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,

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.
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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?
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Change</th>
<th>Description of Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry Floodproofing</td>
<td>Sealing your building to keep flood water out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation</td>
<td>Raising the lowest floor of your building above the flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levees and Floodwalls</td>
<td>Building a levee or floodwall around your building to keep water away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation</td>
<td>Moving your building to a safer spot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Floodproofing</td>
<td>During a flood, water can enter below the raised living areas and not cause damage to the structure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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.
Hurricanes can be dangerous and cause a lot of damage.

For coastal communities, the storm surge causes the greatest property damage and loss of life.

Hurricane season lasts from June 1st until November 30th every year. Some storms have formed before and after what is considered Hurricane Season.

Hurricanes are grouped according to wind speed from Category 1-5. The higher category storms cause more damage.

For all storms, people need to listen to their local officials for evacuation information.
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?
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.
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.

**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.

Fast Fact: Some hotels waive pet restrictions during evacuations.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. Time</th>
<th>Evac Time</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Avg. Price*</th>
<th>Evac Price*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>1.5 hrs</td>
<td>5 hrs</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
<td>$37.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendall</td>
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<td>1.5 hrs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ft. Lauderdale</td>
<td>35 min</td>
<td>2.5 hrs</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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### Driving from Tampa

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Avg. Time</th>
<th>Evac Time</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Avg. Price*</th>
<th>Evac Price*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>50 min.</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$9.30</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
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<td>4 hrs</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orlando</td>
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<td>5 hrs</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$42.50</td>
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### Driving from Orlando

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<thead>
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<th>Avg. Time</th>
<th>Evac Time</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Avg. Price*</th>
<th>Evac Price*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1 hr</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>$12.80</td>
<td>$27.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa</td>
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<td>6 hrs</td>
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<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$42.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocala</td>
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<td>6 hrs</td>
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<td>$19.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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### Driving from Jacksonville

<table>
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<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. Time</th>
<th>Evac Time</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Avg. Price*</th>
<th>Evac Price*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>1.5 hrs</td>
<td>6 hrs.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
<td>$37.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>50 min</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$9.30</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsland, GA</td>
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<td>3 hrs</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
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### Driving from Tallahassee

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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. time</th>
<th>Evac time</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Avg. Price</th>
<th>Evac Price*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake City</td>
<td>1.5 hrs</td>
<td>7 hrs</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>$24.50</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama City</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tifton, GA</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
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</table>

*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.

| 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.
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.


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

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?
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.
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 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).

- 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.

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.

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.
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

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?

Key Words

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


About the Authors

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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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Wind Speed</th>
<th>Storm Surge</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Flooding</th>
<th>Evacuate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>74-95 mph</td>
<td>4-5 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Some coastal roads flood</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>96-110 mph</td>
<td>6-8 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 2-4 hours before</td>
<td>Mobile homes and low lying coastal areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3</td>
<td>111-130 mph</td>
<td>9-12 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before</td>
<td>Be ready to evacuate all areas in cone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 4</td>
<td>131-155 mph</td>
<td>13-18 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before</td>
<td>Evacuate all areas in cone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 5</td>
<td>Above 155 mph</td>
<td>Over 18 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before</td>
<td>Evacuate all areas in cone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Wind Speed</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Storm Surge</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Flooding</th>
<th>Evacuate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>74-95 mph</td>
<td>1988 Florence</td>
<td>4-5 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Some coastal roads flood</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>96-110 mph</td>
<td>2008 Gustav</td>
<td>6-8 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 2-4 hours before</td>
<td>Mobile homes and low lying coastal areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3</td>
<td>111-130 mph</td>
<td>2005 Katrina</td>
<td>9-12 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before</td>
<td>Be ready to evacuate all areas in cone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 4</td>
<td>131-155 mph</td>
<td>1974 Carmen</td>
<td>13-18 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before</td>
<td>Evacuate all areas in cone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 5</td>
<td>Above 155 mph</td>
<td>1969 Camille</td>
<td>Over 18 feet</td>
<td>Mobile homes</td>
<td>Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before</td>
<td>Evacuate all areas in cone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Contact Person:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boss:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-workers:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Company:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNT #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity Company:</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNT #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Company:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNT #</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Company:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNT #</td>
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<td>Cable Company:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACCOUNT #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Company:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Every Floridian should develop a family preparedness plan well in advance of a storm threat.

- Develop a family disaster plan
- Stay alert to storm advisories
- 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
- Fill your car with gasoline
- Have a pet plan
- Work with your neighbors
- As the storm hits, gather your family in a safe room
- Following the storm, watch out for downed power lines
- Listen to your local officials!