



Greenacres CITY LINK

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES

SPRING 2010

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For the City of
Greenacres
up-to-date
Hurricane
Information during
a storm ~ Tune in to:

AM Radio 1650

Hurricane Preparedness:

Review hurricane preparedness information on our website at:
www.ci.greenacres.fl.us

Presentations:

City Staff is available to make Hurricane Preparedness Presentations at Homeowner's Associations meetings.

Contact:

Deborah Manzo, Assistant City Manager at 561-642-2017 to schedule an appointment.

Hurricane Season - Be Prepared!

2010

Hurricanes are a threat to Palm Beach County and preparing for them is a year-round process. Each year, on average, ten (10) tropical storms, of which six (6) become hurricanes, develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico.

A Tropical Storm is an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots).

A Hurricane is an intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

Moving ashore, they sweep the ocean inward while spawning tornadoes and producing torrential rains and floods. Many of these remain over the ocean; however, about five hurricanes strike the United States coastline every three years. Of these five, two will be major hurricanes, Category 3 (winds above 111 miles per hour) or greater on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30; however, hurricanes can occur outside this time frame. Colorado State University provides the hurricane season forecasts. The 2010 hurricane season is predicted to be more active than the average for the 1950-2000 seasons. The early forecast report estimates approximately 11-16 named storms, 6-8 hurricanes and 3-5 major hurricanes occurring during the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season.

Hurricanes can cause major damage to buildings, trees, and power lines due to high winds and flying debris. Heavy rain can flood buildings and close roadways. Residents and businesses need to be prepared and have a plan to survive a hurricane.

Communities can cope with and recover from the aftermath of a hurricane if each resident and business take individual responsibility for planning and preparedness. Being prepared means having a plan and knowing what to do before, during, and after a hurricane moves through an area.

The information presented here is intended to provide a general overview of actions to be taken as part of planning and preparation. The Palm Beach County Hurricane Survival Guide is available at www.pbcgov.com/hurricane/pdf/Hurricane_Guide.pdf and contains more detailed information to assist residents and businesses.

What does a 60 percent probability in a Tornado Watch mean? 6 out of 10 watches like this one, will have two (2) or more tornadoes!



Make a Plan

- Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm. Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency.
- Purchase supplies for your family disaster supply kit; (5-7 days of food, water, and medicine; flashlight, extra batteries, radio, cash, and first aid kit). See www.ready.gov/america/getakit.
- Know the disaster plan of your child's school or day-care.
- Make plans to board your pet if you plan to go to a shelter.
- Locate your water meter and electrical shutoff.
- Trim trees to make them more wind resistant.
- Purchase materials to protect windows.
- Use a video camera to record the contents of your home and store videotape with a friend who lives out of town.
- Photocopy important papers and store safely.
- Check your shelter information and location.

Emergency Shelters in or near the City of Greenacres

John I. Leonard High School

4701 10th Avenue North, Greenacres, Florida 33463

Palm Beach Central High School

8499 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, Florida 33411

- If you have medical needs and need to stay at a Special Needs Shelter, contact the Special Needs Coordinator at 561-712-6400 to pre-register.

Generator Safety

According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 500 people die each year from accidental Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if the following safety guidelines were followed:

- Never use a portable generator indoors; only use a portable generator outside and away from any doors or windows or vents that could allow CO to enter your home.
- Do not use a portable generator in the rain; consumer-grade generators are not weatherproof and there is a risk of electrocution or shock.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions; plug appliances into heavy-duty extension cords and then plug the cords into the generator.
- Purchase a carbon monoxide detector and ensure the unit is functioning correctly.
- Never power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet; this is called "backfeeding" and presents a serious risk to both utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer.

Stay Informed

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.
- Review your family plan. Decide where to ride out the storm.
- If you are going to stay during a hurricane you need to ensure that you have sufficient **food, water, medicine, and supplies for at least 5-7 days**.
- Check family disaster supply kit and gather any missing items.
- Place important documents and photos in waterproof plastic bags.
- Obtain cash or travelers checks.
- Fuel up vehicles and propane tanks; obtain fuel for generators.
- Move vehicle(s) into a garage or next to a building; avoid parking near trees and utility poles. Tie down or stabilize boat.
- Secure all doors and windows. Install shutters. Brace garage door. Remove roof turbine and cap vent hole.
- Secure/move outdoor furniture items such as wind chimes, flags, trash cans; anchor grills, antennas, etc.
- Secure recycling containers and close lids of dumpsters.
- Fill water containers, bath tub and sinks. Freeze water jugs and fill ice chest.
- Turn refrigerator to lowest setting and lower A/C (turn their circuit breakers off after power goes out).
- Test generator (do not operate during storm).
- Ensure the inlets in the roads and parking areas in your community are not clogged with a buildup of leaves or debris on the surface.
- If you leave, allow at least twice the usual travel time. Take photo ID and proof of address.

Additional Information for Homeowners Associations

- Confirm arrangements for debris/vegetation removal with landscaping company or contractor.
- Establish contact list of board members/management company.
- Clean drainage systems including inlets, pipes, and outfall structures.
- Compile list of residents that may need assistance before and after a hurricane.
- Install shutters on common area buildings (i.e. clubhouse).
- Remove or secure loose items on common property.
- Secure recycling containers and close lids of dumpsters.

