



Contact Us

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS & EVACUATION INFORMATION

THINK – PLAN – ACT

June 2023

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- Shelter Locations
- Community Procedures

Hurricane Season

June 1 – November 30

Forecasts

TROPICAL CLIMATE

- **Tropical Depression** – An organized system of clouds and **thunderstorms** with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds * of 38 mph (33kt*) or less.
- **Tropical Storm** – An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph (34-36kt).
- **Hurricane** – An Intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 kt) or higher.

Saffir-Simpson Scale

Category 1: Sustained winds of 74-95 mph. Storm Surge 4-5 ft.

Category 2: Sustained winds of 96-110 mph. Storm Surge 6-8 ft.

Category 3: Sustained winds of 111-130 mph.

Category 4: Sustained winds of 131-155 mph. Storm Surge 13-18 ft

Category 5: Sustained winds of 155 + mph. Storm Surge 18+ ft

Hurricane Watch - A hurricane may strike your area within 24-48 hours

Preparation Plan ...

Be Prepared

Residents are urged to develop a disaster preparedness plan before an emergency strikes. Plan in advance where you will stay, how you will get there and what supplies you will take.

1. Make arrangements with friends or relatives living in a non-evacuation area or check into a hotel located inland: or, as a last resort, use a public shelter (see evacuation pickup sites under EVACUATION).
2. Have a transportation plan for emergencies.
3. Tell family or neighbors where you would go to stay in case of an emergency.
4. Don't leave your pet(s) behind make arrangements with a kennel or friend to care for your pet(s). There are Hotels that will accept pets with prior registration.

Hurricane Season Preparation Plan

Before Evacuating Secure Your Home

Take down and bring in any decorations, tables, garbage cans, plants, furniture, umbrellas, and other loose and/or unsecured structures from outdoors, including all patios.

Please keep the following in mind when preparing your home before evacuating:

- Fill Prescriptions and fill vehicle gas tanks
- Unplug TV/computer and bring antenna and satellite dish inside.
- Move furniture and electronics away from windows and cover with plastic.
- Turn refrigerator to its coolest setting
- Place valuables in waterproof containers and store in high place.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

IMPORTANT RESOURCES Polk County Emergency
Management 1890 Jim Keene Blvd, Winter
Haven, FL 33880

[https://www.polk-
county.net/emergencymanagement](https://www.polk-county.net/emergencymanagement)

Two-Week Supply of Necessary Items

Two-Week Supply of Necessary Items

Maintain a two-week supply of food and drink for when you return after a storm.

You may want to include the following items:

- Water and ice
- Special dietary need items
- Small container of canned meats, fruits, soups, etc.
- Dry cereal and crackers
- Granola, cereal, protein bars, nuts, peanut butter
- Canned or bottled juices
- Dry or non-refrigerated milk and baby formula



Survival Kit

Keep a kit at your home with the following items in it. Some of these items will be needed to secure your home, some you will take with you when you evacuate, and others will be needed once the storm has passed and you are allowed to re-occupy your home.



Radio/TV/Fan (battery powered)

Flashlights

Batteries

Can Opener

Seasonal Clothing

Blanket & Pillows

Mosquito/Insect Repellant

Matches, Lantern or Lighter

Prescription Medicines

First Aid Kit

Box of plastic or rubber gloves

Baby Diapers & Incontinent pads (if applicable)

Toiletries

Spare Keys to Home & Vehicle

Fuel (stored in approved container)

Fire Extinguisher

Map of the area

Emergency cooking facilities

Propane for gas grills

Cash – small bills as the power will prevent credit card usage

PETS – Do Not Leave Your Pet at Home

The survival of you and your pets could depend on your personal disaster plan. Write it down. In times of emergency, overlooking important tasks is easy. Know if you are in an evacuation zone, and when you will evacuate (NOTE: ALL mobile home residents are required to evacuate at any level of a hurricane.) Even if you live in a non-flood zone, have a contingency plan in case you are required to evacuate for other types of emergencies.

List all the survival items you will need for your pets. Purchase supplies for at least two weeks. Travel will likely be very difficult and unsafe. Getting any additional supplies after the storm arrives maybe impossible for several days.

