



greenacres CITYLink

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES

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Hurricane Season-Are **YOU** Prepared?

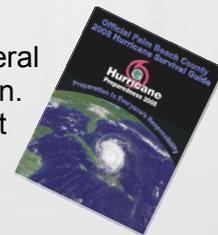
Each year, on average, ten (10) tropical storms, of which six (6) become hurricanes, develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico. A Tropical Storm is an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots). A Hurricane is an intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. Moving ashore, they sweep the ocean inward while spawning tornadoes and producing torrential rains and floods. Many of these remain over the ocean; however, about five hurricanes strike the United States coastline every three years. Of these five, two will be major hurricanes, Category 3 (*winds above 111 miles per hour*) or greater on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30; however, hurricanes can occur outside this timeframe. The 2009 Hurricane Season is predicted to include 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 2 intense hurricanes.

Hurricanes can cause major damage to buildings, trees, and power lines due to high winds and flying debris, and heavy rain can flood buildings and close roadways. Residents and businesses need to be prepared and have a plan to survive a hurricane.

Communities can cope with and recover from the aftermath of a hurricane if each resident and business take individual responsibility for planning and preparedness. Being prepared means having a plan and knowing what to do before, during, and after a hurricane moves through an area.

The information presented here is intended to provide a general overview of actions to be taken as part of planning and preparation. The Palm Beach County Hurricane Survival Guide available at www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/hurricane/pdf/Hurricane_Guide.pdf contains more detailed information to assist residents and businesses.



Hurricane Preparation Information



TUNE IN
TO...

AM Radio 1650

for the City of Greenacres
up-to-date hurricane
information during a
storm.

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 – Hurricane Preparedness)



Make a Plan

- Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm.
- Purchase supplies for your family disaster supply kit, (*Food, water, medicine, flashlight, extra batteries, radio, cash, first aid kit*). See www.ready.gov/america/getakit.
- Locate your water meter and electrical shutoff.
- Know the disaster plan of your child's school or daycare.
- Trim trees and store loose objects.
- Purchase materials to protect windows.
- Use a video camera to record 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.
- 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.

Window Hurricane Protection

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.

Tree Trimming

Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs; this will reduce resistance and tree toppling from hurricane wind force. Do not trim trees immediately before a storm since there may not be enough time for the trimmings to be picked up before the storm hits.

During a Watch/Warning



- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.
- Review your family plan. Decide where to ride out the storm.
- If you are going to stay during a hurricane you need to ensure that you have sufficient **food, water, medicine, and supplies for at least 5-7 days**.
- Check family disaster supply kit and gather any missing items.
- Place important documents and photos in waterproof plastic bags.
- Obtain cash or travelers checks.
- Fuel up vehicles and propane tanks; obtain fuel for generators.
- Secure all doors and windows. Install shutters. Brace garage door. Remove roof turbine and cap vent hole.
- Secure/move outdoor furniture items such as wind chimes, flags, trash cans; anchor grills, antennas, etc.
- Move vehicle(s) into a garage or next to a building; avoid parking near trees and utility poles.
- 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*).
- Secure recycling containers and close lids of dumpsters.
- Test generator (*do not operate during storm*).
- Ensure the inlets in the roads and parking areas in your community are not clogged with a buildup of leaves or debris on the surface.

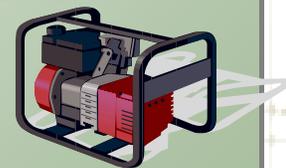
Additional Information for Homeowner Associations

- Confirm arrangements for debris/vegetation removal with landscaping company or 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.

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.



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.

Emergency Shelters in or near the City

- John I. Leonard High School
4701 10th Avenue North, Greenacres, Florida 33463
- Palm Beach Central High School
8499 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, Florida 33411

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.
- Construction job sites are inspected to ensure that construction materials are secure.
- City buildings and grounds are secured.
- Public Safety response continues 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, and are 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).

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 downed lines 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 damage 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 Response & Recovery Activities

- 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.

Emergency Contact Information



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
American Red Cross	561-833-7711
Animal Care & Control	561-233-1200
AT& T (Bellsouth)	877-737-2478 866-620-6900
Business Development Board	561-835-1008 www.bdb.org
Comcast (Adelphia) Cable	800-266-2278 848-1600 or 655-3842
Crisis Information or Counseling and Referrals	2-1-1 www.211palmbeach.org
FEMA	800-621-3362
FL Dept. of Business & Professional Regulations Re: FL Licensed Contractors	850-487-1395
FL Division of Workers Compensation	800-742-2214
Florida Power & Light (FPL)	800-468-8243 800-226-3545

Florida Public Utilities	561-832-0872
Palm Beach County Health Dept.	561-840-4500
Insurance Complaints Dept. of Financial Services	800-227-8676 800-22-STORM (800-227-8676)
Palm Beach County Water Utilities Water/Sewer/Lift Station	561-740-4600
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
Senior Assistance	2-1-1 or 561-383-1134 www.211palmbeach.org
TRI Rail	800-874-7245
Traffic Signal Repair	561-683-6885



For site locations of Supermarkets/Gas Stations with generators in our area during a hurricane, please visit:

[http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us/Hurricane Preparedness](http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us/Hurricane%20Preparedness)



www.ci.greenacres.fl.us

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