



# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

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## Prepare your family and home for hurricane season.

During emergency situations, there are many issues to sort out aside from insurance matters. This report was created to help put you in the most informed and prepared position before a hurricane hits. Use these tips to help protect yourself and your family.

### Prepare a hurricane disaster plan

Create an emergency plan and review it regularly so that all family members know what to do.

- Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Flood maps are available at

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

- Locate the safest areas to shelter within your home.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. Your county and state should have evacuations routes available online. Have multiple options in mind in case of road closures.
- Plan where you will go if evacuation is necessary, such as a friend or relative's home or nearby shelter. Go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to locate open shelters.
- Add emergency contact numbers to your phone
- Never let your car's gas tank go below a quarter tank. Gas may not be readily available in an emergency situation.

- If your vulnerable home is a secondary residence, identify a local contact to help secure the property and engage the shutters in the event of a storm.

- Keep a copy of your plan, including contact numbers and addresses, in your Go Bag, which is described below.

### Assemble emergency supplies

Have the following emergency supplies on hand:

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day.
- Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach (for disinfecting water if directed to do so by health officials) and an eyedropper (for adding bleach to water).
- Nonperishable, ready-to-eat canned foods, and a manual can opener.
- First-aid kit, medications, and prescriptions.
- Fire extinguisher, candles, and matches.
- Phone that does not rely on electricity.
- Portable cooler with ice.
- Plastic garbage bags.
- Plywood or other shuttering material for windows.
- A generator.
- Your Go Bag, including the items detailed below

## Put together a Go Bag

For each household member, assemble a Go Bag — a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation. Each Go Bag should be packed in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or suitcase on wheels.

A Go Bag may include:

- Copies of important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, proof of address, etc.).
- Emergency contact and meeting place information for your household and a small regional map.
- Credit and ATM cards, and cash, especially in small denominations.
- Extra set of car and house keys.
- Flashlight, whistle, emergency radio, and batteries.
- Cell phone charger(s) including one that can be used without electricity, such as a car charger, and an extra cell phone battery.
- Bottled water and nonperishable foods
- Medication for at least one week and other essential personal items. Keep a list of any medications and dosages for each member of your household, or copies of all your prescription slips, as well as your doctor's contact information.
- Sturdy, comfortable shoes, lightweight rain gear, and a mylar blanket.
- Child care supplies or other special care items.
- Personal items such as soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush, and toothpaste, etc.

## As a storm approaches

• Stay informed through radio and TV broadcasts. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.

[Click here to find your evacuation zone.](#)

- Secure your home. Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors.
- Bring loose, lightweight objects indoors.
- Anchor objects that are unsafe to bring inside, such as gas grills or propane tanks.
- Place valuables in waterproof containers or plastic bags

## Before leaving your home

- If you are going to an evacuation shelter, pack what you need for several days, including your Go Bag, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, and medical equipment.
- Check on friends, relatives, and neighbors. Assist them with their preparation if needed.

### Before leaving your home

- Turn off home electricity with a main switch.
- Shut the gas valve at the appliance, not the main.
- Tell friends/relatives/neighbors where you are going.

## We'll be here when you need us

MMA's Disaster Response Plan goes into effect whenever a major emergency strikes. This allows us to respond to clients' needs even when our own offices are located in the same disaster area. Because of our national presence, we are able to reroute calls to other offices where client advisors are able to assist you.

Visit these websites for additional disaster planning information:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov))
- National Hurricane Center ([nhc.noaa.gov](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov))
- National Flood Insurance Program ([Floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov))
- Disaster Assistance Improvement Program ([DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov))
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([noaa.gov](https://www.noaa.gov))

## Reporting a claim

When reporting a new Property loss, the following information is needed to get your claim reported to the carrier as quickly as possible:

- The date of loss
- The address of the unit(s)/building(s) involved
- Contact information for the association's best point of contact (usually the property manager or a board member)
- A description of the type of damage and how the loss occurred
- What actions have been taken to date (called remediation company, fire dept., etc.)
- Provide any additional documentation, photos, invoices, etc. that have been received to date.

For Liability losses (injuries or 3rd party property damage) , please provide the below in order for us to report your claim as quickly as possible:

- The date of loss
- Contact Information for the association's best point of contact
- Name and contact information of injured party
- Loss description of how incident occurred and what was injured/damaged
- Address/location of where incident occurred
- Provide any additional photos, incident reports, or information received to date.





# Shelter locations

[Hillsborough County Shelter Information](#)  
[Pasco County Shelter Information](#)  
[Pinellas County Shelter Information](#)  
[Citrus County Shelter Information](#)

## How to Register for Special Needs

Pinellas County residents can fill out [this form](#) online or by mail. If you sign up for the special needs registry, you will be asked about your transportation plans. If you need a ride to a shelter, your local fire department will be in contact with you to make arrangements when the time comes to evacuate.

## What about my pet?

- Pets are only allowed in pet-friendly shelters.
- Service animals that have been trained to do work for an individual with a disability are allowed in any shelter.
- If you have registered for a special needs shelter and have no other options for your pet, call Pinellas County Animal Services at 727-582-2600 to register your pet. Animal Services will make arrangements for your pet to be taken to a host home. Pets are not allowed to stay in special needs shelters.

## SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER LOCATIONS IN PINELLAS COUNTY:

- Dunedin Middle School  
70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin
- Oak Grove Middle School  
1370 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater
- John Hopkins Middle School  
701 16th St. S., St. Petersburg

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Pinellas County Special Needs Shelter](#)

## SURROUNDING COUNTIES:

[Pasco County](#)

[Citrus County](#)

[Hillsborough County](#)

If you have evacuated out of the area, returning home can have some challenges if a storm has done significant damage to the county. Bridges and roads may be closed due to damage, flooding, or debris. Officials may have entire areas closed off to everyone, even residents. So before heading home, be sure to watch or read the news to learn the latest information about road conditions and damage reports for Pinellas County and surrounding areas.

In an effort to prevent looting and burglary after a largescale mandatory evacuation, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the barrier islands have joined forces to provide free Emergency Access Permits to all businesses and residents. Once a mandatory evacuation order has been lifted, Emergency Access Permits will be required to re-enter an evacuated area.

You will be asked to hang the permit from your vehicle's rearview mirror for re-entry post-evacuation. Law enforcement posted at city entrances will scan the barcode on your permit to verify your residence.

[To Obtain a Permit for Barrier Islands and Beach Residents/Business Owners](#)

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