Surviving the Storm — It’s Everyone’s Responsibility

Inside

SPECIAL ISSUES & CONCERNS
- BUSINESSES .................. Page 11
- KIDS .......................... Page 12
- BOATS & BRIDGES ........ Page 13
- HOME PREPARATIONS .... Page 14
- IMPORTANT CONTACTS .... Page 15

HAZARDS
- HURRICANES .................. Pages 5-8
- FAMILY DISASTER PLAN .... Page 8
- THUNDERSTORMS .......... Page 9
- TORNADOES .................. Page 9
- FLOODS ....................... Page 10
- MAN-MADE/BIOLOGICAL ... Page 10
- WILDFIRES .................. Page 11
Page 2

5 STEPS to prepare for all hazards

In Pinellas County, we enjoy year-round sunshine and warm weather with abundant water surrounding us on three sides. But, living in paradise comes with its share of hazards.

Each year, from June 1 to Nov. 30, catastrophic hurricanes can develop within a matter of days with enough destructive wind and waves to put much of our peninsula underwater. During any season, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods and other perils can strike any corner of our community.

Your county government works with municipal, state and federal partners to ensure residents and visitors are warned of life-threatening hazards; preparing for these dangers is everyone’s responsibility. In daily life, we all rely on basic services such as electricity, running water and safe roadways to access food, medical care and other necessities.

Imagine living for days or even weeks without these essentials as emergency crews work to clean up after a hurricane or other disaster.

The risk of these hazards should not make you fearful about what could happen to you or your family. With a few basic preparations, you can be ready to survive any peril that may arise.

The first section of this guide will take you through 5 STEPS for getting prepared for any type of hazard you may face here:

1. CONNECT to vital emergency information about dangerous weather and other hazards.
2. BUILD a survival kit with the things you’ll need to survive without everyday necessities.
3. ASSESS how you’ll stay safe and informed when both power and cell service are down:
4. PLAN where you’ll go and what you’ll do in an emergency.
5. RECOVER after a disaster by taking safety precautions and requesting help.

The remaining sections of the guide offer advice to get ready for specific natural and man-made hazards.

For details see page 15.

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For details see page 15.
IF YOU MUST EVACUATE...

If you’re staying in a public shelter, picture yourself sleeping every night in a room full of people in a space that only measures about 2.5 feet by 7 feet and pack accordingly. If you are evacuate to stay with friends or relatives in a host home, take a “go bag” and ask in advance what they will provide to protect yourself.

**Survival kit (continued)**

- **Document Checklist**
  - Vital papers & ID
  - Cash
  - Phone number list
  - Medications and copies of prescription paperwork
  - Eyeglasses
  - Non-perishable food/snacks
  - Bedding
  - Hygiene items
  - Change of clothes, rain gear
  - Kids’ supplies and entertainment

**IN CASE OF A HURRICANE**

- **Sandbags**
  Sandbags are made available by the county and municipalities for certain types of emergencies, such as localized flooding events. They are also available at local home improvement stores. Updates about sandbag availability will be provided during an emergency at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

**MEDICATIONS IN EMERGENCIES**

Restrictions on refilling medications early are suspended by state law during hurricane warnings, when the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center is activated or when the governor has declared a state of emergency. Make sure you get a refill immediately if you know a hurricane is coming.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

To find out what extra items you may need to pack, see the following sections:

- **Residents with Special Needs**: Page 12
- **Pets**: Page 13
- **Kids**: Page 12
During the chaos of an approaching storm, you may not have time to think through what you and your family members must do to get to a safe place together. While you can’t plan for every possibility, it’s important to answer three questions before a disaster...

1. WHO WILL I CONTACT?
   • How would I reach my loved ones if my phone did not work in an emergency?
   • Do I have important numbers written down and stored in a safe place?
   • Has my family talked about how we would reconnect if an evacuation was called while we were separated?

2. WHERE WILL I GO?
   • If there’s a tornado warning in your area, have you identified a “safe room” in your home where you can hunker down?
   • If you had to evacuate for a hurricane, would you try to drive out of town or to a friend’s house in a safer area?
   • In what situations would it be safe to stay home instead of trying to leave?

Find details about planning for specific emergencies in the Hazards section of this guide starting on page 9.

### Utility Outages

**Power Outages**

Electricity powers your lights, air conditioning, refrigerator and possibly even your stove.

**Food Safety**

**TWO DAYS** – The time frozen items can be stored safely if you keep the freezer door shut.

**SIX HOURS** – If the power is out for longer than this time, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler. Put a thermometer in the cooler to make sure it stays below 40°F. Meats and other perishable foods can stay above 40°F without spoiling for two hours. For more food safety information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County or (727) 824-6900 or www.pinellashealth.com.

**Generators**

A gas-powered generator can keep your appliances going after a disaster, but it comes with several dangers:

- **CARBON MONOXIDE**: Use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors to avoid exposure to this deadly, colorless, odorless gas. **NEVER operate a generator indoors.**
- **FIRE**: Make sure the generator is cool when refilling the tank and store flammable fuel away from fuel-burning appliances.
- **ELECTRICAL SHOCK**: An electrical shock from your generator can also kill you.
  - Keep the generator in a dry place.
  - Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, three-pronged extension cord.
  - NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet; this can cause electrocution.

### Safe Driving

**After a storm, roads may be littered with debris and many routes may be flooded.** Avoid unnecessary travel and, if you must venture out, always obey “road closed” signs. **NEVER drive through standing water.** Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an “all way” stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.

- 6 inches of water can sweep you off your feet
- 12 inches of water can float a car or small SUV
- 18 inches of water can carry away a large vehicle

### Emergency Toilets

Use a chemical toilet or create an emergency toilet by one of the following methods:

- **5-GAL BUCKET**: Line with plastic trash bag and use household bleach as a disinfectant. Make sure it has a tight lid.
- **TOILET BOWL**: Turn off your outside water supply first and flush once to empty before lining with a trash bag.
- **DRUM**: It cannot be flushed after the sewer system is running. Once given the OK by officials, dispose of the emergency toilet’s contents into household commode. Thoroughly sanitize your emergency toilet with bleach before storing or disposal.

