

Official Palm Beach County Hurricane Planning Guide



Emergency Information Center | PH: 561.712.6400

ARE

YOU

READY?



Know Your Zone

 **Make
a Plan**

 **Build
a Kit**

 **Get
Involved!**

 **Be
Informed**

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MAKE
A PLAN

With Your Family

Ready Palm Beach County
www.readypbc.org

2



BUILD
A KIT

For Your Household

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3



GET
INVOLVED

Volunteer

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4



BE
INFORMED

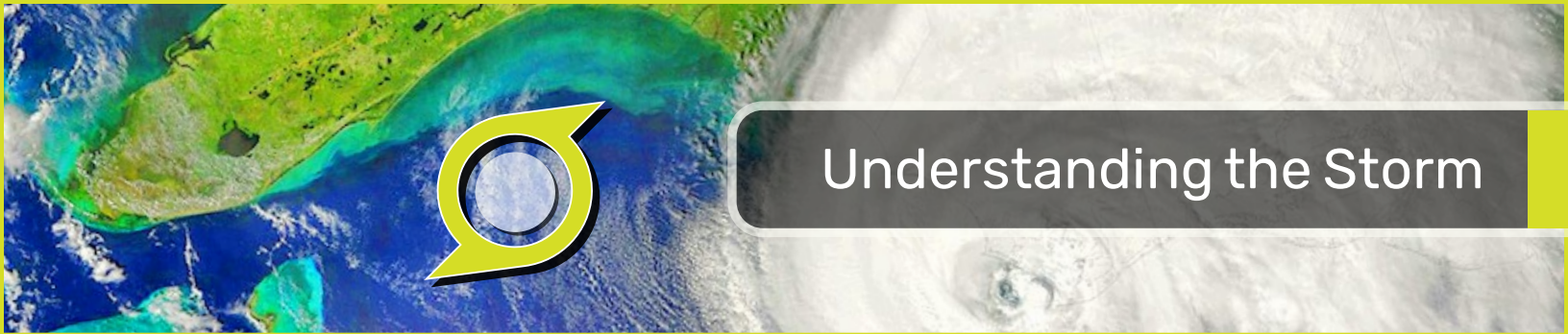
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Board of County Commissioners**

Public Safety – Emergency Management
20 S Military Trail, West Palm Beach FL
33415 – Telephone: (561) 712-6400








Understanding the Storm

Watch vs Warning

Hurricane *watch* means hurricane conditions (sustained winds of at least 74 mph) are possible in the area within *48 hours*.

Hurricane *warning* means hurricane-force conditions (sustained winds of at least 74 mph) are *expected* in your area in *36 hours or less*.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

	Wind Speed	Type of Damage
	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage to roofs, shingles, vinyl siding & gutters; toppling trees; damaging power lines; & likely power outages.
	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage to roofs, toppled & uprooted trees, damaged power lines & likely power outages.
	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	Devastating damage to roofs, toppled & uprooted trees, power outages & water shortages.
	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	Catastrophic damage to roofs, exterior walls, toppled trees, downed power poles, power outages, & water shortages.
	157 mph (or higher) 137 kt (or higher) 252 km/h (or higher)	Catastrophic damage to homes, with total roof failure & wall collapse; fallen trees downed power poles; power outages & water shortages.

Hurricane Preparation is Year Round



3 Months Before Hurricane Season

- Make a Family Disaster Plan and practice it with family members!
- Use the **Evacuation Zone Look-Up Tool** at ReadyPBC.com or view the **Know Your Zone Map** to see if you are in an evacuation area.
- Locate **Evacuation Risk Shelters** near your area.
- Apply for Special Needs and Pet-Friendly Shelters if applicable.
- Begin purchasing supplies for your Emergency Supply Kit (this can be done a little at a time, over three months).
 - *Example:* Every time you get groceries purchase an extra gallon of water and some non-perishable food, then store it in your Kit. See pages 29-30 for a full listing.
- Inspect and perform maintenance on your window protection/shutters.
- Buy window protection (shutters) and roof turbine cap(s) before a storm is imminent.
- Inspect your walls, windows, doors, and roof for conditions that may allow wind damage.

1 Month Before Hurricane Season

- Complete the assembly of your Emergency Supply Kit. Purchase medicine last.
- Check with your doctor/pharmacy to determine how best to assure your prescriptions will last through a storm.
- If you need to confirm your status for the Special Needs Shelter or need additional information, contact the **Special Needs Coordinator** at **561-712-6400**.
- Assess your landscaping to determine if trees need to be trimmed or lawn ornaments need to be removed.
- Establish a contact number with your employer if you may need to report to work immediately following a storm.
- Make arrangements in advance for your pets; either contact Animal Care and Control about pet sheltering, or ask your vet (see page 8).

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.

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.

Special Needs Program



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.

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://pbc.gov/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Special-Needs.aspx>

Or mail it to the Special Needs Coordinator at:

20 South Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

You may be eligible if:

- Persons who cannot be without electricity because they depend upon their own electrically energized life support equipment within the home (i.e. oxygen, nebulizers, G/NG Tubes, uncomplicated IV, etc).
- Persons that require assistance with transferring or need a Hoyer Lift.
- Persons receiving assistance with activities of daily living who need a place to evacuate with their caregiver.
- Persons who with progressive Alzheimer's or Dementia who need a place to evacuate with their caregiver.

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 Needs Shelter. 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**.

Transportation Assistance Program

Need Transportation to a Shelter

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 **561-649-9838** 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)
bowls, 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



Familiar items: favorite toys,
treats, and bedding



Plastic bags/litter 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 **561-233-1200** 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 General Population Shelter at Park Vista High School.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Pre-registration is required at the Palm Beach County Pet-Friendly Shelter.

