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**A Message from JIM FARRELL**

**WELCOME!**



Welcome to another Hurricane Season! We are starting this season with some relatively good news. Forecasters believe that this season will not be as active as the last one. If correct, the La Niña pattern that helped create more active hurricane seasons will give way to a neutral phase and then a weak El Niño. Whenever El Niño occurs we usually see fewer hurricanes, so let's see how this season develops. Only time will tell.

Caution should be applied to this "quieter" hurricane season forecast. Remember, it only takes *one* hurricane to rearrange your life. One Charley, one Wilma, one Katrina — one hurricane of any name. While I agree that there is some skill in forecasting the total number of hurricanes in a given season, I see very little skill forecasting in advance if one will hit us. So take some comfort in this seasonal prediction, but don't use it as an excuse to become complacent. We must all still prepare for the unlikely, the unwanted, the unimaginable. One day, Southwest Florida will experience

another major hurricane threat or hit. In preparation for that day, WINK News has packaged lots of useful information in this publication. This is the information that my staff of expert meteorologists encourages you to study and refer to this season.

What else can you do to get ready? Do three things. Prepare, prepare, and prepare with knowledge. Knowledge is power — against one of the most devastating events on Earth. Whether you are a new resident or a Florida native, you are already off to a good start. You are browsing the *WINK News Hurricane Guide*. Keep it handy for the remainder of the hurricane season, and visit our Web site, [www.WINKNews.com](http://www.WINKNews.com). Attend our hurricane seminars and always ask questions. I am also thrilled to welcome partnerships with the *Fort Myers News-Press* and your local Publix supermarket. Together with the *Charlotte Sun-Herald* we promise to distribute the vital information you will need to keep your family safe this season.

**Jim Farrell**  
Chief Meteorologist  
WINK News

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# WELCOME

# WINK HURRICANE GUIDE 2009

Keep your Eye on the Storm with the WINK NEWS Hurricane Central Tracking Map on page 24.



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*This publication contains general information only. The information has been gathered from various sources believed to be reliable, but is not intended to be a substitute for advice from a safety expert.*

For additional copies of  
WINK NEWS 2009  
HURRICANE GUIDE

- Call Bud at 239-338-4323
- Send an E-mail to charles.parent@winktv.com
- Log onto winknews.com to download a PDF Version



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# Eye on the *STORM*



Southwest Florida is well-known for the white, sandy beaches, abundant sunshine and warm tropical breezes that beckon thousands of visitors from frozen northern climates every winter. However, as warm winter breezes give way to frighteningly powerful summer storms, full-time residents are quickly reminded that life in paradise does not come without its draw-backs.

forgotten. A single hurricane has enough overwhelming power to reduce concrete walls to rubble and to tear 30-foot trees right out of the earth.

**DO NOT WAIT** until a hurricane is gathering strength out at sea before you start making preparations. The time to act is now! Gather your supplies, make a plan for evacuation, and take steps to secure your property.

## The Time to ACT is NOW!!

Hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year, is never to be taken lightly. The past few hurricane seasons have borne such horrific storms as Katrina, Rita, Charley and Wilma – whose images of disaster, destruction and death will not easily be

This publication was assembled by the WINK News and Weather teams to help you protect your family and your property.

Take time **now** to assess the risks you face and take steps to limit those risks. Preventative measures are the best investments you can make! Keep your copy of the WINK Hurricane Guide convenient throughout the hurricane season.

## 2009 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Names

- Ana
- Bill
- Claudette
- Danny
- Erika
- Fred
- Grace
- Henri
- Ida
- Joaquin
- Kate
- Larry
- Mindy
- Nicholas
- Odette
- Peter
- Rose
- Sam
- Teresa
- Victor
- Wanda

# 2008

## by the NUMBERS

There were **16 named storms** during the 2008 hurricane season, including eight hurricanes, five of which were major hurricanes at Category 3 strength or higher.

Bertha was a tropical cyclone for **17 days** (July 3-20), making it the longest-lived July storm on record in the Atlantic Basin.

Fay is the only storm on record to make **landfall four times** in the state of Florida, and to prompt tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings for the state's entire coastline (at various times during its August lifespan).

RECORDS

4

16

# Eye on the **STORM**

## How **BAD** could it be?

Time and again, hurricanes have proven themselves to be potentially deadly storms. Yet, some people still refuse to take the threat of a hurricane seriously -- instead stocking up on beer and snacks to munch on while they watch the "show!"

After every recent hurricane, these are also the people who are waiting in long lines in the blazing sun for ice, food and water – or who are relying on the kindness of neighbors and friends who had the good sense to properly prepare for a hurricane's aftermath.

A hurricane is an awesome, powerful weather event that has the potential to destroy property and take lives.

