

# 2011 HURRICANE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

*Your guide to weathering the storm*



*Be prepared  
and get ready now!*



"A City for All Ages"

**City of Port St. Lucie**  
[www.cityofpsl.com](http://www.cityofpsl.com)

# Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness Guide

## Table of Contents

Emergency Information & Contact Numbers.....	4
Storm Categories.....	5
Before the Storm.....	6
Home Survival Kit.....	7
Hurricane Watch/Warning.....	8
Safeguarding your Home.....	9
Hurricane Shutters.....	10-11
Protecting your Boat.....	12
Riding out the Storm.....	13
Evacuation Zone Map.....	14
Evacuation Routes Map.....	15
Special Needs/Special Need Shelters.....	16-17
Advice for Older Adults.....	18
St. Lucie County Hurricane Shelters Map.....	19
Advice for Pet Owners.....	20-21
Flooding.....	22-23
Hurricane Tracking Map.....	24-25
After the Storm.....	26
Medical Tips.....	27-28
Points of Distribution.....	29
Generator Safety.....	30
Trees/Tree Trimming.....	31-34
Debris Management.....	35
Wastewater Grinder Pump System.....	36
Port St. Lucie Homeowners' Assistance Program.....	37
Community Emergency Response Team.....	38-39
St. Lucie INTACT Organization.....	40-41
Tornadoes and Thunderstorms.....	42-43
Lightning.....	44-45
Wildfires.....	46
Student's Hurricane Plan and Drawing Entry Form.....	47
Storm Names.....	48

# Emergency Information & Contact Numbers



## City of Port St. Lucie

Animal Control.....(772) 871-5042  
Police (Non-emergency).....(772) 871-5000  
Public Works.....(772) 871-5100  
Utilities (Water & Sewer).....(772) 871-5330  
Emergency Info. Hotline.....(772) 344-4009  
Port St. Lucie Information.....(772) 873-6397

## Special Needs Registration

Dept. of Public Safety.....(772) 461-5201

## Transportation Assistance

*Transportation assistance to any shelter*

Port St. Lucie.....(772) 461-5201  
Fort Pierce.....(772) 461-5201



## St. Lucie County

Public Information .....(772) 460-HELP (4 3 5 7)  
Public Safety.....(772) 461-5201  
(772) 462-1770  
Mosquito Control .....(772) 462-1695  
Sheriff's Department.....(772) 462-3320  
Health Department.....(772) 462-3800

## Local Weather Updates

### 24 Hour Television Stations

WPTV (NBC) Channel 5.....(561) 655-5455  
WPEC (CBS) Channel 12.....(561) 844-1212  
WPBF (ABC) Channel 25.....(561) 694-2525

### 24 Hour Radio Stations

WQCS – FM (88.9).....(772) 465-8989  
WPSL – AM (1590).....(772) 340-1590  
WJNX – AM (1330).....(772) 464-1330  
La Gigante (Español)

# Storm Categories



**Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale** *The Saffir-Simpson Scale is based on sustained winds. Sustained wind is a 1-minute wind average measured at about 33 feet above the ground.*

**Cat 1** **Category One Hurricane: Winds 74-95 mph** **Types of Damage: Minimal**  
Storm surge is generally 4 – 5 feet above normal. Minimal damage to buildings, however, unprotected windows may be damaged by flying debris. Expect damage to unanchored mobile homes, utility sheds, shrubbery, and trees. Coastal road flooding and pier damage may occur.

**Cat 2** **Category Two Hurricane: Winds 96-110 mph** **Types of Damage: Moderate**  
Storm surge is generally 6 – 8 feet above normal. Buildings may be damaged as a result of fallen trees, roofing materials, windows and doors may be damaged by wind and flying debris. Expect considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, docks and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of hurricane center/eye of the storm.

**Cat 3** **Category Three Hurricane: Winds 111-130 mph** **Types of Damage: Extensive**  
Storm surge is generally 9 – 12 feet above normal. Expect some structural damage to buildings and considerable damage to roofs, windows and doors. Mobile homes docks and piers are usually destroyed. Coastal flooding may destroy or severely damage small buildings. Terrain lower than 5 feet above sea level may be flooded. Low-lying areas should be evacuated.

**Cat 4** **Category Four Hurricane: Winds 131-155 mph** **Types of Damage: Extreme**  
Storm surge is generally 13 – 18 feet above normal. Expect extensive structural damage to buildings; some with complete roof failures. Complete destruction of mobile homes, docks and piers. Most trees, shrubs and street signs will be blown over. Extensive flooding of coastal areas is expected and coastal evacuation routes will be cut off several hours before the center of the storm arrives. Major wind and flood damage to buildings less than 10 feet above sea level; buildings within 200 yards of the coast may be wiped out. A massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground may be required.

**Cat 5** **Category Five Hurricane: Winds greater than 155 mph** **Types of Damage: Catastrophic**  
Storm surge is generally greater than 18 feet above normal. Extensive structural damage with complete roof failure on many residential and industrial buildings. Complete destruction of mobile homes, docks and piers. Trees, shrubs and street signs will be destroyed. Extensive flooding of coastal areas is expected and coastal evacuation routes will be cut off several hours before the center of the storm arrives. Major wind and flood damage to buildings less than 15 feet above sea level; buildings within 300 - 500 yards of the coast may be wiped out. A massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground may be required.

**Note:** *Even a low category storm, depending on a number of factors, can cause considerable damage to your home and property. Always be prepared for a higher category storm than is predicted as the intensity of a hurricane can change up or down within hours, and winds may be significantly higher at the upper levels of multi-storied buildings. Storm surge varies by intensity of storm, as well as by tide and coastline factors. In general, it can range from 4-5 feet to over 18 feet and is an extremely dangerous aspect of the storm.*

**Note:** *Emergency vehicles will be taken off the road when the maximum sustained winds exceed 39 mph. They will not resume services until the wind fall below 39 mph.*



# Before the Storm Develop a Hurricane Plan

## **STEP 1** Hold a family meeting

Discuss the hazards of hurricanes. Encourage children to talk about their fears and explain some of the things you'll be doing to keep everyone safe. Start a written list of things you'll need to take care of before hurricane season and encourage everyone in the family to contribute their ideas.

## **STEP 2** Discuss whether you'll need to evacuate

Determine whether you live in an evacuation zone and, if so, where you will go if an evacuation order is given. Going to a family or friend's house or hotel outside the evacuation area is your best choice. If you choose to go out of town, do so well in advance of the storm. Since shelters provide for only basic needs, this should be your choice of last resort.

## **STEP 3** Ensure your assets are protected

Inventory your home possessions and video-tape, record or photograph items of value. Review your insurance policies before hurricane season starts to ensure you have adequate coverage. Once a hurricane watch has been issued, insurers will not issue new or additional coverage.

## **STEP 4** Assess your home for vulnerable areas

Do a walk-through of your home and property to evaluate your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions you will take. Seek professional expertise and assistance as necessary.

## **STEP 5** Make a plan to protect your vehicles

Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat, or RV. Check your vehicle insurance policy and keep it in the same safe place as your homeowner's policy.

## **STEP 6** Secure your home

Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and your property (shutters, generator, tree-trimming), and to keep as comfortable as possible during recovery.

## **STEP 7** Determine whether anyone in your home has special needs

Discuss whether anyone in your home has special medical needs and, if so, make arrangements in advance to accommodate those needs.

## **STEP 8** Make a plan for your pets

Determine how you will address your pet's needs and make a plan in case you have to evacuate.

## **STEP 9** Gather your supplies

Determine your family's food, water and medical needs and assemble your disaster supply kit according to those needs.

## **STEP 10** Notify others of your plan

Let family or friends know what your hurricane plan is so they can check on you in the aftermath of the storm. Establish an out-of-town contact.

# Home Survival Kit

## Get Ready

- Prepare to cover all windows and doors with shutters or other shielding materials.
- Bring in light-weight objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys, and lawn furniture.
- Check food and water supplies.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights, and lanterns.
- Check and refresh first-aid supplies.
- Check prescription medicines - obtain at least ten day to two week supply.
- Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy to carry container such as a large, covered trash container; a camping back pack; or a duffle bag.

## What will I need?

- Water – at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 days.
- Blankets / Pillows, etc. – sleeping bags
- Clothing – One complete change per person.
  - Hat, gloves, rain gear, sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirts, sunglasses, jacket or coat, underwear, socks.

## Food – at least enough for 3 days per person.

- Avoid foods that will make you thirsty.
- Ready to eat meals, fruits and vegetables.
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices / soup.
- Staples – sugar, salt, pepper, powdered milk. High energy foods – peanut butter, jelly, salt free crackers, granola bars.
- Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons with special dietary needs.
- Snack foods – cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags.

## Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies:

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Toilet paper      | Personal hygiene items |
| Soap              | Moisture wipes         |
| Liquid detergent  | Shampoo, comb, brush   |
| Feminine supplies | Insect repellent       |

## Special Needs for babies:

- |         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Formula | Pacifiers    |
| Diapers | Powered milk |
| Bottles | Medications  |

**DON'T FORGET TO REFILL ALL  
PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS  
BEFORE A STORM APPROACHES!**

## Non-prescription drugs and Prescription Medicines:

- Prescription medications in their prescription bottles
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Laxative
- Vitamins
- List of allergies and medications
- Oxygen
- Extra eye glasses/contact lenses and solutions
- Hearing aid batteries
- Denture needs
- Heart and high blood pressure medications
- Insulin

## Important Documents and Photo Copies *keep in a waterproof container:*

- Will, Insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds, marriage certificate.
- Photo ID's, passports, social security cards, immunization records, etc.
- Bank account numbers.
- Credit card account numbers and companies.
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Document all valuables with videotape if possible.
- Photograph interior and exterior of home, inventory of all furnishings.
- Important telephone numbers.
- Extra set of house keys.
- Map of the city – for locating shelters.