### Price Gouging

In a declared state of emergency, it is illegal to sell necessary goods or services at increased prices. If you believe a business or individual is price gouging, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 to report it.

### Bus Riders

In an emergency, PSTA will run nearly all routes until it is no longer safe. All rides are free during a hurricane evacuation. Buses will also run from transfer stations to local shelters during an evacuation. Call the PSTA Info Line at (727) 540-1900. Route information during a storm will also be posted at www.psta.net.

### Transportation

**NO TRANSPORTATION:** The county offers transportation for special needs residents (see page 12). If you don’t qualify and can’t ride the bus, contact your local fire department or Emergency Management in advance for help. Don’t stay in a dangerous situation just because you don’t have transportation!

### Disaster Plan

Fill out your own plan on page 8 of this guide.
HURRICANES

Hurricane Season is June 1 to Nov. 30

In this section

- Storm surge
- Dangerous wind

Know your zone

Look on page 6 to learn your evacuation zone and where to go in a storm, or use the online application “Know Your Zone” to obtain this information:
http://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/knowyourzone/

DANGEROUS WIND

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sustained Winds</th>
<th>Wind Damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>54-95 mph</td>
<td>Very dangerous winds: Damage to roofs, windows, chimneys, siding, driveways, trees, millwork, vehicles, and property included in the evacuation zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>96-110 mph</td>
<td>Extensive damage: Major damage to roofs and buildings; trees fallen or uprooted, blocking roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (major)</td>
<td>111-129 mph</td>
<td>Devastating damage: Major damage to roof decking and gable ends. Trees snapped or uprooted, blocking roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (major)</td>
<td>130-156 mph</td>
<td>Catastrophic damage: Severe damage including loss of roof structure and some exterior walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (major)</td>
<td>157 mph or higher</td>
<td>Catastrophic damage: Many framed homes destroyed, total roof failure and collapse. Fallen trees and power poles with widespread outages. Most of the area uninhabitable for weeks or months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DO I STAY OR DO I GO?

In this section

- Making the decision
- Understanding the forecast
- Evacuation order

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you have special needs, be sure your caregiver begins to implement your plan and, if needed, you are registered for a special needs shelter.

3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast increases and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:
- Double check your survival kit and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors, and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS (48 hours ahead)

- Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours if the storm remains on track and continue implementing your disaster plan.
- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash, secure papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plan is to evacuate, make final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be ready to leave. Rescue workers will begin pick-ups shortly after an evacuation order is issued.

EVACUATION ORDER

- Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order – does it include your evacuation zone or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave immediately to avoid traffic jams.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times.
- Stay safe during the storm.

Making the decision

When a hurricane is approaching, will you stay in Pinellas County or drive miles away to an out-of-town location? You can find high ground on the peninsula that won’t be touched by storm surge flooding. Even in a Category 5 storm, sturdy structures exist that won’t be touched by storm surge. This is the primary reason during hurricanes is storm surge. This is the primary reason

Storm Surge

The greatest killer of people during hurricanes is storm surge. This is the primary reason that evacuations are ordered prior to hurricanes. To stay safe, residents

Understanding the forecast

The National Hurricane Center uses a graphic cone to show the probable track of the storm. This is the primary reason that evacuations are ordered prior to hurricanes. To stay safe, residents

5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

When the Tampa Bay area is in a 5-day cone, it’s time to implement your plan and preparations. A hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days:

- Study your zone. If you live in an evacuation zone, decide where to go and how to get there.
- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you have special needs, be sure your caregiver begins to implement your plan and, if needed, you are registered for a special needs shelter.
- Double check your survival kit and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors, and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.
- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash, secure papers and valuables.

The following section will guide you through the steps you should take as a storm is approaching and the choices you’ll have to make during an evacuation.

UNDERSTANDING THE FORECAST

The National Hurricane Center uses a graphic cone to show the probable track of the center of a storm that you see on weather forecasts.

HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS (36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued and know which zone you’re in so you can follow those orders.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be ready to leave. Rescue workers will begin pick-ups shortly after an evacuation order is issued.

Evacuation order

- Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order – does it include your evacuation zone or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave immediately to avoid traffic jams.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times.
- Stay safe during the storm.
Recommended Evacuation: If a tropical storm is approaching or a hurricane is expected to cross Florida and exit over Pinellas County, the danger from storm surge may be lower. Emergency managers may recommend residents in mobile homes or flood prone areas evacuate to higher ground or sturdier shelter.

Mandatory Evacuation: The probability of storm surge is high and could be deadly for residents who don’t leave. It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order. Mobile homes must always evacuate during a mandatory order and all residents should pay attention to which letter zone is being ordered to leave.

WAYS TO FIND YOUR EVACUATION ZONE

High winds, heavy rains or possible tornadoes are not the deadliest hazard during a hurricane. The deadliest hazard is the storm surge – a dome of water pushed ashore by high winds. In a worst case scenario, this can mean a surge of 29 feet above the normal water level, causing tremendous damage and danger of drowning.

While those residents who can see the gulf or the bay have a visual reminder of how vulnerable they are to the water, residents who live miles from these bodies of water can still be vulnerable to storm surge. That’s why it’s critical to identify your evacuation level and act appropriately should an order go into effect.

Even if you have lived in Pinellas County for a long time, it’s more important than ever to check your home’s evacuation level.

To find your level:

• Visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency, click on Know Your Zone.
• Look up Know Your Zone on the Pinellas County “Doing Things for You” app.
• Call (727) 453-3150 and enter your 10-digit home phone number (does not work for cell phone numbers).
• Look on your Pinellas County water bill.
• Look on your Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.
• Call (727) 464-3800 and speak with Emergency Management staff.

