

I Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Information for you and your family

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones in which winds reach a constant speed of at least 74 miles per hour (MPH) and may just to 200 mph. Their heavy bands of spiral clouds may cover an area several hundred miles in diameter and generate torrential rains and tornadoes.

The eye or middle of the hurricane is deceptively calm, almost free of clouds, with light winds and warm temperatures. If the eye passes over your area, only half of the storm has passed, the latter half is yet to come.

As the hurricane moves over the ocean, a dome of water - known as the storm surge...forms in the middle. The storm surge can be 10 to 20 feet above normal sea level, and is the most dangerous part of the hurricane. Storm surge can knock down single family homes and cause erosion under major buildings. A storm surge can last for several hours. The storm surge is responsible for nine out of 10 deaths in a hurricanes.

A. Before a hurricane threatens

The hurricane season begins June 1 and ends on November 30. However, hurricanes can be formed at any time during the year.

Take these steps before a hurricane watch or warning is announced.

- ☐ Check to be certain your emergency equipment is in good working order and that you have enough supplies to last at least two weeks.
- ☐ Obtain and store materials necessary to properly secure your home.
- ☐ Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall or bump against the house. When

trimming, try to create a channel through the foliage to the center of the tree to allow for air flow.

Note: Do not trim trees and shrubs after a hurricane watch or warning is announced. Trash pick-ups will be suspended and your trimmings can become dangerous airborne projectiles propelled by the hurricane's high winds.

- State officials have recommended that residents who live in adequately built homes stay in their homes. It is better to have a safe place located in the home than try to evacuate and get caught in a traffic jam. It is recommended that you choose an interior room separated by two walls from the outside.
- Evacuations are scheduled by County and City officials. Specific areas of the city are subject to title surges, especially areas located along the river. All residents living in manufactured homes will be subject to evacuations. If you are instructed to evacuate, have a plan.
- If you expect to evacuate your home in the event of a hurricane, plan in advance where you will stay, how you will get there, and what supplies you will take.
- If you need transportation to a public shelter due to a “special need” such as a physical disability or a neurological or psychological disorder, register with the County Office of Emergency Management in advance. Do not wait until a storm approaches.
- If you or a family member receives home health care or depends on electrical life-support equipment, discuss emergency plans with your agency representative. Check with your physician and, if necessary, make arrangements now with a hospital to stay there if you must evacuate.
- If you have elderly friends or relatives who will stay with you during a storm, keep a list of their prescribed medications and include them in your food and water storage plans. Plan now when you will take care of their property and pick them up.

Review your insurance policy to ensure it provides adequate coverage.

B. When a hurricane watch is announced, take these steps

Food & Water

Turn your refrigerator and freezer to its coldest setting. Open only when absolutely necessary, and close quickly. Since you might need water later, freeze water in plastic jugs such as milk containers and use them to fill empty space to keep food cool. With these precautions, these appliances can maintain food-preserving temperatures up to two (2) days without electricity.

You may have to depend on your own emergency sources of heat for cooking and water. Hurricane damage could interrupt electricity and water supplies for days.

Prepare your emergency water supply before the hurricane strikes. Have clean, airtight containers on hand to store at least two (2) weeks worth of drinking water (seven (7) gallons per person). Figure on two (2) quarts of drinking water per person per day. Additionally, sterilize the bathtub, jugs, bottles, cooking utensils and other containers. Thoroughly scrub sponge and swab with bleach, then rinse. Let the tub and other containers dry and then fill them with water. This water can be used for sanitary purposes.

Property

Begin placing your shutters or installing pre-cut plywood over your windows, sliding doors, or French doors. Taping windows will not prevent them from shattering but may reduce flying glass. This is necessary only in occupied rooms. Close all windows tightly. Secure and seal the trap door to the crawl space. (If wind filters into these areas, it may cost you the roof of your house which would cause extensive house damage.)

Unplug your television before you take down the antenna. When lowering a CB radio antenna, telescope it down and

lower it away from power lines. Be very careful not to make contact with a power line as you could be electrocuted.

Do not drain your swimming pool completely. Lower the water level to accommodate heavy rains, but no more than one foot. Turn off the electricity to pool equipment. If the filter pump is exposed, wrap it with waterproof covering and tie securely. Add extra chlorine to the pool to prevent contamination.