For more information visit: pbcgov.com/animal

Evacuate or Stay?

Mandatory Evacuation Homes

All residents living in a **manufactured/mobile home or sub-standard housing must evacuate** in a hurricane warning.

Sub-standard housing: Buildings that do **NOT** meet one of the following requirements:

1. Permitted and inspected after March 1, 2002 under the Florida Building Code, or;
2. Permitted and inspected under prior codes, constructed of solidly filled reinforced masonry; or of wood frame construction that has been evaluated and retrofitted as needed to resist hurricane force winds; in either case, such structures must also have been retrofitted with impact protection on all glazed openings.

Even tropical storm-force winds can topple these types of homes. Residents in low-lying areas and on barrier islands may be required to evacuate depending upon the storm's projected path and flooding potential. When a storm threatens, do what you can to secure your home, then take refuge with friends, relatives, or at an applicable shelter.

Before you leave, take the following precautions

- Pack breakables in boxes and put them on the floor.
- Remove mirrors and tape them. Wrap mirrors and lamps in blankets and place them in the bathtub or shower.
- Install hurricane shutters or pre-cut plywood on all windows.
- Shut off utilities and disconnect electricity, sewer and water lines. Shut off propane tanks and leave them outside after anchoring them securely.
- Store awnings, folding furniture, trash cans and other loose outdoor objects.
- Anchor the mobile/manufactured home with over-the-top or frame ties.
- Inspect tie-downs and anchors annually.

Evacuate or Stay?



If You Can Stay, Shelter-In-Place

Self-evacuating is stressful and can cause more harm than good, it is also expensive. If you live in a structurally sound home and are not located in a mandatory evacuation zone, Shelter-In-Place in your pre-identified, stocked safe room and take the following precautions:

- Finish putting up shutters (do not attempt to go buy plywood at this point).
- Offer your home as shelter to friends or relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes.
- Leave radio or TV on an emergency information station.
- Do laundry.
- Move vehicles into a garage or next to a building; avoid trees and utility poles.
- Freeze water jugs and fill ice chest.
- Turn refrigerator to lowest setting and lower A/C (turn circuit breakers off after power goes out).
- Recharge batteries.
- Place flashlights and batteries throughout the house and keep one with you (DO NOT use candles).
- Secure all doors and windows.
- Double-check safe room and Disaster Supply Kit.

If You Must Evacuate

Do not travel until told it is safe to do so from officials. Don't panic. Move at a steady pace and ensure you leave enough time to get to where you will weather the storm. *DO NOT* take chances with your life by staying at home or waiting until it's too late!

- Notify your host home and family members that you are evacuating.
- Bring along your pre-assembled evacuation kit (water, snacks, cash, medications and important items/documents such as your driver license, photo ID, proof of address, insurance policies, family photos, and a list of important contacts).
- Fill up your vehicle and bring extra gas, if possible (gas stations run out of fuel along evacuation routes).
- Secure patio/yard furniture.
- Secure all doors and windows.
- Have a plan for your pets if you are not taking them with you.
- Allow at least twice the usual travel time.
- Avoid flooded roads and beware of washed out bridges and canals.
- Go to your predetermined host home or Risk/Special Needs Shelter, if applicable.
- Notify your prearranged family contact when you arrive at your storm-safe location.

Evacuating to a Shelter

There are 15 Hurricane Evacuation Risk Shelters for the general population in Palm Beach County. In addition, there are two Special Needs Shelters, and one Pet Friendly Shelter. All hurricane evacuation shelters meet current ARC 4496 design standards to withstand hurricane force winds, including window strength and protection, wind and debris exposure, and storm surge inundation.

These shelters are a refuge of last resort; a place to go if you can't stay at home or with a relative, friend, co-worker or nearby hotel. While shelters are set up in schools, the timing of their opening and locations will be chosen based on the circumstances of the storm. Not all shelters are opened for every storm. Monitor local media for current shelter openings and locations.

Shelters provide simple meals and beverages; if you have special dietary needs or want snacks, you must bring your own. Shelters provide basic first aid only; cots and medical care are not provided.

NOTE:

***NO smoking, alcohol, firearms, or pets are allowed in risk shelters
(Except Service Animals).***

Each person is given **20 square feet** of room plus.

To learn more visit:

<http://pbc.gov/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Shelters.aspx>



Evacuating to a Shelter

If you go to a shelter, here's what to bring:

- 1 gallon of water per person, per day for a minimum of 5 days.
- Don't forget water for your pets.
- Prescription and emergency medications; you must be able to take all medications by yourself.
- Special-diet foods (e.g., snacks and juices for those with dietary restrictions or allergies).
- Basic snacks.
- Bedding materials (e.g., pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, cots, air mattresses, etc.).
- Comfortable clothing (at least two changes).
- Collapsible/folding beach chair or camp chair.
- Baby food, formula, bottles, diapers, blankets, & clothes.
- Flashlight, extra batteries.
- Cellphone, with a battery-operated charger.
- Radio with extra batteries and headphones.
- Important documents (identification, medical records, insurance information, deeds or leases, birth certificates and utility bills showing your home address).
- Photocopies of valuable documents.
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures.
- Toiletries and personal hygiene items.
- Quiet games, books, playing cards, favorite toys, or other items for entertainment.
- Special items for family members who are elderly or disabled.
- Chargers/cables for any electronic devices you bring with you –electrical outlets are limited.
- Facial coverings, gloves, and hand sanitizer.



Let's Get Ready!

1 Week Before Hurricane Season

- Review your family plan and establish your out-of-town contact.
- Confirm your shelter information; DO NOT wait until the last minute.