## Special Items:

- Flashlight – extra batteries.
- Radio – battery operated.
- Non-electric can opener.
- All-purpose knife.
- Aluminum foil, plastic wrap.
- Resealable plastic bags.
- Work gloves.
- Battery-operated travel alarm clock.
- Paper, pencil.
- Needles, thread.
- Moisture wipes.

## Comfort items:

- Games, cards, books.
- Toys for kids.



# When a Hurricane Watch is Issued . . .

## Hurricane Watch

*Hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours. Your hurricane preparations should be underway.*

- Review personal/family plan with family, friends or "buddy."
- If you are in an evacuation zone, collect documents and evacuation supplies, plan to leave as early as possible after orders are issued.
- If you do not drive and plan to leave, confirm transportation arrangements.
- Stay tuned to local radio and television stations for weather information and guidance.
- Get cash, store valuables.
- Install shutters, panels, other protection devices.
- Bring outdoor patio furniture indoors or secure properly.
- Fuel automobiles.
- Secure watercraft.
- Secure any loose outdoor items.

## Know the Hazards

**Storm Surge:** Storm surge is the most dangerous element of a hurricane. This is a dome of ocean water that can be 20 feet high at its peak and 50 to 100 miles wide. A large number of hurricane fatalities are attributed to storm surge.

**Wind:** A Hurricane is a tropical storm with constant winds greater than 74 mph. These winds can extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes can also spawn tornadoes.

**Rain:** Because of the tropical nature of hurricanes, they contain rain, which can, at times, be torrential and cause floods and flash floods.



# When a Hurricane Warning is Issued . . .

## Hurricane Warning

*Hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours. Your hurricane preparations should be rushed to completion.*

- Continue to monitor local media reports.
- Fill tub, containers with water.
- If you are in an evacuation zone and are to evacuate:
  - Shut off appliances & air conditioners except for refrigerator and freezer
  - Expect extreme delays on evacuation routes
  - Leave promptly (car should be packed early.)
- Turn off the toggle switch on any automatic lawn sprinkler system.
- Monitor the local radio stations: WQCS - FM 88.9, WSTU - AM 1450, WPSL - AM 1590, WJNX - AM 1330 La Gigante (Español)

# Safeguarding your Home

## Ensure your Assets are Protected

- Inventory your home possessions and videotape, record or photograph items of value. Review your insurance policies before hurricane season starts to ensure you have adequate coverage. Once a hurricane watch has been issued, insurers will not issue new or additional coverage.
- Assess your home for vulnerable areas.
- Do a walk-through of your home and property to evaluate your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions you will take. Seek professional expertise and assistance as necessary.
- Make a plan to protect your vehicles.
- Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat, or RV. Check your vehicle insurance policy and keep it in the same safe place as your homeowner's policy.
- Secure your home.
- Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and your property (shutters, generator, tree-trimming), and to keep as comfortable as possible during recovery.

## Swimming Pool Preparation

- Keep water in your pool. This will protect the pool's finish from sand and flying debris. You may want to lower the level of the water in the pool, but no more than one to two feet. If you lower your water level any lower, hydrostatic pressure could cause the pool to pop out of the ground!
- Add extra chlorine to water to prevent contamination.
- Turn off the power to the pool equipment.
- If feasible, when the pump motor is cool, remove the pool pump motor and store it indoors in a dry place. If not, protect the motor, by wrapping in plastic material such as a garment bag and secure it tightly with tape or rope. (Do not do this until the motor is completely cool.)
- Remove all loose items from the pool area (furniture, pool cleaning equipment, etc.)
- After the storm, reinstall the pool pump motor, or remove the wrapping and check for flood damage; return the water level to normal for proper skimming action; clean the pool thoroughly to prevent the debris from staining the finish; then balance the pH of the water, super chlorinate, and run the filter until the water is clean.



**Note:** If you lose your fence or screen enclosure as a result of a storm, secure your pool. To temporarily secure your pool area, you can use orange plastic construction fencing supported by stakes or steel rods driven into the ground. Rope or plastic tape is not sufficient.

# Hurricane Shutters

## Protecting your windows

The purpose of shutters is not to seal the house (the windows do that) but to protect the windows from missiles and flying debris. Properly installed storm shutters are essential to help keep winds out and maintain the integrity of the structure. If a window is breached, the internal pressures are so high that the house actually explodes.

Shutters for window coverings should be installed flush to the building at least four inches over and outside the opening, not close to the edges. To attach, use drilled holes, lead shields or tapcons, and large deep lag bolts or tapping screws (nails will not suffice) and fasteners should be made of stainless steel. Make sure you can lift and install your shutters prior to hurricane season.

Hurricane shutters are manufactured of aluminum, heavy-gauge steel reinforced PVC or Lexan. Many require reinforcing bars for maximum protection and the number of

bars used should follow the manufacturer's recommendation. Manufacturers claim the strongest shutters are metal accordion-type and the metal panels because of the corrugated or pleated surface. The lower the gauge of the steel or the thicker the aluminum, the stronger the shutter will be. Example: .050 aluminum is stronger than .040. Steel gauge should be 20 or less. Shutters should be cleaned and the moving parts lubricated every six months. With storm panels, care should be taken when storing them to prevent damage to the clips and springs. Removable shutters and panels can be difficult to install for one person. The most important factor about storm shutters is how well they are anchored to the outside walls.

Costs vary by the type of shutters and the size of the window opening. Costs can be as low as \$7 square foot to \$40 square foot for more expensive shutters.



## Types of Shutters

### Aluminum Awnings

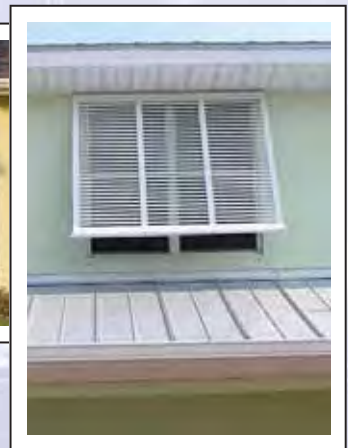
Are slightly rounded shutters permanently attached to the top of the window with bolts. They swing down over the window and are bolted into place at the bottom. Construction: aluminum.

### Bahama Shutters/Awnings:

Are flat louvered panels permanently attached to the top on the window with bolts. They swing down over the window and lock into place with a latch. Some models crank down from the inside. They cannot be used on sliding glass, garage or entrance doors. Construction: aluminum.

### Colonial Awnings/Shutters

Are permanently attached to each side of the window with bolts. They swing over the window like double doors and lock into place with a reinforcement bar. Construction: aluminum.

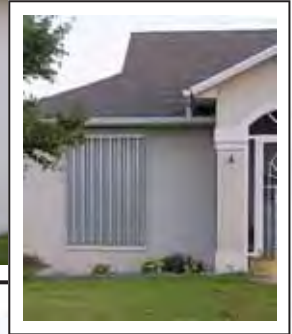
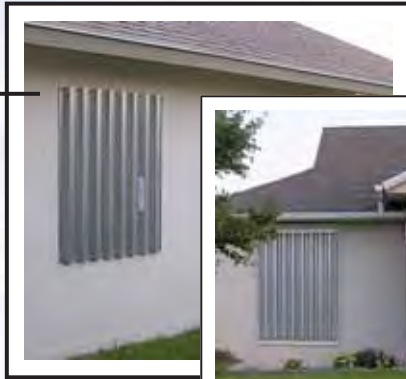


# Types of Shutters

## Hurricane or Storm Panels

Are slipped into permanently attached tracks at the top of the window and clipped into place or bolted to the structure with an additional track on the bottom or a reinforcing bar. Construction: aluminum or steel.

Cost: \$5-\$7 per square foot.



## Accordion Shutters

Slide on a permanently attached track inside the window frame and are locked in place with a reinforcement bar.

Construction: aluminum or heavy-gauge steel.



## Roll-Down Shutters

Roll down via a hand crank along a track from a valance bolted across the top of the window. Construction: aluminum, foam-filled aluminum, PVC or Lexan.



## Plywood Shutters

If the windows are no more than 3 feet across, " plywood attached with screws may be sufficient to prevent interior damage most of the time, 5/8" plywood is preferred. To install plywood, cut 4 X 8 sheets of " CDX exterior plywood slightly larger than the window or door opening and mark each sheet for location. The plywood should overlap the window or door opening by four inches. Pre-drill holes in the concrete on both the left and right sides of the window using a masonry or carbide-tipped drill bit. Hammer three " or " machine-screw anchors or lead shields that are two inches long into the pre-drilled holes. Tighten 2" tapping screw through the plywood and a washer until the wood is held flush against the wall. You can join pieces by nailing cross members of 2 X 4's back and forth. In an emergency this can be done for large windows and sliding glass doors; however plywood is not recommended for large openings. The most important factors are securing the plywood properly to the exterior wall and providing at least 4" spacing between the glass and the plywood to provide for flexing.

## Patio Screens

Best bet – remove screens and doors and reinstall them after the storm. It is less expensive than replacing the screens. There is no foolproof method to minimize damage to patio screens. Leave a little play in the screens (not installing them too tight) and brace with thin pieces of wood where you expect maximum deflection.



## Protecting Your Boat

Take action early. Don't wait until a hurricane warning is declared. The storm's fringe activity will make preparations difficult. If your boat will remain in berth, before hurricane season check the strength of primary cleats, winches, and chocks. They should have substantial back plates and adequate stainless steel bolts. Double all lines, with the rig crossing spring lines fore and aft. Attach line high on pilings to allow for tidal fall and rise or surge.

