



A Community #ForAllAges

Hurricane Disaster Planning & Preparedness



FEMA: Important Things To Know Before a Disaster

It's official. We are in Hurricane Season, June 1- November 30, and the peak of the season will begin the first week of September. As part of The Patterson Foundation's disaster planning and preparedness, Age-Friendly Sarasota has compiled a list of safety precautions that will help our community if we are faced with a dangerous storm.

Start today to make a plan:

Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is essential to be ready. Know how you'll

contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

**HELLO
I AM...**

PREPARED

[Family Emergency Communication Guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency Plan for Parents or \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency Plan for Kids or \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency Plan for Commuters \(PDF\)](#)

[Pet owners PDF](#)

[Steps to make a plan \(PDF\)](#)

[Tips on emergency alerts and warnings \(PDF\)](#)

[Protect Critical Documents and Valuables \(PDF\)](#)

Put together a plan by discussing these four questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan.

1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
2. What is my shelter plan?
3. What is my evacuation route?
4. What is my family/household communication plan?

If there is a hurricane warning, find safe shelter right away:

- Determine how best to protect yourself from high winds and flooding.
 - Evacuate if told to do so.
 - Take refuge in a designated storm shelter, or an interior room for high winds.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown! Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
- [2019 Shelter Information for Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties.](#)

When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving:

- Turn on your TV or radio to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Begin restocking your [emergency supply kit](#) now. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, a [power stick](#) for your phone, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Plan how to communicate with family members if you lose power. For example, you can call, text, email or use social media. Remember that during disasters, sending text messages is usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because phone lines are often overloaded.
- Review your evacuation zone, evacuation route, and shelter locations. Plan with your family. You may have to leave quickly so plan ahead.
- Keep your car in good working condition, and keep the gas tank full; stock your vehicle with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

When a hurricane is 18-36 hours from arriving:

- Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.
- Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.
- Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.

When a hurricane is 6-18 hours from arriving:

Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes to get the

[Document and Insure Your Property \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(PDF\)](#)

LOCAL TRAFFIC AND EMERGENCY TWITTER HANDLES

SRQ County Government
Emergency services
[@scgovEOC](#)

Manatee Public Safety
[@MCGPublicSafety](#)

Traffic statewide
[@fl511_state](#)

Traffic on I-75
[@fl511_i75](#)

Traffic in Tampa
[@fl511_tampabay](#)

Traffic on I-4
[@fl_511_i4](#)

[Download the FEMA App](#)



- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

When a hurricane is 6 hours from arriving:

- If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know your location.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- Close storm shutters, and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.
- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.

Survive DURING

- If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.
- Listen for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery outdoors ONLY and away from windows.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.

Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing and work with someone else.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your insurance company for assistance.

Food and Water Safety Recover After a Hurricane

* Information provided by [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), FEMA, the FDA, and EPA. [Learn More.](#)

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FREE
Open to the public

ARE WE READY?



Surviving Hurricane Michael Before, During & After

Dr. John Holdnak
President, Gulf Coast State College

For more information on hurricane preparedness, join Dr. John Holdnak for a free presentation to be held at the SCF Bradenton Campus on Friday, June 28th at 9am.

The presentation entitled "Are We Ready? Surviving Hurricane Michael" is meant to encourage new thinking about our state of readiness in the face of a CAT 5 hurricane. Dr. Holdnak will describe his experience from a personal and professional perspective while addressing the role of business, community leaders, and first responders in the recovery efforts.

Imagine having \$200 in cash in your pocket but having no food for days because your home, grocery stores, and restaurants have been completely destroyed for miles around you. Imagine not knowing if your near neighbors or family members are alive or dead for 72 hours or more because no one can get through the massive amount of debris. It is unimaginable, but it did happen. Are We Ready?

To register, RSVP to: PresidentsOffice@SCF.edu.

To share news or information, contact the editor at ssternberg@thepattersonfoundation.org.