June 1 through November 30

- Stay alert to radio and television to receive updates on any tropical systems.
- Periodically check your disaster supply kit to make sure you still have the proper items.

Preparing a Home or Business

Reinforcement

- Check metal and wood support columns on patios for rust and wood decay.
- Check the anchoring of the air-conditioning compressor to see if it feels loose.
- Check tie beam for crumbling concrete and rusted steel rods.
- Look for anything that may compromise the structural integrity of your building, such as cracks in the exterior walls and foundation more than one-half inch wide.
- Replace old or damaged garage doors with a stronger model.
- Replace old or damaged entry doors with stronger ones. For doubled-sided entry doors, ensure a heavy-duty dead bolt is installed.
- Anchor or strap down storage sheds and other outbuildings to a permanent foundation.
- Keep your property clear of debris and other items that can become wind-borne missiles.
- Check for loose rain gutters and moldings.
- Check the attic for diagonal 2-by-4s between the gable end and the roof trusses.

Protecting Your Boat

Boaters can take the following steps in preparation for severe weather

- Charge batteries for automatic bilge pumps.
- For a boat stored on a trailer, latch the boat and trailer down in a protected area. Let the air out of tires before tying the trailer down.
- Place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Secure with heavy lines to fixed objects from four directions, if possible.
- Conduct a practice run to moorings to check accessibility.
- Drawbridges will not open for boats when an evacuation has been ordered.
- Keep your vessel registration number and location information with you. Inform the local marine patrol or police officials of your secured vessel's identification and location.
- Check your lease or ownership contract with your marina. Know your responsibilities.
- Make plans with someone to care for your boat if you are out of town.

Securing a vessel

- Seal all openings to make the boat as watertight as possible.
- Remove loose gear from the deck. Store it securely inside or at home.
- Reduce dock or piling crash damage by securing old tires along the sides of the boat.
- Secure the boat for all directions. Remember, a boat could be pulled under as the tide rises.
- If the boat is left on a davit, open the boat drains before securing.
- Do not block the passage of other boats which have moorings farther inshore.
- Leave early for safe harbor if you choose to relocate when a hurricane warning is issued.
- Do not attempt to leave unless you are equipped to travel long distances in rough weather.

NEVER stay on or in your boat during a storm. When you are securing your boat, remove boat documents, radios and other valuables from the vessel prior to the storm.



>> Sheltering-in-place <<

Zone A:
Evacuate if you live in a
manufactured/mobile home;
have substandard construction;
or live in a flood-prone area.

**Glades
Area
Shelters**

Safe Room

For more information visit flash.org. Make sure all family members know where the safe areas are in your home and be sure to take your disaster supplies with you into your safe room.

Yard Preparation

Pre-Hurricane Season Maintenance (December through April)

- Do all major cutting/tree removal before June 1, from December through April.
- Cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings.
- Thin your foliage so wind can flow freely through branches.
- Place tree trimmings at the curb on your regular scheduled collection day and follow the 6/50 rule (six feet in length and each piece cannot exceed 50 lbs. in weight).
- Containerize small pieces of vegetation such as pine needles, leaves, twigs, etc.
- Clean your yard of any items that could become missiles in a storm.

Once a Storm Has Been Named

- ✓ Do not cut down trees or do major yard work.
- ✓ Do not begin construction projects that produce debris.
- ✓ Once a watch or warning has been issued, do not trim vegetation of any kind.
- ✓ Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal collection process and there is not enough equipment or manpower to collect the additional materials before the storm makes landfall. You could put not only yourself at risk, but your neighbors as well.

Download | Disaster Awareness Recovery Tool App



PBC Disaster
Awareness &
Recovery Tool
DART

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app stores:

>> Knowing What to Do is Your Best Protection <<

Once a Storm Has Been Named (cont'd)

- ✓ Do not take materials to the curb, transfer stations or landfill during a watch or warning period. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm.

For additional information, contact the **Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Customer Information Services** at **561-697-2700** or **1-866-792-4636** (toll-free) or visit swa.org/Hurricane for updates on your collection services.

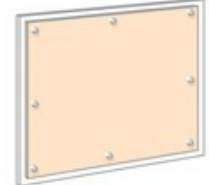
To Do List

- Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm.
- Know the disaster plan of your child's school or daycare.
- Trim trees and store loose objects. Install/test your smoke detector.
- Use a video camera to record the contents of your home and store video footage with a friend who lives out of town.
- Take pictures of important documents, photocopy important papers and store safely in a water proof container.
- Make plans to board your pet if you plan to go to a shelter.
- Obtain cash.
- Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency.

Hurricane Shutters

Shutters should be attached to the structural framing of the house and not the window or door frames. Install second-story and difficult shutters first. Make sure all exposed metal fittings (including screws, embedded anchors, etc.) are weather (corrosion) resistant. Always follow proper instructions when installing your choice of window protection.

Choose the Right Shutters!