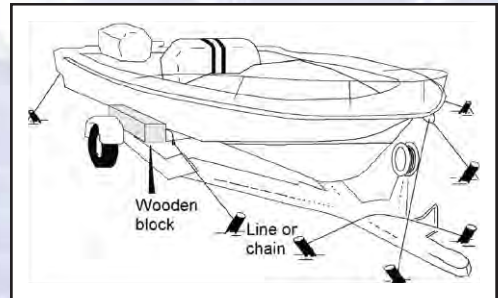
- Charge batteries for automatic bilge pumps.
- For a boat stored on a trailer, lash the boat and trailer down in a protected area. Let the air out of tires before securing the trailer down. Place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Secure with heavy lines (chains or heavy ropes) to fixed objects from four directions, if possible. If you prefer, remove the boat from the trailer and lash down each separately. Remove outboard motors as applicable, and letting some air out of the tires, place blocks beneath the wheels to prevent the trailer from rolling.
- Hurricane moorings should be located in advance. Permission should be obtained from appropriate people.
- A practice run should be made of these moorings to check accessibility, depth of water, bridges, and locating aids and/or obstructions to navigation and objects to secure lines to or drop anchors. (Drawbridges will not open for boats when an evacuation has been ordered.)
- Check your lease or ownership contract with your marina. Know your responsibilities.
- Being out of town during hurricane season will require making plans with someone knowledgeable of the procedures to care for your boat.
- Record and keep with you the vessel registration number, description and where it is secured. Inform the local marine patrol or police officials of your secured vessels.

## Securing Vessels

- Put duct tape on windows and hatches.
- Close fuel valves and cockpit seacocks
- Disconnect shore power.
- Remove loose gear, Bimini tops, sails from the deck. Store it securely inside or at home.
- Reduce dock or piling damage by securing old tires along the sides of the boat.
- Tides can reach heights of 10-20 feet above normal, particularly when water backs up into waterways. When securing lines, remember that a boat could be pulled under or be damaged as the tide rises.
- Wind direction reverses itself in a hurricane. Secure the boat from all directions.
- If the boat is left on a davit, open the boat drains before securing.
- Be sure not to block the passage of other boats which have moorings farther inshore. Cooperate with other skippers in securing their boats, and assist them as long as it is safe and prudent to do so. Remember, there may not be room for your boat at the last minute.
- When you are securing your boat, include unstopping the mast in sailboats and removing boat documents, radios, and other valuables from the vessel prior to the storm, since you never know how long it will take for you to get back to your boat once the storm passes.

## Tying Down Your Boat at Home

- If you can, put the boat in a garage.
- If you must leave the boat outside, remove outboard motors.
- Tie down the boat.
- Fill the boat one-third to half-way with water (filling all the way could break the trailer springs or axle.)
- Support the axle with blocks inside each wheel. Remove any item that could blow off the boat.
- Place the boat away from trees or objects that could fall on it.



For more information contact:  
**Marine Industries Association  
of the Treasure Coast**  
(772) 692-7599 [www.miatc.com](http://www.miatc.com)



# Riding Out the Storm

## Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Most Emergency Managers agree that if you are in a well built home and not in an evacuation zone the best option is often to secure your residence and ride out the storm. Residents who live in mobile homes or in a storm surge area should always evacuate to a public shelter or stay with relatives or friends. If you are elderly or have special needs or health concerns then you should also evacuate. The Special Needs Shelter for Port St. Lucie residents is located at the community center but you will need to pre-register with St. Lucie County Department of Health. Please refer to the special needs section of this pamphlet. If you are concerned with the structural integrity of your house then you should evacuate or seek public shelter.

## When is it time to Evacuate?

When officials at the Emergency Operations Center give notification that conditions have escalated and it is time to evacuate particular areas!

## How will you know?

### Many Ways!

Notified through the "Reverse 911" call system  
Police Patrol cars with their "Public Announcement" systems  
Commercial radio and TV stations  
Door to door warnings from local emergency officials  
Your neighbors  
Your own good judgment  
NOAA Weather and All Hazards radio

## Reminder:

Only stay at home if you have not been ordered to leave.  
If you have been told to leave, do so immediately.

In Port St. Lucie, certain sections of Westmoreland Boulevard, Morningside Boulevard, Ballantrae and Tesoro (please refer to the evacuation map section) are prone to flooding from a storm surge and residents in these areas need to have a well thought out evacuation plan. Remember flooding from a storm surge is caused by heavy rainfall as well as wind and can occur several miles inland from the coast.

If you plan to evacuate remember heavy traffic will add several hours to your travel time. Be sure to leave early so you don't become trapped in your car as the storm approaches. Prepare an evacuation kit early and have it ready for when you need it.



## I'm Staying.

### Now What?

Fill bathtub and large containers for sanitary purposes.  
Fill sterilized containers with water for a two week supply of drinking water.  
Turn refrigerator and freezers to maximum cold and open only when necessary.  
Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.  
Stay inside a well constructed building.  
Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered.  
Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway.  
Take a battery powered radio and a flashlight with you.  
Close all interior doors. Secure and brace exterior doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.  
If in a two story house, go to an interior first floor room, such as bathroom, closet or under the stairs.  
Keep a full tank of gas.  
Be alert for tornadoes which often are spawned by hurricanes.  
If the "EYE" of the hurricane passes over your area, be aware that the improved weather conditions are temporary and that the storm conditions will return with the winds coming from the opposite direction sometimes in a matter of just a few minutes.

### If you:

Are in a multiple story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows.  
Interior stairwells and areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of the building.

# St. Lucie County Evacuation Routes 2011



- Evacuation Routes
- Expressway Interchange
- ← Evacuation Arrows



# St. Lucie County Hurricane Shelters



# Special Needs

## Special Medical Needs Shelter Criteria

*Public and Medical Needs Shelters will provide you with just that. SHELTER. You must bring with you whatever you will need to be minimally comfortable for the time you will be at the shelter.*

Persons dependent upon a health professional to administer injectable medications. Stable self-care diabetics can be handled at non-medical shelter.

Persons requiring daily or more frequent dressing changes because of moderate to copious drainage from ulcers, fistulas, etc.

Persons needing assistance with ostomy management, continuous peritoneal dialysis and indwelling catheters of any kind. The exception is persons whose only catheter is a foley.

Persons whose activities of daily living are so restricted by immobility that their basic medical needs must be met by others.

Persons who require daily assessment of an unstable medical condition by professional nursing personnel, i.e., diabetes, cardiac.

Terminally ill patients who are in need of professional assistance for administering heavy doses of medication.

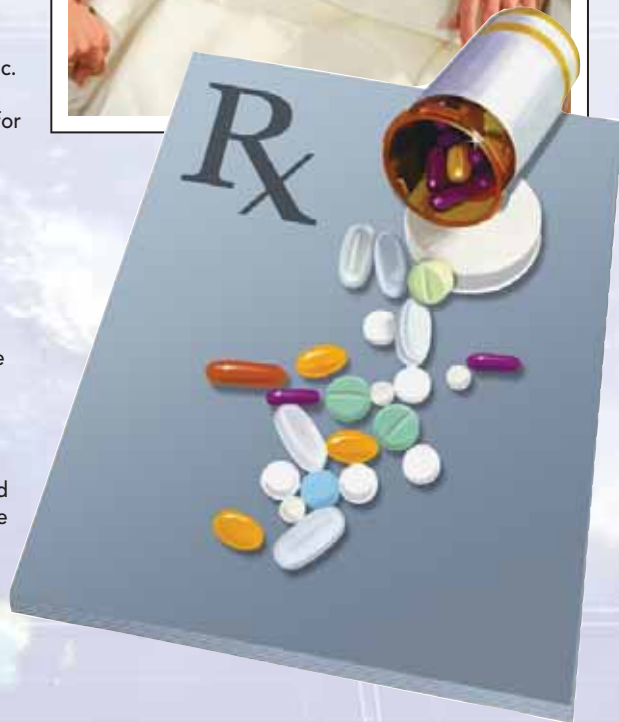
Any resident whose life depends upon electrically energized equipment within his/her residence. (i.e. suction machines, home dialysis machines)

Those who depend on oxygen therapy.

A resident who is bedridden and requires custodial care upon the advice of a personal physician. (As per Florida Statutes-does not necessarily mean assigned to Special Needs Facility. Other facilities such as a nursing home could be utilized).

The patient should be accompanied by one individual who is used to providing care. This person will be expected to provide routine personal care and to administer regularly taken medications.

Due to limited space, other family members must seek shelter at other locations.



# Special Needs Shelter

There will **NO** Special Needs Shelter at the Port St. Lucie Community Center.

## **NEW!** St. Lucie County

*The Department of Health will be operating one Special Needs Facility for St. Lucie County. It will be located at the new Fenn Center in Fort Pierce. This facility is specifically designed to accommodate special needs residents in a comfortable setting.*

Havert Fenn Center  
2000 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce

## **Registration**

People with special needs must pre-register before hurricane season. To register call the St. Lucie County Department of Public Safety at 461-5201.

## **Transportation**

If you need transportation assistance to reach a shelter, please call 461-5201.

## **Shelter Capacity**

Special Needs Evacuees will be accepted until the facility has reached its capacity to house evacuees and their caregivers.

When a shelter cannot accept any more evacuees, an alternate location and transportation will be determined and provided by St. Lucie County Emergency Management.

## **Additional Information**

Listen to local radio & TV stations for opening times and instructions!