So, just how bad could a land-falling hurricane be? A Category 3 storm can propel trees and tree limbs through windows and roofs while taking down power lines and destroying smaller homes. A Category 5 monster packs enough wallop to cause complete building failure. And a storm of any size can cause flooding just about anywhere.

Hurricane Charley, which made landfall in Cayo Costa on August 13, 2004 as a Category 4 hurricane killed at least 25 people during and after the storm.

Know the risks and potential for damage and do what you can to get out of harm's way, if you're told to do so. Remember, the better party would be the one you have *AFTER* the storm to celebrate your family and friends' survival!

# Hurricanes are a **DEADLY** Threat

## The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane **SCALE**

Cat	Barometric Pressure (inches)	Winds (mph)	Damage
1	28.94	74 - 95	<b>Minimal:</b> Damage to trees and unanchored mobile homes
2	28.50 - 28.91	96 - 110	<b>Moderate:</b> Damage to some roofs, doors and windows
3	27.91 - 28.47	111 - 130	<b>Extensive:</b> Damage to small residences, large trees down, mobile homes destroyed.
4	27.17 - 27.88	131 - 155	<b>Extreme:</b> Complete roof failures on small residences, extensive damage to doors and windows.
5	less than 27.17	155+	<b>Catastrophic:</b> Complete building failures, major damage to lower floors of structures within 500 feet of shoreline.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is a 1-5 rating based on a hurricane's present intensity. The scale is used to estimate the potential property damage along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale.

# Planning for **DISASTER**

## Be Prepared!



## Know the **DANGERS**

Hurricanes and Tropical Storms carry a number of different dangers -- all of which you need to be prepared for.

The best way to be prepared is to educate yourself about these dangers in the following pages and take the necessary steps to protect your home and family.

When a storm threatens, stay tuned to WINK News for weather updates and official information, and keep your SAME Weather Radio with you at all times.

Placing a NOAA Weather Radio in your home is one of the most important steps that you can take to protect your family from weather-related disasters.



NOAA not only delivers daily forecasts and marine weather information, it also delivers life-saving emergency weather alerts and other non-weather emergency information. Many NOAA Weather radios can decode Specific Area Message Encoded or SAME bulletins, which are targeted to specific areas.

### SAME Alert Codes

- Charlotte: 0 1 2 0 1 5
- Collier: 0 1 2 0 2 1
- DeSoto: 0 1 2 0 2 7
- Hendry: 0 1 2 0 5 1
- Glades: 0 1 2 0 4 3
- Lee: 0 1 2 0 7 1

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# The DANGERS

## Storm Surge can be DEADLY



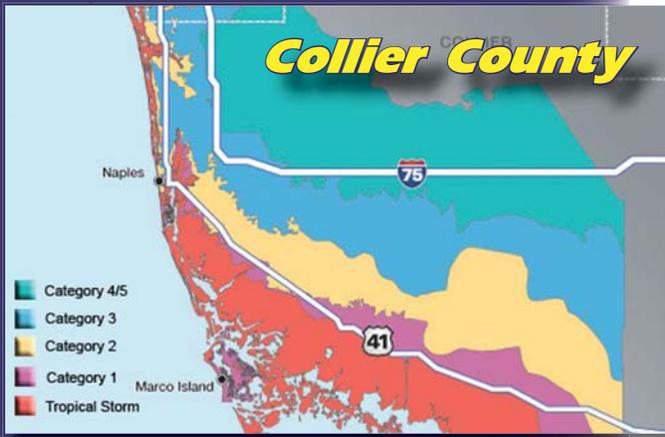
**What Category Storm Could Flood Your Neighborhood?**

**Storm surge** is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase water levels by 15 feet or more. Wind-driven waves also can raise water levels to devastating heights – causing severe flooding in coastal areas.

Because much of the densely populated U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Coast coastlines lie less than 10 feet above sea level, the danger from storm tides is tremendous.

In general, the more intense the storm, and the closer a community is to the right-front quadrant of the storm, the larger the area that must be evacuated. The problem is always the uncertainty about how intense the storm will be when it finally makes landfall.

check your location on the maps



### How to PREPARE

- ▶ Minimize the distance you must travel to reach safety; the further you drive, the more likely you are to encounter traffic congestion.
- ▶ Select the nearest possible evacuation destination and map out your route.
- ▶ Choose the home of the closest friend or relative outside a designated evacuation zone, and discuss your plan with them.
- ▶ If you cannot stay with friends, choose a hotel outside of the vulnerable area. Reserve your room(s) early.
- ▶ Use evacuation routes designated by authorities. Avoid driving into water of unknown depths. Fast-moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away.

# The DANGERS

## High WIND Hazards

Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught outside in them.

Powerful, hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water and underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen utility poles cause considerable disruption.