Removable panels

Colonial shutters, Bahama awnings

Accordion shutters

Roll-up shutters

Plywood coverings

	Description	Pros	Cons	Prep time	Cost
	Made of steel, aluminum or clear polycarbonate, these are attached to the house with anchors or tracks. Tracks make assembly quicker.	After plywood, they are the least expensive window covering. Clear plastic panels, the most expensive of the three types, bend and pop back into place. Many of the thinner panels, such as the 0.04- and 0.05-inch aluminum panels, now meet hurricane codes.	Steel panels are heavy – a 10-foot one can weigh up to 30 pounds – making second-story installation dangerous. Some new home builders mount channels in frames but you must remove screening to get to them. Panels take up storage room, although less than plywood.	As much as 30 minutes per opening, six hours for a house. Do a 'dry run' now to see how long, and how difficult, the process is. You may also find some of the panels don't fit – something you'll want to fix before it's too late.	\$5 to \$12 per square foot, plus the cost of hardware. Add at least \$1.50 to \$2 per square foot to have installed.
	These are two- and one-piece louvered shutters that remain attached to house when not in use.	Convenient because they stay mounted, so you need only fold them in before a storm. Colonial shutters fold in from the sides; Bahama awnings hinge at the top.	Heavy tubes and bars needed to meet new codes have made these options harder to install and expensive, although installation is easier with some new aluminum-frame designs. Shutters and awnings can be extremely heavy and bulky. Most Bahama awnings block light.	15 to 25 minutes per opening, three to four hours for an average home, to lock shutters down. New designs may take only five minutes an opening, including second-floor ones that can be closed from inside.	\$35 to \$50 per square foot.
	These one- or two-piece shutters are housed beside the window or door when not in use.	Strongest and permanent. Convenience and speed of installation. Made from aluminum, they also are good for sliding glass doors and large patio openings. Some can be opened from the inside.	They fold up compactly, but they are visible year-round. They also need to be serviced, cleaned and lubricated at least once a year. Some warranties and service contracts require maintenance be done by the installer.	Each one can be closed in minutes; you can probably do your home in less than an hour.	\$13 to \$16 per square foot.
	These attach above the window. They roll up and down and store in an enclosed box when not in use.	Easiest and quickest window covering. Some come with features such as timers or motion sensors that automatically close when winds reach a certain speed.	The most expensive. Shutters for a 6-foot-wide sliding door, for example, can start at \$1,200; if you're using an electric motor, expect to pay as much as \$500 more. If you use a motor, make sure you have an override on doors and critical windows, which allows manual cranking in case power fails.	About an hour to secure your home, and even less with a motor. Some units can be activated by telephone.	\$35 to \$50 per square foot.
	Most homes built since 1997 came with storm panels or other coverings. If your home is older and storm panels or shutters are out of your price range, consider plywood.	Inexpensive and adequate for up to 140-mph winds. If money is a factor, you can build over several months in the off-season rather than making a large one-time purchase.	In huge demand at stores just before a storm. Cutting and installing at the last minute increases the likelihood of improper installation. Can come off in high winds and fly like a sail if improperly installed. Bulky to store and can rot and warp, so often a one-time fix only, even if the storm misses. Usually require making holes that need to be patched later.	Cutting and preparing plywood takes about an hour per window. Once these shutters are prepared, they will still take several minutes to mount per window.	\$19 to \$23 per 4-by-8-foot sheet of 5/8-inch-thick CDX plywood. Some experts suggest 3/4-inch CDX, which costs more. Do not use weaker OSB lumber.


Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Palm Beach County Department of Planning, Zoning and Building; International Hurricane Protection Association; Home Depot; Lowe's; staff research

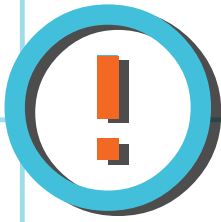
General Preparations

During a Watch

- Turn on TV or radio and listen for continuing updates.
- Review your evacuation plan.
- Check evacuation kit and/or family disaster supplies kit and gather any missing items.
- Contact family members to coordinate storm preparations.
- Notify your out-of-area host that you may be evacuating.
- Place important documents and photos in waterproof plastic bags.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting; open only when necessary and close quickly.
- Freeze plastic jugs or cartons of water.
- Fill up drinking water containers.
- Scrub bathtub and fill with water; keep bucket handy for flushing toilet.
- Fuel up vehicles and propane tanks; obtain fuel for generators.
- Prep and test generator if you have one (do not operate during storm, see page 22).
- Stow or cover irreplaceable items; move breakables away from windows.
- Put up shutters, if you have them.
- Remove turbine and cap vent hole when storm is approaching.
- Bring in outdoor furniture, wind chimes, flags, trash cans, grills, antennas, etc.
- Tie down or stabilize boat.
- Secure outdoor gates.
- Reinforce garage door.

Take action early, DON'T wait until a hurricane warning is declared.

Use the  [Evacuation Zone Look-Up Tool](#) at ReadyPBC.com or view the [Know Your Zone Map \(on the last page\)](#) to see if you are in an evacuation area.



During a Warning | Landfall

- Go to your safe room if conditions warrant.
- Keep battery-operated radio or TV on an emergency information station.
- Keep flashlight with you.
- Do not open doors or windows, not even “just to take a look”.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not operate gas grill or portable generator.
- Stay off the phone unless absolutely necessary.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Do not go outdoors until the storm has passed; winds can calm and begin again at any time.
- Be alert for tornadoes which are often spawned by hurricanes.

If your home becomes damaged during the storm:

- Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.
- Close all interior doors.
- Secure and brace external doors.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room, such as a bathroom or closet.
- If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in interior rooms away from windows.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

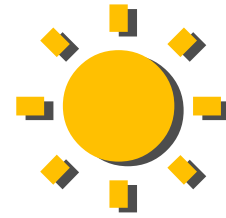


Be informed:



Follow us on Instagram @PBCDEM

After the Storm



DO NOT venture out in the hours immediately following a hurricane. More injuries and fatalities occur after a major storm event than as a result of the weather.