Bring in objects that can be blown away, such as garbage cans, garden tools, furniture and plants. Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.

The city has undertaken major steps to prevent flooding. Drainage rework is eliminating the threat of flooding throughout the city. Citizens can help by cleaning out storm drains on their streets or by contacting the Public Works Department at 871-5100.

Prepare your vehicle and fill your fuel tank early. Gasoline may not be available for days after the hurricane strikes. Gas pumps will not work when there is no electricity.

Place valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers and store them in the highest possible spot. Use plastic bags for large items. Make sure you have plenty of cash or travelers checks. ATMs quickly run out of cash and are not operable in power outages.

If you own a small boat on a trailer, store it in the garage or a warehouse. If you leave your boat outside, attach the trailer tongue to something firm on the ground, take the air out of the tires, and make sure the boat is lashed to the trailer. Fresh water may be used to add weight but the water must be kept below engine level and boards must be placed between the axle and frame to prevent damage to trailer springs.

If you keep your boat in a marina, read your contract carefully. Some marinas require you to remove your boat from their facilities at the time a hurricane watch is announced. It is your responsibility to make prior arrangements for the safe-keeping of your vessel.

C. During a hurricane

Weather conditions may deteriorate rapidly hours before the arrival of the hurricane. Stay indoors. An interior room or a room without windows is usually safest.

If the center (eye) passes through your area continue to stay indoors unless emergency repairs are absolutely necessary. Wind and rain may stop for a few minutes or more than half an hour. **Beware:** the wind will suddenly pick up again from the opposite direction and possibly with greater force than before. If the electricity goes off, use flashlights instead of candles or kerosene lamps, and be careful with cooking flames. A gust of wind through a door or window could start a blaze and the fire department may not be available to respond. Conserve refrigeration by opening refrigerator/freezer doors as little as possible.

Continue to listen to the radio and/or the television for announcements from the National Hurricane Center and local officials. Have a battery operated radio and/or a television available in the event of power outages. WPSL 1590 AM and WQCS 88.9 FM radio broadcasts situational bulletins and weather updates for the City of Port St. Lucie. Turn to 1590 AM and WQCS 88.9 FM on your radio for these bulletins and updates.

D. After a Hurricane

After a storm, tune to WQCS 88.9 FM at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to hear emergency information about Port

St. Lucie. Remain indoors until the official “all clear” is given. Pay strict attention to instructions from official sources such as your local Emergency Management Office, The American Red Cross and the Police. If you have evacuated, do not return home until officials announce that your area is ready. Residents may be restricted from accessing their homes after a major disaster. The reasons may range from downed power lines, to search and rescue operations, to blocked roadways. You may be required to present proof of residency in order to reenter evacuated areas. Be sure to carry your driver’s license showing a current address, deed to your house, or a utility bill. If your home has structural damage, do not move in until it is checked by county officials. Each county has plans to certify buildings for safety before habitation. Do not go into or reside in a structurally damaged building after the storm has passed.

E. Communications

Do not use your telephone unless you have an emergency. Do not call 9-1-1 except for life threatening situations. Do not report individual interruptions in electric, gas, water, or telephone service. Utility companies have plans to restore service as quickly as possible after the storm clears. Call the police or utility companies immediately to report hazards such as a downed power line, broken gas or water mains, or overturned gas tanks. Report individual trouble only after service has been generally restored in your neighborhood.

F. Boil Water

Water supplies may be contaminated during a hurricane. The public health department will issue a boil-water order immediately after the hurricane passes. The boil-water order will remain in effect for at least 72 hours. During this time, use only your pre-stored water for drinking or cooking.

If you did not store sufficient water and must use water from the

tap, strain the water through a paper towel or several layers of thick cloth to remove dirt.

You can also let the water settle in a container for 24 hours, by which time any solid particles should sink to the bottom. Then use one of the following methods to purify the water.

- Boil water for three to five minutes at a rolling boil, or
- Add four water purification tablets per gallon of water (available from drugstores), or
- Add 12 drops of two percent (2%) tincture of iodine per gallon of water, or
- Add eight drops of household bleach (without lemon or other additives) per gallon of water.