Potential Surge Heights (in feet)

- Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones.
- Evacuate red areas and all mobile homes
- Evacuate red and orange areas and all mobile homes
- Evacuate red, orange and yellow areas and all mobile homes
- Evacuate red, orange, yellow and green areas and all mobile homes
- Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green and purple areas and all mobile homes

Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones.
## Shelter Options

### North County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarpon Springs Middle School</td>
<td>501 N. Florida Ave. • Tarpon Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooker Creek Elementary School</td>
<td>3130 Forelock Road • Tarpon Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lake High School</td>
<td>1300 Silver Eagle Drive • Tarpon Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carwise Middle School</td>
<td>3001 Bentley Drive • Palm Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Harbor University High School</td>
<td>1900 Omega St. • Palm Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Harbor Middle School</td>
<td>1800 Tampa Road • Palm Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin Community Center</td>
<td>1620 Pinelhurst Road • Dunedin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin Highland Middle School</td>
<td>70 Patricia Ave. • Dunedin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin Elementary School</td>
<td>300 Union St. • Dunedin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNullen-Booth Elementary School</td>
<td>3025 Union St. • Clearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Harbor Middle School</td>
<td>301 First Ave. N. • Safety Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearwater Fundamental Middle School</td>
<td>1650 Palmetto St. • Clearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skycrest Elementary School</td>
<td>10 N. Corona Ave. • Clearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belleair Elementary School</td>
<td>1190 Lakewview Road • Belleair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boss Norton Recreation Center</td>
<td>1426 S. MLK Jr. Ave. • Clearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Grove Middle School</td>
<td>1370 S. Belcher Road • Clearwater</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### South County

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largo High School</td>
<td>410 Missouri Ave. N. • Largo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Point Elementary School</td>
<td>5621 16th Ave. N. • Clearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas Park High School</td>
<td>6305 118th Ave. N. • Pinellas Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bauder Elementary School</td>
<td>12755 68th Ave. N. • Seminole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sexton Elementary School</td>
<td>1997 54th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatman Intermediate School</td>
<td>4900 28th St. N. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Heights Elementary School</td>
<td>3081 37th St. N. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Baptist Church</td>
<td>6000 38th Ave. N. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Petersburg High School</td>
<td>2501 Fifth Ave. N. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairmount Park Elementary School</td>
<td>575 41st St. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boca Ciega High School</td>
<td>924 58th St. S. • Gulfport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbs High School</td>
<td>850 34th St. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hopkins Middle School</td>
<td>701 18th St. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell Park Elementary School</td>
<td>1051 Seventh Ave. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jameson Elementary School</td>
<td>1200 37th St. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Petersburg College Midtown Campus</td>
<td>1300 22nd St. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfport Elementary School</td>
<td>2016 52nd St. S. • Gulfport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurgood Marshall Middle School</td>
<td>3901 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Sanderlin Elementary School</td>
<td>2300 22nd Ave. S. • St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SouthShore Area

- General Shelters
- Pet-Friendly Shelters
- Must register pets in advance
- Special Needs Shelters

### Pinellas County

- When to pack
- Where to go
- If you stay home

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**SPECIAL NEEDS - REGISTER NOW**

- Call Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800, your local fire department or your home healthcare provider.
- Register online [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency).
- For more details, see page 12.

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**WHERE CAN YOU GO?**

**HOST HOME** – A safe, secure home in a zone not being ordered to evacuate.

**HOTEL** – Identify hotels in a zone not being ordered to evacuate. Book early!

**LEAVE** – Make sure your vehicle is ready for a long ride with traffic. Also, remember the storm could change paths and still put you in harm’s way in another part of the state.

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**PACK YOUR BAGS IF...**

- You live in a mobile or manufactured home.
- You live in an evacuation zone.
- You have special medical needs or need help evacuating.

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**LAST RESORT: PUBLIC SHELTER**

Expect crowded quarters with few comforts at shelters located in local schools or church buildings. Pinellas County has limited shelter space so this should be your last resort.

**DO YOU HAVE A HOST HOME?**

A Category 3 hurricane would drive about 391,000 people from their homes, but the county currently has approximately 61,000 public shelter spaces so alternative options are needed. Many people may stay at a safe hotel or relative’s house or even leave the county, others – especially the elderly and pet owners – need a local place to stay. Groups that provide Host Homes can help.

- Do you or the social groups you participate in have a safe home or building that’s outside the evacuation zone? Would you be willing to open that space for individuals and families that need a secure space to ride out a storm?

**DO YOU HAVE A HOST HOME?**

Follow these steps to determine whether it’s safe to stay home or if you need to find a secure place to go:

**WHERE CAN YOU GO?**

**HOST HOME** – A safe, secure home in a zone not being ordered to evacuate.

**HOTEL** – Identify hotels in a zone not being ordered to evacuate. Book early!

**LEAVE** – Make sure your vehicle is ready for a long ride with traffic. Also, remember the storm could change paths and still put you in harm’s way in another part of the state.

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**IF YOU STAY HOME**

- **Consider:**
  - Survival kit
  - Battery-operated radio with extra batteries
  - Hurricane shutters
  - Garage door brace
  - A safe room inside the house – ground floor interior room with no windows
  - Plastic tarps for leaks

For more information on preparing your home, see page 14.

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**ALL-HAZARD GUIDE PAGE 7**
If your home is breached...

- Take refuge in your safe room, an interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level of your home. Remember, the center of your house is the safest.
- Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object if you cannot make it to a safe room.
- Consider leaving your home ONLY if remaining poses an imminent threat to your life.
- Wait until the storm has passed to tend to any damage.

