



Greenacres CITY LINK

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES

SPRING 2011

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For the City of
Greenacres
up-to-date
Hurricane
Information
during a storm -
Tune in to:

AM Radio 1650

Hurricane Preparedness:

Review hurricane preparedness information on our website at: www.ci.greenacres.fl.us

Presentations:

City Staff is available to make Hurricane Preparedness Presentations at Homeowner's Associations meetings.

Contact:

Deborah Manzo, Assistant City Manager at 561-642-2017 to schedule an appointment.

2011 HURRICANE SEASON - Be Prepared!

Hurricanes are a threat to Palm Beach County and preparing for them is a year-round process. 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.

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

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30; however, hurricanes can occur outside this time frame. Colorado State University provides the hurricane season forecasts. The 2011 hurricane season is predicted to have significantly more activity than the average for the 1950-2000 seasons. The early forecast report estimates approximately 16 named storms, 9 hurricanes and 5 major hurricanes occurring during the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season.

Communities can cope with and recover from the aftermath of a hurricane if each resident and business takes 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** is available at the website indicated below, and contains more detailed information to assist residents and businesses.

www.pbcgov.com/hurricane/pdf/Hurricane_Guide.pdf

BEFORE THE SEASON BEGINS - Make a Plan

- Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm. Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency.
- Purchase supplies for your family disaster supply kit; (5-7 days of food, water, and medicine; flashlight, extra batteries, radio, cash, and first aid kit). See www.ready.gov/america/getakit.
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- Make plans to board your pet if you plan to go to a shelter.
- Locate your water meter and electrical shutoff.
- Trim trees to make them more wind resistant.
- 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.
- Check your shelter information and location.
- If you have medical needs and need to stay at a Special Needs Shelter, contact the Special Needs Coordinator at 561-712-6400 to pre-register.

EMERGENCY SHELTERS in or near the City of Greenacres

John I. Leonard High School
4701 10th Avenue North, Greenacres,
Florida 33463

Palm Beach Central High School
8499 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington,
Florida 33411

DURING A WATCH/WARNING - Stay Informed

- 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.
- Move vehicle(s) into a garage or next to a building; avoid parking near trees and utility poles. Tie down or stabilize boat.
- 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.
- Secure recycling containers and close lids of dumpsters.
- 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).
- 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.
- If you leave, allow at least twice the usual travel time. Take photo ID and proof of address.

Additional Information for Homeowners Assoc.

- 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.

City's Pre-Storm Activities

- Evacuation orders are implemented in mobile home parks which are mandatory evacuation zones in the City.
- EMS Unit transports pre-registered 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.

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

- 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.

LAND FALL - Stay Indoors

- 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 is 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.

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 toilets, and call a plumber. If water pipes are Beach County Water Utilities Department.

- Check on neighbors.
- Open windows/doors to ventilate and dry out 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 clear leaves and other vegetation, which will allow storm water to drain.
- 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 Homeowners Assoc.

- Conduct a quick damage assessment (*buildings, flooding, fallen trees*); take pictures of damage and coordinate with insurance carrier.
- Contact management company and arrange for clearing and debris removal.

Generator Safety

According to the Centers 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.
- Plug all 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 is extremely dangerous. Both utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer.

City's Response & Recovery Activities

- Rescue operations begin.
- Curfew regulations are enforced.
- City maintained streets and drainage systems are cleared of debris.
- City buildings and grounds are repaired/secured for damage.

- Clean-up efforts of parks begin.
- Residential debris collection is coordinated.
- Preliminary damage assessments of residences and businesses are conducted to complete State Damage Assessment indicating extent of damage.
- Emergency permits for temporary repairs to structures are issued.



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.

www.ci.greenacres.fl.us

Important Phone Numbers

City of Greenacres Emergency Radio	AM 1650
Animals	
PBC Animal Care & Control	561-233-1200
Business Support	
Small Business Administration	800-827-5722
Contractor Licensing	
Fl. Dept. of Business & Professional Regulations	850-487-1395
Fl. Division of Workers Compensation	800-742-2214
Emotional Support	
PBC Crisis Line/Information/Referrals	2-1-1 or 561 375-6600
United Way of PBC	www.211palmbeach.org
Fire/Medical/Police	
City of Greenacres Emergency	9-1-1
City of Greenacres Non-Emergency	561-642-2160
Food/Water Pick-up	
PBC Emergency Management	561-712-6400
<i>(Check local news for distribution sites)</i>	
Food/Mass Feeding	
Salvation Army	561-686-3530
Health Issues	
PBC Health Department	561-840-4500
Housing Assistance	
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development <i>(Federal)</i>	202-708-1112
Insurance Complaints	
Florida Department of Financial Services	800-227-8676
Price Gouging	
Office of Attorney General	866-966-7226
Recovery Assistance	
Federal Government	800-333-4636 www.firstgov.gov

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



Recovery Information	
FEMA <i>(Federal Emergency Management Agency)</i>	800-621-3362
Schools	
PBC School Board <i>(Emergency Line)</i>	561-357-7500
Senior Assistance	211
PBC Crisis Line	561-383-1112 www.211palmbeach.org
Shelter	
American Red Cross	561-833-7711
Traffic Signals	
PBC Repairs	561-683-6885
Transportation	www.pbcgov.com/palmtran
Palm Tran Bus & Transportation	561-841-4287 <i>(toll free)</i> 877-930-4287
Palm Tran 'Connection' Service	561-649-9838 <i>(toll free)</i> 877-870-9849
TRI Rail	800-874-7245 www.tri-rail.com
Utility Interruptions	
AT & T <i>(Bellsouth)</i>	<i>(Residential)</i> 877-737-2478 <i>(Business)</i> 866-620-6900
Comcast Cable	800-266-2278 561-848-1600 561-655-3842
Florida Power & Light <i>(FPL - Electric)</i>	<i>(Power Outage)</i> 800-468-8243 800-226-3545
PBC Water Utilities <i>(Water/Sewer)</i>	561-740-4600
Florida Public Utilities <i>(Gas)</i>	561-832-0872

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

<http://www.ci.greenacres.fl.us/HurricanePreparedness>