G. Check Food

Before using any food from the refrigerator, be sure to check it for spoilage. If you don't have electric service, we recommend you use your pre-stored, dry or canned food.

H. Avoid Injuries

Careless equipment use causes the greatest number of post-injuries. When cutting up fallen trees be extremely careful when using a chain saw. Serious injuries can occur when these powerful machines snap back or when the chain breaks.

Avoid carbon monoxide injuries, by using hibachis and gas grills outside, **never** inside your house. Be careful with open flames and candles as they can start fires, and people can get burned. Beware of snakes, insects or animals driven to higher ground by flood water.

I. Portable Generators

Connecting a portable or recreational vehicle (RV) generator to home wiring can cause safety hazards. Before using an RV or

portable generator, it is important to turn off electricity at your home's main circuit breaker or fuse box. When electric service is restored, take another safety step if you're using a RV or portable generator; disconnect it before turning on power to your home.

When using a portable generator make sure it is **located and operated outside** the house. You can then run a heavy duty, properly grounded extension cord inside the house to power your electrical appliances.

J. Evacuation Plan

Plan to evacuate if you...

- Are faced with a potential Category I, II, III Hurricane with winds 74-130 m.p.h. and storm surges from 7 to 10 feet. The damage potential from these categories is minimal to extensive.

Live in the following areas of the city:

- West and south of Westmoreland Boulevard from Port St. Lucie Boulevard to the St. Lucie/Martin County line.
- West of Midport Road from Lyngate Park to U.S. #1
- Vikings Landing
- East and north of Southbend Boulevard

Plan to evacuate if you...

Are faced with a potential Category IV or V with winds from 131 to above 155 m.p.h. and possible storm surges from 7 to 14 feet. The damage from these categories can be extreme to catastrophic.

Live in the following areas of the city:

- West and south of Westmoreland Boulevard from Port St. Lucie Boulevard to the St. Lucie/Martin county line.
- West of Midport Road from Port St. Lucie Boulevard to U.S. #1

- Vikings Landing
- All residents living south of the C-24 Canal, east of Florida's Turnpike, and north of Becker Road.
- The west bank of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.
- Do not stay in a mobile home under any circumstance. They are unsafe in hurricane conditions, no matter how well-fastened to the ground.
- Live in a high-rise. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations. High-rises are susceptible to conditions that can cause uncontrollable fires during high winds, when it will be impossible to get emergency help. Glass doors and windows may be blown out off their casings, and weaken the structure.
- If a hurricane's landfall is on the west coast additional evacuation areas may be identified at the time an evacuation order is issued. The extent of the areas will be based on information from the National Hurricane Center as related to potential storm surge expected from the specific existing hurricane.

Plan your evacuation alternatives now...

- Having an evacuation plan is very important. Several areas that should be considered are: 1) The location of shelters; 2) Friends or relatives living inland and in homes preferably constructed of concrete block; 3) Knowing the correct route to take when leaving the city.

Discuss your plan with your family.

- If you decide to evacuate, leave early to avoid heavy traffic and roads blocked by early floodwaters.
- As a last resort, go to a Red Cross Shelter. Hurricane shelters will be available for people who have no other place to go. Shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable, with no privacy, no electricity, and little food. If you need any medical

care, or need electricity for life support equipment, make arrangements with your doctor now.

- If you must seek public shelter, listen to radio and TV for announcements of which shelters will be open. Eat before leaving home. Remember: do not go to a shelter until you hear a media announcement that it is open. The Red Cross opens shelters and sometimes those shelters may be filled with people traveling from other locations. Listen for announcements as to not only what shelters have been opened, but what shelters have reached capacity.

K. Supplies for Your Home

Keep these supplies at home during the June through November hurricane season. We recommend you keep them in a separate “Disaster Kit.”