Road Safety

- Driving is extremely hazardous with storm debris on the roads, traffic signals that aren't working, signs that are down, flooding and downed power lines.
- Do not drive unless absolutely necessary. Drive slowly and approach all intersections with extreme caution. Treat intersections with missing/non-working traffic signals or missing stop signs as a four-way stop.
- Never drive through flooded roadways. The depth of the water is not always obvious. Also, the road bed may not be intact under flood waters.
- If there is danger of flooding and your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants, sweeping them away.
- Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may slow down emergency operations.
- Obey curfews. They are mandatory and will be re-evaluated daily. Anyone out during curfew could be subject to arrest.
- When a traffic signal regains power, it may flash red or yellow. Drivers should stop at the flashing red light and proceed cautiously through a flashing yellow light.
If the power is out and the signal is dark, the intersection should be treated as a four-way stop.

Re-entry

BE PATIENT. You won't be able to return to your home or business until search and rescue operations are complete and safety hazards, such as downed power lines, are cleared. It may take time for emergency crews to reach your neighborhood.

Re-entry Check List

Residents – Have valid ID with your current address, or proof of residence (lease/deed).

Businesses – Have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/rental, county business tax license, names of authorized individuals on business letterhead.

Once you arrive, survey for damage outside, then enter with caution.

- ✓ Wear sturdy shoes and do not enter if there is water around the building.
- ✓ If you feel a building is not safe, do not enter and call a contractor or engineer.
- ✓ Check gas, water and electrical appliances for damage.
- ✓ Check for sewage and water line damage. Do not use if you think there is damage.
- ✓ Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home or business.
- ✓ If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and call 9-1-1 or your natural gas provider from a safe location.
- ✓ If your home or business has been flooded, have a qualified licensed electrician inspect the electrical system and appliances before turning the power back on.
- ✓ Let your out-of-town contact know you are alright.
- ✓ Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio and TV stations for instructions.
- ✓ Use flashlights in the dark; DO NOT use candles.
- ✓ Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- ✓ Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- ✓ Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- ✓ Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them.
- ✓ Watch for animals, especially poisonous snakes that may have entered a building that flooded.

Generator Safety



Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electrical power is needed, but they can be also hazardous. Always follow the instructions that come with your generator.

Below are some generator tips:

- Ensure you have the correct cords and connectors.
- Don't fill the fuel tank until right before the storm (it grows stale and unsafe in a hot garage).
- If your generator uses a battery rather than a rope pull, ensure the battery is kept charged.
- Protect the generator from coming in contact with water, and don't let any protection impede air flow that cools the engine and generator.

Carbon Monoxide Hazards

NEVER use a generator indoors, including in homes, garages, crawl spaces, and other enclosed areas, even with ventilation. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is difficult to detect. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO build-up. Place outside and away from doors, windows, and vents. Install CO alarms in your home and test them frequently.

Electrical Hazards

NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "back feeding." This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer.

Fire Hazards

NEVER store fuel for your generator in the home. Store flammable liquids outside of living areas in properly-labeled, non-glass safety containers secured prior to the storm's arrival.

Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Repairing Your Damaged Home

Blue Roof Program

The US Army Corps of Engineers implements the blue roof program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Operation Blue Roof provides homeowners with free temporary blue plastic roof coverings for eligible homes damaged by a hurricane.

This program allows victims back into their homes so that they can return to their routines as quickly as possible. After a hurricane, registration sites will be established in the county. Registrants must fill out an application and sign a right-of-entry form.

The Corps will employ contractors to install plastic sheeting on homes of pre-qualified applicants. The sheeting is for free-standing homes, not apartments or commercial establishments. The sheeting cannot be installed on tile or flat roofs. **No individual tarps will be available for distribution at the registration sites.**

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258)

Secure Exposed Pools

(Code may vary by your municipality)

County code requires barriers around all swimming pools; failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per day. To temporarily cordon off the pool area, property owners can use orange plastic construction fencing supported by stakes or steel rods (rebar) driven into the ground. Rope or plastic tape is not adequate. Temporary barriers must be at least four feet from the ground with no holes or gaps wider than four inches. For more information, contact **Code Enforcement** at **561-233-5500**.

Repair Windows

(Code may vary by your municipality)

Repair broken windows as soon as possible after a hurricane. According to county code, glass is required in all windows. Immediately after a hurricane, code enforcement will allow ample time for residents to repair broken windows.



General Purpose Tarps

Repairing Your Damaged Home (cont'd)

Heavy gauge and extra-heavy gauge polyethylene waterproof tarps are available from hardware stores. They have sewn-in edges for extra strength and rust-proof aluminum grommets. These blue tarps can be used temporarily on a damaged roof but cannot be relied upon to provide protection during a hurricane.

Yard Clean-up

- ✓ Please be patient.
- ✓ Be especially cautious if using a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.
- ✓ Keep household garbage, recycling and vegetative and/or construction debris in separate piles.
- ✓ Securely containerize all household garbage to be placed curbside on your scheduled day.
- ✓ Don't place any debris near or on a fence, mailbox, power line equipment, poles, transformers, downed electrical wiring, water meters or storm drains.
- ✓ Know what your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy covers and what you will need to submit a claim. Take photographs of all damage before repairs and keep all receipts.
- ✓ Make temporary repairs to correct safety hazards and minimize further damage.
- ✓ Contact your local building department for information on required building permits. Permits are always required for any kind of demolition or permanent repairs, reconstruction, roofing, or filling.

Be informed:



Follow us on Instagram @PBCDEM

Register for Emergency Alerts!



NOTE: The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

Social Media



Follow us on Instagram @PBCDEM

 **Download** | Disaster Awareness Recovery Tool App



Download from
app stores:

PBC DART App: The Palm Beach County Disaster Awareness and Recovery Tool for your smart-phone has evacuation zones, shelter open/closed status, damage assessment information, and many other features to help you during a disaster.

Hurricane Myths & FAQ

- 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.

