



the greenacres CITY Link

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES

JUNE 2008

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Be Prepared for Hurricane Season!

As the 2008 Hurricane season approaches, residents and visitors need to be prepared. Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30; however, hurricanes can occur outside this timeframe. Dr. Gray, predicts that the 2008 Hurricane season will include 15 named storms, 8 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes.

Before the Season Begins

- Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm.
- Purchase supplies for your Family disaster supplies kit.
- Check with your doctor and/or pharmacy to determine how best to assure your prescription will last through a storm.
- Locate your water meter and electrical shutoff.
- Know the disaster plan of your child's school or daycare.
- Trim trees and store loose objects
- Install/test your smoke detector.
- Use a video camera to tape the contents of your home and store videotape with a friend who lives out of town.
- Photocopy important papers and store safely.
- Make plans to board your pet if you plan to go to a shelter.
- Obtain cash or travelers checks.
- Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency.
- Check your shelter information and location.
- If you need to register for the Special Needs shelter, contact the Special Needs Coordinator at 561-712-6400.

Hurricane Protection & Window Film

Window film has its uses, however there is currently no window film that provides "approved hurricane protection," or performs as an "alternative to hurricane shutters," or that meets the large missile impact test in accordance with the Florida Building Code.

Whether you are having impact windows installed or any type of shutters (*panels, accordions, fabric, screens, etc*), the contractor must obtain a building permit for the work; all forms of hurricane protection require building permits. The permit process ensures that the materials used meet the code requirements, and that the installation is performed in accordance with the engineer's drawings.



City staff is available to make Hurricane presentations at Homeowner's Association meetings.

To schedule a presentation contact Assistant City Manager Deborah Manzo at 561-642-2017.

Residents are also encouraged to review the Hurricane Preparedness Information on the City's website:

www.ci.greenacres.fl.us
(HOME page – Emergency Preparedness).



Tree Trimming

Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs; this will reduce resistance and tree toppling from hurricane wind force.

During a Watch/Warning

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.
- Review your evacuation plan.
- Check evacuation kit and/or family disaster supplies kit and gather any missing items.
- Place important documents and photos in waterproof plastic bags.
- Fuel up vehicles and propane tanks; obtain fuel for generators.
- Test generator (*do not operate during storm*).
- Move vehicle(s) into a garage or next to a building; avoid parking near trees and utility poles.
- Secure all doors and windows. Install shutters.
- Buy roof turbine cap(s) before a storm is imminent. Remove turbine and cap vent hole when storm is approaching.
- Secure outdoor furniture, wind chimes, flags, trash cans, etc; anchor grills, antennas, etc.
- Tie down or stabilize boat.
- Secure outdoor gates and reinforce garage door.
- Fill water containers, bath tub and sinks.
- Freeze water jugs and fill ice chest.
- Turn Refrigerator to lowest setting and lower A/C (*turn their circuit breakers off after power goes out*).
- Recharge batteries.
- Place flashlights and batteries throughout the house.
- If you are going to stay during a hurricane you need to ensure that you have sufficient **food, water, and supplies for at least 5-7 days**.
- Check the inlets in the roads and parking areas in your community. Ensure that they are not clogged with a buildup of leaves or debris on the surface. A rake or broom can clean the area and help the water get into the inlet quickly.
- More Information:
pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/resources/downloads.htm.

Additional Information for Homeowner Associations

- Negotiate terms for debris/vegetation removal with a contractor.
- Establish contact list of board members/management company.
- Clean drainage systems including inlets, pipes, and outfall structures.
- Compile list of residents that may need assistance before and after a hurricane.
- Install shutters on common area buildings (i.e. clubhouse).
- Remove or secure loose items on common property.
- Secure recycling containers and close lids of dumpsters.

Landfall

- Stay inside a well constructed building or home only if you have NOT been ordered to leave.
- Go to your safe room if conditions warrant.
- Keep flashlight with you.
- Stay away from windows. Do not open doors or windows.
- Do not operate gas grill or portable generator.
- Stay off the phone unless absolutely necessary.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances; turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Do not go outdoors until the storm has passed; winds can die down and begin again at anytime.

If your home becomes damaged during the storm

- Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.
- Close all interior doors; secure and brace external doors.
- If you are in a two-story house or multi-story building, go to an interior first-floor room, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

Generator Safety

According to the Center for Disease Control, over 500 people die each year from accidental carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if the following safety guidelines were followed:

- Never use a portable generator indoors; only use a portable generator outside and away from any doors or windows or vents that could allow CO to enter your home.
- Do not use a portable generator in the rain; consumer-grade generators are not weatherproof and there is a risk of electrocution or shock.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions; plug appliances into heavy-duty extension cords and then plug the cords into the generator.
- Purchase a carbon monoxide detector and ensure the unit is functioning correctly.
- Never power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet; this is called "backfeeding" and presents a serious risk to both utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer.