SURVIVE AFTER THE STORM

The RECOVERY section of this guide has valuable advice for living without power and other utilities in the aftermath of a disaster. It may take awhile for emergency crews to clear roads of debris and restore basic services. Need any advisories issued by local authorities and make use of your survival kit to meet your everyday needs.

RE-ENTRY

After an evacuation, many parts of Pinellas County may be inaccessible due to damage, flooding or debris blocking major roadways. Coming home is not a guarantee. Get the latest news for information on damage before heading home.

Considerations:
- Be prepared with proper ID that identifies you and the address of your residential or business property for re-entry after a storm.
- Barrier island residents need a special emergency access permit.
- Call your municipality.
- Call the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Public Relations Bureau at (727) 582-6221.
- Visit: www.pcosweb.com/emergency-access-permit
- Pinellas County’s Re-Entry Plan:
  www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/PDF/Re-entry-Plan.pdf

Get help

The Citizens Information Center is activated during times of emergency. Staff will be available to answer questions. Call (727) 464-4333.
THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

Thunderstorms are common occurrence in Florida, especially during the summertime. The Sunshine State sees about 1.4 million lightning strikes in an average year and we lead the nation in lightning-related deaths. About 10 percent of thunderstorms are severe, with winds 58 mph or stronger and quarter-sized hail. Keep an eye on the weather forecast before you venture outdoors and heed nature’s warning when you hear the sky start to rumble.

SEEK SHELTER

Every thunderstorm produces lightning. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike. Go inside or find shelter immediately.

When thunder roars, go indoors!

Safe Rooms: Severe thunderstorms could produce wind strong enough to down trees and damage your home. Learn more in the TORNADO section about how to locate your home’s safe room.

AVOID ELECTRIC CONDUCTORS

If you’re indoors during a thunderstorm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.

IF YOU’RE STUCK OUTDOORS...

• Get off any elevated areas.
• Do not lie flat on the ground.
• Do not shelter under an isolated tree.
• Get as far away from water as possible.
• Stay away from objects that conduct electricity.

If someone is struck by lightning...

Immediate medical attention can save a lightning victim’s life. Call 9-1-1 and start CPR until medical crews arrive.

OTHER HAZARDS

While hurricanes pose a major threat to Pinellas County, there are any number of other potential disasters that threaten lives and property. From violent tornadoes to hazardous chemical spills, it is critical to know what to do when warnings are issued.

Steps to take for all hazards:
• Develop an emergency communications plan.
• Sign up to receive emergency information from the county through Alert Pinellas.
• Identify a meeting location should an incident prevent you from getting home.

Build a survival kit for all potential disasters.

Locate a safe room in the event of severe weather events such as thunderstorms and tornadoes.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes can form quickly during thunderstorms any time of year creating high velocity wind and blowing dangerous debris. In Florida, the average warning time before a tornado hits is only 12 minutes. You may only have moments to make a life-or-death decision.

WEATHER ALERTS

A NOAA Weather Alert Radio and Wireless Emergency Alerts on your mobile device are especially critical for tornado warnings, which could be issued in the middle of the night.

NOAA Weather Alert Radio: When a warning is issued, these radios will emit a loud tone that will awaken you to take protective cover. Purchase one online or at local retailers.

Wireless Emergency Alerts: Many mobile networks provide free Wireless Emergency Alerts that will send a text alert in the event of an emergency. Learn more: www.ready.gov/alerts

Alert Pinellas: Dangerous weather warnings can also be sent to any phone lines or devices you register with Pinellas County’s Alert Pinellas emergency notification service.

www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas

WATHCES vs. WARNINGS

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible in your area; monitor radio or TV reports for further developments.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted in your area. Proceed to safe shelter immediately.

SAFE ROOMS

Designate a safe room where you can stay during a tornado in your home, office or other places you go frequently. Bathrooms or interior hallways are often good options.

• Center of the building
• No windows
• Ground Floor

Mobile Homes

Mobile homes are not safe from the violent winds of a tornado. Identify a safe place you can go now, such as a clubhouse, or plan to leave your home when tornadoes are possible.

Vehicles

Vehicles are easily overturned in a tornado, so get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. Do not try to outrun or outmaneuver a tornado!
FLOODS

Know your flood risk

- For your FEMA Flood Zone, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm) or call your city for information. Residents in unincorporated Pinellas County, call (727) 464-3471.
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, consider sandbags or another type of barrier to keep water out of your home in minor flood events.
- Remember: Homeowner’s insurance policies don’t cover flood damage. Consider extra flood coverage.
- A new flood policy takes 30 days to take effect.

Stay out of the water

- Do not drive through standing water and obey “road closed” signs. It only takes a foot of water to float many vehicles. Turn Around, Don’t Drown!
- Do not walk through flood waters. It only takes 6 inches of water to knock you off your feet.
- Don’t go into any room if water has submerged electrical outlets or cords.
- After a flood, stay out of standing water or structures until authorities advise it’s safe.

Evacuations

If heavy rain is expected to begin flooding a neighborhood, emergency managers may announce an evacuation. If you live in a flood prone area, pay attention to emergency advisories and be ready to leave. If you wait too long, you run the risk of being trapped if rising waters cut off roads in your area.

Flood evacuations and shelter openings will be announced through local media, Alert Pinellas and other channels.

Learn more about floods: Pinellas County has a comprehensive website on our area’s flood hazards and how residents can become more prepared: [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding).

Man-made & biological hazards

Active shooter tips

Active shooter situations happen quickly, often before law enforcement arrives on the scene.
- Be aware of your environment and possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit – escape should be your first choice.
- If you cannot escape, stay where you are and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway and can’t escape, get into a room and secure the door.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.
- Lastly, call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so.

Law enforcement arrives...

Remain calm, follow instructions, put down any items in your hands and raise your hands to make them visible. Avoid making quick movements toward officers, pointing or yelling.