If you have any further questions, please contact St. Lucie County Division of Emergency Management at 461-5201.

NO PETS allowed (except for service animals).  
Label your personal items including walkers or canes.



## **What you should bring with you to a Shelter?**

Enough supplies to last three (3) days

Bedding items: pillows, blankets, linens, etc.

Food for individual tastes and/or special diets, water (one gallon per person per day); No perishable food!

Medications in their original bottles, medical supplies, vital medical equipment, i.e., O2 concentrators, nebulizers, special tubings

Personal items: glasses, personal hygiene articles, flashlight, extra batteries, clothing, sweater or jacket, quiet game i.e. cards, books, and appropriate footwear

Cot (or folding lounge or air mattress)

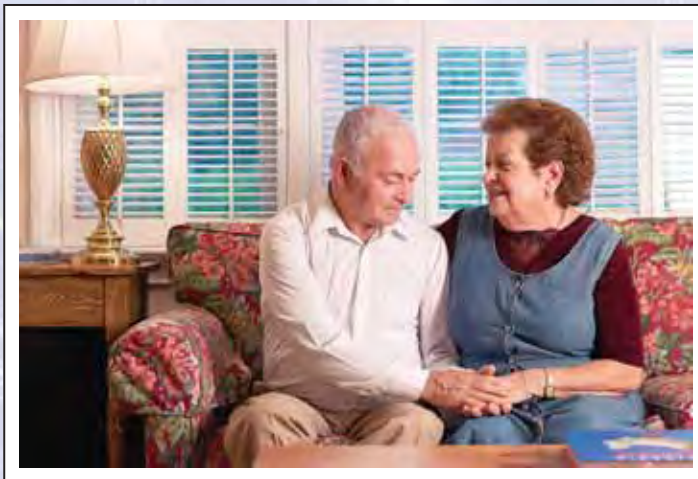
Medical Insurance cards and a list of doctors or other care providers

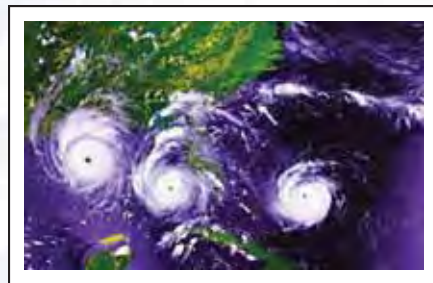
# Advice for Older Adults



- Notify your health agency where you will be during a hurricane and when care can be re-established. If you are home-bound and under the care of a physician, but not a home health agency, contact your physician.
- If you require oxygen, check your supplier about their emergency plans.
- If you evacuate, remember to take medications and prescription numbers, written instructions regarding your care, name and numbers of physicians and pharmacies, insurance and Medicare cards, your bedding and your walker, wheelchair, canes or any special equipment. Label all of your special equipment with your name and contact information.
- If you require hospitalization, you must make prior arrangements through your physician, including securing any documentation that the hospital may require prior to admitting you at the time of the storm.








**Note:** A caregiver should never drop an elderly and/or frail person at a medical facility without assuring that they will be admitted, which may require written documentation and prior arrangement with a physician and the hospital.

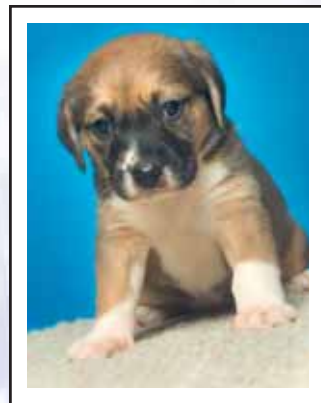









## "Tricks of the Trade"

Here are some helpful training tips that can be done prior to any emergency situation to reduce the stress on both animal and owner:

-  Purchase a size appropriate hard plastic animal crate, and train your animal to get in and out using positive reinforcement techniques.
-  Take your animal for a car ride whenever possible! This will allow them to associate the ride as a fun thing instead of the panicked "Oh no - I'm going to the vet!" reaction we have all experienced.
-  If your animal is afraid of storms, purchase a "Sounds of Nature" CD from a retail store, and play it softly in the background while you are not home. This will slowly de-sensitize the animal to the sounds that frighten them.
-  People do not realize that an animal does react to their owner's emotional state and anxieties. Try to avoid contact with your animal (especially when they are young) when you are afraid or angry.
-  If your animal is nervous or upset DO NOT grab at or try to hold onto your pet when they are distressed! Speak to them in a hushed, soothing voice to calm them down and let them to come to you.
-  Make sure that your animal is used to being walked on a leash! The easiest way we have found to teach this is to start with a harness and once they are walking comfortably move up to a collar. DO NOT USE CHOKE OR PRONG COLLARS!
-  SOCIALIZE YOUR PET WITH OTHER ANIMALS & PEOPLE!



## Animal Owner Essentials

-  MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN NOW! Use the information provided here to form your plan! Be PROACTIVE, not REACTIVE!
-  Involve the entire family in the planning process, this way EVERYONE knows what to do.
-  Obtain everything you need, place it in portable containers, and put it in an area of your home that allows you to "grab and go," if required.
-  Should you have to evacuate, know where the evacuation routes are and what hotels are "pet friendly" ([www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com)). REMEMBER...IF IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU, IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOUR PET!!
-  If you don't know, ASK! That's why Animal Control, the Humane Society and Emergency Management are here...FOR YOU!



Humane Society of St. Lucie County  
100 Savanna Rd., Fort Pierce • (772) 461-0687

**Advanced planning is essential and could save the life of your pet. Your life does not need to be in jeopardy if you take the time to be prepared!**

## Emergency Pet Supply List

Water (1 gal. per day per pet)  
Food  
Bowl  
Hard Plastic Crate  
Collar/Harness (with tags attached)  
Leash  
Cat Litter Box  
Cat Litter  
Garbage Bags  
Paper Towels  
Baby Wipes  
Bleach  
Blanket/Towel/Bedding  
Toys  
Treats  
Large Bag (to store supplies)



## Animal First Aid Kit

Betadine  
Hydrogen Peroxide  
Rubber Gloves  
Rolled Gauze  
Gauze Pads (4" x 4")  
Medical/Conform Tape  
Scissors  
Muzzle  
Antibiotic Ointment  
Saline Solution  
Splints

### Identification Card

\*Clip and attach to pet carrier\*

Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male [ ] Female [ ]  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Dog [ ] Cat [ ] Bird [ ] Other [ ] : \_\_\_\_\_  
Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rabies Tag #: \_\_\_\_\_ Rabies Shot Date: \_\_\_\_\_ City Tag #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medication & Dosage Info: \_\_\_\_\_  
Feeding Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_  
Temperment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please attach a recent photo to this and place a copy of vaccination records and all medications into a waterproof plastic bag and secure the bag to the animal's crate.\*

Provided By:  
Port St. Lucie Animal Control  
1133 SW South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie FL 34983  
Main #: (772) 871-5042 TDD #: (772) 871-5296



# Flooding Safety Actions

## Be Ready!

Learn your vulnerability to flooding by determining the elevation of your property.

Flood losses are not covered under normal homeowners policies.

Evaluate your insurance coverage; as construction grows around areas, floodplains change.

If you are in a flood area, consider what mitigation measure you can do in advance.

Consider flood insurance.

In highly flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves.

Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off.

Avoid driving into water of unknown depth. Moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away.

Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall.

Restrict children from playing in flooded areas. Be aware of snakes and other animals in the water.

Test drinking water for potability; wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.



For more information, go to:





# Flooding

## Hurricane Hazard

### How far inland can flooding from a Hurricane occur?

Many people think of hurricane damage being caused by high winds, a storm surge or a catastrophic levee break such as the New Orleans tragedy from Katrina or the 1928 storm that broke the levees around Lake Okeechobee. Flooding from heavy rainfall can occur hundreds of miles inland and often cause more damage than destruction from wind.

### Did you Know?

Everyone lives in a flood zone.

Floods happen in all 50 states.

Hurricanes and winter storms are often overlooked as causes of flooding.

Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 20 feet high.

Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.

It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect.

Most homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding.

If you live in a low to moderate risk area and are eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$112 a year.

## When a Mild Storm becomes a Nightmare:

On August 18, 2008 Weather Forecasters were monitoring Tropical Storm Fay as it passed over Key West and headed towards a second landfall on the west coast of Florida. The storm was not expected to become a hurricane and most Floridians prepared for a rainy day; most schools and businesses remained open. During the day on August 19 the storm began a slow track across the state dropping several inches an hour as it went. Rain water eventually overwhelmed storm water containment systems and streets and low lying areas began filling up with water with many streets becoming impassable. Tropical Storm Fay then began to stall over eastern Florida and the heavy rains continued eventually flooding some homes and businesses. Many areas that did not flood during Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne were now under water. Although damage from wind was very minor millions of dollars in damage were caused by flooding.



### What the City is doing to prevent flooding.

Even before Tropical Storm Fay the City of Port St Lucie has been improving waterways and canals such as the Elkham Waterway E-5, E-8, and D-17 canals. The City has also been clearing and improving drainage swales and installing new drainage pipe throughout the City. Currently the City has been improving the Howard Creek area to improve drainage in the eastern section of the City.

### What you can do to help.

Keep drainage areas clean and free of debris, do not construct anything on a drainage right of way and consider a flood insurance policy.