- Can opener (non-electric)
- Matches
- Canned or packaged foods, milk and beverages (two-week non-perishable food supply)
- Extra prescription medicine
- Baby food, diapers and formula
- First-aid kit
- Portable cooler
- Water (for drinking purposes, two quarts per person, per day; fill bathtub and other containers for sanitary usage)
- Toiletries
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Emergency cooking facilities
- 3/4” plywood boards to cover windows
- Lantern - batteries
- Fire extinguisher
- Bleach (without lemon or any other additives)
- Water purification tablets (may be bought at pharmacy)
- Insect (mosquito) repellent

Other items that you may want to include:

- ☐ Tools, including hammer and nails
- ☐ Tarps (canvas or plastic)
- ☐ Inflatable raft
- ☐ Life preservers
- ☐ Sleeping bags and blankets
- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Mosquito netting or screening to cover openings

L. Shelter Supplies

Do not leave your home for a shelter until government officials announce on radio and/or television that a particular shelter is open. Shelters fill up rapidly and you may be directed to an alternate one.

- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Medicine, prescription and over-the-counter
- ☐ Flashlight (per person)
- ☐ Baby food, diapers and formula
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Cards, games, books
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bag
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Identification, valuable papers (insurance), cash
- ☐ Food and snacks for each member of the family (shelters do not have food provisions except for shelter workers.)

Note: At the present time pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters.

M. Electrical Concerns

Do not touch fallen or low-hanging wires of any kind under any circumstances. A wire that seems harmless could be crossed with a live wire. Treat every power line you see as deadly. Whether it's on the ground, hanging loose, or attached to an object - **do not touch it.**

Stay away from puddles with fallen wires in them.

Call FPL immediately to report hazards such as a downed power line. Do not cut trees or limbs that are touching or even near power lines. When reinstalling a CB, TV, or satellite antenna, check in all directions and make certain that no power lines are nearby.

Keep anyone you see, especially children, far away from power lines, trees in contact with power lines, and FPL work crews. The work they will be doing is very dangerous.

Do not pile debris near or on top of power line equipment such as poles, transformers, or downed electrical wiring. FPL will be working to restore power and will be slowed by any items that block access to electrical equipment.

Do not report interruptions in electric service. FPL has plans to restore service as quickly as possible after the storm clears the area. Report individual trouble only after service has been generally restored in your neighborhood.

II. Wildfires

Wildfires have struck every county in Florida in recent years; in fact, in 1999 our City experienced a devastating wildfire. Fire destroyed 43 homes, severely damaged 33 more homes and burned over 2,400 acres. It is important to understand that periodic natural fire has been a common natural occurrence in Florida. Fires keep ecosystems dynamic, diverse, and beautiful. However, what has changed over the last 100 years or so is the massive influx of people moving into a fire-adapted environment.

Although most homes in the City are not in high-risk areas, all can be affected - even in areas completely built out. It is important to remember that most wildfire is accompanied by wind; therefore, burning embers known as firebrands, float up into the air on the convection currents created by the fire. They are usually

carried ahead of the large wildfire on the wind - which can range in excess of a mile - and may fall back to the ground to cause spot fires or ignite homes beyond the wildfire perimeter. Also, you can be affected by the smoke and road closures.

These are **TIPS** you can take to protect your family and your property:

1. Keep a clearing of at least 30 feet around your house for fire fighting equipment.
2. Space the trees you plant carefully.
3. Remove “ladder fuels”. They link the grasses and the tree tops.
4. Create “fuelbreak” - driveways, gravel walkways, or lawns.
5. Maintain your irrigation system regularly.
6. Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6’-10’ from the ground.
7. Remove leaf clutter from your roof and yard.
8. Mow regularly.
9. Landscape with less-flammable plants (contact your local forester or county extension agent).
10. Remove dead or overhanging branches.
11. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
12. If you have a fireplace, store firewood away from your house.
13. Prevent sparks from entering your house by covering air vents and chimney screens with wire mesh no larger than 1/8”.
14. Use fire-resistant building materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles for roofs; brick, cement, stucco and concrete masonry for walls; aluminum rather than vinyl soffits; and double pane glass for windows.
15. Don’t keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches.
16. Install a spark arrester system on your roof and chimney.
17. Make sure your house number is prominently displayed on the side of your house and mailbox and/or entrance to your home.

Source: Firewise and Institute for Business & Home Safety.