Tune in to world news on any given week and you will hear about any number of deadly hazards ranging from pandemic diseases to acts of terrorism. During an unexpected large-scale emergency, your best decision may be simply to stay tuned to local media, stay indoors and wait for help or further information.

In certain types of emergencies, there are active steps you can take to protect yourself. For more detailed information on these hazards and others, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other_hazards.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other_hazards.htm).

Terrorism & active shooters

Unlike a hurricane, there may be no warning for a terrorist attack, but you can plan ahead by taking the steps referenced earlier: emergency contacts, emergency alerts, a meeting place and a disaster supply kit. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something – report it to law enforcement.

General tips to stop the spread of infectious disease:
- WASH your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizers.
- AVOID close contact with sick people and touching eyes, nose or mouth – that’s how germs spread.
- COVER your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- STAY home if you feel sick until you recover.

If advised by authorities, use a face mask or other protective equipment.

Hazardous materials

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. They are in the chlorine that keeps pools clear or tanker trucks that deliver chemicals commercially. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:
- Shelter-in-place if local authorities ask you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from coming in. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for instructions through the local media and emergency notification systems, such as Alert Pinellas.
WILDFIRES

Even in densely-populated Pinellas County, the threat of wildfires is present. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home.

WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Drought and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. A cigarette butt or a lightning strike can ignite a flame that could consume hundreds of acres and prove deadly.

When a wildfire is threatening...
• Call 9-1-1 to report a fire.
• If advised, evacuate immediately.
• Be ready to leave by parking in the direction of escape.
• Move pets to one room while you prepare to evacuate.

BUSINESSES

A hurricane or other major disaster could shut down your business for weeks. It’s critical to plan ahead for a possible evacuation and determine how your business would recover in the aftermath of a catastrophe.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS
• Sign up for emergency notifications and other news from Pinellas County Economic Development at www.pced.org/subscribe.
• Make sure members of your workplace are signed up for Alert Pinellas, www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

BUSINESS DISASTER PLAN HELP

You can get help preparing a comprehensive business continuity, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plan at no cost. Schedule an appointment with the Florida Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development at www.pced.org/sbdc.

The Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center provides businesses with information on government operations, a place to report business damages, a resource sharing site and multi-county operations to coordinate re-entry information. Pinellas County will utilize FLVBEOC.

If you know there’s time, get your home ready:
• Close all windows, vents, doors and any non-flammable window coverings and heavy drapes.
• Remove lightweight curtains and flammable drapes.
• Close gas valves and turn off pilot lights.
• Move flammable furniture to center of home away from openings.
• Put sprinklers on the roof and close to any fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
• Wet shrubs around home.
• Move flammable patio furniture inside.

STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS
• Assess your risk – internally and externally – especially your business’ evacuation zone. See page 6.
• Analyze your critical business functions.
• Plan for an alternate location; expect to be able to work with limited or no water, sewer or power for at least two weeks.
• Communicate your disaster plan to employees; specifically, when will you shut down operations and send them home?
• Consider supply chain preparedness.
• Back up your data and practice restoring your technology.
• Create an employee, vendor and key client communication plan; share this plan and test it with your employees.
• Assemble an emergency kit.
• Review your business insurance coverage.
• Keep cash on hand in the event you must work without electricity.
• Secure your building as a storm is approaching.
• Turn off electricity, water and gas if you are evacuated.
• Consider making your business a host home shelter for employees if you are located outside the evacuation zone. See page 7.

TYPES OF LOAN ASSISTANCE
SBA Disaster Loans
The U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations and even homeowners and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace these items in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. For more information, visit www.sba.gov.

Bridge Loans
Should disaster strike, Pinellas County Economic Development will help businesses apply for Florida’s emergency bridge loan program. This program provides a source of expedient cash flow to businesses impacted by a catastrophe so they can begin repairs and replace inventory. For more information, visit www.floridadisasterloan.org.

BUSINESS ‘GO BOX’
• Key contact list – employees, key customers and clients
• Insurance policies and agent contact information

GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS
Business Interruption Insurance
Think about what you’d do if your building or other business assets were damaged or completely unusable after a storm. Business Interruption Insurance will compensate you for lost income if your company must leave the site because of disaster-related damage. Talk to an agent about whether this coverage is a good option for you.

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SUPPLY CHECKLIST

In addition to the suggestions for evacuations on page 2, consider adding these items:

- Medical contacts list – phone numbers, medical records, medications list
- Wearable medical alert tag
- Special written instructions for emergency personnel
- Two-week supply of medication and any special medical materials you need
- Cooler for refrigerated medications
- Special dietary foods, non-perishable
- Air mattress and bedding

Wheelchairs
- Patch kit
- Extra battery or converter for charging battery

Visual Impairment
- Talking or Braille clock
- Extra cane, magnifier and glasses
- Extra battery or converter for charging battery

Hearing or Speech Impairments
- Extra hearing aid batteries
- Pen and paper for communicating emergency information
- Preprinted key phrases for use in an emergency

SPECIAL NEEDS

Pinellas County's special needs program is intended for those who need transportation or require minimal medical assistance. The county has three special needs shelters for residents; registration is generally required. Plan ahead and communicate with friends, family or caregivers if you need extra help evacuating and sheltering during a storm.

- Service animals that are trained to assist a person with a disability are allowed in any shelter, hotel or motel – no registration required. Don’t forget to pack their supplies too – see page 13. Pets that are not service animals must go to pet-friendly shelters.
- Personnel from Pinellas County Schools and Florida Department of Health staff special needs shelters.
- Assistance is limited to medical monitoring, oxygen and some backup electricity.
- Oxygen is available, but the shelter could lose air conditioning in a power outage.
- Bedding is not provided. Residents who are unable to sleep on a cot or the floor should consider a hotel or a host home. See page 7.
- Have your "go bag" ready and let an out-of-town contact know where you are going.
- Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes.