High-rise buildings are also vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, particularly at the higher levels since wind speed tends to increase with height. Research suggests you should stay below the tenth floor, but still above any floors at risk for flooding. It is not uncommon for high-rise buildings to suffer a great deal of damage due to windows being blown out. Consequently, the areas around these buildings can be very dangerous.

The strongest winds usually occur in the right side of the eye wall of the hurricane. Wind speed usually decreases significantly within 12 hours after landfall. Nonetheless, winds can stay above hurricane strength well inland. Hurricane Charley (2004), for example, battered DeSoto County (75 miles inland) with gusts to nearly 100 mph.



### How to PREPARE

- ▶ Determine if your home meets current building code requirements for high winds.
- ▶ Protect all windows by installing commercial shutters or preparing 5/8 inch plywood panels.
- ▶ Reinforce all garage doors at their weakest points so they are able to withstand the winds. Garage doors are frequently the first feature to fail.
- ▶ If you do not evacuate, designate an interior room with no windows or external doors as a "safe room" to ride out the storm.
- ▶ Check your property to ensure that landscaping and trees do not become a hazard. Trim dead wood and weak, overhanging branches.
- ▶ Secure or store all lawn furniture and other outdoor objects that could become projectiles in high winds.
- ▶ **No mobile or manufactured home is safe in hurricane-force winds!! Always evacuate to a safer structure!!**

## The Perils of INLAND FLOODING



### How to PREPARE

- ▶ Learn your vulnerability to flooding by determining the elevation of your property. Log your elevation on *Your Family Plan* located on page 11.
- ▶ Evaluate your insurance coverage. Flood damage is usually NOT covered by homeowners insurance. Check your policy.
- ▶ Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off.
- ▶ In highly flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand, such as sandbags, plywood and plastic sheeting, to construct protective measures around your home.

When it comes to hurricanes, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes produce storm surges, tornadoes, and often, inland flooding.

While storm surge is always a potential threat, more people have died from inland flooding in the last 30 years. Intense rainfall is not directly related to the wind speed of tropical cyclones. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts occur from weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area.

Inland flooding can be a major threat to areas hundreds of miles from the coast as intense rain falls.

# The DANGERS

Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes that add to the storm's destructive powers. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right-front quadrant of the hurricane. However, they are frequently found elsewhere, embedded in the rain bands, well away from the center of the hurricane. Some hurricanes seem to produce no tornadoes, while others develop many.

When associated with hurricanes, tornadoes are not usually accompanied by hail or a lot of lightning. Tornado production can occur for days after landfall when the tropical cyclone remnants maintain an identifiable low-pressure circulation. They can also develop any time of the day or night during landfall. However, by twelve (12) hours after landfall, tornadoes tend to occur mainly during daytime hours.

## Beware the TORNADOES



### How to PREPARE

- ▶ Monitor WINK NEWS or your NOAA weather radio at all times when a hurricane watch has been issued.
- ▶ Move to a small, interior room away from windows or an interior hallway on a lower floor.
- ▶ As a last resort, get under heavy furniture, away from windows and use a mattress to shield your body.

## Hurricane TERMS

### What is a Hurricane?

A pronounced low-pressure of 74 mph or more with a warm center. Hurricanes are named when they become a tropical storm.

**Center** – Generally speaking, the vertical axis of a tropical cyclone, usually defined by the location of minimum wind or minimum pressure. The cyclone center position can vary with altitude.

**Eye** – The relatively calm area in the center of a hurricane. Eyes can range from five to more than 50 miles across.

**Eye Wall** – A doughnut-shaped zone of highest winds and heavy rain surrounding the eye.

**Feeder Bands** – The lines or bands of thunderstorms that spiral into and around the center of a tropical system. A typical hurricane may have three or more of these bands occurring in advance of the main rain shield, and are usually 40 to 80 miles apart.

**Hurricane Warning** – Issued when hurricane conditions, including winds of 74 mph or greater, are expected within 24 hours.

**Hurricane Watch** – Issued when hurricane conditions, including winds of 74 mph or greater, are possible within 36 hours.

**Landfall** – The intersection of the surface center of a tropical cyclone with a coastline. Because the strongest winds in a tropical cyclone are not located

precisely at the center, it is possible for a cyclone's strongest winds to be experienced over land even if landfall does not occur. Similarly, it is possible for a tropical cyclone to make landfall and have its strongest winds remain over the water.

**Major Hurricane** – A hurricane with highest winds of 111 mph or more.

**Tropical Storm** – A low-pressure circulation with highest sustained winds of 39-73 mph and a warm center. These storms are named.

**Tropical Disturbance** – An area of thunderstorms in the tropics that keeps its identity for 24 hours or more.

**Wind Shear** – The rate of wind speed or direction change with distance. Vertical wind shear is the rate of change of the wind with respect to altitude. Horizontal wind shear is the rate of change on a horizontal plane.

