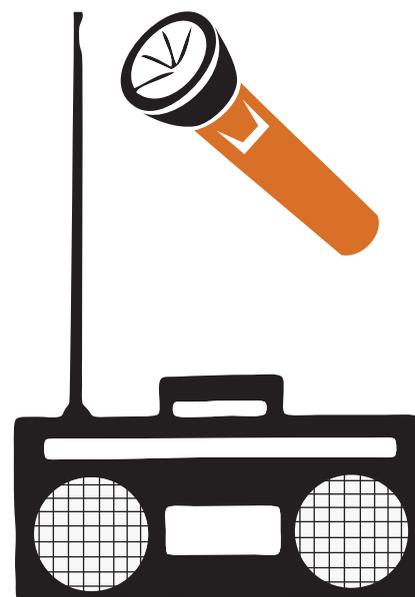
18. Who will collect important documents? _____

Disaster Supplies Check List

Mark off as you pack each item.

Safety Supplies:

- First aid kit
- Aspirin or Tylenol
- Flashlights
- Weather radio
- Batteries
- Wrench or pliers to turn off gas or water lines
- Whistle to call for help



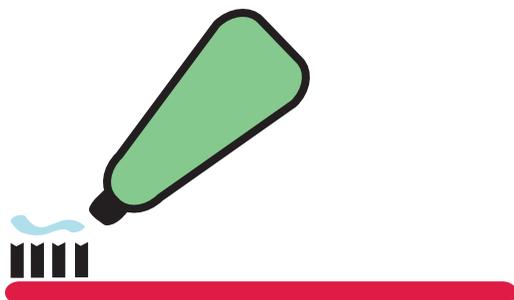
Personal Supplies:

- Important documents in a waterproof container
- 3 gallons of water for each person
- Canned food
- Can opener
- Change of clothes and shoes for each person
- Blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- Towels
- Money



Sanitation Supplies:

- Soap, wet wipes, or hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Tampons or sanitary pads
- Deodorant
- Garbage bags



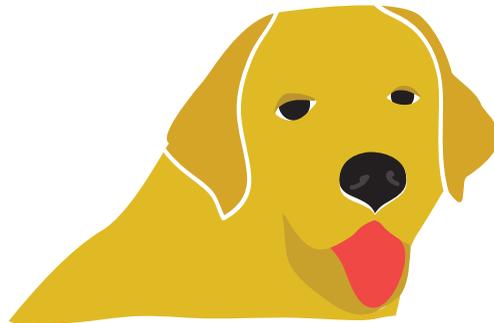
Special Supplies:

- Medications
- Baby formula
- Diapers
- Favorite toy
- Books
- Games



Pet Supplies:

- Food in waterproof container
- Water for three days
- Food and water bowls
- Medications
- Medical records and proof of immunizations in waterproof container
- Written instructions on how to feed and give medicines to your pet
- Flea and tick prevention medicine
- Pet first aid book
- Extra collar with ID tag
- Extra leash or harness
- Pet carrier large enough for pet to completely turn around and lie down
(Write your name, phone number, address, and an emergency contact on carrier.)
- Sanitation supplies
- Pet litter/pan
- Newspapers
- Towels
- Trash bags
- Bleach (not color safe)



Document Check List

Pack the following documents for each person in your family in a waterproof container.

Family Documents



- Birth certificates
- Health insurance policy
- Health insurance cards
- Life insurance policy
- Medicaid or Medicare cards
- Immunization records
- Medical records
- Immunization records for pets

Housing Documents



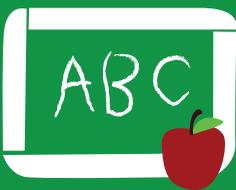
- House deed
- Housing lease
- House insurance policy
- Renter's insurance policy
- Flood insurance policy

Financial Documents



- Car titles
- Wills
- Last bank statement

School Documents



- Last report card
- Transcripts

Identification Documents



- Driver's license
- School or work ID
- Passport
- Government ID
- Social security card

Contact Sheet

	Name	Number
Family Contact Person:		
Doctor:		
Pharmacy:		
Job:		
Boss:		
Co-workers:		
School:		
Landlord:		
Mortgage Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		
Electricity Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		
Gas Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		
Water Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		
Cable Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		
Internet Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		
Insurance Company: <small>ACCOUNT #</small>		

Every Floridian should develop a family preparedness plan well in advance of a storm threat.

Which path should you take?

Do you live in a vulnerable area?
(Mobile home, an area that floods frequently, on a barrier island or near the coast)

Have you been ordered to evacuate?

YES

NO

STAY AT HOME

EVACUATE

Did you know...?

You need to store at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household. Stored water should be changed every six months.

More information: www.redcross.org



Did you know...?

Cell phones, pagers and laptop computers may be useful tools to find out information about your community after a storm.

www.floridadisaster.org

Did you know...?

Making your home more disaster resistant can prevent the need to evacuate and can reduce damages.

For simple and affordable tips contact: www.flash.org
1-877-221-SAFE

Did you know...?

Many public shelters do not allow pets. If you evacuate to a shelter make arrangements for your pets.

Did you know...?

When possible, evacuating within your county reduces your chance of being stranded in traffic and shortens your time to return home.

Before a storm threatens, contact your county's emergency management office for local evacuation information.

Did you know...?

Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.

For information: www.fema.gov/nfip
1-888-CALL-FLOOD ext.445

After the Storm

Florida Emergency Information Line
1-800-342-3557

Arrive safely at your destination

Map out your route
Be familiar with your area's evacuation routes
Don't know where to go? **GO BACK 9 SPACES**

Get extra cash
Power outages may cause banks and ATMs to be closed

Fill your car with gas

Check on your neighbors
Particularly the elderly or disabled

Use your NOAA weather radio
Stay alert to weather advisories

Secure your home
Board up windows and secure loose yard objects

Stock extra supplies
Batteries, water and canned food

Enact your pet plan

Assemble your disaster supply kit
(see other side)

Have a place to go
Home of a family member or friend, motel or shelter

Assemble your disaster supply kit
(see other side)

Notify family or friends of your plans
When you are leaving and where you are going

Bring toys, books and games
for entertainment

Bring pillows and blankets
Also bring rain gear and sturdy shoes

Secure your home

Bring important family documents
in a waterproof container

Enact your pet plan

Bring extra cash
Banks may be closed, ATMs may not work

Fill your car with gas

Notify family or friends of your plans
When you are leaving and where you are going

Bring pillows and blankets
Also bring rain gear and sturdy shoes

Secure your home



FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR STAYING AT HOME DURING A HURRICANE

- Develop a family disaster plan
- Stay alert to storm advisories
WATCH and WARNING—Know the difference.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio
- Keep a Disaster Supply Kit ready
- Have enough food and water for at least three days
- Protect valuable documents
- Make your home more disaster resistant
Prepare to board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside.
- Get cash
Following a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.
- Fill your car with gasoline
- Have a pet plan
Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.
- Do not use candles or open flames as a light source
- Work with your neighbors
Check on elderly or those with special needs.
- As the storm hits, gather your family in a safe room (An interior room with no windows)
- Following the storm, watch out for downed power lines
- Listen to your local officials!

www.floridadisaster.org

Tear off here and place on your refrigerator





Florida Literacy Coalition

Florida's Adult and Family Resource Center
235 Maitland Ave S, Suite 102
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 246-7110
www.floridaliteracy.org



UNO-CHART

Milneburg Hall Rm. 102
2000 Lakeshore Drive
New Orleans, LA 70148
(504) 280-5760
www.chart.uno.edu