When you are planning for your evacuation, the location you are planning to go to should be as close to home as is safely possible. The highways will be crowded, making long distance travel difficult. Some motels and hotels will allow pets during declared evacuations if they are properly confined in a carrier or cage. Check with your preferred motel or hotel before evacuating to be sure your pet will be welcome. A limited number of private boarding facilities are available for your pets if you cannot evacuate with them. Remember to choose a boarding facility located close to your evacuation route as travel will be at best, difficult.

Pet Supply Kit

- Medication and medical records and a first aid kit.
- Study leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pet safely and ensure that you animals can't escape.
- Food, portable water bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.
- Current pet photo in case they get lost.
- Information on deeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems.
- Name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES



IMPORTANT RESOURCES Polk County Emergency Management
1890 Jim Keene Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33880

<https://www.polk-county.net/emergencymanagement>

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|--|---------------------|
| Emergency | 911 |
| Citizen Line | 311 OR 863-534-6000 |
| Emergency Management | 863-298-7000 |
| American Red Cross | 863-294-5941 |
| Highway Patrol | 863-413-3510 |
| Florida Highway Patrol (from any cell) | *FHP |
| Sheriff | 863-236-3900 |
| Price Gouging Hotline | 866-966-7226 |
| FPL (Report an Outage) | 800-700-8744 |
| Poison Control | 800-222-1222 |
| FEMA | 800-621-3362 |

Any Polk County resident who meets the established eligibility criteria may register. Registration can be obtained by calling or visiting one of the following:

- Visiting the Polk County Government website at <http://www.polk-county.com/government/> and downloading the registration form
- Contacting The Polk County Citizens Line by dialing 311 or 863-534-6000
- Asking your Home Health Agency to register you
- Asking your Hospice Agency to register you
- Asking your Medical Equipment Supplier to register you
- Asking your Senior Social Service Agency to register you

Information collected during this registration process is confidential by law and will only be given to specific emergency personnel.

Polk County has designated Special Needs Shelter sites throughout the County. Decisions on which of these shelter sites are opened are determined by County officials.



SHELTERS

Polk County provides hurricane and storm emergency shelters as part of its comprehensive response to help individuals, families and communities respond to and recover from disasters. In the event of a storm, shelters will be opened as deemed necessary. Information about Polk County Shelters will appear on the Polk County Emergency Safety website as they open in response to an impending disaster.

The American Red Cross and/or Salvation Army provides food at the shelters. You are encouraged to bring some food, snacks, and water with you.

In addition, please bring the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of family and friends should you need to contact them or to provide information of your whereabouts. Also, leave your porch light on; this will assist the authorities that drive around your neighborhood after the storm to indicate that you have electricity.

Do not go to the shelter until local officials announce, through the media, that the shelter is open.

2023 HURRICANE EVACUATION CENTERS

These shelters are a refuge of last resort; a place to go if you can't stay at home or with a relative, friend, co-worker or nearby hotel. Hurricane Evacuation Centers should be utilized when the alternative does not exist. Remember, evacuation centers are not designed for comfort and not all accept pets.

NOT ALL SHELTERS ARE OPEN FOR EVERY STORM!

Please monitor the local media for current shelter openings and locations.



Polk County provides hurricane and storm emergency shelters as part of its comprehensive response to help individuals, families and communities respond to and recover from disasters. In the event of a storm, shelters will be opened as deemed necessary.

Information about Polk County Shelters will appear on the Polk County Emergency Safety website <https://www.polk-county.net/emergency-management/emergency-shelters> as they open in response to an impending disaster.

The website does not put-up list of shelters until a storm is near.

Dear Residents:

We composed an alphabetical outline of hurricane procedures for Association Name and how they will affect your family. Make plans now on where you plan to stay. Stock up on food items; water (1 gallon per day per person); flashlights; battery powered radio; first aid kit; and prescription medications to avert the rush at the stores.

ELECTRICITY/ AIR CONDITIONING:

In the event there is loss of electric, the air conditioning will shut down until power is restored. This will be an inconvenience to those planning to stay in the condominium building. We are informing you now so that you can make alternative plans. Please make sure each person in your household has a flashlight available to them for use. **KEEP A FLASHLIGHT READY FOR EXITING DOWN HALLS AND STAIRSCASE.**

PATIOS:

Remove all furniture from patios: potted plants, tables, chairs and anything affixed to the walls during a hurricane “WATCH”. If you are not going to be in the residence please make arrangements to get everything off your balcony by someone other than a member of our staff. In the event any damages are caused due to any flying object coming from your unit the unit owner will be solely responsible for any cost incurred.