HELP FOR SENIORS

If you are an older adult who doesn’t require special needs assistance, you don’t have to ride out the storm alone. Many senior communities are in non-evacuation zones, so start a hurricane club with other people from your neighborhood, social group or place of worship.

- Sign up for Alert Pinellas. If you can’t sign up online, you can call (866) 484-3264.
- Build a phone tree with your group to coordinate plans if there’s a Hurricane Warning.
- If you live in a nursing home or assisted living facility, contact the administrator about emergency plans – let friends/family know the plan and share important contacts with them.
- If you are homebound, discuss your plan with your caregiver.

Look around:
- If you know an elderly person, don’t assume he or she has a plan. Ask. Offer help. You may save a life.

KIDS

Hurricane season can be a scary time for kids. It’s confusing to evacuate and leave personal belongings behind. Adults may be stressed out by the weather updates. How can you help younger family members work their way through these stressful times?

MAKE PLANS WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY

- Involve children in emergency planning, e.g. checking supplies and writing a shopping list.
- Use matter-of-fact language to discuss safety steps you will take.
- Play "let’s pretend" games with young children to help them work out "what if" situations.

SUPPLIES FOR YOUR KIDS

If you are evacuating or even if you’re riding out the storm at home, don’t forget the everyday items your children will need. Think through a typical day at home and plan accordingly.

- Diapers and wipes
- Powdered milk
- Blanket and pacifier
- Stuffed animal or favorite toy
- Favorite non-perishable snacks

TALK TO YOUR KIDS

Three major fears common in children during a storm are: death, darkness and abandonment. Emotional support from parents is critical, well after the storm is over.

- Listen to fears and reassure children often.
- Encourage them to talk and ask questions, but limit discussion to basic facts.
- Spend extra time before bedtime; leave a door open and night-light on.
- Maintain close contact. Hold and touch your child.
- Don’t discipline for unusual signs of anxiety during a crisis, like bedwetting or thumb-sucking.

- Do not lie to children about the dangers. Reassure them that you are focused on their safety.
- Be cautious of permitting young children to watch or listen to news.
- Allow for mourning and grieving over the loss of meaningful items.

If you must leave your child...

Children who have been through a disaster are afraid of being separated from family and left alone. Avoid separation, even to go to the store. If you must leave children with friends or relatives, reassure them:

- Let your child know how long you will be away and how often you will be in touch.
- Make sure your child’s needs are being met.

LEARN WITH YOUR KIDS

Learning the steps to preparedness with your kids will help both them and you get a better understanding of what’s happening when a disaster strikes.

For educational resources, visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/ helpingchildrencope.htm.
DON'T EVER CONSIDER STAYING WITH YOUR BOAT IN A HURRICANE. MAKE PREPARATIONS EARLY AND EVACUATE FOR YOUR SAFETY. MONITOR WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS CLOSELY. IF WATCHES OR WARNINGS ARE ISSUED, DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIDENT YOUR VESSEL CAN BE NAVIGATED SAFELY UNDER THE CONDITIONS. FOLLOW THE TIPS BELOW TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE TO YOUR VESSEL DURING A HURRICANE.

PREPARE YOUR BOAT

- Create a hurricane plan for your boat and file a copy with the marina operator.
- Take a photographic inventory of your boat and its contents.
- Purchase and stow mooring line for storm – line should be about twice the diameter of normal line.
- When a storm is approaching, remove loose items on the deck – biminis, tops, dinghies, etc. – and store them on land. Shut off fuel lines at the tank.
- Keep batteries charged; make sure bilge pumps are operating properly.
- Keep insurance up-to-date.

HIGH AND DRY

Your best choice is to keep your boat high and dry on shore:
- Store boat and trailer in a secure covered area. Such as a garage.
- If you choose to moor your boat, secure using ground hooks and straps.
- Fill boat partially with water for stability. Keep water away from engine/batteries.
- Put wooden blocks between trailer frame and springs for extra support with added weight.

MOORED AT DOCK

- Secure hatches and doors.
- Double up on mooring lines and spring lines to secure boat in its mooring.
- Use several cleats to distribute the load on the boat.
- Allow extra line for tide and storm surge.
- Use chafing gear, such as reinforced radiator hose where lines will rub for protection – several feet on each side.
- Disconnect electric, water and other dock connections.
- Remove valuables.

ANCHORED

- Anchor on the lee side of protective land rather than mooring to a dock.
- Use two anchors and no stem anchor.
- Line length should be six to nine times water depth for storm surge shift.
- Remember the boat’s position may change drastically during the storm.

Lastly... Batten down the hatches!

BRIDGE OPERATION IN A STORM

DURING THE APPROACH OF A HURRICANE, PINELLAS COUNTY’S 10 BASCULE BRIDGES – OR DRAWBRIDGES – WILL OPERATE IN A MODIFIED MODE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO EVACUATING VEHICLE TRAFFIC UNTIL THE BRIDGES GO INTO LOCK-DOWN POSITION TO ENSURE BARRIER ISLANDS ARE EVACUATED AND TO PROTECT THE BRIDGES FROM WIND DAMAGE.

THE U.S. COAST GUARD WILL COORDINATE WITH LOCAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO ISSUE A SPECIAL MARINE ADVISORY WHEN THE BASCULE BRIDGE OPERATIONS WILL BE MODIFIED. NOAA WEATHER RADIOS, LOCAL MEDIA AND MARINE BROADCASTS WILL ANNOUNCE THESE CHANGES.

THE 10 BASCULE BRIDGES ARE LOCATED AT: PINELLS BAYWAY, TIERA VERDE, COREY CAUSEWAY, JOHN’S PASS, TOM STUART CAUSEWAY, INDIAN ROCKS, DUNEDIN CAUSEWAY, BECKETT BRIDGE, PARK BOULEVARD AND TREASURE ISLAND.

