



VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

STAY INFORMED. STAY SAFE.
STAY CONNECTED.

HURRICANE SEASON: JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Front Cover
2. Table of Contents
3. Letter from the Village Manager
4. What is a Hurricane?
5. Power of a Storm
6. Preparedness Tips
7. Landscaping Do's & Don'ts
8. Shutters
9. Disaster Kit Essentials
10. Securing Your Boat
11. Pet Planning
12. When a Storm Hits
13. Road Safety & Emergency Travel
14. Fire Safety & Generators
15. After the Storm
16. Evacuation Protocols
17. Shelters
18. How to Handle Storm Stress
19. Stay Connected - Important Contacts
20. Back Cover



A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE MANAGER

Dear Residents,

With the start of hurricane season, I want to take a moment to connect with you about something that affects us all: being ready before a storm ever shows up on the radar.

Living in a coastal community means we are no strangers to hurricane season. While it is easy to think a storm will not happen here, the truth is that hurricanes can be unpredictable. Taking steps now, before anything is in the forecast, is the best way to protect your loved ones, your home, and your peace of mind.

Here are a few simple ways to get ahead of the season:

PUT TOGETHER AN EMERGENCY KIT

Stock up on non-perishable food, water, flashlights, batteries, medications, and any other must haves. Having some cash tucked away is helpful too, just in case power or card systems go down.

MAKE A FAMILY PLAN

Know where you will go if an evacuation is ordered, how you will get there, and how to stay in touch if your family gets separated.

PREP YOUR PROPERTY

Secure outdoor furniture, trim back trees, and make sure your windows and doors are storm-ready. A few small steps now can make a big difference later.

I know preparing for a storm can feel overwhelming, especially if we have been fortunate in recent years. But readiness is one of the best gifts you can give your family. It is always better to be over prepared than caught off guard.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare and for looking out for one another. We are all in this together, and our Village team is here to help every step of the way.

Stay safe this season,

Village Manager

WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

A hurricane is a powerful tropical storm that forms over warm ocean waters and can bring intense wind, heavy rain, and dangerous storm surges to coastal areas. These massive storms are also known as tropical cyclones, and they usually start to form when warm, moist air rises from the ocean's surface and begins to spiral due to the Earth's rotation.

As the storm system grows and strengthens, it can develop into a hurricane once wind speeds reach at least 74 miles per hour.

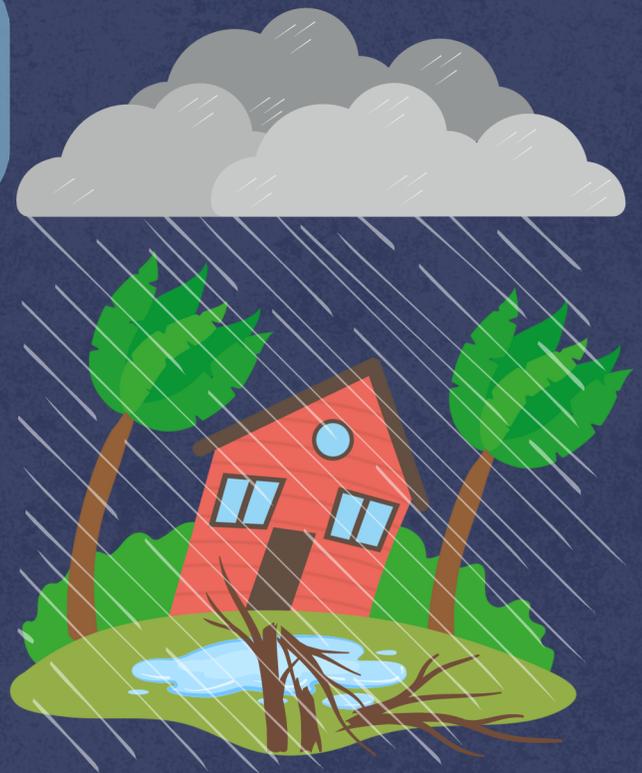
WHAT KIND OF WEATHER CAN I EXPECT INSIDE THE STORM?

Inside a hurricane, the weather can be extreme. You'll find strong, swirling winds that can knock down trees and power lines, heavy rainfall that can cause flooding, and even tornadoes in some cases.

One of the most dangerous parts is the storm surge, which happens when ocean water is pushed up onto land and often causes serious coastal flooding. The size and strength of a hurricane can vary, but no matter the category, it's important to take these storms seriously and stay informed.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, about 6-7 hurricanes form in the North Atlantic each year, with roughly 2 making landfall in the U.S.



POWER OF A STORM

When we talk about the strength of a hurricane, we often refer to its category. This ranking system, called the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, puts storms into categories from 1 to 5 based on how strong their winds are. The higher the category, the more dangerous and damaging the storm can be. These categories help people understand what kind of impact to expect and how seriously to prepare when a hurricane is on the way.



CATEGORY 1

Winds at 74-95 MPH

Winds cause minor damage to trees, shrubs, and unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to roofing, windows, and doors may occur. Coastal flooding of low-lying roads is common with storm surge 4-5 feet above normal, causing minor pier damage.



CATEGORY 2

Winds at 96-110 MPH

Considerable damage to trees with some blown down. Roofing, windows, and doors on homes may suffer damage, while exposed mobile homes can face major structural harm. Storm surge of 6-8 feet floods coastal roads and marinas, sometimes cutting off evacuation routes. Some shoreline evacuations may be necessary.



CATEGORY 3

Winds at 111-129 MPH

Major Hurricane

Large trees uprooted and significant structural damage to small homes and utility buildings. Mobile homes are typically destroyed. Coastal flooding worsens with storm surge 9-12 feet, damaging smaller structures and causing debris to batter larger ones. Low-lying escape routes may be flooded.



CATEGORY 4

Winds at 130-156 MPH

Major Hurricane

Extensive roof, window, and door damage. Many homes experience complete roof failure, and mobile homes are completely destroyed. Storm surge rises 13-18 feet, leading to major flooding, erosion of beaches, and severe damage to lower floors of coastal buildings. Evacuation routes inland may be cut off.



