

Are YOU *HURRICANE* ready?

Dark skies.....Heavy bands of spiral clouds.....

Storm surges.....Deceptively calm eye.....

Torrential rains.....Tornadoes.....

Destructive in nature.....

If you haven't already figured it out, it is **Hurricane Season** again, lasting until the end of November. Hurricanes are tropical cyclones with winds of at least 74 miles an hour and possess the potential of reaching up to 200 mph. The thick, heavy bands of spiraling clouds can cover an area several hundred miles in diameter and generate tornadoes as well as torrential rains. The eye, or the middle of the hurricane, is deceptively calm in nature; appearing free of clouds, with warm temperatures and light winds. **Beware**, if the eye passes over your area, the storm is only half over. The rest of it is yet to come. "Storm Surges" form in the middle as the storm passes over the ocean. It can be 10 to 20 feet above normal sea level, and it is the most dangerous part of the hurricane. They have been known to knock down single family homes in an instant and cause erosion under major buildings. The storm surge is responsible for 9 out of 10 deaths in a hurricane.

SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

First, you need to enter the season prepared, before a hurricane threatens and a "watch" or "warning" is issued. Check to make sure your emergency equipment is in good working order and that you have enough supplies to last several days. Obtain and store materials necessary to properly secure your home - items such as boards to cover windows, waterproof tape for the glass windows. Contact the utility company about any tree limbs that could possibly come into contact with power lines. When trimming trees by yourself, try to create a channel through the foliage to the center of the tree to allow for airflow. NOTE: Do not trim trees after the hurricane "watch" or "warning" is issued. If you have special needs such as a disability, medical, neurological or psychological disorder - you

need to register with your county civil defense agency or office of emergency management in advance. Do not wait until the storm approaches. If you or family members are required to utilize electrical life-support equipment or receive home health care, you need to discuss emergency plans with your agency representative. Check with your physician and if necessary, make arrangements **now**.

Second, make a personal plan **NOW!** Place all of your personal values in a safety deposit box. Make sure that you have proper insurance coverage for all of your personal belongings. If you decide to stay in your home, you should have the following items available and keep them in a separate "**HURRICANE KIT**":

- Non-electric can opener
- Matches
- Canned or packaged foods, milk and beverages (*two week non-perishable food supply for each person*)
- Extra prescription medicine and baby items (*baby food, diapers and formula, etc.*)
- First aid kit
- Portable cooler
- Water (*for drinking, 1 gallon, per person, per day, fill bathtubs and other containers for sanitary usage. Remember extra for pets.*)
- Eating utensils
- Toiletries and personal items
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- Emergency cooking facilities
- Plywood (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick) to board up windows
- Lantern or candles
- Fuel for your vehicle and or gas grill
- Fire extinguisher
- Bleach (without lemon or other additives),
- Bug or mosquito repellent.

Other items you may wish to include are tools, 100 feet of rope, inflatable raft, life preservers, tarp (canvas or plastic), sleeping bags or blankets, trash bags, duct tape, and mosquito netting.

Plan to evacuate if you reside in a mobile home. They are extremely unsafe in hurricane conditions, no matter how well they are fastened to the ground. **DO NOT, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, STAY IN A MOBILE HOME!** Plan your evacuation route now, especially if you live in a coastal area. Leave early to avoid traffic and possible road blocks or plan to stay with friends or family. Their home may provide a safe refuge if it meets the criteria.

Only as a last resort, plan to go to a Red Cross Hurricane Shelter. They will be available for people who have nowhere else to go. If this is where you must go, go as soon as it is announced that it is opened. Eat before leaving home because meals may not be available for the next 24 hours and bring as much of your own supplies as you possibly can. If the electricity is out, you cannot use a bank teller machine, so make sure you have extra cash in a safe place. **NOTE:** Pets are not allowed in shelters except for seeing-eye dogs. Make arrangements for your pet ahead of time, whether it is at a kennel or families home. The only pet-friendly shelter in Broward County is Millennium Middle School located at 5803 NW 94 Avenue in Tamarac. Pre-registration can be in person or by mail and is handled through the Humane Society, 2070 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale. 954-266-6828

Broward Shelters are:

Fox Trail Elementary School
1250 Nob Hill Rd.
Davie, 33324

New Renaissance Middle School
10701 Miramar Blvd.
Miramar, 33027

Everglades High School
17100 SW 48th Court
Miramar, 33027

Watkins Elementary School
3520 S.W. 52nd Ave.
Pembroke Park, 33023
Silver Trail Middle School

**18300 Sheridan St.
Pembroke Pines, 33331**

It's important for everyone to make arrangements before the storm for elderly family members or those with special needs. If your family member relies on electronic-powered medical equipment, confirm now which shelters provide back-up emergency power. Ensure you and your family have at least a 2 week supply of required medicines. Special areas of Silver Trails Middle have been set aside for those with special needs. Bring supplies for at least three days that include food, water, nebulizer, and oxygen equipment. Make sure you have a back-up battery for ventilators and a back-up oxygen cylinder. For assistance contact the Pembroke Pines Community Services Department. Remember that not all shelters will be open during every emergency, so you need to check with the Broward County Hotline at 954-831-4000.

