

February 2, 2009

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Mission Statement

To provide information for the safety of all residents in the MBYCC community.



The Pinellas County Emergency Management team makes the decision as to whether evacuation is voluntary or mandatory. Radio and television stations will continue to update information. You are urged to follow their advice, but once the bridges to our barrier island are closed, residents may not be able to reconsider their decision.



Preparedness Goals

- To provide information to owners and residents in advance of hurricane season.
- To stress to owners that protection of their property is their responsibility.
- To ensure that temporary residents are provided with the same information.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS

The Emergency Director is: Property Manager

The Emergency Management Team:

Administrative Assistant

Maintenance Staff

Security



The Property Manager is responsible to make all final decisions regarding the preparations of MBYCC. In the event that the Property Manager is unavailable, the Board of Directors will assume the responsibility to make final decisions. All employees are responsible to report to their immediate supervisor as follows:

Management: Board of Directors

Administrative Assistant and Maintenance: Property Manager

Security: Security Firm and Property Manager

The Emergency Operation Center will be located: 210 Medallion Blvd.

The alternate location will be: The offices of the Management Firm.

The Property Manager will identify the nature of emergencies. Assistance for evacuation should be pre-arranged.

Problems with utilities should be reported to the utility provider. Know that utilities may be shut off to the barrier islands during a mandatory evacuation.

How and Why Hurricanes Form

Counterclockwise winds draw heat and moisture from the tropical ocean, contributing to the formation of an intense and strong tropical cyclone. Hurricane conditions are reached when winds are sustained at 74 miles per hour (mph) or more. This air revolves around a relatively calm 20- to 30-mile-wide center, referred to as an "eye," spreading outward as much as 400 miles. As a storm moves forward at about 15 mph, it releases heavy rains and accelerating winds and causes the ocean to swell. A hurricane may be preceded by tornadoes in the right front quadrant. Losing some intensity as it approaches land, a storm brings severe wind, rain, and storm surges that inundate coastal areas. A hurricane loses strength as it moves further inland, but high winds and rain continue.

Hurricanes are formed in the North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Coast of Mexico. The greatest likelihood of a hurricane striking land in the United States is along the Gulf Coast and the southeastern seaboard. However, hurricanes have also hit central Pennsylvania and the coasts of New Jersey, New York and New England.

Over land, hurricanes break up quickly. Cut off from their oceanic source of energy and with the added effects of frictional drag from land, their circulation rapidly weakens and becomes more disorganized. Torrential rains, however, may continue even after the winds are much diminished. In the southeastern United States, about one-fourth of the annual rainfall comes from dissipating hurricanes.

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June through November. August and September are peak months. There is no "season" for Pacific hurricanes. Hurricanes occur north of the equator over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Typhoons occur in the South Pacific. Tropical cyclones occur over the Indian Ocean. All of these storms are the same phenomenon.

Why Hurricanes are a Risk to People

Nearly 100 million Americans are at risk from hurricanes. Hurricanes pose three major threats:

Wind - Hurricane winds exceed 74 mph. The winds of Hurricane Andrew measured more than 120 mph. Hurricane winds can rip buildings apart, uproot unstable structures or objects, damage utility lines and threaten lives. Wind damage can occur hundreds of miles inland. Heavy rains in mountainous areas can cause flash flooding where there is little warning of this major threat to life and property.

Heavy rain - There are "dry" and "wet" hurricanes. A "dry" hurricane moves quickly over land and may drop a total of five inches of rain or less. These hurricanes usually do not pose much of a risk from flooding but can cause great wind damage. "Wet" hurricanes can drop more than nine inches of rain per square mile and are slow moving. They can stall, dropping 18 inches or more of rain in some areas.

Storm surge - A large dome of water often 50 miles wide that comes sweeping across the coastline near the area where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall. This dome of water can exceed 20 feet, depending on the strength of the hurricane. The surge, aided by the hammering effect of breaking waves, acts like a giant bulldozer sweeping away everything in its path. This buildup of water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm surge coincides with normal high tides. Nine out of ten hurricane deaths are caused by storm surge.

The Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale

All hurricanes are dangerous, but some are more so than others. The way wind, storm surge, and other factors combine determines the hurricane's destructive power. To make comparisons easier and to make the predicted hazards of approaching hurricanes clearer to emergency forces, hurricane forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) use a disaster-potential scale, the Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale, which assigns storms to five categories. Category 1 is a minimum hurricane; category 5 is the worst case.

The criteria for each category are shown below. This scale can be used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast with a hurricane.

Category 1 - Winds 74-95 mph or storm surge 4-5 feet above normal*. No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.