CATEGORY 5

Winds at 157 MPH or higher

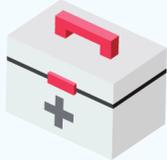
Major Hurricane

Catastrophic damage with widespread destruction of homes and buildings. Roof structures fail completely; many buildings suffer severe window and door damage. Power outages are widespread and can last for weeks. Storm surge exceeds 18 feet, flooding large coastal areas and requiring mandatory evacuations for all low-lying zones within 5-10 miles of shore.

HORRIFICANE

PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Essential Tips to Keep You Prepared!



Create an Emergency Kit

- Stock at least 7 days of non-perishable food, water, and basic supplies.
- Include flashlights, batteries, hygiene items, medications, and a first-aid kit.
- Pack essentials for pets, babies, and people with special needs; keep documents in a waterproof container.



Develop a Family Emergency Plan

- Talk with family about what to do during a hurricane and where to meet.
- Decide how you'll stay in touch if you're separated.
- Plan for pets, medical needs, and necessary equipment during an evacuation.



Stay Informed

- Learn about local weather risks and emergency procedures.
- Sign up for alerts from local officials and weather services.
- Follow trusted news and official social media for real-time updates.



Protect Your Home

- Secure or bring inside outdoor items that can blow away.
- Install or check storm shutters; inspect your roof, windows, and doors.
- Trim trees, clear gutters, and know how to safely shut off utilities.



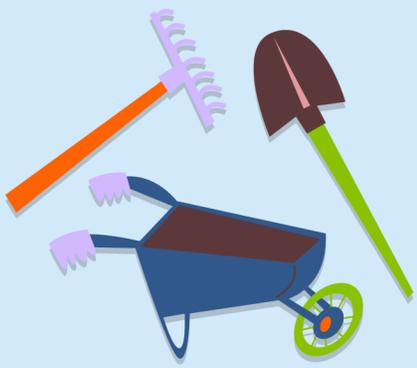
Know Your Evacuation Zone

- Find your evacuation zone online at [FloridaDisaster.org/Know](https://www.floridadisaster.org/Know).
- Plan where you'll go and how you'll get there if ordered to evacuate.
- Keep your gas tank full and a go-bag ready, including pet supplies.



Stay Connected

- Save and write down emergency contact numbers.
- Keep devices charged and have backup power sources.
- Stay in touch with neighbors, especially those who may need extra help.



LANDSCAPING DO'S & DON'T'S

If you can pick it up, put it up. Nearly anything in your yard, from lawn furniture to loose gravel, can become a dangerous projectile during a hurricane. Smart landscaping choices can reduce storm damage and help protect your home, neighbors, and first responders. Use this guide to make your yard more hurricane-resistant.

EVALUATE YOUR TREES

Start by inspecting trees and large shrubs around your home. Trees in poor health are far more likely to fall or shed large branches in high winds. Check for:

- Cracks in trunks or major limbs
- Trees that lean or appear unbalanced
- Branches overhanging your roof or driveway
- Limbs touching or close to power lines
- Signs of decay, such as mushrooms or soft wood
- Insect infestations or bore holes

When in doubt, consult a certified arborist or tree care professional, especially if large trees are near your home or utility lines.

CARE FOR YOUR TREES

Routine maintenance helps trees survive strong winds:

- Prune regularly to remove dead or weak limbs
- Avoid cutting too close to the trunk, which can lead to rot
- Complete major trimming before hurricane season, ideally between December and April

Improper pruning or late-season trimming can weaken trees and increase risk. Always use proper tools or hire a professional for chainsaw work or large removals.

AVOID HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Replace rocks or gravel with fire-treated mulch or heavier ground cover
- Loose stones or landscape ornaments can become flying hazards during a storm

YARD WASTE & BULK TRASH REMINDERS

Palm Beach County policy discourages last-minute yard work once a storm is approaching. The Village urges residents to complete tree trimming and cleanup well in advance.

Important tips:

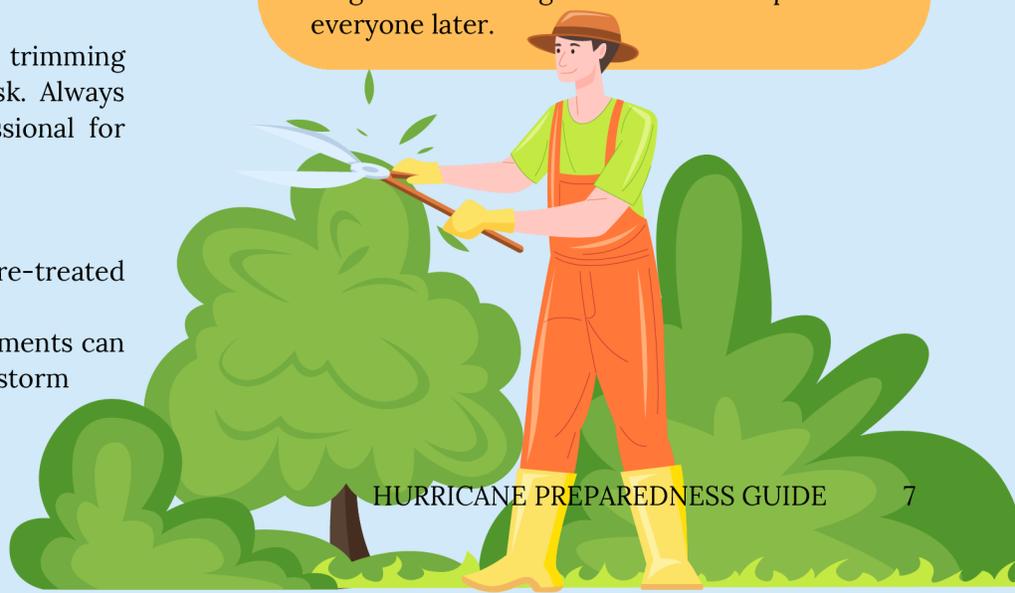
- Follow the 6/50 Rule: Branches must be under 6 feet long and 50 pounds
- Bag small yard waste like leaves and twigs, and place in approved containers
- Only set out debris on your regular collection day

Once a storm is named:

- Do not trim trees or set out any yard waste
- Last-minute debris overwhelms collection services and creates dangerous flying hazards

PREPARE EARLY, STAY SAFE

Storm-proofing your yard is not just about appearances, it is about safety. Clean and secure your landscaping early in the season to reduce risks to your home and your neighbors. Taking action now protects everyone later.