# After the Storm

- Stay in your protected area until announcements are made that the dangerous winds have passed.
- If you have evacuated, do not return home until officials announce your area is ready.
- Proof of residency may be required in order to re-enter the evacuation areas.
- Drive only when necessary, do not sight-see.
- If your home or building has sustained structural damage, do not enter until it has been checked by officials.
- If you shut off your utilities, particularly gas, always have it turned back on by a professional.
- Watch for weakened tree limbs and damaged overhanging structures.
- Do not use the telephone unless absolutely necessary.
- Avoid using candles, and other open flames indoors.
- Avoid downed power lines and any water they may be lying in.
- Be alert for poisonous snakes, often driven from their den by high water.
- Be aware of weakened bridges and washed out roads.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall.
- Restrict children from playing in flooded areas. Be aware of snakes and other animals in the water.
- Test drinking water for portability; wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.
- Guard against spoiled food.
- Do not use tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Use caution when using a chain saw to cut up fallen trees.



# Medical Tips

To ensure the health, safety, and well being of the people in our community, here are some helpful tips to assist you should a natural disaster occur:

## Heart Attack

As people begin the task of recovering from a storm, individuals, especially those performing heavy physical activity, need to be aware of the warning signs of a heart attack. While some heart attacks are sudden and intense, many start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. If you, or someone you are with begins to have chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs of a heart attack, call 9-1-1 right away.

### Warning signs of a Heart attack include the following:

**Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

**Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

**Shortness of breath.** May occur before, with or without chest discomfort.

**Other signs:** Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

### What to Do?

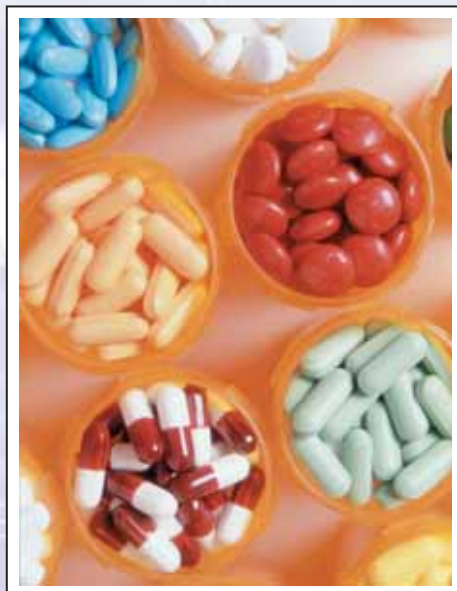
If you or someone you're with shows one or more of these signs, don't ignore them. Call 9-1-1 to get medical help right away. Calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. Emergency medical services staff have the training and equipment to begin treatment as soon as they arrive and can transport someone much faster than going to the hospital by car. The staffs are trained to revive someone whose heart has stopped and you will get treated faster in the hospital if you come by ambulance.

**DON'T FORGET TO REFILL ALL  
PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS  
BEFORE A STORM APPROACHES!**

## Prevent Illness From Heat Exhaustion

Warning signs include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, or fainting. Cool off immediately by drinking cool, nonalcoholic beverages; take a cool shower, or bath, wear lightweight clothing; and, rest in a shaded or air-conditioned environment.

Heat exhaustion may lead to heat stroke which can be fatal. Severe symptoms include skin that is cool and moist, hot dry skin, a pulse rate that is fast and weak, and breathing that is fast and shallow. Seek medical attention immediately if someone has these symptoms, heart problems or high blood pressure.



## Prevent Illness From Food

**Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with dirty water from floods or tidal surges.**

Do not eat from cans that are bulging or opened. Cans that are not opened can be saved if you remove the labels and then disinfect them. To disinfect, use 1/4 cup of bleach in one gallon of clean water, submerge cans and let stand at least 30 minutes. Re-label the cans-include expiration date and type of food. Assume that home-canned foods are unsafe and throw them out.

Infants should be fed only ready-to-feed baby formula, or prepare powdered or concentrated liquid formula with sterilized water (see boiling and disinfecting water below). Use only sanitized bottles and nipples. Unused prepared formula must be refrigerated. (If you are breastfeeding, continue to breastfeed.)

Clean out all refrigerators and freezers that have been without power since the storm, those perishables are unsafe for eating.

## Prevent Illness From Water

**Always wash your hands use soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected. Wash your hands before eating, after toilet use, after cleanup activities, and after handling things dirtied by floodwater or sewage.**

If your area is put on a "boil water notice" you must take precautions against dirty water especially if you have a private well. If you are not sure if your water is safe, drink commercially bottled water.

Hold water to a rolling boil for one minute to remove bacteria.

To disinfect water add 8 drops of plain, unscented household bleach per gallon of water, mix, and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure.

## Infection & Floodwater

**Floodwater may contain raw sewage. If you have exposed open cuts or sores to floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing with soap and clean water.** Apply antibiotic ointment after washing. If a wound or sore develops redness, swelling or drainage, see a doctor.



## Children & Floodwater

**Children should not play in floodwater or with toys that have been in floodwater.** Disinfect toys by using 1/4 cup of bleach in one gallon of clean water, let stand for at least 30 minutes, and let toys air dry.

## Prevent Illness From Carbon Monoxide

**Carbon Monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas and is highly poisonous.** It can cause tiredness, weakness, chest pains for those with heart disease, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headaches, confusion, impaired vision, loss of consciousness, and, in severe cases, death.

Do not use gas-powered generators or pressure washers indoors, not even in the garage. Do not burn charcoal or gas grills inside a house, garage, vehicle, tent or fireplace.

If you think you have been poisoned open doors and windows, turn off gas appliances and go outside and call 9-1-1 immediately.

# PODs: Supplies after the Storm

## What is a POD?

PODs are Points of Distribution for food, ice, and water after a hurricane or other disaster.

## Who runs the POD?

PODS are operated by the Florida Department of Emergency Management for the first 3 days of operation with assistance from the City of Port St. Lucie. After 3 days the City of Port St. Lucie will take over operation of the PODs. The Port St. Lucie Police Department and members of the Parks and Recreation Department work together to operate the PODs.



Photo courtesy of Richard Graulich/Palm Beach Post

## What will I get?

That depends on the severity of the situation and what is currently available. Food (MREs), water and ice may be provided. If other relief items (such as blue tarps become available) they will be distributed at a different location.

## When will the food and water arrive?

Depending on the severity of the storm, the hardest hit areas will receive assistance first. All residents need to have enough supplies to last five to seven days. Do not expect anything to arrive before 72 hours and if your area does not have a lot of damage the state may not set up a POD.

## How do I find out if PODs will be available in Port St. Lucie?

Listen to local radio and TV stations for information. PODs will not open until supplies become available. Residents will then be notified if and when a POD is scheduled to open. WQCS 88.9 FM will broadcast emergency information at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. daily. For television broadcasts, tune into PSL-TV20 on Comcast Cable Channel 20 and Hometown Cable Plus Channel 20.

## Where are the PODs Located?

If PODs are needed, the main location will be the shopping plaza at US 1 and Jennings Road. The Port St. Lucie Police will assist with directing traffic to this location. If a second POD is needed then McChesney Park will be used as a western location. The location will be open on an as needed basis only.

## How long will the PODs operate?

PODS are for emergency relief only. As soon as local stores become operational, the PODs will shut down. PODs do not replace local merchants, once stores open residents must obtain supplies from local vendors. Residents should keep receipts for supplies purchased for possible reimbursement from the federal government or their homeowners' insurance.

**If PODs are needed, the main location will be the shopping plaza at US 1 and Jennings Road. Port St. Lucie Police will assist with directing traffic to this location.**



**If a second POD is needed then McChesney Park will be used as a western location. This location will be open on an as needed basis only.**

# Generator Power, Who Needs It?

Power is something we don't even think about it until the lights don't come on. We have all experienced not having electricity. Some times it only for a few minutes but during a disaster it could be days or even weeks. The question is what is your level of survival, your security, your peace of mind? There are two types of generators: standby and portable. The standby generator is permanently installed, typically with an automatic transfer switch. The portable style generators are smaller and can be kept in storage until needed. Purchase the system works well for you.

## Standby Generators

### Pros

- Once installed works automatically
- Can operate larger appliances such as: AC units, water heater, stove, lights
- Increases the value of your home
- Uses LP or natural gas
- Runs minimum five days without refueling
- Self monitoring weekly

### Cons

- Once installed can not be moved
- Needs onsite maintenance (like a car)
- Installation costs are higher



## Portable Generators

### Pros

- Can be stored and used when needed
- Extremely practical for basic needs
- Extension cords for direct appliance
- Larger cords for manual transfer switch

### Cons

- May not operate larger appliances
- Set up and removal at each power outage
- Requires storage resupply of gasoline
- Refueling three to four times daily
- Can not operate during rain storms
- Still need flash lights, candles and ice
- Appliances such as a stove or AC
- Require a large generator



## Generator Safety

Be safe, plan where your generator needs to be located as per manufacture specs, state, and local codes.

Some generators need to be ten feet from the home and/or flammable/combustible material like wood, screening and palm trees.

Keep the generator away from the house to prevent poisoning from engine exhaust.

Use the proper size extension cords and have the proper size generator to operate desired appliances, lighting fans, etc.

The safest way to use a portable or standby generator is by using a transfer switch, which is required when connecting the power directly to the home.

A transfer switch prevents back feeding into utility lines which is dangerous and illegal.

A transfer switch can prevent your generator from overloading and operating inefficiently.

Never directly wire a generator to your home. This work should always be left to a professional electrician.

## Final Note

It's best to let an electrical contractor help you decide what system is right for you. All generators should be used and installed according to manufacture specs, national electrical code, all local codes, building codes and in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and environmental protection. When installing transfer switches, manual or automatic or standby type generators, permitting and inspections are required. When you are not sure, consult a licensed electrical contractor or your local building department.

# Design and Manage Communities for Wind Resistance

## Design the Right Place

Researchers who visited post-hurricane sites found that many tree failures could have been prevented with good design.