PETS

JUST LIKE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, PETS NEED TO BE PART OF YOUR DISASTER PLAN. IF YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE, DO YOU KNOW IF PETS ARE ALLOWED WHERE YOU’RE GOING TO STAY? IF YOU ARE STAYING HOME, WHAT WILL YOUR PET NEED IF YOUR FAMILY MUST SURVIVE WITHOUT BASIC NECESSITIES AFTER A STORM?

PINELLAS COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES: (727) 582-2600

SHELTERING WITH YOUR PET

PET-FRIENDLY? IF YOU WILL EVACUATE DURING A STORM, MAKE SURE THE HOST HOME, HOTEL OR SHELTER WHERE YOU’RE GOING ACCEPTS YOUR TYPE OF PET.

PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS: CALL VISIT ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER AT (727) 464-7200 FOR OPTIONS OR SEARCH THE WEB FOR PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS IN THE AREA. SOME HOTELS HAVE EMERGENCY POLICIES TO TAKE PETS IN AN EVACUATION.

PET-FRIENDLY HOTEL INFO IS ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE KNOW YOUR ZONE FEATURE ON THE “DOING THINGS FOR YOU” APP DURING EVACUATIONS (ACCOMMODATIONS FEATURE), AS HOTELS REPORT THEIR AVAILABILITY AND EMERGENCY PET POLICIES.

CAN I BOARD MY PET? DON’T ASSUME A KENNEL OR HOTEL WILL TAKE YOUR PET IN AN EMERGENCY. CALL AHEAD TO FIND KENNELS IN NON-EVACUATION ZONES THAT COULD TAKE YOUR PET. KENNELS REQUIRE PROOF OF VACCINATIONS.

CAN I TAKE MY PET TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER? NO – ANIMAL SHELTERS, SUCH AS PINELLS COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES OR SPCA TAMPA BAY, CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR PETS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

CAN A FAMILY MEMBER OUTSIDE THE EVACUATION ZONE TAKE MY PET? ASK THEM NOW.

HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS: PINELLAS COUNTY PROVIDES NO PUBLIC AREAS TO LEAVE THESE ANIMALS DURING AN EMERGENCY, SO IT’S IMPORTANT TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. CHECK THE SUNSHINE STATE HORSE COUNCIL WEBSITE: WWW.FLORIDAROSE.COM

REGISTER EARLY FOR SHELTER

PINELLAS COUNTY OPERATES THREE PET-FRIENDLY PUBLIC SHELTERS FOR DOGS AND CATS ONLY. OWNERS CAN STAY IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THEIR PETS. SPACE IS LIMITED AT THESE SHELTERS AND THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A LAST RESORT IF YOU ARE STAYING HOME.

If you need to stay at a pet-friendly shelter, you must register ahead of time: Call (727) 582-2600 or fill out a form online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/petpreparedness.htm

PET PLAN & SUPPLY LIST

DO THESE THINGS:
- Keep current vaccination records.
- Take a photo of your pet to keep with you.
- Download the county’s pet identification form at www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices; tape this to your pet’s collar if your pet will be sheltered apart from you.

PACK THESE THINGS:
- Identification tags
- Immunization records
- County rabies tag

- Food & water with bowls (two-week supply) – can opener if needed
- Carrier or portable kennel (with room to stand and turn around)
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Medications
- Toys/blanket
- Cat litter, pan and scoop
- Plastic waste bags
- Disinfectant
- Paper towels

Remember, if you must evacuate, you may have to care for your pet for an extended period of time – plan accordingly.

POST-DISASTER ANIMAL COLLECTION

AFTER A STORM, STRAY ANIMALS WILL BE COLLECTED AND TAKEN TO TEMPORARY COLLECTION SITES AND THEN TRANSPORTED TO MORE PERMANENT SITES THAT WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO THE PUBLIC. IF YOU LOSE YOUR PET, LOOK IN THE AREA AROUND YOUR HOME OR CALL ANIMAL SERVICES.
Bracing your home for high winds can make the difference between minor damage and a devastating loss in a hurricane. Homeowners should consider upgrading an old roof, windows or garage door to a higher standard of wind resistance when making improvements.

**STEPS BEFORE YOU LEAVE**
- Turn off the water and gas utilities.
- Lock windows and doors.
- Tell friends and neighbors where you’re going.

**LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE**
Not sure if your home is storm ready? Roofs and windows on older homes, especially, may not be up to current code for wind resistance. Consider hiring a home inspector to review your home’s condition.

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes has step-by-step instructions for reinforcing your home’s roof, gable ends and other areas: www.flash.org.

If you hire a contractor, make sure they’re fully licensed. Pinellas County Consumer Protection can verify this. Call (727) 464-6200 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/consumer.

**PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODS**
Depending on your property’s elevation, it may only take a few inches of rising water to infiltrate your home. Here are a few steps you can take to mitigate the impact of flooding:
- Protect natural floodplains by keeping lawn clippings, leaves and other debris out of streets and storm drains. Flood plains provide storage for floodwaters and buffer coastal areas from storm surge. Only rain down the drain!
- Elevate your utilities, such as water heaters, AC units, etc.
- Evaluate your property’s drainage and implement floodproofing measures.

For detailed information about flood risks, insurance and flood mitigation techniques, visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding or call Pinellas County Flood Information Services at (727) 464-7700.

**MORE RESOURCES**
Visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/prepareahead.htm for more detailed steps and links to other resources to prepare your home.

**PROTECT YOUR WINDOWS** – Your best option is to install impact resistant windows or hurricane shutters. Otherwise, be ready to cover your windows with commercial exterior plywood – 7/16” minimum – when a storm is approaching. Duct tape provides NO protection.

**BRACE YOUR GABLE ROOF** – Gabled roofs – two slopes that come together to a peak at the top – are prone to failure if not properly braced in construction. High winds could cause your end wall to collapse. See the Florida Division of Emergency Management’s Hurricane Retrofit Guide for advice: www.floridadisaster.org/hrg.