DELIVERIES:

No deliveries will be allowed once we are in hurricane “WARNING; WATCH” please re-schedule any pending as all delivery trucks will be turned away.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Emergency services will probably not be available in a timely fashion, if at all, due to impassable roadways and they prioritize those most in need. If you have a medical condition that could warrant a need, you might want to consider other arrangements until after the storm. The emergency generator only runs two elevators, limited hallway lights and stairwell lights for eight hours. There will be no electricity in the units once we lose FPL service. Plan accordingly.

EVACUATION:

Mandatory evacuation, if necessary, will be mandated by the local authorities. Complete all storm preparations and follow local emergency management official's advice. In addition, fallen trees could make the roadways impassable. There are some local hotels/motels that will keep an open reservation on your credit card and activate the reservation when we are in hurricane WATCH. Consult the yellow pages of your Century Link Directory.

HURRICANE "WATCH":

This is when conditions are possible in the specified area and can affect more than 100 miles of coastline. Evacuation zones are identified by the likelihood of being flooded by this rising water.

HURRICANE "WARNING":

This is when hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning within twenty-four (24) hours of landfall. Complete all storm preparations and immediately follow local emergency management official's advice about evacuating dangerous or low-lying locations.

INSURANCE:

Pictures and videos of the contents to your unit are crucial if you need to put in a claim to your insurance company. Also, copies of warranty booklets with model and serial numbers of your personal property should be kept with the pictures. If you are leaving your unit, it is advisable to take copies of your pictures and policies with you. In the event your local agent is not available, make sure you have a corporate headquarters office telephone number to call.

ENTRY:

“WARNING.” Make sure you have proper ID to enter back to your community.

GUESTS:

Guests should be kept at a minimum when a Hurricane Warning is issued and after the storm has passed until the building is fully operational again.

LEAVING YOUR HOME:

We advise you to call family members and let them know where you are going and provide a phone number before you leave because phone service might be out, due to high winds, by the time you get to your destination. (See EVACUATION section above).

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. The Association staff is not liable to inspect each home in the event of an oncoming storm. Please make arrangements to check your home before and after the storm (by yourself or your property manager).
2. The Association will send communication before, during and after the storm to provide updates.

PETS:

Most shelters do not permit pets. Please call your County to receive information and an application. Pets cannot be left in the unit unattended. Should you decide to leave the country, please make proper arrangements with your vet, kennel, friends or family to care for your pet.

POOL AND JACUZZI:

The pool furniture will be stored during hurricane "WATCH". If you plan on using the pool area, we apologize for the inconvenience of not having chairs on the pool deck available. The pool will be chlorinated during hurricane "WATCH" and will remain out of commission for at least two (2) days after the storm.

RECOVERY AFTER THE STORM:

After the storm, roadways may be impassable making it impossible to return to the property. The landscaping crew, once they are able to return to work, will make a diligent effort to clear the roadways. Electricity and water may not be available. You should have water on hand to carry you through until services are restored.

RETURNING TO THE PROPERTY:

Please be patient; officials' priority is public safety. Listen to the local news media for possible road closures and curfews. A reoccupation order can take hours, days or even weeks depending on the severity of damage to the roads, bridges and buildings. After the order for reoccupation is issued, you may have to provide proof of residency (driver's license and/or utility bill with current address) this is to protect your home and/or business from unwelcome visitors.

SHELTER FOR EVACUATION:

The public shelters are far from comfortable. You must bring a bed roll, pillow, food for at least three meals, flashlights, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, diapers, and water for each person in your family. The supply of food is limited and might not be to your liking.

WATER:

If you are staying in your home, you might lose water pressure due to the County's lack of service or loss of electric for the pump stations. Keep at least one gallon of water per person for each day. A two-week supply is prudent. Clean your tub with bleach and fill your tub for cooking, washing and to flush your toilets.

STAFF:

The Castle Group property manager & general manager will only be available for a short period once a hurricane "WATCH" is issued. When the area is in hurricane "WARNING", all staff persons will be on their way home. Key personnel will stay on a voluntary basis only and as time permits them to reach their homes safely. Key personnel may stay on a voluntary basis.

Please remember, the staff must secure their own homes and families.

We hope this pamphlet has been informative and will assist you during storm preparations.

Stay Safe!