



Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR):
0-5 Express

July 2019

Explaining a Hurricane

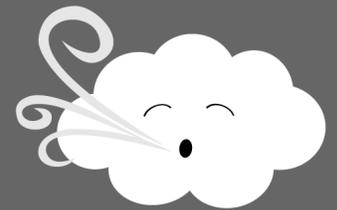
This short video can help your child understand the science behind a hurricane. Watch it together so you can answer any questions he/she might have.



[What's a Hurricane? \(total time: 4:09\)](#)

We are officially in Hurricane Season, June 1 through November 30, and the peak of the season begins the first week of September. As part of SCGLR's disaster planning and preparedness, we have compiled a list of safety precautions that will help if we are faced with a dangerous storm.

As parents, remaining calm can go a long way. Talk to your child about hurricanes. Although they are dangerous, try not to instill fear as you share facts. For example, you can say, "Hurricane winds are so strong, they can fling objects that can fling into windows and break glass. To be safe, we are going to protect ourselves by... That way children can be braced for reality, yet feel safe knowing there is a plan in place.



Start today to make a plan:

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.

Discuss these four questions with your family, to start your emergency plan.

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family's 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

Aspiring to Action



[\(total time: 1:33\)](#)

In 2018, Hurricane Michael hit the Panhandle as a Category 4 storm with wind speeds of more than 150 mph. Inspired by [The Patterson Foundation's](#) "Take your Child to Work Day," twin brothers, Kennedy and Avery Cole, decided to take action. Kennedy shares his thoughts below:

"We learned a lot about how people can help each other by sharing their time, talents, and treasure. My brother and I donated \$25 each during the Giving Challenge run by the [Community Foundation of Sarasota County](#). TPF matched our donation, so instead of giving a total of \$50, we gave \$100. When you combined our donations with all the other people who gave money on that day, we all gave \$11.7 million dollars. I think that really helped me realize the importance of giving back.

When we watched the news in October [2018] and saw all the damage caused by Hurricane Michael in the Panhandle, I knew we had to do something to help. My brother and I worked with The Kindness Club at our school, Lakeview Elementary, to raise money for Bay Haven Charter Academy in Panama City. We trick or treated for them and had a Go Fund Me page. We were able to raise \$1,934.05 for the school. My mom and godmother arranged for us to visit the school to deliver the money and see the recovery efforts. I was really looking forward to meeting the Principal, Mr. Larry Bolinger, and hearing about what everyone has been going through. When we arrived in Panama City, we were really surprised to see all the damage, not only at the school, but everywhere."

FAMILY MATTERS

Thankfully, there isn't a hurricane looming in the Gulf, but we can aspire to action in advance by creating a Family Emergency Communication Plan with these [handy worksheets provided by FEMA](#).

Creating your Family Emergency Communication Plan starts with one simple



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.](#)

[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 \(PDF\)](#)

[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

Plan starts with one simple question: "What if?"

"What if something happens and I'm not with my family?" "Will I be able to reach them?" "How will I know they are safe?" "How can I let them know I'm OK?"

Communication networks, such as mobile phones and computers, could be unreliable during disasters, and electricity could be disrupted.

Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household, including children, people with disabilities, and older adults / caregivers know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency.

[Source: FEMA](#)

[@MCGPublicSafety](#)

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[@fl511_state](#)

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

Traffic in Tampa
[@fl511_tampabay](#)

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

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We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.