Note: The Institute for Business & Home Safety has produced a number of useful materials regarding wildfire mitigation. One publication is extremely valuable, "Is Your Home Protected From Wildfire Disaster? A Homeowner's Guide to Wildfire Retrofit." You can download a copy from their website, www.ibhs.org.

III. Hazardous Materials

A. Preparation can improve safety and reduce risks

- The residents of Port St. Lucie are exposed everyday to many potential problems with hazardous materials. With three major transportation routes running through the city and with the Florida East Coast Railway transporting hazardous materials, the city has the potential to be involved with a hazardous materials incident. The incident may require notification up to and including evacuation of the area.
- State and local governments have established minimal safety guidelines for your protection in the event of a hazardous materials accidents. Emergency officials will provide timely, accurate information and instructions. Do as they say!
- **If you are told to protect your breathing:** cover your nose and mouth with a large wet bath towel or cloth.
- **If you are told to stay indoors:** Remain indoors until further notice. Close all doors and windows. Using masking tape or a damp towel to seal the openings, if possible. Turn off all types of ventilation, unless otherwise instructed. Do not use fire-places and close the dampers. Cover or refrigerate any uncovered food. stay tuned to a local radio or television station for official information.
- **If you are told to evacuate:** Lock all doors and windows and turn off all appliances (except refrigerator) and faucets. Keep your car vents and windows closed. Do not use the heater or air conditioner.

IV. Electrical Storms

Florida experiences more electrical storms and lightning strikes than any other state and more people are injured or killed by lightning in Florida than any other state.

- Do not seek refuge under trees. Leave beaches or golf courses immediately, lightning is attracted to the highest object and it could be you.
- Stay away from windows. Do not stay close to electrical appliances or sinks and stay out of the bathtub during an electrical storm.
- Lightning does strike twice, in fact it favors previously hit areas.
- Turn off all television sets and unplug them from the wall and cable. Lightning can travel through the cable or electrical wires.
- Do not use the telephone during lightning storms.

V. St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant

A. Florida Power & Light's Goal

Safety is FPL's top priority in operating the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. Extra care and time are taken to ensure safety regulations are met and even exceeded.

Nuclear energy production is also monitored closely by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a federal government agency. Daily inspections are conducted on site to guarantee compliance with federal regulations on public health, safety and the environment. Safe and reliable service is maintained through a variety of backup safety measures. Several identical safety systems are in place so that if one fails, others automatically go to work.

B. What Barriers are in Place?

The St. Lucie Plant is constructed with multiple safety bafflers that keep radioactive materials in control and out of the

environment. Uranium fuel is encased in half-inch long, cylindrical ceramic pellets. These pellets are stacked end-to-end inside sealed metal tubes that are resistant to corrosion, radiation and heat. These fuel tubes are part of a fuel assembly which is immersed in water in the reactor core. The core is inside a steel pressure vessel nine inches thick. All this is shielded inside a containment building made of concrete more than three feet thick, laced with steel rods and lined with steel walls. Containment buildings are designed to withstand severe external forces such as hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes—even a direct hit by a jet aircraft. Safety is further enhanced by the fact that nuclear reactors cannot explode like an atomic bomb. The concentration of uranium fuel used is simply too low to produce a nuclear explosion.

C. Why is there an Emergency Plan?

Planning is an important part of FPL's strategy to protect you and your family, in the unlikely event of an emergency at the St. Lucie County nuclear plant. State and local officials, in conjunction with FPL, have prepared an emergency plan for people who live, work or go to school within 10 miles of the plant. The plans are tested by actual evaluated exercises and inspections.

D. Classification of Nuclear Plant Events

The four following terms are used to describe events at nuclear plants. Only two may involve public actions such as staying inside your home, or going to a public shelter. You should know these terms. FPL notifies county, state and federal authorities in each of the following situations:

Unusual Event: this is a minor incident, such as an injury to a plant worker or severe weather. Because of strict regulations, a number of events must be classified and reported as "unusual events" even though they pose no danger to you. No public action is required.

Alert: This is also a minor incident that affects or could potentially affect reactor safety. There is the possibility of a small, limited release of radioactive material, but there would be no danger to you. No public action is required.