SHUTTER UP! KNOW YOUR OPTIONS



Choosing the right storm shutters for your home is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your property during a hurricane. Each type of shutter has different features, costs, and preparation times. Use the guide below to find what best suits your needs, budget, and home design.



REMOVABLE PANELS

Corrugated metal, aluminum, or polycarbonate panels that are installed before a storm and removed afterward.

- Pros: Inexpensive, strong protection, reusable
- Cons: Labor-intensive, requires storage space, installation takes time
- Prep Time: Moderate to long (can be difficult for one person)
- Cost: \$5–\$15 per square foot



COLONIAL SHUTTERS / BAHAMA AWNINGS

Decorative, louvered shutters that are permanently mounted to your home. Colonials swing closed; Bahama awnings are top-hinged.

- Pros: Easy to close, aesthetically pleasing, permanent fixtures
- Cons: Higher upfront cost, may not be rated for high-impact protection unless specified
- Prep Time: Minimal
- Cost: \$20–\$50 per square foot



ACCORDION SHUTTERS

Permanently mounted, interlocking slats that unfold horizontally to cover windows.

- Pros: Easy to use, no storage needed, lockable for extra security
- Cons: Can look bulky, tracks may collect dirt or corrode
- Prep Time: Short
- Cost: \$15–\$25 per square foot

ROLL-UP SHUTTERS

Housed in a box above the window or door, these shutters unroll vertically using a motor or manual crank.

- Pros: Very secure, quick deployment, excellent protection
- Cons: Most expensive, requires professional installation
- Prep Time: Minimal (especially motorized)
- Cost: \$20–\$50 per square foot



PLYWOOD COVERINGS

Sheets of plywood fastened over windows with bolts or brackets.

- Pros: Low upfront cost, readily available at hardware stores
- Cons: Labor-intensive, requires storage, not reusable long term, less durable than other options
- Prep Time: Long
- Cost: Approximately \$22–\$25 per 4x8 ft sheet (about \$0.70 per square foot). Total cost may increase when including hardware and labor.



WHAT IF I HAVE HURRICANE-PROOF WINDOWS?

Hurricane-proof windows can resist strong winds and debris, but shutters add extra protection.

Check Your Window Rating: Look for manufacturer labels or contact your installer to see what hurricane category your windows can withstand. Even with impact-resistant windows, shutters help protect your home during major storms. When in doubt, shutter up!

ESSENTIAL ITEMS:

- Cash
- Cellular Phone
- Car Charger
- Drinking Water (1 gal per person per day)
- Prescription Medicine (2-week supply)
- Camera
- Books, Magazines and Toys
- Ice Chest and Ice
- Disposable Plates, Glasses and Utensils
- Manual Can Opener
- Battery-operated TV/Radio and Clock
- Spare Batteries
- Flashlights or Lantern
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers and Wipes
- Baby Food and Formula
- First Aid Kit
- Plastic Tarp Sheeting
- Duct or Masking Tape
- Nails, Rope, Lumber and Tools
- Leather-Palm Work Gloves
- Plastic Garbage Bags
- Insect Repellent and Sunscreen
- Dried Fruits and Nuts
- Soap and Detergent
- Unscented Bleach for Sterilization
- Water Purification Tablets
- Pet Food and Medicine
- Fire Extinguisher
- Fuel for Generators and Cars
- Propane Gas for Grills
- Charcoal and Lighter Fluid
- Waterproof Matches and Sterno
- Non-perishable Food
- Powdered Milk or Evaporated Milk
- Canned Meats or Fish
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Dried Foods
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned Soups/Chili
- Crackers/Cookies
- Coffee and Tea
- Disinfectant
- Cereal
- Rain Gear



IF YOU EVACUATE, BRING:

- Personal & Legal Documents
- IDs: Driver's license, passport, green card, Social Security cards
- Vital records: Birth, marriage, divorce, and death certificates
- Will, power of attorney, and medical directives (e.g., living will)
- Military and medical records
- Insurance policies and health insurance cards
- Recent pay stubs and tax returns
- Retirement and bank account info (checkbook, account numbers)
- Property & Financial Records
- Mortgage, lease, or rental agreements
- Car title and registration
- Warranties and receipts for major items
- Credit cards, benefit cards (e.g., WIC, SNAP)
- Backup & Communication
- Device with recent computer backups
- List of emergency contacts: family, doctor, bank, insurance
- Home inventory (written list, photos, or video)
- Keepsakes
- A few family photos or meaningful memorabilia

Tip: Make digital copies of all important documents and store them securely online or on a portable flash drive.

IN HIGH DEMAND

BEFORE & AFTER A STORM:

- Gasoline (fill your tank early)
- Cash (ATMs and banks may be out of service)
- Charcoal, matches, grill for cooking
- Ice (stock up as much as safely possible)

Check your kit every year. Replace expired items and update documents.

DISASTER KIT ITEM CHECKLIST

SECURING YOUR BOAT



Preparing your boat for a hurricane is just as important as preparing your home. Severe weather can cause significant damage to unprotected vessels, so taking early action is key. Whether your boat is stored at a marina, on a trailer, or on a davit, you should make a plan well before a storm is on the horizon. Your safety comes first, never attempt to ride out a storm on your boat.