The most important design element that is often overlooked is having enough soil space for tree roots to grow.

To provide anchorage for the tree, roots need to spread beyond the edge of the canopy and grow deep into the soil. Both homeowners and community planners should make sure there is space for tree growth when choosing to plant large maturing trees.

Trees growing in groups survive hurricane winds better than trees planted individually.



## Select the Right Tree

Choose trees that resist decay and therefore recover well from wind damage. Small maturing trees (30 feet at maximum height) are often a better choice for areas where there is not enough soil space for large maturing trees.

Make sure trees are adapted to local site conditions, such as dry versus wet soils.

## Consider small maturing trees

When planting near power lines.

When planting within 10 feet of curbing, building or any other obstruction.

When the space is inadequate for root growth or the soil is shallow, compacted or poorly drained. Large trees can blow over due to shallow roots.

## Hazard: Internal trunk decay



### Trees that resist decay

Buttonwood  
Live Oak  
Mahogany  
Tamarind  
Winged Elm



## Don't Wait!

Do not wait until the last minute to prepare your trees for storm season! Take action now. Hire an ISA certified arborist.

# Managing Palm Trees

## Do Not Over Prune!

*Pruning to create stronger tree structure is an ongoing process known as structural pruning.*

Over-pruning is harmful for palms

Takes away food-producing fronds.

Reduces health.

Leads to stress and decline.

Attracts pests.

Takes a year or more to regrow a full canopy.

Makes them more susceptible to wind damage.



Over-pruned palms



## Remove or Restore?

*Is my palm dead or alive? Will it recover? These are commonly asked questions after hurricanes.*

Palms grow differently from other trees. The growing point of a palm is located at the top of each trunk, surrounded by leaves (called fronds). All fronds originate from this one point (called the bud). If the bud is severely damaged or killed, new leaves fail to develop and single-stemmed palms will die. On multi-stemmed palms, the undamaged trunks could recover as long as their buds are not damaged. If the trunk is snapped in half, the palm is dead. However, for palms left standing, the bud is often not visible or accessible, making it difficult to determine whether it is damaged. For these palms, follow these guidelines:

Allow at least 6 months or longer for palms to put out new growth. New leaves may be stunted, discolored or abnormally shaped. It may take 1 to 2 years or more before palms appear normal with a full canopy.

Irrigate 3 times a week for 6 weeks if there is not sufficient rainfall; longer if drought persists.



# Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees after a Hurricane

## Cleaning Up After a Hurricane

**Most injuries and deaths in a natural disaster occur during clean up. Safety must be the first concern.**

### Create a safe work zone.

*Survey the site to identify potential hazards and discuss where there is potential for injuries. Agree on communication signals before you start to work.*

Set a perimeter around the work area that is two times the height of the tree. More distance is required when felling trees or dropping limbs.

Mark the area with tape or cones and keep non-workers safely outside this area.

**Storm damage clean up is extremely dangerous, even for professionals!**

### What Situations Require a Professional?

**Homeowner:** If you use a chain saw, work only on the ground. Get a professional for all other situations. Do not use ladders or ropes.

**Professional:** Tree care professionals with adequate equipment and insurance can handle these situations. Taking trees down in open areas.

Removing dead or hazardous limbs.

**Certified arborist:** These situations require advanced training and are best handled by ISA certified arborists. Removing a leaning tree or broken limb that is near a house or other potential target.

Reaching limbs that require climbing.

Restoring a damaged tree that could be saved.

Pruning to promote good structure.



### Electrical hazards

*Trees can uproot underground utilities and tear down power lines during hurricanes. The combination of electrical wires and flooding creates a hazardous environment that requires extreme caution. Only qualified line-clearance arborists should work near electrical utilities.*

Call the power company to report tree limbs that have fallen on a power line.

Assume all power lines are energized and do not touch. Improper use of generators may energize lines without warning.

**Beware!** Electrocutation may occur if any part of your body touches a conductor (water, tool, tree branch, metal fence, etc.) in contact with an energized power line.

**DANGER**

# Chain Saw Safety

Chain saws are considered the most dangerous hand tool available. The risk of injury increases during hurricane clean up when chain saws are widely used to remove trees and branches.

## Use these guidelines to avoid injuries:

Follow manual instructions carefully to ensure safe operation and proper equipment maintenance.

Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.

Keep both hands on the handles. Many chain saw injuries affect the hands and are the result of using the saw with just one hand.

Cut at waist level or below. Chain saw injuries to the heart often result from making overhead cuts.

Take extra care when cutting limbs that are bent, twisted, or caught under another object. They may snap back and hit you or pinch the saw.

Take the time to do the job right. Most injuries affect the legs and feet and are the result of aggressive or careless cutting. Take breaks when needed, because most injuries occur when workers are fatigued.

Shut off equipment when fueling the saw or carrying it a distance of more than 100 feet, or through slippery areas or heavy brush.

Be sure the chain saw operator is aware of your presence before you approach. Chain saw operators often cannot see or hear the approach of other people.

Do not cut with the upper tip of the chain saw to avoid kickback.



**Do not cut with the upper tip!**

## Avoid Kickback!

Kickback occurs when the upper tip of the guide bar contacts an object and causes the saw to come straight back at the operator. Kickback happens so fast that there is no time for reaction.

**How to prevent:** Cut with the part of the bar closest to the engine. Watch where the tip is at all times – do not let it contact the ground or other branches.

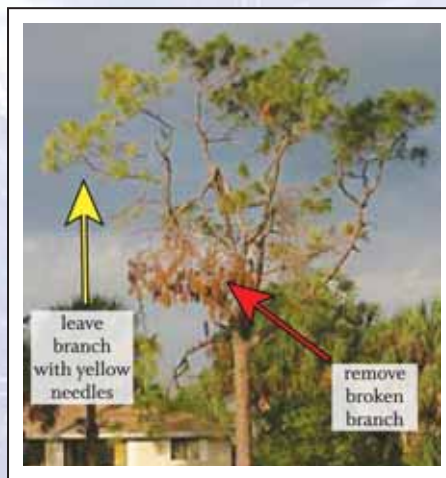
## CanopyC leaning

**Step 1:** Remove hazards, such as dead, broken and hanging branches.

**Step 2:** Remove branches with no needles or brown needles.

**Step 3:** Leave branches with yellow needles for now.

**Step 4:** Wait and see how pines do the following year.



# Debris Management

## The City of Port St Lucie Collection Don'ts

**Don't** – mix items from debris categories. Mixing of debris types will result in non-collection.

**Don't** – block access to property or mailboxes. The city or its contractors will not be responsible for damage to mailboxes, swales or sidewalks.

**Don't** – move or transport debris by a motorized machine (i.e. bobcat, backhoe) as it will not be collected. This is not the time to clear land; it is for residential disaster debris only; debris that are hand-cleared.

**Don't** – commingle debris from community property such as common areas or private parks – it will not be collected.



**After a major storm, it may be necessary to suspend regular garbage and recycling collection for a brief period of time in order to concentrate on cleaning the streets and neighborhoods of debris.**

## The City of Port St Lucie 1-2-3 of Disaster Debris Removal

Three debris categories and what goes into each. Where and how to put debris out for collection.

### 1 Vegetative Debris

**What is it?** Debris from damage to plants and trees: i.e. tree limbs, fronds, bushes.

Place into a separate pile at the edge of the pavement. It does NOT have to be bagged or bundled, although loose vegetation such as leaves, small particles, grass and mulch should be placed in a plastic bag.

**Do not place with items from any other category.**



### 2 Structural Debris

**What is it?** Debris from damage to structures including but not limited to screen enclosures, roof tiles or shingles, gutters, windows, siding, bricks, stucco, drywall and carpet.

Not Collected: floor tiles, appliances, fixtures, furniture and clothing.

**Do not place with items from any other category.**



### 3 Household Waste (Garbage)

**What is it?** Rubbish and garbage ordinarily generated by a residence on a daily basis – generally food waste.

Not Collected: appliances, tires, construction and demolition debris, yard trash, and hazardous waste and that which requires special handling.

Place in bag, then in a garbage can curbside, or in a dumpster.

Use your normal garbage collection routine.

**Do not place with items from any other category.**



# Wastewater Hurricane Prep & Recovery Grinder Pump System

**1. Many of the City's wastewater (sewer) customers are served by low-pressure Grinder Pump or STEP (septic tank effluent pump) systems.**

*The system consists of a small electrical pump inside a fiberglass tank that is typically buried in the front yard of the customer's property.*



**2. What happens when the Grinder Pump or STEP tank is full of wastewater?**

*The electrical pump will automatically run and the wastewater will be pumped through low-pressure sewer mains to one of the City's three wastewater treatment plants.*



**3. What happens if there is a power failure such that a residence has no electricity?**

*If the electrical power is off, the Grinder or STEP system cannot operate. Therefore, all Grinder and STEP system customers must conserve water usage until their electric power is restored. Keep in mind that a toilet typically uses between 1.5 – 2.5 gallons of water each time it is flushed; therefore, customers should flush toilets only when absolutely necessary. They should not take long showers or run water unnecessarily.*

**4. What will the Utility do if a customer does not have electrical power to their Grinder or STEP system?**

*The Utility will make every effort possible to pump out or pump down a customer's Grinder or STEP system during the recovery period after the storm or hurricane.*

**5. Can customers connect their private generators to operate their Grinder STEP systems?**

*Yes, but the generator must be 220 Volt and it must be a minimum of 5,000 Watts. Also, you should always consult with a professional electrician to help you wire the generator into your main electrical panel.*

**6. Is it safe to drink the City's water after a hurricane?**

*A precautionary boil water advisory will typically be in effect immediately following a severe hurricane until such time as the City can assure the integrity of its water distribution system and the quality of water in its system. If you are not able to boil the water, the St. Lucie County Health Dept. has recommended that you add 8 drops of unscented household bleach per gallon of water, stir it to mix, and then allow the water to sit for 10 minutes before consuming it.*

**7. Should the other City water and sewer customers do anything special before, during, or after a hurricane?**

*Yes. Especially heavy rainfall can affect the overall operations of the Utility. Therefore, customers are always advised to conserve water use during and after any severe storm event or hurricane. Again, they should be especially conservative about toilet flushing, and they should not use dishwashers or washing machines. Customers should not take long showers or otherwise allow water to run for long periods of time.*

**8. Customers should call 873-6400 if they have questions. Switchboard is staffed 24-7 by trained Utility personnel.**

# CERT

## St. Lucie County Community Emergency Response Team

### About CERT

**The St. Lucie County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program** educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

*Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.*

### CERT BENEFITS

People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace.

