



CITY OF
FLORIDA CITY
GATEWAY TO THE FLORIDA KEYS AND THE EVERGLADES



April 14, 2018

COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

City of Florida City Residents,

Much of the critical work needed to enable recovery from a natural disaster actually comes before the disaster strikes, not afterward. We are seeing increases in disaster frequency and severity that directly result in higher degrees of damages and emergency repair costs, while **the demand from the community to efficiently respond is greater than ever.**

PURPOSE

Category 1 hurricanes might be the weakest but that does not mean that they are weak. They have winds up to 95 MPH that can cause terrible destruction. The actions you take as you prepare for a potential storm landfall will depend to some extent on the category of the storm. **The higher the number the more preparations you may need, and in some cases evacuating your home.**

We created the following 3 series of “Disaster Preparedness” for April, May and June per specific “Subject Preparedness” and in July will provide an overall Final Checklist. This will enable residents to easily plan incrementally up to Hurricane Season.

April- Internal Household and Personal & Financial Items Preparedness

May- External Household and Electric Items & Pets preparedness

June – Exterior Yard Preparation, Evacuation, and Communications Plan

July - Final Checklist

This easy-to-use guide will prepare our community for effective response to hurricane threats, help you facilitate an effective preparedness, and help ensure your safety, protect your home and belongings. These can be a useful tool to bring our community together in the disaster planning stage in order to minimize the overall economic impact of a storm on your home, and the entire community.

BE INFORMED & KNOW YOUR ZONE

The Storm Surge Planning Zones are used to identify risk of storm surge and is based on all directions of storms. As a storm is approaching, Miami-Dade County Emergency Management will identify which areas should evacuate for that particular storm. Residents should monitor the media and listen for which areas are being told to evacuate. The descriptions of the Flood Zones are as follows:

- Zone A is at greatest risk for storm surge for Category 1 and higher storms.
- Zone B is at greatest risk for storm surge for Category 2 and higher storms.
- Zone C is at greatest risk for storm surge for Category 3 and higher storms.
- Zone D is at greatest risk for storm surge for Category 4 and higher storms.

City of Florida City Community/Residential Disaster Preparedness Guide April 2018

- Zone E is at greatest risk for storm surge from Category 5 storms.

“INTERNAL HOUSEHOLD, PERSONAL & FINANCIAL ITEMS PREPAREDNESS”

Get Educated, Be Informed

- Know the specific hazards and vulnerabilities that threaten your part of our community (Severe Flooding, Large Trees, Above Ground Power Lines, etc.)
- Learn about community disaster plans, community warning systems and evacuation routes at www.floridacityfl.gov.

MAKE A PLAN

Step 1: Develop your household plan by discussing these 10 questions with your family, friends, and neighbors.

1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
2. What is my shelter plan?
3. What is my evacuation route?
4. What is my family/household communication plan?
5. Where will we evacuate to if we need to?
6. Do we have cash saved in event of evacuation, or when power is not available for ATMs and banks are closed?
7. Do we have a backup of critical medicines?
8. Do we have non-perishable food?
9. Do we have a sturdy cooler to place ice bags and cold items? Sealed bags of water frozen?
10. Do we have copies of our insurance (house, auto), driver’s license/identification, and birth certificates?

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

As you prepare, tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss how people in your network can assist each other with communication, childcare, business, pets, or specific needs like medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance.

Important factors when developing your plan:

Different ages of members within your household, Responsibilities for assisting others, Dietary needs, Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment, Disabilities, Languages spoken, Cultural and religious considerations, Pets or service animals, Households with school-aged children

Step 3: Fill out a Family Emergency Plan

Complete a family emergency plan that is specific for you and your family. A good guide to use in creating your own can be found at www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family. Ensure everyone knows the role for which they will be responsible.

Create a Checklist.

INSIDE YOUR HOME

Inventory Home Possessions

Make a list your possessions in writing, with pictures or video to help you claim reimbursements in case of loss or damage.

Reduce Home Hazards

- Have defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections repaired
- Protect electronics with surge protectors and waterproof coverings
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves OR if in flood zone on 2nd floor of home
- Remove pictures and mirrors from walls
- Have cracks in ceilings and foundations repaired
- Ensure all windows are up to code and have a tight seal
- Make sure your roof has hurricane clips and is inspected to minimize potential damage

Water Storage

- Capture water in your water heater by turning off power to the unit, then close the water valves. This way if you lose water pressure, you will have about 40 gallons of fresh water in the tank
- Store additional water in your bathtub, and fill the washing machine with water, too. This water supply can be used later for cleaning or to operate your toilet.
- Fill bottles or plastic containers with water and put inside your freezer. They will help keep it cold if you lose power and become drinking water once they melt
- Use buckets or other containers to store additional water for use in cleaning or bathing
- See below for bottled drinking water recommendation

Prepare an Emergency Kit

A basic emergency supply kit should include the following suggested items:

- Water - one (1) gallon of water per person per day for at least three (3) days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food - at least a three (3) day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench, pliers and screwdrivers
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Prescription & Non-Prescription medications
- Glasses and contact lens solution, Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet

- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Complete change of clothing and sturdy shoes
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper, pencil, books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS

Complete a Personal Assessment

Make a list of your personal needs and your resources for meeting them in a disaster environment. This should include daily living needs such as personal care, equipment, adaptive feeding devices and electricity-dependent equipment.

Form Your Personal Support Network

- Give a trusted member of your Personal Support Network a key to your house or apartment
- Show members of your support group where you store your emergency kit and run through what is included
- Have at least three or more people in your network
- Arrange for more than one person in your Personal Support Network to check on you
- Teach caregivers, Personal Support Network members and anyone who may assist you in an emergency how to operate necessary equipment

Important Records & Documents

Keep copies of important family records and other documents like birth and marriage certificates, Social Security cards, passports, wills, deeds, financial papers including bank accounts, insurance policies, medical/immunization records and copies of current bills in a waterproof or portable container.

MEDICAL NEEDS

Medication Requirements

All Floridians need to take a few basic steps to plan for their personal/family needs and protection in the event of a disaster or emergency. People with disabilities/special needs often have unique challenges that require more detailed planning. Below is a comprehensive checklist of actions to take before a disaster strikes:

- Register with Your Local/County Emergency Management Office
- Make sure you have at least 7-10 days of all prescription and non-prescription medications that all members of your family may need.
- Check your Emergency Kit for first aid needs like bandages, ointments or antiseptics

Considerations for People with Disabilities/Special Needs

- Contact your physician to discuss emergency planning & consider a medical alert system
- Know how to connect and start a back-up power supply for essential medical equipment

- If you use an electric wheelchair or scooter, have a manual wheelchair as a back-up
- Label medical equipment, assistive devices and any other necessary equipment and include your identification information
- If you have visual/sensory disabilities, plan for someone to convey essential emergency information to you if you are unable to use the television or radio
- If you use a personal care attendant from a home healthcare agency, check to see if the agency has special provisions for emergencies
- If you live in an apartment, ask the management to identify and mark accessible exits and access to all areas designated for emergency shelter or safe rooms that will allow you to call for help if you are immobilized in an emergency