If evacuation orders are issued, drawbridges will not open for boat traffic. Know your options ahead of time, and have a trusted contact who can assist with your boat if you are out of town. Before the storm, remove all valuables, check your lease or marina contract, and be ready to act.

CHARGE BATTERIES AND CHECK BILGE PUMPS

Ensure all batteries are fully charged, especially those powering automatic bilge pumps. These pumps are crucial for removing water that may accumulate during the storm. Consider adding backup batteries and shutting off all other devices that consume electricity to preserve power.

REMOVE LOOSE ITEMS AND GEAR

Remove all electronics, ships' documents, personal belongings, and any loose gear. Secure cabinets and cabin doors. Anything that cannot be removed should be lashed securely.

REVIEW MARINA POLICIES

Check your lease or rental agreement with the marina or storage facility to see what they cover and what you are responsible for. Some marinas require that you haul your boat in advance of a storm to protect both your boat and the marina.

IF STORING ON A TRAILER

- *Secure the Boat and Trailer:* Ensure both the boat and trailer are latched securely in a safe location.
- *Deflate Tires Slightly:* Let some air out of the trailer tires to lower the center of gravity.
- *Place Blocks Between Frame and Axle:* This provides extra support to prevent movement.
- *Tie Down Firmly:* Use strong tie-down lines from all four directions to keep the trailer stable during high winds.

SECURING THE BOAT

- *Seal All Openings:* Close all hatches, ports, and openings to make your boat watertight.
- *Remove Loose Deck Gear:* Store loose items safely to prevent them from becoming projectiles.
- *Use Old Tires or Fenders:* Attach them to the sides of the boat to reduce impact damage from nearby vessels or docks.
- *Secure the Vessel in All Directions:* Account for wind and tide shifts by securing the boat from all directions.
- *Open Drains if on a Davit:* If your boat is stored on a davit, open the drains to prevent water buildup.
- *Avoid Blocking Other Boats:* Never block access for boats that are moored farther inland.

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED

If a hurricane warning is issued and you're relocating your boat, leave as early as possible. Only make the trip if your vessel is fully equipped for rough waters and long-distance travel. Once a hurricane warning is issued, conditions can deteriorate quickly. Prioritize safety over everything else, delaying action can put you and others at serious risk.

PET PREP

For North Palm Beach residents, preparing your pets is just as important as preparing your family. Whether you're leaving home for a day or a week, having a plan and the right supplies can make all the difference in your pet's safety. Store your pet disaster kit in a portable container such as a duffle bag or lidded bin, and keep it in an accessible spot.

PET DISASTER KIT

Every pet owner should have a disaster supply kit packed and ready before hurricane season. Your kit should include at least seven days' worth of food and water, as well as medications and veterinary records sealed in a waterproof container. Don't forget comfort items like toys, treats, or a blanket. Familiar items can help calm pets in unfamiliar environments.

Other useful items include:

- A pet first-aid kit and manual can opener
- Collars with ID tags, sturdy leashes, and carriers
- A photo of you with your pet to prove ownership
- Litter and litter box (for cats), plus feeding and care instructions

EVACUATION PLANNING FOR PETS

If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND**. It is unlikely for pets to survive on their own. If by some chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return. Make arrangements ahead of time for where your pets will go if you need to evacuate. Identify a trusted neighbor who can help if you're not home, and make sure they know where to find your pet and the emergency kit.

Most public shelters do not accept pets, so research pet-friendly hotels or boarding facilities now. Websites like petswelcome.com offer disaster-friendly lodging options. Many vets or kennels have special storm-season policies.

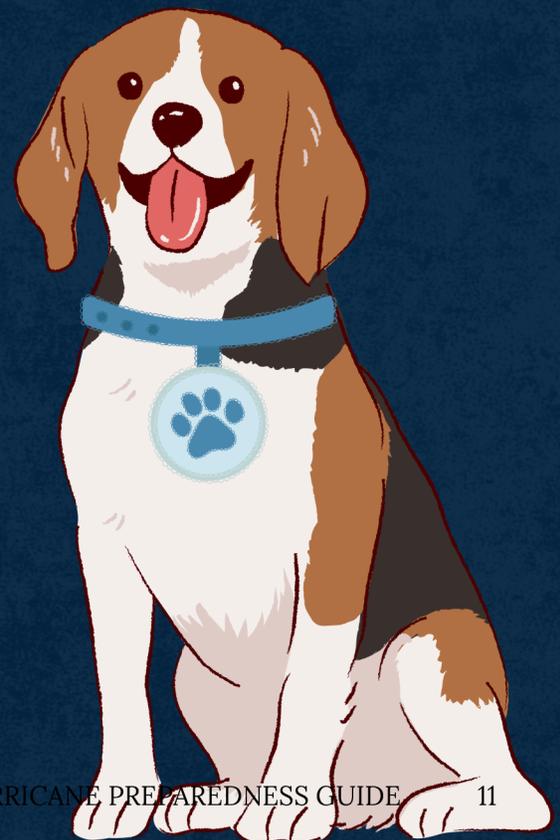


IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Microchipping is essential because ID tags can get lost during a storm. Get your pet comfortable with their carrier in advance. On storm day, keep them inside the carrier with a towel over the top to create a calm, den-like space.

After the storm, use caution. Broken fences, debris, standing water, and displaced wildlife all pose threats to pets. Keep animals on leashes or in carriers, and monitor them closely for signs of stress or injury.

By planning ahead, North Palm Beach pet owners can reduce risk and stress for both people and animals. Always include your pets in your family's emergency plan. They rely on you to keep them safe.



PET PLANNING

WHEN A STORM HITS

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

A hurricane watch means dangerous weather conditions are possible within the next 48 hours. This is your cue to take action. Do not wait for a hurricane warning to be issued before starting your preparations.

Use the Evacuation Zone Look-Up Tool at ReadyPBC.com to determine whether you are in an evacuation area. If so, begin planning your evacuation immediately.

