ARE YOU READY?
STORMWATCH 2021

LIVE COVERAGE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Watch Every Meeting LIVE!

SAFETY FIRST
Water Utilities Cross Departmental Safety Team

ON 20
The Latest County News with Leilani Yan

WHERE TO WATCH PBC TV:

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<th>Service Provider</th>
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Watch live online or view our latest online programs anytime on demand at www.pbcgov.com

Host of STORMWATCH 2021, MARY BLAKENEY
- **Meetings**
  - **9/02 COMM ON ETHICS MTG**
  - **9/20 BCC BUDGET HRG**
  - **SEPTEMBER 13**
  - **SEPTEMBER 12**
  - **9/02 ZONING COMM HRG**
  - **8/31 BCC WORKSHOP**

- **Community Bulletin Board**
  - **MONDAY**
    - **9:00 a** Community Bulletin Board
    - **5:30 p** Community Bulletin Board
  - **TUESDAY**
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  - **THURSDAY**
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**Programs are subject to change.**
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**LEGEND:**
- Live Meeting Coverage
- Meeting Replays
- School Board - Live
Post-Storm Clean Up
SWA.org/Hurricane
561-697-2700

SEPARATE YOUR WASTE!

- household garbage & recycling
- vegetation yard waste
- home construction debris
1. **It will never happen here!** That’s probably what people in New Orleans, Homestead, and the Keys have said. But the entire coast from Texas to Maine is vulnerable to hurricanes!

2. **My windows are ready. I have them taped.** Taping windows to prevent breakage or limit the amount of shattering is not an effective form of window protection and can create airborne daggers of glass should the windows break. Window coverings made of 5/8-inch plywood or metal and fastened correctly can improve the chances of having your home survive the impact of a storm.

3. **I’m going to open the windows on the side opposite the wind so the air pressure doesn’t explode my house.** The best way to keep your home safe is to keep the wind OUT! Studies have shown that opening a window can increase the amount of damage done by wind. When a hurricane threatens, keep your home sealed up tight.

4. **Why should I prepare my house? When the big one comes, it’s going to be destroyed anyway.** While a hurricane’s winds can destroy even the most solid structures, taking some basic precautions can significantly reduce damage from a storm. Pictures of areas devastated by hurricanes will often show one house standing while a neighbor’s lies in ruins. The difference? The owners of the house in good shape took some basic precautions to safeguard their property. Shuttering windows, bracing garage and entry doors and bringing in yard items can mean the difference between destruction and minor damage.

5. **The storm surge is only 9 feet at the most and my condo is on an upper floor, so I’m riding the storm out.** Vertical evacuation, or escaping the rising storm surge by going to the upper stories of a building, is an option. However, wind speeds increase the higher you go, so you may be evacuating into a more dangerous place. If so, the high winds and water could make getting help to you nearly impossible after the storm passes.

6. **When I get the evacuation order, I’m leaving. There is no high ground here, and it will be much safer inland.** Even with Palm Beach County’s long coastline, not all near-coastal areas are subject to evacuation. In fact, in some locations, beach residents need travel no more than one mile to get to safe areas. Traveling a great distance to escape the effects of the storm may actually lead you into danger if you become stranded in evacuating traffic when the storm nears. Also, the further you go to evacuate, the longer it will take you to get there and to your home after the storm.
7. Are there sufficient shelters for people if we’re threatened by a Category 4 or 5 storm? Yes. Studies have shown that less than 10 percent of the people in evacuation zones go to local shelters. In Palm Beach County, we have shelter space for at least 55,000 people who live in an evacuation zone. If people do not live in evacuation zones or mobile/manufactured homes or substandard housing, they do not need to go to shelters and should make plans to either leave the county or stay home or with friends.

8. Should I evacuate during a Category 4 or 5 storm? Mandatory evacuations are issued for people living along the coastal area and barrier islands subject to sea water surge; mobile/manufactured homes regardless of location; and persons living in substandard housing. We encourage people to “run from water and hide from wind”.

Evacuation is not required or recommended for persons living away from the coast or for persons living in structurally sound homes. Stay home and stay off the roads. That’s why we encourage people to have a sufficient Emergency Supply Kit. If you plan to leave the county, you must leave early, at least three to five days before a storm’s projected landfall.