Category 2 - Winds 96-110 mph or storm surge 6-8 feet above normal*. Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft unprotected anchorages break moorings.

Category 3 - Winds 111-130 mph or storm surge 9-12 feet above normal*. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures, with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level may be flooded inland as far as 6 miles.

Category 4 - Winds 131-155 mph or storm surge 13-18 feet above normal*. More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.

Category 5 - Winds greater than 155 mph or storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal*. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failure with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground with 5-10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

** Actual storm surge values will vary considerably depending on coastal configurations and other factors.*

The Family Disaster Plan

Disasters can affect any part of the world at any time of the year, swiftly and without warning. Most people don't think of a disaster until it is too late, then they suddenly realize how unprepared they are for the massive changes it makes in their lives. During a disaster, local officials are often overwhelmed and emergency response personnel may not be able to reach everyone who needs help right away. Therefore, it is important to prepare ahead of time to reduce the fear, confusion and losses that come with disaster.

The four-step plan described in this handbook will help individuals or families prepare for any type of disaster.

1. Create a Family Disaster Supplies Kit

One of the first steps towards preparedness is to create a family disaster supplies kit. This kit should contain all the essential items needed during the period immediately following a disaster, such as water, food, tools, medical supplies, clothing and bedding, and other special items like important documents. It often becomes necessary after a disaster to seek refuge in a public shelter. These shelters may not have some of the basic necessities. A disaster supplies kit can make a stay in a public shelter more comfortable.

Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit

After a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it may take days. Would your family be prepared to cope with the emergency until help arrives?

Your family will cope best by preparing for disaster before it strikes. One way to prepare is by assembling a Disaster Supplies Kit. Once disaster hits, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. But if you've gathered supplies in advance, your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement.

First Aid Kit

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. A first aid kit should include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Needle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Moistened towelettes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoallergenic adhesive tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triangular bandages (3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongue blades (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls) | <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted sizes of safety pins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleansing agent/soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers | <input type="checkbox"/> Latex gloves (2 pair) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |

Non-prescription drugs

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Tools and Supplies

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches in a waterproof container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness manual | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum foil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-operated radio and extra batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic storage containers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight and extra batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Signal flare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash or traveler's checks, change | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper, pencil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonelectric can opener, utility knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Needles, thread |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher: small canister, ABC type | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine dropper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tube tent | <input type="checkbox"/> Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pliers | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sheeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> Map of the area (for locating shelters) |

SUGGESTIONS AND REMINDERS

- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the Disaster Supplies Kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags.
- Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh.
- Rotate your stored food every six months.
- Rethink your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

Select a friend or relative to be an out-of-town family contact. Call this person before and after the disaster to let them know the status of your situation. Make sure everyone knows the contact's phone number.

Out-of-town contact: _____

Phone number: _____

Learn what to do if advised to evacuate (see sections on Keys to Hurricane Safety and Evacuation).

Evacuation Route: _____

Alternative Route: _____

Determine locations of area shelters:

Shelter location: _____

Phone number: _____

Shelter location: _____

Phone number: _____

When a Hurricane Watch is Issued

Make plans early. Listen constantly to radio or TV. Monitor storm reports and keep a log of hurricane positions. Remember, evacuation routes sometimes can be closed up to 20 hours before landfall by wind gusting or storm surge flooding.

If considering moving to a shelter, refill needed prescriptions and make arrangements for pets. Pets are usually not allowed in shelters.

If evacuation has not already been recommended, consider leaving the area early enough to avoid long hours on limited evacuation routes.

Check supplies:

- Have a transistor radio with fresh batteries.** A radio will be the most useful source of information. Have enough batteries to last several days. There may be no electricity.
- Flashlights, candles or lamps, and matches.** Store matches in a waterproof container. Have enough lantern fuel for several days, and know how to use it safely.
- Full tank of gasoline.** Never let vehicle gas tanks get below half-full during hurricane season. Fill the tank as soon as a hurricane watch is posted. **Remember:** when there is no electricity, gas pumps won't work.
- Canned goods and nonperishable foods.** Store packaged foods which can be prepared without cooking and need no refrigeration. There may be no electricity or gas.
- Containers for drinking water.** Have clean, airtight containers to store sufficient drinking water for several days. The city supply will probably be interrupted or contaminated.
- Materials to protect glass openings.** Acquire shutters or plywood to protect large windows and doors.
- Materials for emergency repairs.** Insurance policies may cover the cost of materials used in temporary repairs, so keep all receipts. These also will be helpful for any income tax deductions.