This is the time to review your emergency plan, check your disaster supply kit, and secure your home. Make sure your gas tank is full, your mobile devices are charged, and all loose items around your property are safely stowed or tied down. Reach out to neighbors who may need assistance, especially those who are elderly or have special needs. Stay informed by monitoring official updates through trusted sources.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING OR LANDFALL

A hurricane warning means hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. By this point, you should already be in your shelter location and actively taking precautions to stay safe.

Stay away from all windows and exterior doors, even if they are covered or boarded. Close all interior doors and brace external doors if possible. A battery-powered radio or TV should be kept nearby and tuned to a local emergency station for updates. Keep a flashlight with you at all times in case power goes out, and avoid using your phone unless absolutely necessary to conserve battery life.

Do not open doors or windows, even to look outside, as winds can briefly calm and return suddenly. Do not operate gas grills or portable generators indoors or in garages. Only turn off utilities if local authorities advise you to do so, and unplug small appliances to protect against power surges.

If conditions worsen, take shelter in a designated safe room such as a small, windowless interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level of your home. Remain calm, stay alert, and do not go outside until officials announce it is safe. Hurricanes often spawn tornadoes, so continue to monitor weather alerts even after the worst appears to have passed.

Follow all guidance from local emergency management agencies. Your safety depends on staying informed and ready to adapt as conditions change.





ROAD SAFETY AND EMERGENCY TRAVEL

The North Palm Beach Police Department reminds residents that the period immediately after a hurricane is often the most dangerous. Many injuries and fatalities occur after the storm has passed, not during it. These dangers are often caused by unsafe travel, unstable infrastructure, and debris hazards. Following safety guidance and being cautious can help prevent accidents and save lives.

POST-STORM TRAVEL SAFETY

Do not venture out immediately after a hurricane. Search and rescue operations must be completed and major hazards cleared before public movement is considered safe. Be patient, as emergency crews may take time to reach neighborhoods, especially if roads are blocked or power lines are down.

Driving conditions can be extremely hazardous due to scattered debris, flooding, non-functioning traffic signals, and fallen power lines. Do not drive unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must go out, drive slowly and with extreme caution. Approach all intersections carefully, and treat any without working signs or signals as four-way stops.

Never attempt to drive through flooded roads. Floodwaters can hide road damage, and even shallow, fast-moving water can sweep away vehicles. If your car stalls in rising water, exit the vehicle immediately and seek higher ground.

CURFEWS AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL RULES

Stay out of disaster-affected areas unless you live there or are providing critical assistance. Visiting these areas can interfere with emergency operations and place you at risk. Obey all curfews issued by local authorities. These may change daily, and violations can result in arrest.

If traffic lights are out or malfunctioning, follow these basic rules:

- A flashing red light means stop completely and proceed only when it is safe.
- A flashing yellow light means slow down and proceed with caution.
- If a signal is completely out, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.

The North Palm Beach Police Department urges all residents to keep roads clear for emergency responders. Help your neighbors by staying safe, staying put, and staying informed. If you are unsure whether it is safe to leave your home, it is best to wait until officials say it is.



FIRE SAFETY & GENERATORS



GENERATOR SAFETY DURING STORMS

The North Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department wants to help ensure your family stays safe throughout hurricane season, especially when using portable generators. While generators can provide vital backup power during an outage, they also pose serious hazards if used incorrectly. Following proper safety procedures is critical.

Before the storm, make sure your generator is in good working order. Use the correct cords and connectors recommended by the manufacturer. If your unit runs on battery power, verify that the battery is fully charged. To avoid stale fuel, wait to fill the tank until a storm is approaching. Always protect your generator from rain or flooding, but be careful not to block the airflow needed to cool the engine.

CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly, invisible gas with no smell. Generators must never be used indoors, including in garages, crawl spaces, or partially enclosed areas, even with doors or windows open. Fans and ventilation are not enough to prevent CO poisoning.

Place generators outside, well away from any doors, windows, or vents. It is also important to install battery-operated or battery backup CO alarms in your home, and to test them regularly to ensure they are working properly.

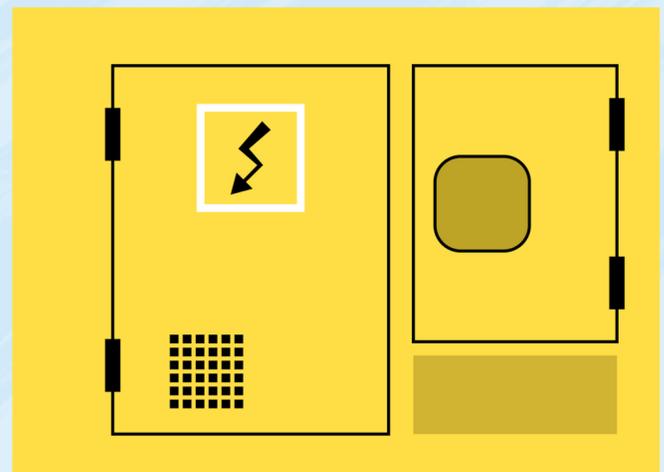


ELECTRICAL AND FIRE SAFETY

Never plug a generator directly into your home's electrical system or a wall outlet. This dangerous practice, known as "back feeding," can seriously injure utility workers and others connected to the same power grid.

Fuel storage also requires caution. Keep fuel in clearly labeled, non-glass safety containers, stored away from living areas. Secure all fuel containers before the storm arrives. When it's time to refuel, always turn off the generator and let it cool down completely. Spilled fuel on a hot engine can easily ignite.

These safety guidelines are provided by the North Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department to help protect lives and property during hurricane season. If you have any questions about safe generator use, please contact the department before a storm approaches. Stay alert, stay safe, and never take risks with carbon monoxide or fire.