9. What if I can’t drive and need transportation out of the county? If you live in an evacuation zone, mobile home, or substandard housing and do not have transportation, you need to register with Palm Tran Connection for the Special Transportation Assistance Program by calling 561-649-9848 or 877-870-9849 (toll-free).

You will be placed on a list and when evacuation orders are issued, you will be contacted and provided transportation to the nearest county shelter. We do not provide transportation out of the county or for those not meeting the above criteria.

10. Is Palm Beach County prepared? Yes. Our hurricane response and recovery plans are well seasoned and our staff is prepared. The county and the cities have developed a well-coordinated response to provide public safety and health services to those areas affected by a hurricane.

Florida Power and Light representatives are at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the county coordinates power restoration with them. State and federal response agency representatives will be housed at the EOC before, during, and after the storm to provide assistance to us. We have a dedicated staff whose sole purpose is to save lives and protect property after a storm and get us back to full operation as soon as possible.
Advice for Older Adults

People who are elderly, frail, or disabled (either mentally or physically) may need special assistance from family members, friends or social service agencies. Excessive stress and anxiety can contribute to increased episodes of illness, particularly for persons with heart disease and other conditions.

If an older adult lives in a nursing home, adult congregate living facility (ACLF) or boarding home, contact the administrator to learn about the facility’s evacuation plan. If eligible, individuals may register for Special Needs Shelters, see page 6 for more information.

Home Health Care and Home-Bound Patients

- Notify your health agency where you will be during a hurricane and when care can be re-established.
- If you require oxygen, check with your supplier about emergency plans.
- If you evacuate, remember to take medications, written instructions regarding your care, your bedding and your walker, wheelchair, cane or any other special equipment.
- If you require hospitalization, you must make prior arrangements through your physician.
- Determine if and when you would have to evacuate. REMEMBER: All mobile/manufactured and sub-standard home residents must evacuate, regardless of location.
- Decide NOW where you would go if ordered to evacuate (a friend or relative, a hotel, or as a last resort if you are going to leave the region. Determine your route and leave as early as possible.
- Keep your home in good repair.
- Obtain assistance as necessary.

- American Red Cross
- Watch How to Prepare Your Home
- Know Your Zone

- Shelter/Evacuation Zone Map on the last page of this guide.
Palm Beach County has established a **Special Needs Shelter Program** to provide for citizens with certain medical conditions during a major emergency. The Special Needs Shelter is a facility with physicians and nurses on staff. It has auxiliary electrical power, is wind resistant, and not flood-prone. The shelter is not a medical facility and provides limited services. The shelter does not provide medication, dialysis, oxygen or oxygen concentrators. General food is provided.

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**Space at these shelters is limited and is based on need and established criteria.**

You **MUST** apply in advance by completing the form online at:

http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Special-Needs.aspx

Or mail it to the Special Needs Coordinator at:

20 South Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

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**You may be eligible if:**

- You are dependent upon electricity for oxygen.
- You have minor health/medical conditions that require professional assistance.
- You need medications and/or vital sign monitoring, and are unable to do so without professional assistance.
- You are immobile and/or have a chronic but stable illness.
- You are bedridden and require custodial care. Caregivers must accompany their patients.

If accepted, you will be notified and provided transportation to the shelters if needed. You will be provided additional information upon acceptance to the shelter.

**NOTES:**

- ✔ No pets are allowed in the Special Care Units. Make pet shelter arrangements in advance.
- ✔ If you are unable to return home, assistance will be provided for you.
- ✔ Food is provided. Please make your own arrangements for any special dietary needs.

For further information about the Special Needs Program, call **561-712-6400** and ask to speak to the **Special Needs Coordinator**.
Special Needs Residents (cont'd)

If you are disabled and live in a hurricane evacuation zone and only require transportation assistance in reaching a shelter call Palm Tran Connection for the Special Transportation Assistance Program by calling 561-649-9848 or 877-870-9849 (toll-free).

If you do not qualify for the Special Needs Program and need transportation ONLY to a shelter, the county will provide transportation but you MUST be pre-registered and live in an evacuation zone or mobile/manufactured/sub-standard home, be physically handicapped or have no other means of transportation. Call Palm Tran Connection to register at 561-649-9838.