Site Area Emergency: This is a more serious incident such as a

major leak from the reactor coolant system, or fire in the safety system. Radioactive releases are possible or are in progress. Sirens would sound, alerting you to tune to local radio or television stations for official information.

General Emergency: This is the most severe emergency classification. Radioactive releases which could affect the off-site population are possible or are occurring. Sirens would sound alerting you to tune to one of the local radio or television stations for official information. After notifying the county, state and federal authorities, FPL officials would continue to resolve the problem at the plant. State and county authorities are responsible for notifying area residents and taking steps to ensure public protection.

E. The 10 Mile Zone

Federal authorities established two emergency planning zone - a 10-mile zone and a 50 mile zone - as the basis for planning to protect the public. For more information call 461-5201. Emergency Management “Public Safety.”

F. How you would be notified

In the event of a serious emergency, emergency management, law enforcement and fire rescue officials may use a variety of methods to notify people living within 10 miles of the plant: Sirens; Emergency Vehicle Loudspeakers; Emergency Broadcast System; Door-to-door notification; Radio and TV.

G. If you hear a siren

Hearing a siren does not necessarily mean to evacuate. A siren is your signal to tune to local radio and television stations for further instructions. Through these broadcasts, emergency management officials will provide accurate, timely information. In an emergency, sirens would sound for at least 15 minutes. If possible, alert your neighbors by means other than telephone to

ensure that they also heard and understood the emergency information and instructions.

Periodic siren tests conducted by local emergency management officials last two minutes or less. During these tests, the sirens will sound a short tone followed by a notice stating “this is a test.” Occasionally, a siren may accidentally sound because of lightning strikes or other problems. If you hear a siren and have a question, call the St. Lucie County Emergency Office.

H If you are told to stay indoors

- Remain indoors until further notice.
- Close all doors and windows.
- Turn off all window fans. If necessary use air conditioning, unless
- instructed otherwise.
- Cover or refrigerate any uncovered food.
- Stay tuned to a local radio or television for official information.

I. If you are told to evacuate

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Turn off electricity, gas and water.
- Leave pets inside your home with plenty of food and water.
- Do not take pets to a reception center or shelter.
- Take all medicine or prescriptions you may need.
- Toiletries (bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving articles, eye care and sanitary items).
- Money (cash, credit cards) and important documents.
- Baby needs (formula, diapers, favorite toys).
- Portable radio and batteries.
- Sleeping bag or two blankets and a pillow for each person.
- Folding cot or lawn chair.
- Listen to a local radio or television station.
- Emergency officials will tell you what to do.
- Follow all evacuation directions and try to remain calm.

St. Lucie County: Residents living north of Prima Vista/St. Lucie

- West Boulevard will be directed to reception centers in Indian River County and possibly Brevard County. People living south of Prima Vista/St. Lucie West Boulevard will be directed to reception centers in Palm Beach County.

Martin County: Call 287-1652 for information in Martin County

Law Enforcement Officers will be stationed along evacuation routes to assist and direct you to reception centers. These centers are designed to provide adequate food, facilities and telephones.

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J. You have a special need if you...

- Have a physical or mental handicap
- Are elderly, or alone and can't leave your home
- Are on life-support systems
- Do not have transportation or cannot drive

Evacuation transportation and special facilities will be arranged for St. Lucie County (461-5201) residents with special needs. Local radio and television stations will announce facility locations.

K. If you have someone in a Nursing Home

- These facilities follow their own evacuation procedures, so please do not try to pick up your relative.
- Check with the facility in advance.
- Local radio and television stations will announce where patients are being moved.

L. If you have children in school

The following schools are located in the emergency planning zone for the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. The schools will follow their own evacuation procedures. As a precaution, the evacuation of schools may be considered prior to any general public action.

If your school is in the 10-mile emergency planning zone and not listed below, check with the school to verify its evacuation plans.

St. Lucie County Schools That May Be Affected

If your children attend these schools, please do not try to pick them up at the school.

Children attending St. Lucie County schools requiring evacuation will be bused to the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, 45601 West Midway Road, Ft. Pierce. Local radio and television stations will announce when parents may pick up their children. School personnel will supervise and care for children until parents can pick them up.