AFTER THE STORM HITS

STAY INSIDE UNTIL THE STORM HAS PASSED

Wait for official clearance before leaving your home. Avoid flooded roads and downed power lines. Never drive through flooded roadways; nearly half of all flood-related deaths occur when people drive into floodwaters. Do not drive around barricades; they are there for your protection. Never try to walk through or allow children to play around floodwater. Check on neighbors, especially older adults or those with disabilities. Take photos of damage for insurance purposes before clearing. Report outages or hazards to the Village. Stay out of buildings that remain in floodwaters. Do not handle electrical equipment in wet areas.

STAY OUT OF FLOODWATERS

Floodwaters can be deceptively dangerous. They may contain hidden debris, sewage, toxic chemicals, or conceal washed-out roads. Avoid walking, wading, or driving through them.

NEVER USE A WET ELECTRICAL DEVICE

If an electrical device is wet and still plugged in, turn off the power at the main breaker. Have an electrician inspect it before use.

LIGHTS OUT? AVOID CANDLES

Use battery-powered lighting to avoid fire hazards. If using candles, keep them away from flammable materials and never leave them unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher handy, and ensure your family knows how to use it.

BE CAREFUL NEAR DAMAGED BUILDINGS

Avoid entering damaged buildings until local authorities say it's safe. Listen for shifting or unusual noises; these can signal collapse. Watch for and report fallen power lines. Stay well away from them.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ANIMALS AND PESTS

Use insect repellent with DEET or picaridin. Wear long sleeves, pants, and socks outdoors. Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Report them to local authorities. Do not handle dead animals; report them instead.

DRINK SAFE WATER AND EAT SAFE FOOD

Throw out any food that came into contact with floodwaters. Discard perishable food that wasn't properly refrigerated during power outages. When in doubt, throw it out. Listen to local advisories regarding water use. Only use bottled, boiled, or treated water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Strong emotions are normal after a hurricane. Don't ignore them. Connect with loved ones and community members. Take care of yourself and seek professional help if needed.

CLEAN UP YOUR HOME SAFELY

Wear protective gear such as gloves, boots, and masks when cleaning. Begin mucking and gutting by removing damaged belongings to prepare for mold treatment. Be cautious of structural damage and sharp debris. Stay hydrated, take regular breaks, and do not overexert yourself. Document damage with photos before cleaning up.

BLUE ROOF PROGRAM

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers implements the Blue Roof Program on behalf of FEMA, providing homeowners with free temporary blue plastic roof coverings for eligible homes damaged by a hurricane.

For more info: 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258)



SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

EVACUATION PROTOCOLS

At the start of each hurricane season, take time to review, practice, and update your family emergency plan. Make sure every household member, including children, knows their role. The more you prepare now, the easier your decision will be when a storm is on the horizon.

STEP 1: KNOW YOUR ZONE

Determine if you are in an evacuation zone by checking the provided maps. If you are:

- Make a plan to stay with friends or family outside the evacuation zone in a hurricane-safe home.
- Assign responsibilities for gathering food, water, and emergency supplies.
- Consider inland hotels as an alternative evacuation option.

STEP 2: IF YOU CHOOSE TO LEAVE

Leave early. The earlier you go, the better your chances of avoiding traffic and hazardous weather. Stay nearby. Evacuate tens of miles, not hundreds, if possible. You don't need to go far to get to safety.

TRAVEL TIPS:

- *Flying:* Be ready for full flights, cancellations, or airport closures.
- *Driving:* Storms can shift quickly. You may end up in the path or stuck in traffic. Have a backup plan.

STEP 3: EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Evacuation shelters are a last resort. Only go when officials announce they are open. If you must go:

- Bring your own pillows, blankets, food, water, prescription medications, books, toys, and games.
- No pets, alcohol, or firearms allowed.
- Prepare for crowded and uncomfortable conditions.

STEP 4: IF YOU STAY HOME

If you are not evacuating, take these steps to stay safe:

- Retrofit your home before hurricane season begins.
- Install and test shutters to ensure they work properly.
- Gather essential supplies
- Choose a safe room in your home (interior rooms with no windows such as a hallway, bathroom, or closet.)
- Designate an out-of-town emergency contact.
- Consider registering on the Red Cross site: safeandwell.org