When A Hurricane Warning Is Issued

- Continue listening to radio or TV.** Continue to monitor hurricane position, intensity and expected landfall.
- If living in a mobile home, check tie-downs and leave immediately for a safer place.** Mobile homes are not safe in hurricane force winds.
- Prepare for high winds.** Brace garage doors. Lower antennas. Be prepared to make repairs.
- Anchor outside objects.** Garbage cans, awnings, loose garden tools, toys and other loose objects can become deadly missiles. Anchor them securely or move them indoors.
- Protect windows and other glass.** Board up or shutter large windows securely. Draw drapes across windows and doors to protect against flying glass if shattering does occur.
- Move boats on trailers close to house.** Fill boats with water to weight them down. Lash securely to trailer and use tie-downs to anchor the trailer to the ground or house.
- Check mooring lines of boats in water.** Leave the area immediately.
- Store valuables and personal papers.** Put irreplaceable documents in waterproof containers and store in the highest possible spot. If evacuated, be sure to take them.
- Prepare for storm surge, tornadoes and floods.** Storm surge, tornadoes and flash floods are the worst killers associated with a hurricane. During a tornado warning, seek shelter inside, below ground level if possible, or in an interior hallway, closet or bathroom on ground level. If outside, move away at right angles from the tornado. If escape is impossible, lie flat in a ditch or low spot. The surge of ocean water plus flash flooding of streams and rivers due to torrential rains combine to make drowning the greatest cause of hurricane deaths.
- Check the Disaster Supplies Kit again.**

Prepare for Evacuation

Advance planning will make evacuation procedures easier. First, have the family disaster supplies kit and plan ready. Additional steps that can aid preparedness include:

- Know the home's elevation and flood level.** This information is available from local Emergency Management officials. The nearest weather station office can supply flood-stage data for area streams and bayous.

Our elevation: _____

- Learn potential maximum storm surge.** Find out if the home is subject to storm surge (tidal) flooding. Information about the potential for inland flooding and storm surge is available through the nearest weather station office.

Possible storm surge for a:

Category I hurricane: _____

Category II hurricane: _____

Category III hurricane: _____

Category IV hurricane: _____

Category V hurricane: _____

- Plan to relocate during a hurricane emergency** when living near the seashore. If living in a mobile home, always plan to relocate.
- Review possible evacuation procedures with the family.** Find out where children will be sent if they are in school when an evacuation is announced.
- Plan now where to go if forced to evacuate.** Consider the homes of relatives or friends who live nearby, but outside the area of potential disaster. Know the location of the nearest shelter. Emergency Management or Red Cross personnel can give the location of the shelter nearest the home and explain what to bring to the shelter. Plan for the family's safety. Know how to contact family members should the need arise.
- Contact the local emergency management office for information on shelters and community evacuation plans.**

Evacuation

Evacuation Safety Rules

Before making any last-minute preparations, be absolutely certain there is time. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Don't wait until the last minute to leave, hoping to save possessions. Save lives.

Move quickly and calmly. Don't take chances. Getting safely away from the storm area is the first consideration.

Keep a radio turned on and located where it can be heard.

Know where to go before leaving. Local officials will probably establish shelters in public buildings. If the location of public shelters is unknown, listen to the radio for evacuation instructions. If an evacuation route is suggested, use it. Other short cuts could have roads or bridges blocked or washed away, or downed power lines.

If traveling to a shelter, take blankets or sleeping bags, flashlights, special dietary foods, infant needs and lightweight folding chairs. Register every person arriving at the shelter. Do not take pets, alcoholic beverages or weapons of any kind to shelters. Be prepared to offer assistance to shelter workers if necessary, and stress to all family members their obligations to keep the shelter clean and sanitary.

If there is limited time for evacuation preparations, take only family medicines, blankets, and a battery-powered radio. If a disaster supplies kit was made, take it.

If there is definitely time before leaving the house:

- Turn off utilities.
- Relocate the most valuable possessions. Possessions that can not be taken should be moved to higher points in the home. Check to see that everything possible has been done to protect property from damage and loss.

When It Is Necessary to Stay At Home

Remain indoors away from doors and windows. Don't go outside in the brief calm during passage of the eye of the storm. The lull sometimes ends suddenly as winds return from the opposite direction. Winds can increase to 75 mph or more in a matter of seconds.

Protect property. Without taking any unnecessary risks, protect property from damage. Temporary repairs can reduce losses.

Stay away from windows and glass doors. Move furniture away from exposed doors and windows.

Stay tuned to media broadcasts. Keep a radio or television tuned for information from official sources. Unexpected changes can sometimes call for last minute relocations.

Remain calm. The ability to meet emergencies will help others.