If a disaster happens that overwhelms local response capability, St. Lucie County CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives.

When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site. CERT members can also assist with non-emergency projects. CERTs have been used to distribute and/or install smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries in the home of elderly, distribute disaster education material, provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, concerts and more.

### CERT TRAINING

CERT training offers a comprehensive four week training program including disaster medical, fire safety, and basic search and rescue. CERT training will teach participants to:

1. Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect citizens during natural disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.
2. Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures.
3. Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.

### AGE AND PHYSICAL ABILITY

There are many jobs within a CERT for someone who wants to be involved and help. Following a disaster, CERT members are needed for documentation, comforting others, logistics, communications, incident command, and other vital roles.

Non-disaster related team activities may include keeping databases, developing a website, writing a newsletter, planning activities, helping with special events and organizing exercises and activities.

### Who Can Participate?

Residents of St. Lucie County are encouraged to participate. Basic background checks are required for certification and team participation. Participants can include but are not limited to:

Concerned citizens  
Neighborhoods  
Businesses  
Homeowners associations  
Communities of faith  
Scouting organizations  
School faculty, staff, students  
Clubs/organizations  
Amateur radio groups

## ST. LUCIE COUNTY CERT

St. Lucie County CERT teams are established and supported by the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County Public Safety, St. Lucie County Fire District, and the St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office.

Should an incident occur that affects their neighborhood CERT teams can deploy in their community or they can respond elsewhere in the county on request by county authorities

CERT members and St. Lucie County public safety agencies work together to maintain team skills and the working partnership.

Indian River Community College conducts basic training, refresher classes, and an annual exercise where all CERT members are invited to participate. St. Lucie County agencies also conduct joint exercises with CERT teams and operate as they would during an actual disaster.

## CERT CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about St. Lucie County CERT please contact:

### SLC CERT Director

Dr. Paul C. Forage  
772-462-7965  
Email: pforage@ircc.edu

### SLC CERT Coordinator

Michael Stonesifer  
Emergency Management Volunteer Coordinator  
Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex  
4600 Kirby Loop Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
772-462-7962

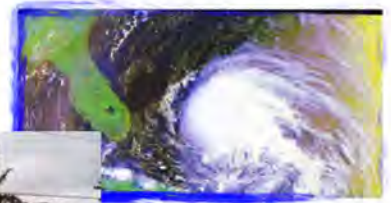
# “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”



772-462-1777



Inspired Network to Achieve Community Together  
St. Lucie County's Long Term Disaster Recovery Organization



**I.N.T.A.C.T., the St. Lucie County Long Term Disaster Recovery Organization** was established as a result of the 2004 hurricanes. This local group brings together organizations that provide goods, services, and resources to assist with the long-term unmet recovery needs of residents following a disaster. I.N.T.A.C.T. is a not-for-profit grassroots collaborative of 35 private and faith based organizations, as well as local, state, and federal government offices. The mission is to strengthen disaster coordination by sharing information, simplifying resident access to services, and by bringing together collaborative leadership to address the long-term needs for mitigation, preparedness, recovery and rehabilitation of individuals and families who are vulnerable to disasters.

I.N.T.A.C.T. relies on grants and donations to help residents with unmet needs to return to a sense of normalcy. Grants come from governmental entities, manufacturers, businesses, foundations, and concerned citizens.

For more information on how to donate time or resources to St. Lucie INTACT, please contact 772-462-1777 or visit our website at [www.stlucieco.org/community/intact.htm](http://www.stlucieco.org/community/intact.htm).

## Volunteers Needed!!



Volunteers with time are needed! St. Lucie I.N.T.A.C.T. is looking for individuals or teams to help seniors and those with physical limitations put up shutters and take them down before and after a storm. Help your neighbors and community by giving your time! Register at [www.volunteerstlucie.com](http://www.volunteerstlucie.com)



Local area businesses—if you have employees who would like to organize a volunteer group with St. Lucie I.N.T.A.C.T., please contact 772-462-1777.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT ST. LUCIE COUNTY HAS ITS VERY OWN WINDSTORM HOUSE?

The University of Florida/St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Windstorm Mitigation House ("The Hurricane House") looks like a home and was built to teach wind resistant building construction and ways to reduce damage to homes from storms, as well as to improve safety for families. The Hurricane House is the only regional facility to distribute information related to strengthening homes through increased wind resistance. Call the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension on Picos Road in Ft. Pierce.



**For more information or to request a tour, please call (772) 462-1660.**

## DID YOU KNOW THAT ST. LUCIE COUNTY HAS ITS VERY OWN WINDSTORM HOUSE?

The University of Florida / St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Windstorm Mitigation House ("The Hurricane House") looks like a residential structure and was constructed to help educate people about wind resistant building construction. The goal is to inform the public about hurricane hazards and provide knowledge which can be used to take action to protect self and family.

The Hurricane House serves as the Treasure Coast regional facility to distribute information related to all aspects of increasing the wind resistance of existing and new housing. The Hurricane House is conveniently located at St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension facility on Picos Road in Ft. Pierce. For more information or to request a tour, please call (772) 462-1660 or visit the University Website: [stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu](http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu)



The University of Florida / St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Windstorm Mitigation House!

### FREE HURRICANE MITIGATION CLASSES!

Anyone who is interested in learning more about wind resistant construction and retrofitting is encouraged to attend. Learn about disaster preparation, window shuttering, door and roof strengthening, garage door bracing, and safe rooms!

Classes are held at 8400 Picos Road in Fort Pierce. Call 772-462-1660 for training dates and registration information.

"History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster."



Open for tours by appointment.

Call 772-462-1660 to schedule. Admission is FREE.

# Tornadoes & Thunderstorms



Photo: Martin Kucera, FloridaLightning.com

## National Weather Service Weather Warnings:

### **Tornado/Thunderstorm/Wind WATCH:**

indicates that atmospheric conditions are conducive for the development of the stated warning. Normal operations will continue. Employees should keep a close eye on changing weather conditions and be prepared to take action if necessary.

### **Tornado/Thunderstorm/Wind WARNING:**

indicates that the hazardous condition stated has been spotted or identified on radar.

## Develop a Family Plan for Dangerous Weather

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere—at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Disaster may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services—water, gas, electricity, or telephones—were cut off?

### Follow these steps to develop a family disaster plan...

- Gather information about hazards.
- Meet with your family to create a plan.
- Implement your plan.
- Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management office, and American Red Cross chapter.
- Find out what type of disasters could occur and how you should respond.
- Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans.
- Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones; Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Inspect your home for potential hazards (such as items that can move, fall, break, or catch fire) and correct them.
- Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number.
- Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags.
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller disaster supplies kit in the trunk of your car.



Photo: Martin Kucera, FloridaLightning.com

## Tornadoes: Nature's Most Violent Storms

Although tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, these destructive forces of nature are found most frequently in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains during the spring and summer months. In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

### What causes tornadoes?

Thunderstorms develop in warm, moist air in advance of eastward-moving cold fronts. These thunderstorms often produce large hail, strong winds, and tornadoes. Tornadoes in the winter and early spring are often associated with strong, frontal systems that form in the Central States and move east. Occasionally, large outbreaks of tornadoes occur with this type of weather pattern. Several states may be affected by numerous severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Tornadoes occasionally accompany tropical storms and hurricanes that move over land. Tornadoes are most common to the right and ahead of the path of the storm center as it comes onshore.

## Tornado Variations

Some tornadoes may form during the early stages of rapidly developing thunderstorms. This type of tornado is most common along the front range of the Rocky Mountains, the Plains, and the Western States.

Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up.

Occasionally, two or more tornadoes may occur at the same time.

## Waterspout

Waterspouts are weak tornadoes that form over warm water.

Waterspouts are most common along the Gulf Coast and southeastern states.

Waterspouts occasionally move inland becoming tornadoes causing damage and injuries.

## Thunderstorms

### Why Talk About Thunderstorms? They Produce...

**Lightning:** Causes an average of 80 fatalities and 300 injuries each year.

**Strong Winds:** Occurs with all thunderstorms.

**Flash Flooding:** Is the #1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms...more than 140 fatalities each year

**Hail:** Cause an average of 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries each year.

**Tornadoes:**

- Produce wind speeds in excess of 250 mph.
- Can be one mile wide and stay on the ground over 50 miles.
- Can exceed 100 mph.
- Can be extremely dangerous to aviation.
- Causes more than \$1 billion in crop and property damage each year.



Photo: Martin Kucera, FloridaLightning.com

# Living in the Lightning Capital

## Florida is often known as the lightning capital of the Country.

According to the National Weather Service lightning killed 3,696 people in the United States between 1959 and 2003; 425 were in the Sunshine State. People in Florida are involved with outdoor activities making the odds of getting hit by a lightning flash even greater. During the summer, rapidly developing thunderstorms give people precious little time to seek safe shelter.

