



# Greenacres CITY LINK

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES

MAY 2012

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City Manager

## HURRICANE 2012 SEASON

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.

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.

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 2012 hurricane season is predicted to have less activity than the median for the 1981-2010 seasons. The April 4th forecast report estimates approximately 10 named storms, 4 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes occurring during the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season.

Communities can cope with and recover from the aftermath of a hurricane if each resident and business takes 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 the website indicated below, and contains more detailed information to assist residents and businesses.

**AM Radio 1650**  
...offers current  
**Hurricane Information**  
for the  
**City of Greenacres**  
during a storm.

### Hurricane Preparedness:

Review hurricane preparedness information on our website at: [www.ci.greenacres.fl.us](http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us)

### Presentations:

City Staff is available to make Hurricane Preparedness Presentations at Homeowner's Association meetings, call 561-642-2017 to schedule an appointment.

[www.pbcgov.com/publicsafetyhurricaneguide](http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafetyhurricaneguide)



## BEFORE THE SEASON BEGINS - 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](http://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.
- 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.

## 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



## DURING A WATCH/WARNING - 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 Assoc.

- 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.

## City's Pre-Storm Activities

- Evacuation orders are implemented in mobile home parks which are mandatory evacuation zones in the City.
- EMS Units 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.

**Waste collection services will stop when the SWA closes the landfills - approximately 12-24 hours prior to a storm**



## LAND FALL - Stay Indoors

- 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.

## 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.
- Check on neighbors.
- 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 clear leaves and other vegetation, which will allow storm water to drain.
- 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 Assoc.

- Conduct a quick damage assessment (*buildings, flooding, fallen trees*); take pictures of damage and coordinate with insurance carrier.
- Contact management company and arrange for clearing and debris removal.

## 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.

## 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.

**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 of park openings and closings.**

- Residential debris collection is coordinated.
- Preliminary damage assessments of residences and businesses are conducted to complete State Damage Assessment indicating extent of damage.
- Emergency permits for temporary repairs to structures are issued.



[www.ci.greenacres.fl.us](http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us)

## Important Phone Numbers

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

### City of Greenacres Emergency Radio AM 1650

<b>Animals</b>	
PBC Animal Care & Control	561-233-1200
<b>Business Support</b>	
Small Business Administration	800-827-5722
<b>Contractor Licensing</b>	
Fl. Dept. of Business & Professional Regulations	850-487-1395
Fl. Division of Workers Compensation	800-742-2214
<b>Emotional Support</b>	
PBC Crisis Line/Information/Referrals	2-1-1 or www.211palmbeach.org
United Way of PBC	561-375-6600
<b>Fire/Medical/Police</b>	
City of Greenacres Emergency	9-1-1
City of Greenacres Non-Emergency	561-642-2160
<b>Food/Water Pick-up</b>	
PBC Emergency Management <i>(Check local news for distribution sites)</i>	561-712-6400
<b>Food/Mass Feeding</b>	
Salvation Army	561-686-3530
<b>Health Issues</b>	
PBC Health Department	561-840-4500
<b>Housing Assistance</b>	
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development <i>(Federal)</i>	202-708-1112
<b>Insurance Complaints</b>	
Florida Department of Financial Services	800-227-8676
<b>Price Gouging</b>	
Office of Attorney General	866-966-7226
<b>Recovery Assistance</b>	
Federal Government	800-333-4636 www.firstgov.gov

<b>Recovery Information</b>	
FEMA <i>(Federal Emergency Management Agency)</i>	800-621-3362
<b>Schools</b>	
PBC School Board <i>(Emergency Line)</i>	561-357-7500
<b>Senior Assistance</b>	
PBC Crisis Line	211 561-383-1112 www.211palmbeach.org
<b>Shelter</b>	
American Red Cross	561-833-7711
<b>Traffic Signals</b>	
PBC Repairs	561-683-6885
<b>Transportation</b>	
Palm Tran Bus & Transportation	www.pbcgov.com/palmtran 561-841-4287 <i>(toll free)</i> 877-930-4287
Palm Tran 'Connection' Service	561-649-9838 <i>(toll free)</i> 877-870-9849
TRI Rail	800-874-7245 www.tri-rail.com
<b>Utility Interruptions</b>	
AT & T <i>(Bellsouth)</i>	<i>(Residential)</i> 877-737-2478 <i>(Business)</i> 866-620-6900
Comcast Cable	800-266-2278 561-848-1600 561-655-3842
Florida Power & Light <i>(FPL - Electric)</i>	<i>(Power Outage)</i> 800-468-8243 800-226-3545
PBC Water Utilities <i>(Water/Sewer)</i>	561-740-4600
Florida Public Utilities <i>(Gas)</i>	561-832-0872

**For site locations of Supermarkets/Gas Stations with generators in our area please visit:**

[http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us/Hurricane Preparedness](http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us/Hurricane%20Preparedness)