Official Information Sources

Important Phone Numbers

- * **Emergency** 911
- * **Public Safety** 561-712-6400
- * **TDD (hearing impaired)** 561-712-6343
- * **Senior Helpline** 211

- Animal Care & Control 561-233-1200
- American Red Cross 561-833-7711
- Code Enforcement 561-233-5500
- Consumer Affairs 561-712-6600
- FEMA 800-621-3362
- Fire Rescue – Non-Emergency
..... 561-616-7000
- FPL Power Outages 561-697-8000
- Palm Tran..... 561-841-4200

- Price Gouging Hotline..... 866-966-7226
- Public Affairs Department 561-355-2754
- Public Works 561-684-4000
- Roads, Drainage, Traffic 561-684-4018
- Salvation Army 561-686-3530
- Sheriff (PBSO) – Non-Emergency
..... 561-688-3000
- Solid Waste Authority 561-640-4000
- United Way..... 561-375-6600
- *PBC Water Utilities 561-493-6000

*Check your water bill to determine who your provider is.

Government Websites

Palm Beach County has several resources for obtaining accurate and important information. The Division of Emergency Management administers the www.ReadyPBC.com website.

 [ReadyPBC.com](http://www.ReadyPBC.com)

 [PBCgov.com](http://www.PBCgov.com)

Visit us for information on:

- ✓ How to make a plan and build a disaster supply kit
- ✓ Status of shelters, stores, and gas stations near you
- ✓ Tools to help you Know Your Zone
- ✓ Business and road closures/openings
- ✓ Evacuations
- ✓ News Briefings
- ✓ PBI Airport Information
- ✓ Shelters
- ✓ Hurricane tracking chart
- ✓ Boil water notices
- ✓ Curfews
- ✓ FPL Info - power restoration
- ✓ Garbage pickup
- ✓ Public Transportation
- ✓ Waste/Sewer systems
- ✓ And much more!

Food

Week 1

- 1 Gallon of water per person per day for at least 5 days, for drinking and sanitation
- Sandwich bread (*freeze until needed*)
- 3 Boxes of quick energy snacks (*i.e. granola bars or raisins*)
- 2 Cans of ready-to-eat-soup
- 1 Box of crackers
- Dry cereal
- 4 Cans of fruit
- 5 Cans of meat
- 4 Cans of vegetables
- 1 Jar of jelly or jam
- 1 Large can of juice
- Instant coffee/tea/powdered drinks



Water

Water will be needed for drinking, cooking, and bathing. Store enough bottled water for all members of your family and pets before the storm. Clean water that could be used for bathing & washing dishes is in your water heater.

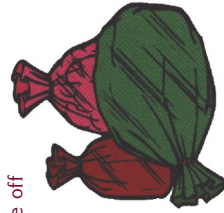
Storage

Week 2

- 2 Boxes of large plastic zip bags
- Plastic wrap
- 2 Rolls of aluminum foil
- Assorted plastic containers with lids
- 3 Boxes heavy-duty garbage bags
- Waterproof portable plastic container with lid

Preserving Food & Important Documents

Electrical power can be off for several days after a storm, so plan for power outages. Also, use waterproof containers to protect important papers.



Health & First Aid

Week 3

- 1 Bottle of shampoo
- 1 Box sanitary hand wipes/liquid
- 1 Large tube of toothpaste
- Antiseptic
- Deodorant
- Tweezers
- Adhesive bandages, assorted sizes
- Rolls of gauze or bandages
- Hydrogen peroxide
- First Aid book
- First Aid tape
- Petroleum jelly
- Rubbing alcohol

First Aid

During a storm, phone and electrical lines go down. Dangerous weather conditions prevent emergency vehicles from responding to emergency situations. Preparing yourself and your family with CPR and First Aid training can save the life of a loved one.



Palm Beach County

Public Safety Department

Division of Emergency Management

www.pbcgov.com/dem



Palm Beach County

Board of County Commissioners

In accordance with the provisions of the ADA, this brochure can be made available in an alternate format. Contact Emergency Management at (561) 712-6400.

Rev. 06/14

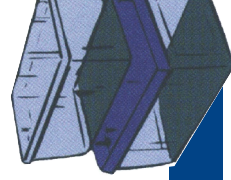
Emergency Supply Kit Shopping List

Everyone needs to prepare for emergency situations, but shopping for supplies can be expensive and strenuous. Shopping for items a little at a time before an event, can reduce the stress of recovery by avoiding long lines and empty shelves.

Get a Head Start & Be Prepared!

Keep in a Waterproof Portable Container

- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks, and bonds
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (*birth, marriage, death certificates*)



TO DO LIST Before the Season Starts

- Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm
- Locate your water meter and electrical shutoff
- Know the disaster plan of your child's school or daycare
- Trim trees and store loose objects
- Install/test your smoke detector
- Use a video camera to tape the contents of your home and store videotape with a friend who lives out of town
- Photocopy important papers and store safely
- Make plans to board your pet if you plan to go to a shelter
- Obtain cash or travelers checks
- Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency

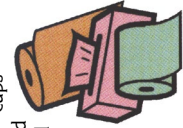
Cleaning & Supplies

Week 4

- 2 Packages of eating utensils, paper cups, paper plates
- Facial tissues (*i.e. Kleenex*)
- 2 Rolls of paper towels
- 4 Rolls of toilet paper
- Liquid dish soap
- Mosquito repellent
- Matches
- 2 Pairs of latex gloves
- Broom, mop, and bucket
- Unscented liquid bleach

Use What You Have

Stock up on personal care and cleaning items. Check your supplies now to make sure you have these supplies on hand. Don't forget disposable plates, cups and utensils, paper towels, and toilet paper. Insect repellent and sunscreen should be included. If you have an adequate supply on hand, you will not need to purchase them when you go shopping.