### Plan ahead

Always monitor weather forecasts before you go out, and when you are outdoors, identify a safe shelter in case you need it.

## Lightning Safety Rules and Tips

### Before Lightning Strikes...

- Look for darkening skies, flashes of light, or increasing wind.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately.
- Listen for the latest weather forecasts.

### When a Storm Approaches...

- Lightning storms are often announced by a sudden drop in temperature and increase in wind which are usually the result of a downburst of cold air. This can happen several minutes before it rains.
- Find shelter in a building or car. Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles.
- Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances.
- Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any other purpose.
- Turn off the air conditioner. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, resulting in a costly repair job!
- Draw blinds and shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blow by the wind the shades will prevent glass from shattering into your home.

### If Caught Outside...

- Large meadows are extremely hazardous places to be during lightning storms.
- Picnic shelters and baseball dugouts are not safe lightning shelters.
- Avoid taking shelter under isolated trees or trees much taller than adjacent trees.
- Stay away from water, metal objects, and substances that will conduct electricity.
- Automobiles offer excellent lightning protection.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!

## More Lightning Safety Tips

### Outdoor Sporting Events...

- Golf Courses and outdoor sporting events are extremely hazardous places to be during lightning storms.
- Outdoor stadiums are very dangerous for spectators during a lightning event.
- Be safe postpone your game and seek a safe shelter. If a safe building is not available then automobiles may be the safest location.
- Public bathrooms are much safer than baseball dugouts or picnic shelters.

### Protecting Yourself Outside...

- Keep away from fences, metal clotheslines, telephone lines, power lines, pipelines, and any electrically conductive elevated objects.
- Avoid open spaces, isolated buildings, exposed sheds or other metal structures.
- Don't use metal objects such as fishing rods and golf clubs. Golfers wearing cleated shoes are particularly good lightning rods.
- Avoid the highest object in the area.
- Go to a low-lying, open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects.
- Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding
- Get out of the water and off small boats. If you cannot get out of the boat (i.e., too far from land) position yourself as low as possible in the boat.

### Be a Very Small Target!

- Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.
- If you are in a group you should not huddle together but spread out.
- Don't sit down, you make a larger target. Crouch down.
- Do not lie flat on the ground—this will make you a larger target!

### If Someone is Struck by Lightning...

- People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely.
- Call for help. Get someone to dial 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) number.
- The injured person has received an electrical shock and may be burned, both where they were struck and where the electricity left their body. Check for burns in both places.
- Give first aid. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR.

### Common Questions and Answers

- Q:** If you see lightning flashing in the sky but hear no thunder, does this mean it is too far away or is there lightning that doesn't produce thunder?
- A:** All lightning produces thunder. If you don't hear it, it's far off, or is being dispersed by other noise (strong winds between you and the lightning will disperse the thunder).
- Q:** Can you really count between thunder and lightning and see how far it is?
- A:** Yes, count the number of seconds between lightning flash and sound of thunder, and then divide by 5. The distance to a lightning stroke is the time it takes for the sound to reach you after you've seen the lightning divided by the speed of sound.
- Q:** Is a travel trailer safe in lightning?
- A:** Yes, provided it is earthed (metal legs, not on wood or on rubber tires).



Photo: Martin Kucera, FloridaLightning.com

# Wildfires

## Know the Threat

On April 15, 1999, a wildfire ignited in an undeveloped area just outside the City of Port St Lucie. The fire was fueled by overgrown vegetation on undeveloped lots and quickly spread into our city. The fire jumped several fire breaks in its path, including a 200 foot wide canal. By the time the fire was brought under control, it had destroyed 43 homes and severely damaged another 50.

## What Causes Wildfires?

Wildfires are a major threat when dry and drought-like conditions exist. Dry conditions make wood and vegetation highly combustible, so fires start easily and spread rapidly. An estimated 30% of wildfires are caused by lightning. Children, burning outdoor debris and outdoor cooking are other major causes.

## What has the City done to help prevent Wildfires?

The City of Port St Lucie recently adopted a Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Some of the recommendations that have already been acted upon include:

- Establishment of a countywide 800 MHz (megahertz) emergency radio system to improve communication between emergency agencies.
- Expanded the fire suppression water (fire hydrant) system to areas hardest hit by the 1999 wildfire.
- Added fire stations.

## What can you do to prevent Wildfires?

- Protect your house, keep a clearing of at least 30 feet from the house.
- Remove "Ladder Fuels" such as vines, and thick undergrowth. These plants allow fires to climb into the tree branches spreading rapidly.
- Prune trees so lowest limb is at least 6 feet from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dispose of properly.
- Remove dead or over hanging branches from trees.
- Use fire resistant building materials such as Class A asphalt shingles, aluminum soffits, concrete stucco or masonry walls.
- Plant fire resistant plants. Go to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- Avoid cooking outdoors during periods of drought.
- Never burn yard waste. Place it on the curb on your designated collection day.

**Did you know?** Port St Lucie has a separate collection for yard waste. For more information, go to [www.cityofpsl.com](http://www.cityofpsl.com), click on "New Residents and General Information," then click "What to do with your Garbage." Never mix yard waste with garbage. Keep them separated.

## If you own an undeveloped lot:

- Remove "Ladder Fuels" such as vines, and plants that allow fires to climb into the tree branches spread rapidly.
- Prune trees so lowest limb is at least 6 feet from the ground.
- Save the trees but remove the underbrush, this will help prevent your lot from becoming a fire hazard. It's inexpensive and your neighbors will thank you.
- Remove dead trees and branches.
- Be a good neighbor, clear areas within 30 feet of a neighboring house or yard.
- If your lot has been cleared mow it periodically.



## Clear the underbrush

By clearing the underbrush and removing dead trees, fires will not spread as rapidly giving fire fighters precious time to respond. Fire breaks can help control the spread.



## Recipe For Disaster

Dead trees and climbing vegetation in vacant lots allow fire to spread into the tree canopy, where it burns hot and spreads rapidly jumping firebreaks and even canals.



# Be prepared!

## Make a Hurricane Plan for You and Your Family

### Activity for Students

#### My Family's Plan

- If a hurricane threatens our area my family plans to:
  - Shelter at home
  - Stay with friends/relatives in area
  - Evacuate
- If we evacuate, we plan to go to:
  - Relatives' house
  - Hotel
  - Shelter
- If you know where you will be staying put the address here:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Does your family need to go to a shelter? Even if you don't, you should know where the closest shelters are just in case. Go to page 19 of the Guide to find 2 shelters close to your home.
- The two shelters closest to my home are:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- Does your house have hurricane shutters?
  - Yes
  - No
- What type of shutters does your house have?
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know? Go to pages 10 and 11 of the Guide.
- If your house needs shutters your family may qualify for assistance. Tell Mom or Dad to go to pages 40 and 41 to read about Project Intact and page 37 for the Port St. Lucie Homeowners Assistance Program.

- Does someone in your family has special needs? Go to pages 16 and 17 of the Guide to learn more.
  - We do not have a family member with special needs
  - We have a family member who needs assistance, and they are registered with St. Lucie County. (To register, call 772-461-5201)
- Do you have a pet at home?
  - Yes, we have:
    - Dog(s)  Cat(s)  Bird(s)
    - We do not have pets.
- If you have a pet go to page 21 of the Guide and fill out the Pet Identification Card; make copies if you have more than one pet.
- Do you have a Hurricane Plan for your pets? Go to pages 20 and 21 of the guide to learn more. Go to the emergency pet supply list on page 21 to make sure you have the items your pet needs before a storm threatens.

#### My Pet's Hurricane Plan

- (Shelters will not take pets)
- Our pets will be:
    - Staying with us
    - Traveling with us
    - Staying at: \_\_\_\_\_
  - If your pet will be staying at a friend or relative's house put the address here:
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_

- If you are traveling with your pet make sure you have an animal carrier.
- Never leave your pet home alone, if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them. Plan now for your pets safety.

#### Map It

- If you will be evacuating you will need to have a plan. Go to page 15 of the Guide to plan the best route; be sure to pick a second route in case you need it. If you are planning to stay home, plan an evacuation route just in case.
- In the space below name 3 main roads that you would use if your family needed to evacuate.
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Are you ready for a hurricane?

- Go to page 7 of the Guide to find out what you need to buy. List some of the items that your family needs to buy below.
- We need to buy the following items to be ready for a Hurricane:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Now you're ready!

# Upcoming Storm Names

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization. The original name lists featured only women's names. In 1979, men's names were introduced, and they alternate with the women's names. Six lists are used in rotation. Thus, the 2006 list will be used again in 2012.

## 2009

Ana  
Bill  
Claudette  
Danny  
Erika  
Fabian  
Grace  
Henri  
Isabel  
Juan  
Kate  
Larry  
Mindy  
Nicholas  
Odette  
Peter  
Rose  
Sam  
Teresa  
Victor  
Wanda

## 2010

Alex  
Bonnie  
Colin  
Danielle  
Earl  
Fiona  
Gaston  
Hermine  
Igor  
Julia  
Karl  
Lisa  
Matthew  
Nicole  
Otto  
Paula  
Richard  
Shary  
Tomas  
Virginie  
Walter

## 2011

Arlene  
Bret  
Cindy  
Don  
Emily  
Franklin  
Gert  
Harvey  
Irene  
Jose  
Katia  
Lee  
Maria  
Nate  
Ophelia  
Philippe  
Rina  
Sean  
Tammy  
Vince  
Whitney