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER PROGRAM

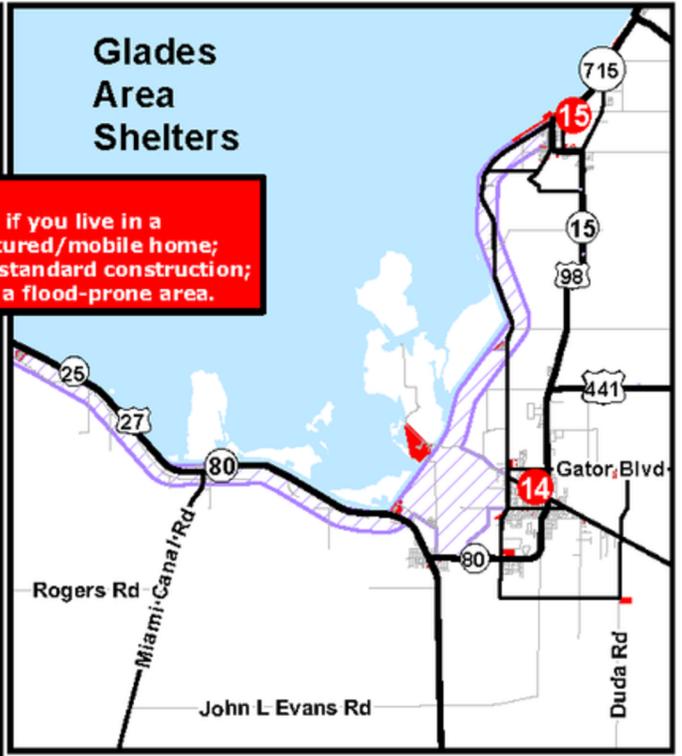
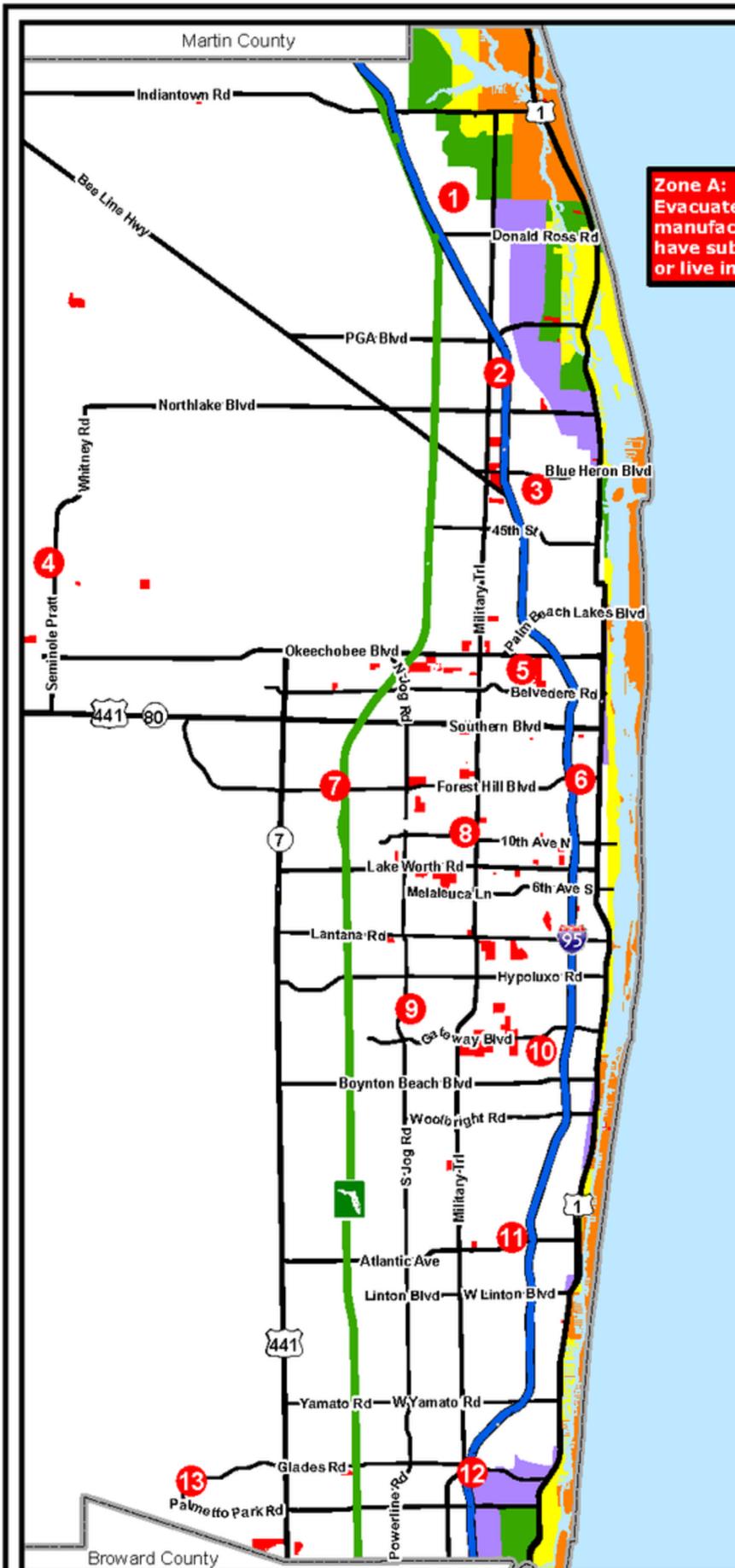
If you or a loved one has a medical condition or disability that requires extra assistance during a hurricane evacuation, Palm Beach County offers a Special Needs Shelter Program designed for individuals who meet specific medical or functional criteria.

However, please note:

- These shelters are not medical facilities.
- They do not provide medication, dialysis, oxygen tanks, or oxygen concentrators.
- Services are limited and meant for individuals who meet specific medical or functional criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

Space is limited and determined by need. You must complete an application in advance to be considered for placement in a Special Needs Shelter. Call 561-712-6400 for more information.



Zone A:
Evacuate if you live in a
manufactured/mobile home;
have substandard construction;
or live in a flood-prone area.

IMPORTANT: Not all shelters will be opened at the same time. Stay tuned to local TV and radio for shelter opening announcements.

- 1. Independence Middle School**
4001 Greenway Dr, Jupiter 33458
- 2. Palm Beach Gardens High School**
4245 Holly Dr, Palm Beach Gardens 33410
- 3. Dr Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School**
1501 Avenue U, Riviera Beach 33404
- 4. Seminole Ridge High School**
4601 Seminole Pratt Whitney Rd, Lox. 33470
- 5. West Gate Elementary School**
1545 Loxahatchee Dr, West Palm Beach 33409
- 6. Forest Hill High School**
6901 Parker Ave, West Palm Beach 33405
- 7. Palm Beach Central High School**
8499 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington 33411
- 8. John I Leonard High School**
4701 10th Ave N, Greenacres 33463
- 9. Park Vista High School**
7900 Jog Rd, Lake Worth 33467
- 10. Boynton Beach High School**
4975 Park Ridge Blvd, Boynton Beach 33426
- 11. Atlantic Community High School**
2455 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach 33445
- 12. Boca Raton High School**
1501 NW 15th Ct, Boca Raton 33486
- 13. West Boca Raton High School**
12811 Glades Rd, Boca Raton 33498
- 14. Lake Shore Middle School**
425 W Canal St N, Belle Glade 33430
- 15. Pahokee Middle School**
850 Larrimore Rd, Pahokee 33476

Risk Shelters With Evacuation Zones

		Zone A - See Text Box Above		Zone C		Zone E
		Zone B		Zone D		Zone L

Disclaimer:
Legal: Palm Beach County is providing this data "as is," and Palm Beach County disclaims any and all warranties, whether expressed or implied, including (with limitation) any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will Palm Beach County be liable to you or any third party for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special, or exemplary damages or lost profits resulting from any use or misuse of this data."



