

2021 HURRICANE SEASON

As we enter the 2021 hurricane season, please read the following to help better prepare you in the event of an approaching hurricane storm.

EVACUATION PLANNING

Evacuation is not mandatory but recommended for several reasons, as listed below:

1. Fire Rescue, Police, Medical, FPL, etc., will not travel when winds exceed 40 miles per hour; therefore, are unable to assist you until the storm has passed. This also depends on the condition of streets, i.e., clear of power poles and lines, debris, possible flooding.
2. If you remain at home, utility services such as phone, electrical service, and water and sewer will have interruptions and possibly no services for several days.
3. All bridges will be locked down when winds exceed 40 miles per hour. No motor vehicles will be permitted to pass over the bridge until they are inspected for safety purposes.

You should have an evacuation route plan with enough time to arrive at a safe location. Remember the roads become increasingly congested the longer you wait. Time is of the essence. Homeowners should prepare as follows:

- ✓ Before you depart, be sure to take dated photos or a video of your personal belongings. Bring important papers such as insurance policies, ID, stocks, bonds, credit cards, important phone numbers, and cash for several days.
- ✓ Bring enough supplies for 7 to 10 days: water, dry goods, batteries, flashlights, battery operated Radio/TV, clothing, pillows, blankets, first aid kit, medications, and a car charger for your cell phone.
- ✓ Be sure to charge your cell phone.
- ✓ Remove all furniture, satellite dishes, potted plants, and loose objects from your property. Items left out could be swept away by wind, causing injury and property damage.
- ✓ Shutter your windows. Close and firmly lock all sliding glass doors and windows.
- ✓ Check all faucets to determine that they are in the closed position.
- ✓ Turn off your electrical breakers and water lines to avoid additional damage. Turn off air conditioning units and appliances to protect them from power surges.
- ✓ Fill vehicles with gasoline as soon as a Hurricane Watch is issued.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with storm shelter locations, hotels with emergency generators, and evacuation routes.
- ✓ Plan to board your pet or take your pet with you. Do not leave your pet unattended in your home.
- ✓ If you do not reside in your home during hurricane season or plan to leave for an extended period, please arrange ahead of time for a hurricane caretaker to prepare your home in your absence.

Palm Beach County has established a *Special Needs Shelter* to provide care for citizens with certain medical problems during a major emergency. To be eligible, residents must pre-register and meet certain criteria. There are also *pet-friendly shelters* but again you must pre-register. All registrations can be done on-line.

Go to <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/pages> for registration information and for additional information that will assist you in being prepared before and after a storm.

HURRICANES: Hurricane season begins June 1st and ends November 30th. The South Florida coast can be threatened any time during this season. The following is a list of common terminology related to hurricanes:

HURRICANE WATCH: An announcement is issued by the National Hurricane Center whenever a hurricane becomes a threat to coastal areas. A “Hurricane Watch” is not a “Warning”. It indicates that a hurricane is near enough that everybody in the area covered by the “Watch” should listen for subsequent advisories and be ready to take precautionary measures in case a hurricane “Warning” is issued. Watches are usually issued 24-36 hours in advance of landfall. When a hurricane watch is issued, all unsecured items such as pool furniture, grills, benches, pottery etc., on the common areas will be secured.

HURRICANE WARNING: A National Hurricane Center warning announcing sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or higher associated with a hurricane can be expected in a specific coastal area in 24 hours or less. When a hurricane warning is issued, all precautions should be taken immediately. If the hurricane’s path is unusual or erratic, the warnings may be issued only a few hours before the beginning of hurricane conditions.

A **HURRICANE** is a violent storm originating over tropical waters with sustained winds over 74 miles per hour. The winds, as in tropical depressions and storms, blow in a counterclockwise direction around the center. The diameter of these storms ranges from 100 to 1,000 miles. To make the predicted hazards of an approaching hurricane easier to understand, hurricane forecasters have developed a disaster potential scale that assigns storms to five categories. This scale is called the SAFFIR/SIMPSON Scale, see below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Wind Speed</u>	<u>Storm Surge</u>	<u>Damage</u>
1	74-95 MPH	4-5 feet	minimal
2	96-110 MPH	6-8 feet	moderate
3	111-130 MPH	9-12 feet	extensive
4	131-155 MPH	13-18 feet	extreme
5	over 155 MPH	over 18 feet	catastrophic

It should be noted that Category 5 storms, though relatively rare, are open ended on the upper limits and that sustained winds over 200 miles per hour and storm surge over 18 feet have occurred.

STORM SURGE: The storm surge is a great dome of water that crosses the coastline near where the eye of the hurricane makes its landfall. By far, it is the most dangerous of all hurricane hazards. The maximum storm surge will be experienced south of where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall.

Be advised that after a storm passes, access is not permitted to affected areas until the appropriate government official declares it safe from hazards. Re-entry will be announced on television and radio. Management will be granted first access to determine the damage and needed repairs. Neither the Association nor Capital Realty Advisors, Inc. is responsible for anyone remaining in residence during or after a hurricane. Should you have any questions, please call management at 561-624-5888.

After the storm passes PLEASE remove your Hurricane Shutters. Shutters left up or closed will block your exit point if a fire is blocking your stairs or exit doors.

Closed shutters may also block the Fire Departments access to the interior of your home in the event of a Fire Emergency.