Medications

Week 5

- Extra supply prescription medication(s)
- Aspirin and/or acetaminophen
- Anti-diarhea medicine
- Adult vitamins
- Thermometer



Special Needs Shelter

The county Special Needs Shelter only accepts residents with a physical condition requiring medical or nursing care that cannot be provided for in a general population shelter. Individuals must be able to sleep safely on a cot or mat and meet one of the following criteria:

- **Need nursing assistance with medications or medical care administration**
- **Monitoring vital signs or medical conditions or activities of daily living but do not need hospitalization**
- **Need constant electrical power for medical equipment**

Pre-registration is required for individuals needing to use the Special Needs Shelter.

To register call: (561) 712-6400

Common Tools

Week 6

- Battery operated radio
- Flashlights
- Flashlight batteries
- Assorted safety pins
- Scissors
- Screwdrivers
- Pliers
- Vise grips
- Hammer(s)
- Heavy-work gloves
- Stove fuel/charcoal, lighter fluid
- Camping or utility knife
- 1 Box disposable dust mask
- Plastic safety goggles



Tune In

Local media are your primary source of information during disaster. They work with the Emergency Operation Center to provide up-to-date information that can keep you safe. Be sure to have a battery-operated radio and stock up on plenty of batteries. Stay informed about weather conditions, hazards, closed roads, curfews, and relief center locations.

Heavy Tools

Week 7

- Plywood & fasteners to cover windows
- Tarpaulin, canvas for temporary roof repair
- Handsaw and/or chain saw & fuel
- Assorted nails
- Wood screws
- Hatchet
- Crowbar



Safety

Most hurricane related injuries occur after the storm when people are cleaning up debris. Wear proper safety gear, make sure you know how to properly use power tools and machinery and never work alone. It may be best to hire skilled and insured professionals to do some work.

Special Items

Week 8

- Special foods for special diets
- Extra hearing aid batteries
- Items for denture care
- Spare eyeglasses or contact lens supplies
- 1 Gallon of water per pet
- Leash or pet carrier
- Pet food
- Baby food
- Diapers
- Baby wipes



What You Need

Only you know what you need. Some families will need special items added to their disaster list. These include baby food and baby care items as well as items for your pet. Make sure you have spare batteries for your hearing aid and a spare pair of eyeglasses. **Remember pets are not allowed in general shelters.** If you live in an evacuation zone, **pets can be pre-registered for the Pet Friendly Shelter** by calling (561) 233-1266.

pbcgov.com/publicsafety/animalcare

Smart Supplies

Week 9

- Batteries for camping lantern
- Battery powered camping lantern
- Portable camp stove or grill
- Video or disposable camera

Your Property

Before hurricane season, make a complete inventory of your valuables and personal property. Store important documents and valuables in a safe dry place. If you evacuate, take them with you if you can. Take a photo inventory before the storm and then take photos of any damage after the storm and then take photos of any damage after the storm for your insurance adjuster. Be sure that you are properly insured and understand all of the conditions of your policy prior to a disaster. This will save you from unfortunate surprises during recovery.



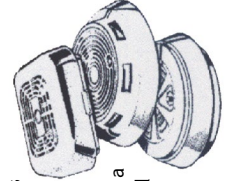
Everyday Safety

Week 11

- ABC certified fire extinguisher
- Smoke detector with battery
- Carbon monoxide detector

Everyday Supplies

Disasters can happen without warning. It is a good idea to have disaster supplies on hand year-round. Make sure you always have a working fire extinguisher, smoke detectors, and a carbon monoxide detector. These items save lives and reduce property damage. To reduce risk of fire, **DO NOT USE CANDLES.** Never use a generator or charcoal grill inside your home or inside your garage.