Note:

Waste services will cease when the SWA closes the landfills (approximately 12-24 hours prior to a storm).



Landfall

- Stay inside a well constructed building or home only if you have NOT been ordered to leave.
- Go to your safe room if conditions warrant.
- Keep flashlight with you.
- Stay away from windows. Do not open doors or windows.
- Do not operate gas grill or portable generator.
- Stay off the phone unless absolutely necessary.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances; turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Do not go outdoors until the storm has passed; winds can die down and begin again at anytime.

If your home is 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 or multi-story building, go to an interior first-floor room, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

City's Pre-Storm Activities

- Evacuation orders are implemented in mobile home parks which are mandatory evacuation zones in the City.
- EMS Unit transports pre-registered special needs citizens to critical care shelter.
- Roadway inlets are checked for debris.
- Construction job sites are inspected to ensure that construction materials are secure.
- City buildings and grounds are secured.
- Public Safety response continues until it is no longer safe to be in the storm; personnel will remain in a stand-by mode. Calls for public safety assistance continue, and are prioritized and handled when it is safe for personnel to respond.

Note:

All parks will be closed after a hurricane until the park is free of debris and is safe to open to the public. Please look for signs for park openings and closings.

Post Storm Safety

Post Storm Safety

- If you evacuated, return only when local officials state it is safe.
- Roads may be closed for your protection. If barricaded or flooded, turn around and go another way! Do not drive into flooded areas.
- Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines; report downed lines to FPL or police department.
- Look for fire hazards such as flooded electrical circuits or submerged appliances. Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or frayed wires, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a hissing noise, open a window and leave quickly. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve, and call the gas company.
- Check for sewage and water line damage. If you think sewage lines are damaged, don't use toilets, and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, don't use tap water call the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department.
- Open windows/doors to ventilate and dry out your home.
- When it is safe to do so, conduct an initial assessment of any damage to your property. Begin taking steps to minimize further damage from rain or standing water. If the street or parking area is flooded, check the inlets for debris and rake it away.
- Call 9-1-1 for emergencies only.
- During power outages, use of water in sinks and bathrooms should be limited as lift stations could overflow. *(If wastewater starts backing up inside the house, locate and remove plug on the clean-out outside the house. Reinstall after power is restored.)*

Additional Information for Homeowners Association

- Check on neighbors.
- Conduct a quick damage assessment (*buildings, flooding, fallen trees*); take pictures of damage and coordinate with insurance carrier.
- Watch for fallen power lines before clearing storm drain inlets of leaves and other vegetation, which will allow storm water to drain.
- Contact management company and arrange for clearing and debris removal.

City's Response & Recovery Activities

- Rescue operations begin.
- Curfew regulations are enforced.
- City maintained streets and drainage systems are cleared of debris.
- City buildings and grounds are repaired/secured for damage.
- Clean-up efforts of parks begin.
- Residential debris collection is coordinated.
- Preliminary damage assessments of residences and businesses to complete State Damage Assessment forms indicating extent of damage are conducted.
- Emergency permits for temporary repairs to structures are issued.





www.ci.greenacres.fl.us

Who Helps After the Storm?

City of Greenacres Emergency Radio

AM 1650

Animals

PBC Animal Care & Control 561-233-1200

Business Support

Small Business Administration 800-825-5722

Contractor Licensing

Fl. Dept. of Business & Professional Regulations 850-487-1395
Fl. Division of Workers Compensation 800-742-2214

Emotional Support

PBC Crisis Line/Information/Referrals 2-1-1 or 561 375-6600
United Way of PBC www.211palmbeach.org

Fire/Medical/Police

City of Greenacres Emergency 9-1-1
City of Greenacres Non-Emergency 561-642-2160

Food/Water Pick-up

PBC Emergency Management 561-712-6400
(Check local news for distribution sites)

Food/Mass Feeding

Salvation Army 561-686-3530

Health Issues

PBC Health Department 561-840-4500

Housing Assistance

Dept. of Housing & Urban Development *(Federal)* 202-708-1112

Insurance Complaints

Florida Department of Financial Services 800-227-8676

Price Gouging

Office of Attorney General 866-966-7226

Recovery Assistance

Federal Government 800-333-4636 www.firstgov.gov

Recovery Information

FEMA *(Federal Emergency Management Agency)* 800-621-3362

Schools

PBC School Board *(Emergency Line)* 561-357-7500

Senior Assistance

PBC Crisis Line 2-1-1
561-383-1134
www.211palmbeach.org

Shelter

American Red Cross 561-833-7711

Traffic Signals

PBC Repairs 561-683-6885

Transportation

Palm Tran Bus & Transportation 561-841-4287
(toll free) 877-930-4287

Palm Tran 'Connection' Service 561-649-9838
(toll free) 877-870-9849

TRI Rail 800-874-7245
www.palmtran.org

Utility Interruptions

AT & T *(Bellsouth)* 877-737-2478
866-620-6900

Comcast Cable 800-266-2278
561-848-1600
561-655-3842

Florida Power & Light *(FPL - Electric)* 800-468-8243
800-226-3545

PBC Water Utilities *(Water/Sewer)* 561-740-4600

Florida Public Utilities *(Gas)* 561-832-0872

These emergency and informational contacts are offered to assist residents during the hurricane season.

For site locations of Supermarkets/Gas Stations with generators in our area please visit:
<http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us/HurricanePreparedness>