**BRACE YOUR GARAGE DOOR** – Old garage doors in good condition can be braced with retrofit kits while new doors must meet stringent wind requirements. After Hurricane Andrew, engineers determined four out of five homes that suffered major structural damage lost their garage door first.

**PREPARE YOUR YARD** – Rock mulch, sagging tree limbs and yard furniture are among the objects that could become deadly missiles in high winds. Keep your trees pruned, clean out your gutters on a regular basis, and when a storm is coming…
- Dispose of any piles of loose tree limbs or debris.
- Bring in all large yard items; e.g. furniture, grills, bird baths.
- Do not drain your pool. Super chlorinate the water and turn off the electricity.

**TIPS TO SAVE YOUR HOME**

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**CHECK SEALS**
- Replace any worn out weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors.
Emergency Preparedness

Pinellas County Emergency Management
(727) 464-3800  www.pinellascounty.org/emergency
Pinellas County Citizens Information Center (open only during emergencies)
(727) 464-4333 / TDD (727) 464-3075
Find Your Evacuation Level
(727) 453-3150 (call from home phone)  www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone
Alert Pinellas Emergency Notification Service
(866) 484-3264  www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas

County Agencies

Pinellas County Information Line
(727) 464-3000  www.pinellascounty.org
Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater
(Hotel/motel evac info inside county)  www.visitstpeteclearwater.com
St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport
(727) 453-7800  www.fly2pie.com
Florida Attorney General's Office
(850) 413-9969  www.floridadisaster.org
Florida Highway Patrol
(727) 570-5010  www.flhsmv.gov/fhp
Pinellas County Utilities
(727) 464-4000  www.pinellascounty.org/utilities
Pinellas County Solid Waste
(727) 464-7500  www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
(727) 540-1900  www.psta.net
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
(727) 464-7332  www.flhealth.gov
Florida Highway Patrol
(866) 464-4600  www.ptsaport.com
Florida Attorney General's Office (price gouging)
(866) 464-7332  www.floridalegal.com

State of Florida

Florida Highway Patrol
*FHP (mobile phone) / (727) 570-5010  www.fhp.state.fl.us
Florida Division of Emergency Management
(850) 413-9969  www.floridaofficeofemergencymanagement.org
Florida Highway Patrol
(727) 582-6200  www.pcsoweb.com
Pinellas County Utilities
(727) 464-4000  www.pinellascounty.org/utilities
Pinellas County Solid Waste
(866) 966-7226  www.myfloridalegal.com

Federal Agencies

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
(800) 621-3362  www.fema.gov
NOAA Weather Alert Radio
(888) 274-0900  www.phn.gov/noco
National Hurricane Center
(866) 966-7226  www.nhc.noaa.gov
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay Area
(877) 464-7332  www.weather.gov/tbw

Utility Companies

Duke Energy (report outages)
(800) 228-8485  www.duke-energy.com
Bright House Networks (Charter Communications)
(888) 289-8988  www.brighthouse.com/tampa-bay/default
Clearwater Gas
(727) 562-4980  www.clearwatergas.com
TECO Peoples Gas
(877) 832-6747  www.pecosgas.com
TECO (report outages)
(877) 588-1010  www.tampaelectric.com
Frontier (formerly Verizon)
(800) 921-8101  www.frontier.com
WOW!
(866) 745-3685  www.wowway.com

Other Agencies

American Red Cross
(727) 898-3111  www.redcross.org/fl/tampa-bay
United Way
(813) 274-0900  www.unitedwaystpete.org
Federal Alliance For Safe Homes (FLASH)
(888) 221-7233  www.flash.org
The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS)
(813) 286-3400  www.iii.org
Insurance Information Institute
2-1-1 Referral Line - Tampa Bay Cares
(813) 286-3400  www.211tampabay.org

STAY IN THE KNOW FOR ALL-HAZARD PREPAREDNESS

Visit the website
www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for hurricane news, evacuation maps, shelter information and more.

Sign up for Alert Pinellas notifications
Get FREE emergency notifications from Pinellas County by voice or text at www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

Subscribe to Pinellas County E-Lert
The free, award-winning Pinellas County E-Lert electronic newsletter comes out monthly during hurricane season with updates on the latest emergency news and preparedness tips. Sign up at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

Download the APP
The Pinellas County “Doing Things For You” App for your Apple or Android device. Access the Know Your Zone web application, the latest county news, real-time PSTA bus information and report problems with roads, traffic signals and code enforcement issues.

Watch PCC-TV
at www.pinellascounty.org/tv or on Bright House 637, WOW! 18 or Frontier 44 for hurricane programming and emergency operations center updates.

Tune in on your weather alert radio
to receive emergency weather alerts from the local National Weather Service in Ruskkin, Florida.

Call the Citizen Information Center at
(727) 464-4333
for information before, during and after the storm; only open during emergencies.

Request a speaker or information
for your organization, school or place of employment. Call the Pinellas County Speaker’s Bureau at (727) 464-4600, or download a request form at www.pinellascounty.org/speak.

Follow us on social media

Twitter – @pinellascounty for general county information, breaking news, preparedness tips and real-time updates
– @pinellazam for preparedness information and emergency updates
– @pinellastraffic for real-time traffic updates
Sign up on www.twitter.com to receive tweets via text message

Facebook – For general county information, breaking news, preparedness tips and emergency updates, visit www.facebook.com/pinellascounty.

Nextdoor – For emergency notifications that directly impact your area through this new private social media network, visit www.nextdoor.com.

YouTube – For videos on how to prepare for emergencies and historical hurricane information, visit www.youtube.com/pccctv.

Visit Pinellas County’s Hurricane Preparedness website at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for more information.
The All-Hazard Guide is the official guide for Pinellas County published on behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in cooperation with Pinellas County Emergency Management.

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