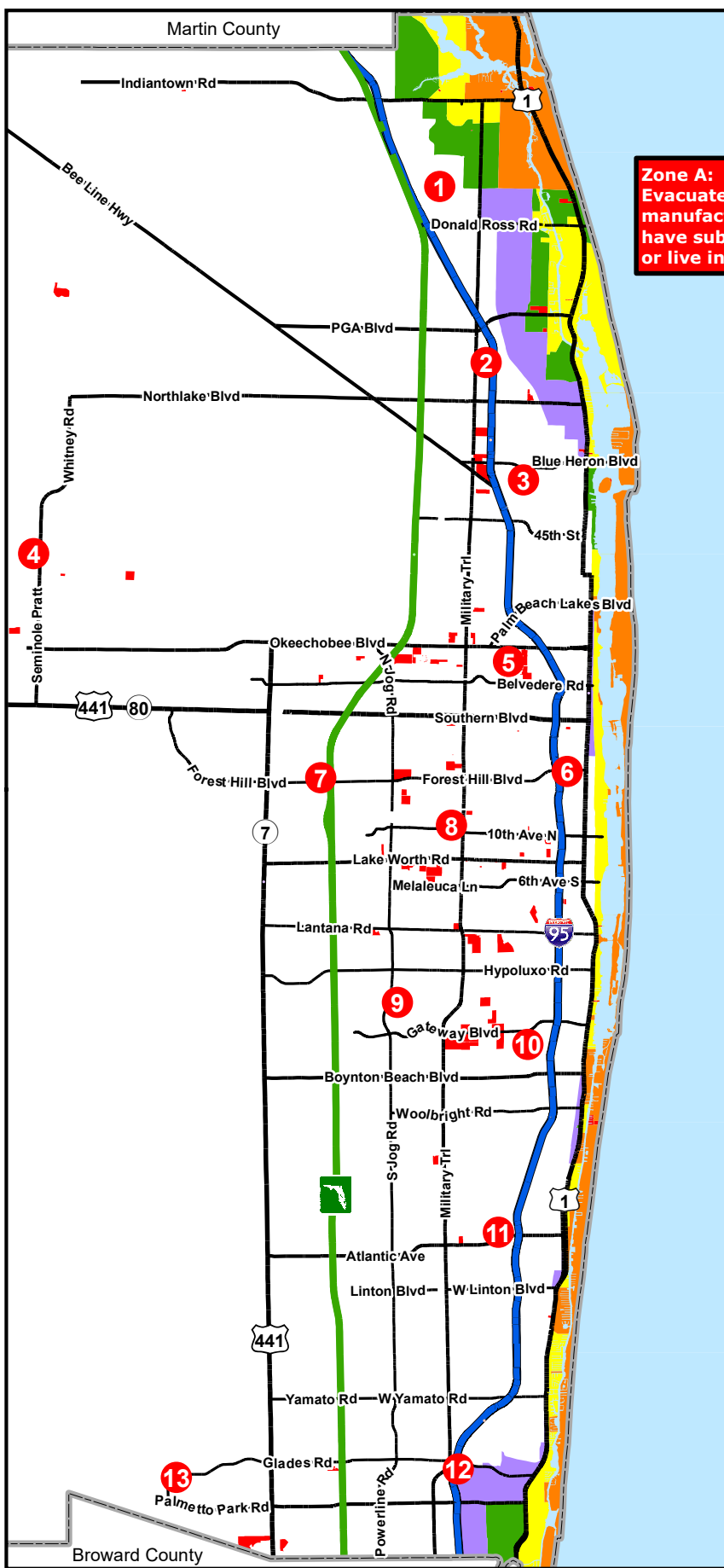

Palm Beach County
Public Safety Department
Division of Emergency Management

www.ReadyPBC.org

Palm Beach County
Public Affairs Department

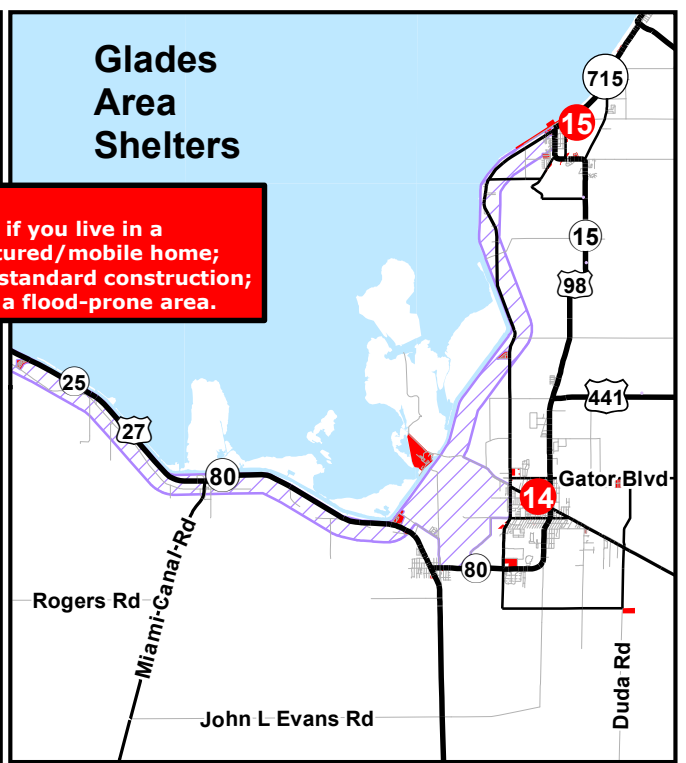
www.pbcgov.com





Glades Area Shelters

Zone A:
Evacuate if you live in a manufactured/mobile home; have substandard construction; or live in a flood-prone area.



IMPORTANT: Not all shelters will be opened at the same time. Stay tuned to local TV and radio for shelter opening announcements.

1. Independence Middle School
4001 Greenway Dr, Jupiter 33458
2. Palm Beach Gardens High School
4245 Holly Dr, Palm Beach Gardens 33410
3. Dr Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
1501 Avenue U, Riviera Beach 33404
4. Seminole Ridge High School
4601 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd, Loxahatchee 33470
5. West Gate Elementary School
1545 Loxahatchee Dr, West Palm Beach 33409
6. Forest Hill High School
6901 Parker Ave, West Palm Beach 33405
7. Palm Beach Central High School
8499 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington 33411
8. John I Leonard High School
4701 10th Ave N, Greenacres 33463
9. Park Vista High School
7900 Jog Rd, Lake Worth 33467
10. Boynton Beach High School
4975 Park Ridge Blvd, Boynton Beach 33426
11. Atlantic Community High School
2455 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach 33445
12. Boca Raton High School
1501 NW 15th Ct, Boca Raton 33486
13. West Boca Raton High School
12811 Glades Rd, Boca Raton 33498
14. Lake Shore Middle School
425 W Canal St N, Belle Glade 33430
15. Pahokee Middle School
850 Larrimore Rd, Pahokee 33476

Risk Shelters With Evacuation Zones

- Shelter
- Zone A - See Text Box Above
- Zone C
- Zone E
- Zone B
- Zone D
- Zone L

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SIGN UP



Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to sign up for Palm Beach County's weekly newsletter, Count-e-News, to stay informed.



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**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners**

May 2024

**Palm Beach County
Public Affairs Department
301 N. Olive Avenue, Suite 1102
West Palm Beach, 33401
561-355-2754**