STORM STRESS? HERE'S WHAT WE DO

Storms make everyone a little uneasy, even those of us who help keep the Village running. It's completely normal to feel anxious when severe weather is on the way. Whether you're riding out a hurricane or bracing for thunderstorms, here are some of the ways our staff cope with storm anxiety, stay prepared, and keep their cool when the weather gets wild:

"MY FAMILY PLAYS BOARD GAMES TOGETHER."

It's our go-to way to stay connected, pass the time, and keep our minds off the storm. It brings a little fun into a stressful situation, and keeps our kids busy too!

"I DOWNLOAD SHOWS, MUSIC, AND BOOKS AHEAD OF TIME."

Wi-Fi and cell service are iffy during storms. I download a few of my favorite comfort shows and playlists and watch them on my iPad or read my Kindle so I can stay distracted and calm.

"I SHAMELESSLY EAT ALL OF MY STORM SNACKS ON DAY 1."

What can I say? Stress-eating is part of my hurricane plan. #NoRegrets.

TIPS FOR EASING STORM ANXIETY

Along with our staff favorites, here are a few expert-backed strategies to help you manage storm-related stress:

- Stay informed, but take breaks. It's good to stay updated, but constantly checking alerts can raise anxiety. Set times to check for updates and then unplug.
- Stick to a routine when you can. Familiar activities like cooking, exercising, or even folding laundry can help you feel grounded.
- Limit caffeine and alcohol. These can increase feelings of stress or restlessness during a storm.
- Connect with others. Talk to neighbors, check in on family, or play a game together. Social connection can calm the nerves.
- Practice mindfulness. Use calming music, breathing exercises, or meditation apps to help you refocus when things feel overwhelming.

Feeling anxious does not mean you're not prepared. It just means you care. You are not alone. A little preparation and self-care can go a long way.

"I KEEP A PORTABLE CHARGER IN EVERY ROOM."

If the power goes out, I don't want to go searching for backup. I keep a few charged power banks in different spots around the house. One even powers a small fan!

"I HIT THE STORE EARLY AND START CHECKING OFF MY HURRICANE SUPPLY LIST."

I'd rather be a little too early than stuck in those long, last-minute lines. It takes the pressure off and gives me peace of mind before things get hectic.

STAY CONNECTED



Emergency & Community Contacts

- Emergency (Police, Fire, Medical): 911
- TDD (Hearing Impaired): 561-712-6343
- Senior Helpline: 211
- American Red Cross: 561-833-7711
- Salvation Army: 561-686-3530
- Animal Care & Control: 561-233-1200
- Police Department (Non-Emergency): 561-848-2525
- Fire Rescue: 561-841-3310
- Florida Power & Light (FPL): 1-800-468-8243
- FEMA: 1-800-621-3362

Local Radio Stations

Stay tuned to the Emergency Alert System on:

- WIRK 103.1 FM
- WJNO 1290 AM

AlertPBC

Sign up at AlertPBC.com to receive storm updates via phone, text, or email.

Village of North Palm Beach Online Resources

- Official Website: village-npb.org
- StormReady Page: village-npb.org/StormReady
- Village Newsletter: village-npb.org/389/Village-Newsletter

Village Social Media Channels

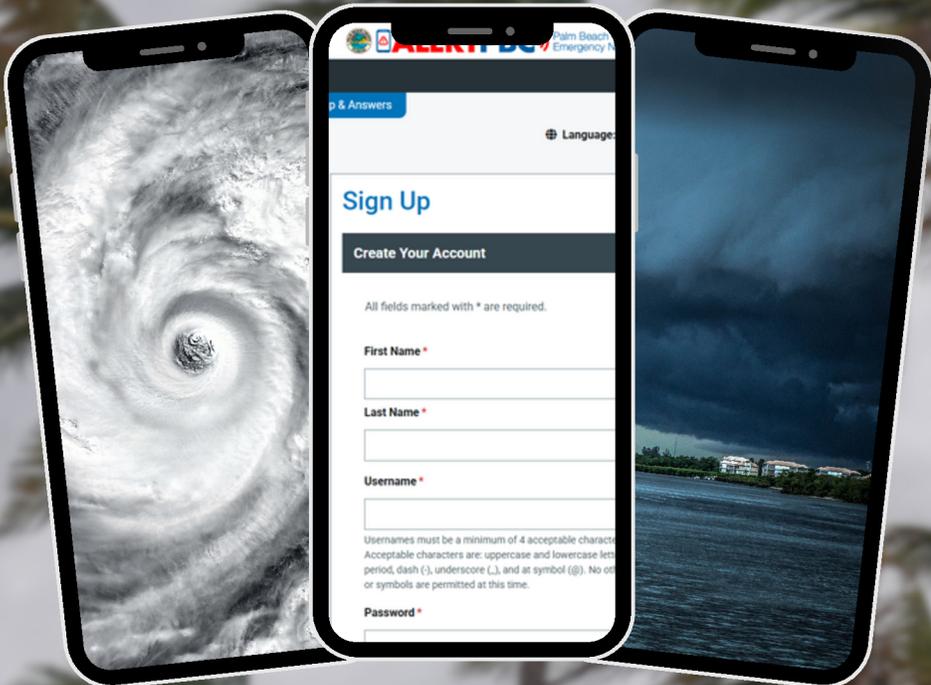
Follow for real-time updates and community information:

- Facebook: @VillageNPB
- Instagram: @VillageNPB
- X (formerly Twitter): @VillageNPB



ALERTPBC

Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System



AlertPBC is Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System allowing you to opt in to receive notifications via phone calls, text messaging, email, and more based on locations you care about. You can choose to receive notifications about events that may affect your home, workplace, family's schools, & more.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SIGN UP**