These checklists are meant to serve as a guideline for Hurricane Preparations and Recovery. It is not meant as an exclusive list of all actions that need to be considered.

Post-storm Safety

- If you evacuated, return only when local officials state it is safe.
- Roads may be closed for your protection. If barricaded or flooded, turn around and go another way! Do not drive into flooded areas.
- Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines; report them to FPL or police department.
- Look for fire hazards such as flooded electrical circuits or submerged appliances. Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or frayed wires, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a hissing noise, open a window and leave quickly. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve, and call the gas company.
- Check for sewage and water line damage. If you think sewage lines are damaged, don't use toilets, and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, don't use tap water call the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- When it is safe to do so, conduct an initial assessment of any damage to your property. Begin taking steps to minimize further damage from rain or standing water. If the street or parking area is flooded, check the inlets for debris and rake it away.
- Call 9-1-1 for emergencies only.
- During power outages, use of water in sinks and bathrooms should be limited as lift stations could overflow. *(If wastewater starts backing up inside the house, locate and remove plug on the clean-out outside the house. Reinstall after power is restored.)*

Additional Information for Homeowner Associations

- Check on neighbors.
- Conduct a quick damage assessment (*buildings, flooding, fallen trees*); take pictures of damages and coordinate with insurance carrier.
- Watch for fallen power lines before clearing storm drain inlets of leaves and other vegetation, which will allow storm water to drain.
- Contact management company and arrange for clearing and debris removal.



City's Pre-storm Activities



- Evacuation orders are implemented in mobile home parks which are mandatory evacuation zones in the City.
- EMS unit transports special needs citizens to critical care shelter.
- Roadway inlets are checked for debris; clearing is coordinated.
- Construction job sites are inspected to ensure that construction materials are secure.
- City buildings and grounds are secured.
- Public Safety calls continue until it is no longer safe to be in the storm; personnel will remain in a stand-by mode. Calls for public safety assistance continue, if an immediate response cannot be made the call will be prioritized and handled when it is safe for personnel to respond.
- Prepare City Emergency Operations Center for storm.

Note: Waste services will cease when the SWA closes the landfills (approximately 12-24 hours prior to a storm).

City's Response & Recovery Actions

- Coordinate with the County Emergency Operations Center.
- Rescue operations begin. Curfew regulations are enforced.
- City is surveyed for damages and city maintained streets are cleared of debris.
- Conduct damage assessment of public areas.
- Repair/secure damaged City buildings and grounds, and begin clean-up efforts.
- Coordinate residential debris collection.
- Clear City drainage systems.
- Conduct preliminary damage assessments of residences and businesses to complete State Damage Assessment forms indicating extent of damage.
- Issue emergency permits for temporary repairs to structures.

Note: All parks will be closed after a hurricane until the park is free of debris and is safe to open to the public. Please look for signs for park openings and closings.

July 4th Celebration

Join the City for an Independence Day Celebration and enjoy live music, amusement rides, family games, face painting and much more. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and concludes with a spectacular Fireworks display beginning at 9:00 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Remember to bring your chairs!

When:

Friday, July 4, 2008
5:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Where:

Greenacres Community Park
(Jog Road & Constitution Way)

Agenda:	5:30 p.m.	Family games and races Amusement Rides
	5:30 p.m.	Musical Entertainment
	7:00 p.m.	“Best Patriotic Dress” Contest
	8:30 p.m.	Massing of Colors Singing of National Anthem
	9:00 p.m.	Fireworks presentation by Zambelli

Free Transportation provided by the City begins at 5:30 p.m. at:

Greenacres Community Center – 501 Swain Boulevard
Greenacres Old City Hall – 5985 10th Avenue North Blvd.

NO PERSONAL FIREWORKS!

The following emergency and informational contacts are offered to assist residents during the hurricane season.

City of Greenacres	Tune to AM Radio 1650 561-642-2160
Comcast (Adelphia) Cable	800-266-2278 848-1600 or 655-3842
American Red Cross	561-833-7711
AT& T (Bellsouth)	877-737-2478 866-620-6900
Business Development Board	561-835-1008 www.bdb.org
Crisis Information or Counseling and Referrals	2-1-1 www.211palmbeach.org
FEMA	800-621-3362
Senior Assistance	2-1-1 or 561-383-1134 www.211palmbeach.org
FL Dept. of Business & Professional Regulations Re: FL Licensed Contractors	850-487-1395
FL Division of Workers Compensation	800-742-2214
Insurance Complaints Dept. of Financial Services	800-227-8676 800-22-STORM (800-227-8676)
Florida Power & Light (FPL)	800-468-8243 800-226-3545
Palm Tran Bus & Transportation	561-841-4287 877-930-4287 (toll free)
Palm Tran “CONNECTION” Service	561-649-9838 877-870-9849 (toll free) www.palmtran.org
Price Gouging	866-966-7226
Schools (Palm Beach County)	561-357-7500
TRI Rail	800-874-7245

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.ci.greenacres.fl.us

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