

# HURRICANE PLANNING GUIDE

## For Greenacres Residents

Hurricanes are classified into five categories. They can range from 75 MPH to over 155 MPH, with storm surges from a couple of feet to over 20 feet high. All of the categories produce winds that can severely damage your house, and enormous amounts of rain that can cause severe flooding.

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**You are your own  
first line of defense...**

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If a hurricane strikes Greenacres, you may not have utility and telephone services, emergency medical services or fire and police assistance if roads are clogged with debris and power lines are down. You are your own first line of defense, and it is important to be as prepared as possible. The following information is provided as a starting point for your own hurricane preparedness plan. For additional information, call 712-6400 for recorded hurricane information from the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management.

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### Important Telephone Numbers

Public Safety Emergencies (Police/Fire Rescue)	911
Public Safety Department (non-emergencies)	642-2153
Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management	233-3500
South Florida Water Management District Citizen Information Line	1-800-432-2045 ext. 6932
American Red Cross	833-7711

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City of Greenacres, Building Department  
5800 Melaleuca Lane, Greenacres, Florida 33463  
(561) 642-2052 Fax (561) 642-2049

## THINGS TO DO NOW...

- Make a personal/family hurricane plan.
- Make an evacuation plan if you live in a manufactured home:
  - Evacuation route
  - Transportation needs
  - Temporary shelter
  - Long-term housing
- Find a “buddy” to share your plan if you are alone.
- Purchase hurricane supplies.
- Inventory your household items (photographs or videotapes may also be helpful) and store this record in plastic in a safe place.
- Review insurance needs and update as necessary.
- Compile important documents. (insurance policies, bank accounts, mortgages, phone numbers of family and friends, medical information, etc.)
- Plan what to do with pets.
- Learn how to secure boat, pool, if pertinent.
- Stock and store medications, and, as necessary, obtain extra prescriptions, oxygen.
- Have your trees trimmed to lessen storm damage and aftermath debris.
- Inspect your hurricane panels, shutters, and fastening devices; obtain window coverings if not already available.
- If evacuating, prepare your “Hurricane Evacuation Supply Kit”.
- Locate the water, electrical and gas shutoffs for your home.
- If necessary, determine eligibility for medical “critical care shelter” by calling the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management, 233-3500.
- Find out what your employer expects of you before and after a hurricane.

## SUPPLIES TO PURCHASE/SET ASIDE AT BEGINNING OF HURRICANE SEASON...

- Battery operated radio and extra batteries.
- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- Manual can opener, disposable plates, utensils.
- Matches in waterproof container.
- Plastic storage containers.
- Water purification tablets, iodine or plain bleach to purify water.
- Sterno for cooking.
- Water and gas shutoff wrenches.
- Area maps.
- Sanitation items, such as:  
Toilet paper, towelettes, soap, liquid detergent, disinfectant, plastic garbage bags, ties, plastic bucket with tight lid (for personal sanitation).
- Insect repellent, sunscreen.
- First aid kit, fire extinguisher.
- A 2-week supply of food and liquids:
  - Special dietary needs
  - Small containers of canned fruit, meats, vegetables and fish not requiring cooking
  - Crackers, dry cereal, granola bars
  - Canned or bottled juices
  - Nuts, peanut butter
  - 2 qts. of water per person, per day
  - Dry milk
  - Baby food, as necessary
- Hygiene items which you will take if you evacuate:
  - Soap
  - Toothbrush, toothpaste
  - Washcloth, towels, etc.
  - Shampoo, deodorant
  - Shaving kit
  - Feminine items
  - Infant items, as needed

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**A hurricane watch indicates that a hurricane may threaten coastal and inland areas within the next 36 hours. This information will be broadcast by local news media.**

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### **WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED...**

- Review personal/family plan with family, friends, or "buddy".
- If you live in a manufactured home, collect documents and evacuation supplies; plan to leave as early as possible.
- If you do not drive and plan to leave, confirm transportation arrangements.
- Stay tuned to local radio and television stations for weather information (for example, WJNO 1230 AM or WIRK 107.9 FM and channels 5 and 12).
- Get cash, store valuables.
- Install shutters, panels, other protection devices.
- Bring outdoor furnishings indoors or secure properly.
- Fuel automobiles.
- Secure watercraft.

### **SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR EVACUATION KIT...**

- Personal hygiene items.
- Important documents.
- Pillow, blanket.
- Books, games.
- Depending on where you are going, you may need beverage and food which does not require cooking.
- Maps.
- Extra set of clothing.
- Needed medications.
- Driver's license, other identification.
- Cash, traveler's checks.
- Personal items such as extra eyeglasses, hearing aid, etc.
- First Aid Kit.
- Battery operated radio.
- Flashlight

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**A hurricane warning is issued when a hurricane is expected to make landfall within 24 hours. Final preparations should be made at this time.**

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### **WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED...**

- Continue to monitor local media reports
- Fill tub, containers with water
- If you are in an evacuation zone and are told to evacuate:

- **Shut off water** ● **Shut off gas** ● **Shut off electricity except for refrigerator and freezer**
- **Expect extreme delays on evacuation routes** ● **Leave promptly (car should be packed early)**

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**The recovery period begins immediately  
after the hurricane passes, and may continue  
for a long period of time,  
depending on the severity of the storm  
and the amount of damage.**

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### **AFTER THE STORM...**

- Remain where you are until the official "All Clear" notification is given by local emergency management officials.
- Use your battery-operated radio at home to monitor conditions and receive the latest instructions.
- If you are returning home following the hurricane, be aware that travel times will be long and roadways may be hazardous.
- Assess immediate family needs.
- Assess immediate hazards and conditions in your area.
- Assess damage to your house and property, recording and photographing as possible.
- Observe directives regarding disposal of garbage and storm debris.
- Observe safety measures such as the following:
  - Use gas and charcoal grills outdoors only, as they can cause fires and produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.
  - After power is restored, leave the main circuit breaker off until water has receded. Do not turn on appliances which are damp or wet. Leave air conditioner off until power has stabilized.
  - Use extreme care with chain saws and generators.
  - Avoid downed wires and debris which can cause injury.
  - Follow boil water directives, purify as necessary, and use only uncontaminated water for drinking, brushing teeth, and cleaning contact lenses.
  - Check food for spoilage.
- Make immediate repairs which are feasible.
- Coordinate with insurance agents, city officials for permanent repairs.
- Assist others, when and where possible.

### **WHILE YOU PREPARE, THE CITY WILL BE PREPARING...**

During the hurricane season, the City actively monitors weather reports. When there is a serious hurricane threat, the City Manager meets with key personnel, and may activate the City's Emergency Operations Center which serves as the nerve center of planning and decision making immediately before, during, and after a hurricane. City staff are called in to perform hurricane-related activities such as securing City buildings and property, and responding to citizen inquiries. After a hurricane, the City will work with County, State and Federal agencies in addressing human needs, damage assessment, and long-term recovery issues.