

CITIZEN'S HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District has many responsibilities before, during and after a tropical storm and/or hurricane. Before the storm, the District's canal levels will be lowered to accommodate storm run-off. During the storm, the District will make every reasonable effort to maintain a continuous level of service. The District will take all necessary measures to restore services as soon as possible. Following the storm, all primary roadway and drainage systems shall be restored at the earliest possible date.

This Checklist has been compiled from a variety of sources and is provided by the District to assist its residents. Due to special personal circumstances, there may be additional supplies, precautions, etc. that you or members of your family may need to take in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane.

TERMS

- TROPICAL STORM WARNING:** Tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds of 39-73 mph, are expected in 24 hours or less.
- HURRICANE WATCH:** An announcement or bulletin usually issued by the National Weather Service when there is the possibility that a hurricane may pass near or through the area.
- HURRICANE WARNING:** A hurricane with sustained winds of at least 74 mph is expected in 24 hours or less. When a hurricane warning is issued, all precautions should be taken immediately.

BEFORE THE STORM

VITAL SUPPLIES:

Battery-operated radio
Flashlight, batteries
Lantern, matches
Manual can opener
Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
Camp stove with sufficient fuel to last 3 days
Fire extinguishers
Lumber for windows
First-aid kit
Ice chest
Containers for water
Prescription drugs
Baby supplies
Garbage can with a tight lid
Plastic bags for liners
Disinfectant or bleach
Deodorizer

MEDICAL NEEDS:

Prescription medications
First-aid handbook
Adhesive tape
Cotton-tipped swabs
Antiseptic solution
Aspirin
Sterile rolls, bandages
Diarrhea medication
Cough mixture
Ear drops
Laxative
Smelling salts
Splints
Toothache remedy
Thermometer

GENERAL

Fill your car's gasoline tank; also, check battery, water and oil.

Check flashlight and radio batteries and have extra on hand.

Obtain and mark clean containers for storing drinking water. You can also use sterilized jugs, bottles, cooking utensils and even your bathtub.

Refill prescription drugs and obtain any special medications.

Make arrangements for your pets. They will not be allowed in emergency shelters if you have to go to one.

Make or purchase ice to be placed in an ice chest.

HOME PREPARATION

Check on everything that might blow away. Those items might include garbage cans, awnings, outside antennas, patio furniture, bicycles, lawn equipment, flower pots, etc. Move these items to safety or properly secure them.

Trim large trees. The most vulnerable trees are ficus, acacias, bischofia, Australian pine, silk oak, royal poinciana and jacaranda.

Stake small or newly-planted trees to anchor them.

Use half-inch (minimum) plywood bolted against window for protection of large windows.

Put any small boats in garage.

Turn off automatic sprinkler system, if you have one.

POOL PROTECTION

Disconnect power to the pump and pool heater.

Protect your pump by wrapping it in heavy plastic.

Super-chlorinate or double the chemicals you normally add. This will help keep water cleaner.

Do not lower water level. If you do, this could cause the pool to pop out of the ground due to the rising water table.

Do not throw patio furniture in the pool to gain more storage space during the storm. Pool chemicals will harm the furniture. The furniture also can scratch the sides of the pool.

Remove automatic pool cleaners.

WHAT TO EAT

Stock non-perishable foods that can be eaten without cooking or with little preparation.

Use paper plates, napkins, plastic cups, knives, forks and spoons.

Stock beverages such as canned fruit juices, sodas, or any instant drink you can mix with bottled water you stocked up on before the storm.

Canned vegetables and fruits as well as prepared foods such as soups, spaghetti, stew, tuna, chicken, etc. and sugar, salt and pepper.

Snacks and snack spreads are also excellent to stock up on and do not forget peanut butter and jelly.

Baby food and food for people on special diets should also be part of your checklist.

DURING THE STORM

If the center or “eye” of the storm passes directly over, there will be a lull in the wind lasting from a few minutes to a half an hour or more. Stay in a safe place. Make emergency repairs during the lull if necessary, but remember the wind will return suddenly from the opposite direction, frequently with even greater violence.

AFTER THE STORM

Do not venture out until the all-clear signal is given by emergency management officials. **DO NOT GO SIGHTSEEING.**

Do not drive unless necessary. If you do, watch for road damage, fallen power lines and weakened bridges.

Use telephones for emergencies only.

If you have to enter a flooded building, make sure there is no structural damage, and all power is turned off.

Watch out for fallen power lines. Report such damage to FP&L, BellSouth or the nearest law enforcement agency.

Check all food and water carefully to make sure nothing is contaminated.

When everything is found to be safe, shutters and plywood can be removed and property can be restored to normal.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

- Fire/Police/Medical services911
- Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District.....(561) 793-0884
- Florida Power & Light.....(561) 697-8000
- BellSouth.....611
- MAJOR DISASTERS (Emergency Operations Center).....(561) 712-6400

In the event of a major disaster, this county agency will coordinate, assist and support response and recovery efforts to protect the lives and property of Palm Beach County residents.