Pet Safety

Risk Shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety regulations. Service animals for people with disabilities are an exception.

What is in your Pet Preparedness Kit
A significant number of families have pets and they need to be ready for a disaster too. Below are items to have ready to go in your pet emergency kit.

What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:
- Food and water (3 days)
- Toys
- Bed: manual can opener
- Medicines, medical records, and first aid kit
- Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash (include backups)
- Crate or pet carrier
- A picture of you and your pet together
- Important documents: registration & vaccination
- Essential: items, favorite toys, treats, and bedding
- Plastic bag/tissue for cleaning up after your pet
Pet Safety Plan

- Have a plan for your pets if you are evacuating and not taking them with you. Have them stay with friends or family who are not evacuating, or board them with a local facility or your veterinarian.
- Arrange for a neighbor to check on and take care of your pets care if a storm occurs while you are away.
- Plan ahead for a friend or relative outside the affected area to shelter your animals, if necessary.
- Make arrangements for your pet to be housed at a pet boarding facility or call motels/hotels in advance for reservations. Most hotels take pets during a hurricane evacuation. A deposit is usually required.
- Keep your pet's ID and rabies license tags up to date. Call 561-233-1271 to update records.
- Make sure your pet has a collar with a contact name and phone number.

Pet-Friendly Shelter Requirements

The Pet Friendly Shelter is located inside the West Boynton Recreational Center at 6000 Northtree Blvd., Lake Worth, FL 33463 and is only available to Palm Beach County residents who reside in a mandatory evacuation zone, in a mobile home, or in sub-standard housing. **Proof of residency will be required.**

Pets will be housed in a separate area away from where the owners are sheltered; livestock and reptiles will not be accepted. All family members will need to stay at the adjacent human shelter, Park Vista High School.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

**Pre-registration Is Required at Palm Beach County Pet-Friendly Shelter.**

For more information visit: [www.pbcgov.com/animal](http://www.pbcgov.com/animal)
We invite individuals of all ages and abilities to our Sensory Friendly Browsing Hour! The library is designating this hour at locations throughout the county to provide an opportunity for special needs families to browse the library in a calm and judgement-free environment. Opportunities include using the computer, getting a library card, and receiving assistance from staff to find exactly what you’re looking for!

**Saturdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

**September**
- Sep 04 - Main Library
- Sep 11 - Gardens Branch
- Sep 18 - West Boca Branch
- Sep 25 - Belle Glade Branch, Clarence E. Anthony Branch & Loula V. York Branch

**October**
- Oct 02 - Main Library
- Oct 09 - Jupiter Branch
- Oct 16 - Hagen Ranch Road Branch
- Oct 23 - Royal Palm Beach Branch

**November**
- Nov 06 - Greenacres Branch
- Nov 13 - Okeechobee Boulevard Branch
- Nov 20 - Glades Road Branch
- Nov 27 - Acreage Branch

**December**
- Dec 04 - Lantana Road Branch
- Dec 11 - Tequesta Branch
- Dec 18 - West Boynton Branch
20th Anniversary

9.11 Remembrance Ceremony

September 11th, 2021
Christ Fellowship in Royal Palm Beach (Southern and 441/SR7)
9:58 Start Time Class A attire requested.
Facial coverings and social distancing will be observed.

Presented by
Palm Beach County Fire Chief’s Associations
Please complete the information below and mail or fax to (561) 656-7523

1. Do you live in an evacuation zone?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
2. Are you aware that information about evacuation zones is available at ReadyPBC.com?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
3. Do you plan to evacuate to a Palm Beach County Emergency Shelter in the event of a major hurricane?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
4. Are you aware that PBC Emergency Shelters locations is available at ReadyPBC.com?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
5. Are you aware of what to bring with you if you go to a PBC Emergency Shelter?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
6. Did you know a list of what to bring to PBC Emergency Shelter can be found at ReadyPBC.com?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
7. Are you aware that transportation assistance to a shelter is available for special needs residents?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No
8. Did you know that information about the Transportation Assistance Program is available at ReadyPBC.com?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No