- ☐ Anglewood Center
- ☐ Bayshore Elementary
- ☐ Bible Baptist School
- ☐ Calvary Academy
- ☐ C.A. Moore Elementary
- ☐ Dale Cassens
- ☐ Dan McCarty Middle School
- ☐ Delaware Avenue School
- ☐ Fairlawn Elementary
- ☐ Faith Baptist School
- ☐ First Baptist Child Development Center
- ☐ Floresta Elementary
- ☐ Forest Grove Middle School
- ☐ Fort Pierce Central High

- ☐ Fort Pierce Elementary
- ☐ Fort Pierce School of the Arts
- ☐ Fort Pierce Westwood High
- ☐ Francis K. Sweet (Sweet Elementary)
- ☐ Garden City Elementary
- ☐ John Carroll High School
- ☐ Lakewood Park Elementary
- ☐ Lawnwood Elementary
- ☐ Liberty Baptist Academy
- ☐ Lincoln Park Academy
- ☐ Manatee Elementary
- ☐ Mariposa Elementary
- ☐ Morningside Academy
- ☐ Morningside Elementary
- ☐ Northpoint Middle School
- ☐ Oak Hammock
- ☐ Palm Vista Christian School
- ☐ Parkway Elementary
- ☐ Port. St. Lucie Elementary
- ☐ Port St. Lucie West Centennial High School
- ☐ Rivers Edge Elementary
- ☐ Sampson Memorial Seventh Day Adventist School
- ☐ Savannah Ridge Elementary
- ☐ Southern Oaks Middle School
- ☐ Southport Middle School
- ☐ St. Anastasia Elementary
- ☐ St. Andrews Elementary
- ☐ St. Lucie Elementary
- ☐ St. Lucie West Middle
- ☐ Treasure Coast Christian Academy
- ☐ Village Green Elementary
- ☐ White City Elementary
- ☐ Windmill Point Elementary

St. Lucie County Hurricane Shelters

as of **June 1, 2006**

Port St. Lucie

Floresta Elementary, 1501 S.E. Floresta Drive
Bayshore Elementary, 1661 S.W Bayshore Blvd.
Manatee Elementary, 1450 S.W. Heatherwood Blvd. (SLW)
Village Green Elementary, 1700 Lennard Road
Windmill Point Elementary, 700 Darwin Blvd.
Mariposa Elementary, 2620 S.E. Mariposa Avenue
Morningside Elementary, 2300 S.E. Gowin Avenue
Parkway Elementary, 7000 N.W. Selvitz Road

Fort Pierce/County

Westwood High School, 1801 Panther Lane
Lakewood Park Elementary, 7800 Indrio Road
C.A. Moore Elementary, 827 N. 29th Street
Savanna Ridge Elementary, 6801 Lennard Road
Weatherbee Elementary, 800 E. Weatherbee Road

Special Needs Shelters

Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 S.E Airoso Boulevard (Corner of Port St. Lucie Blvd. & Airoso Blvd.)

Dan McCarty Middle School, 1201 Mississippi Ave., Ft. Pierce

To register for the Special Needs Shelter, call the St. Lucie County “Department of Public Safety” at 461-5201.

All shelters will NOT open at the same time. You must listen to local radio & TV stations for instructions!

Pets, weapons, and alcoholic drinks are NOT allowed inside the shelters.

If you have further questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 871-5100 or St. Lucie County’s “Division of Emergency Management” at 461-5201.

VI. Public Safety Tips

A. Evacuation Routes/Intersection ID Numbers

Evacuation routes in the city are clearly identified by signage and include Prima Vista and Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Florida's Turnpike, U.S. 1, and 1-95. It is imperative because of the limited routes that if you plan to evacuate, you leave early. These routes can quickly become grid-locked.

You will notice large painted numbers at the main intersections in Port St. Lucie. One of the lessons learned during the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew is that all signage and many landmarks disappeared. This made recovery efforts much more difficult. To help the city's recovery efforts, identifying numbers were painted on intersections throughout the city. It is recommended that you memorize the number at the intersection closest to your home. This may help you to return home, or even to alert rescue workers as to the location of your home in the aftermath of a storm — barren landscape is extremely confusing. These identifications are easily seen from the air and will enable recovery workers to find their way around the city.