**West Broward High School
500 NW 209th Avenue,
Pembroke Pines, 33029**

**Falcon Cove Middle School
4251 Bonaventure Blvd.
Weston, 33332**

2 TYPES OF HURRICANE WARNINGS

There are two types of official warnings for a hurricane. A hurricane "**Watch**" means a hurricane may strike a particular area in a time span of 24-48 hours. A "**Warning**" means a hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours or less. When a hurricane watch is announced, do not listen to rumors. Get the proper facts from radio and television broadcasts. If you are safe staying at home, turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Freeze water in plastic containers and use them to fill empty space and keep food cold. By following these few precautions, appliances can maintain food-preserving temperatures up to two days without electricity. You may have to depend on your own means of heat for cooking and water. Begin latching down shutters, putting up boards up or taping your windows. Remember that tape will only help in keeping the glass from shattering. Also, unplug the television before you attempt to take down the

antenna. Do not drain your swimming pool completely but, lower the water level to accommodate heavy rain and not more than a foot. Turn off electricity to pool equipment. If the filter to the pump is exposed, wrap it with waterproof covering and tie securely. Add extra chlorine to the pool to help prevent contamination. Bring in objects that can be blown away, such as garbage cans, furniture, garden tools, toys, plants, etc... Prepare your vehicle by filling your tank early, as gas pumps may not be working anytime soon after the storm. Store your valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers and store them in the highest place in your house. Use plastic bags for large items and make sure you have plenty of cash. Again, if electricity is out, bank tellers will not be able to be used. If you own a boat, store it in a garage or warehouse.

During the hurricane stay indoors, preferably in an interior room without windows. It is usually the safest place to be. Wind and rain may stop for a few minutes to more than a half an hour if the eye (middle of the hurricane) passes over your area. It is important you stay indoors during this time period, as the wind will suddenly pick up again from the opposite direction with a greater force than the beginning. Again, do not go outdoors unless emergency repairs are absolutely necessary. If the electricity goes out, utilize flashlights. Continue to monitor the battery-operated television or radio. Announcements from the National Hurricane Center and local officials will be broadcast.

After the hurricane, stay indoors until an "all clear" is given. Pay attention to instructions given by the National Hurricane Center, the American Red Cross, local officials, the Emergency Management Office and the police. Do not stay in damaged structures after the storm has passed.

- *Do not use your telephone unless it is an absolute emergency!*
- *Do not call 911 except to report life-threatening situations.*
- *Do not call the power company or utilities for individual outages!*

Florida, Power & Light already has plans to restore the service as soon as humanly possible after the storm clears the area. You may call the police or utility company to report such things as downed power lines, broken water mains, broken gas lines, or overturned gasoline tanks. Keep in mind water supplies may have been contaminated during the storm. The Public Health Department will issue a boil-water order immediately after the

hurricane passes. The order will remain in effect for at least 72 hours, if not longer. Utilize your pre-stored water for drinking and cooking. Utilize pre-stored dry or canned food. Carelessness causes the greatest number of post-storm injuries. Please be careful of open flames. Do not grill inside the structure, go outdoors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. When cutting fallen trees or limbs, be careful, especially when using a chain saw. Serious injuries can occur when powerful machines snap back or when the chain breaks. Make sure you are aware of fallen electrical lines under trees/branches. Treat every fallen wire as a live one. FP & L will be working hard to return service to you. Do not hinder the restoration process by blocking access to electrical equipment. Keep everyone, especially children, away from puddles with fallen wires in them. If you are in a public shelter, remain there until those in charge advise that it is safe to leave. Do not drive around like a tourist. Roadways need to be kept clear for emergency vehicles and repair crews.

A final note for hurricane preparedness: It is important to make plans and preparations now with your family. Share your family's plan with friends and relatives. Remember too, after the storm is over, if your damage is extensive, stay calm. Help is on the way. And if it is minimal, give thanks and lend a helping hand to those who need it. Keep in mind it is a team effort to keep everyone all safe in the event of a storm.

For additional information or brochures on hurricane safety, contact the Pembroke Pines Police Department Community Affairs Unit at 954-436-3274.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS:

Florida Power & Light Co. (www.fpl.com), 800-468-8243
www.fplmaps.com will show power outages, how many people are affected, the cause of the outage, and estimated time of repair.

After a storm, FPL will be aware of damage to large power lines and outages. Please call only once if you have a problem.

Broward County

Hurricane Hotline: 954-831-4000

TTD/TTY: 954-831-3940

Broward County Transit: 954-357-8400

Sheriff's Office, nonemergency: 954-765-4321

Broward County Environmental Protection Department: 954-519-1499

American Red Cross: 954-797-3800

Animal Care and Regulation Division: 954-359-1313

Aging & Disability Resource Center: 954-745-9567