VII. Recovery

A. After an Incident

Evacuation routes will be the first to be cleared after an incident, followed by main roads leading into these routes.

- Return home only when authorities advise it is safe to do so. Remember, you may be restricted from accessing your home after a major disaster because of hazardous conditions. If re-entry is permitted, for security reasons you may be required to present proof of residency, be sure to have this proof available.
- Communication during the recovery may be a major problem. The city intends to use every means available to reach its citizens with the necessary bulletins and messages. This could be from leaflets delivered by recovery workers

or dropped from a plane, to signs posted in areas throughout the city. The City and County will be issuing regularly scheduled daily updates. Here again, it is imperative that you tune into local radio, television stations, and official City/County websites to keep informed.

- Drive only if absolutely necessary, avoid sight-seeing.
- Flooding may force snakes, insects or animals to seek higher ground. Beware of these, and instruct your children of the dangers.
- Also caution children about playing in standing puddles or water-filled swales. This water in addition to harboring snakes, harbors a great many bacterial strains which can cause mild to severe life-threatening illnesses.
- Enter your home with caution. Wear heavy shoes or boots for protection against glass or other debris.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- If operational, use telephone only in case of emergency.
- Check all food and water supplies before using them. Foods under refrigeration may be spoiled if the electricity was cut off for any length of time. Do not eat any food that has been in contact with flood waters.
- Emergency officials will set up staging areas throughout the community. It is from these staging areas that assistance will be available.
- If you smell gas, turn off the main valve, open the windows, and leave the house immediately.
- If you have been instructed by local officials to shut off your utilities, particularly gas, **always have utilities turned back on by a professional!**
- Check for water leaks, if one is suspected, shut off the water at the main water valve.
- Look for electrical system damage. If there is damage to the electrical system, turn off the system at the main circuit breaker or fuse box.
- Check electrical appliances, If any of the electrical appliances are wet, turn off the main power switch in the house. Unplug the appliance, dry it out, then reconnect it and turn

the main power switch back on. If fuses or circuit breakers blow when power is a disaster. Normally quiet and docile cats and dogs may become loud and vicious. Monitor animals closely. Leash or place dogs in a fenced yard.

- Caution children to stay clear of loose or roaming animals or wildlife.
- Emergency cooking - If you are using a charcoal or gas grill or Hibachi, be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and do your cooking outside. Food can also be heated with candle warmers, chafing dishes and fondue pots. Canned foods can be eaten directly out of the can, although the can should be opened and the label removed before cooking.
- Keeping clean is essential to good health. Because water should be reserved for drinking purposes, you should consider alternatives to water for cleansing the body. These include rubbing alcohol, lotions containing alcohol, shaving lotions, face creams and hand lotions, and towelettes
- Respond to children's fears. Concentrate on your child's emotional needs. Having children participate in the family's recovery activities will help them feel that their life will return to "normal". Children are most afraid that...the event will happen again; someone will be injured or killed; they will be separated from the family; they will be left alone. Make sure your children know how to call for help and know their family name, address and phone number.
- **Gas service:** Should your gas service be interrupted or go off prior to, during, or following an incident, follow these procedures.
- If your gas utility, whether natural or propane, is interrupted, turn the main valve off. Make sure all gas appliances (water heaters, dryers, stoves, pool heaters) are off. **Do not turn your gas on yourself, call your provider to do it.**
- Check electrical appliances. If any of the electrical appliances are wet, turn off the main power switch in the

house. Unplug the appliance, dry it out, then reconnect it and turn the main power weithc back on. If fuses or circuit breakers blow when power is restored, turn off the main switch again and reinspect for short circuits on the home wiring or appliances. Call an electician if you are unsure about doing this.

- Check that sewage lines are intact before flushing toilets.
- Check house, roof and chimney for structural damage.
- Open closets and cupboursds carefully.
- Clean up medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately.
- Just as human beings are traumatized by disasters, so are domestic pets. The behavior of pets may change dramatically after a disaster. Normally wuiet and docile cats and dogs may become loud and vicious. Monitor animals closely. Leash or place dogs in a fenced yard.
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Notes

**OPTIONAL
NOTES
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