# Planning for DISASTER

## Does Your Family Have a **PLAN?**

Recent active hurricane seasons have taught Southwest Floridians the importance of preparing for the possibility of dangerous weather.

This section of the *WINK NEWS Hurricane Guide* provides a list of hurricane supplies, considerations for your family disaster plan, a list of possible shelters by county, and hurricane preparations for your home, boat and animals. In addition, it offers insurance and financial tips that can also protect you and your family.

Remember, the first and most important thing to do when facing hazardous weather conditions is to use common sense. Please get together with your family today so that you can prepare a plan for disaster. Prepare and Stay Aware!

*Important Info:*

Home Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Evacuation Color (Storm Surge Zone): \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Hurricane Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Flood Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_



### How to **PREPARE**

- ▶ Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm dangers (page 7).
- ▶ Decide your evacuation route and destination. Plan to go to family or friends who live in safer areas. Use county evacuation shelters only as a last resort!!
- ▶ Outline an alternate plan in case your friends are out of town, your evacuation route is flooded or other unforeseen circumstances arise.
- ▶ Select an out-of-state relative as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- ▶ Plan what you will do with your pets if you need to evacuate (page 26).
- ▶ Review your homeowners and flood insurance policies and keep them with you in a secure, waterproof place.
- ▶ Register individuals with special needs with your county's Emergency Management Office (page 18).
- ▶ Make a list of prescription medicines that you will need to refill and take with you.
- ▶ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and food. Also prepare a disaster supply kit (page 16).
- ▶ Take all necessary precautions to protect your vehicles, boats and windows.





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# Planning for **DISASTER**



## How to **PREPARE**

### **ALWAYS OBEY MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDERS!**

- ▶ Stay alert to storm advisories; **WATCH** and **WARNING** — Know the difference.
- ▶ Enact your family disaster plan.
- ▶ Map out your route. Use travel routes specified by local authorities. (Refer to maps at left.) **DO NOT** get on the road without a place to go.
- ▶ Fill your car with gasoline.
- ▶ Enact your pet plan. Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.
- ▶ Bring your disaster supply kit, including important documents (see page 16 for details).
- ▶ Secure your home before leaving. Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors.
- ▶ Get cash. Following a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.
- ▶ Notify family and friends of your plans.

#### When evacuating:

- ▶ If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county.
- ▶ Next try a motel or hotel and as a last resort go to a public shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets.
- ▶ People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with their local emergency management office.



## When You Must **EVACUATE**

If you live in an area that is placed under mandatory evacuation orders, your local emergency management officials have determined that it is unsafe to weather the storm in your home.

Whenever possible, pack up and move your family to safety. Ideally, you will have made arrangements with family or friends who reside outside the danger zone.

Blue signs are posted to guide drivers to hurricane evacuation routes. When evacuation must occur quickly, the Governor may order all lanes of traffic on both sides of an interstate or Florida's Turnpike to move in the same direction.

During emergency evacuations including wildfires and hurricanes, evacuees can call 511 to get up-to-the-minute reports about major evacuation routes, road closures, roadway and bridge conditions, and toll suspensions.



## Know the Route to **SAFETY**

Plan Your Evacuation Route at [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

# Planning for **DISASTER**

## Stock Up on **SUPPLIES** Now!

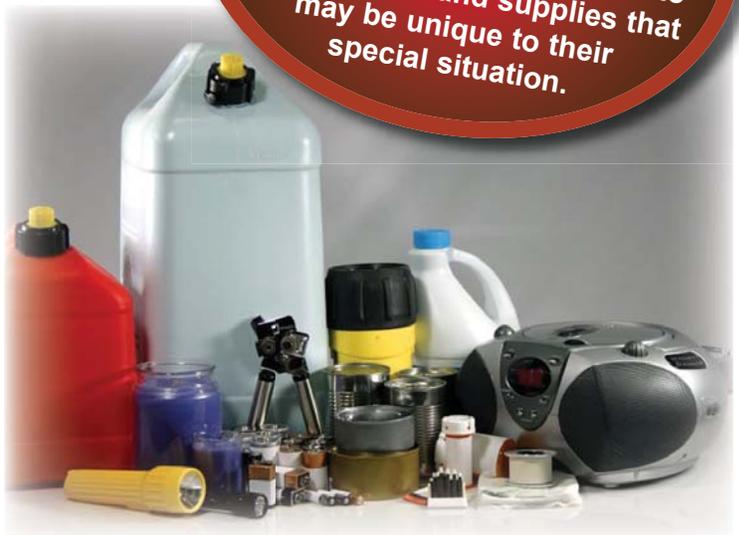
Supplies are a critical part of every family's health and safety and should be gathered well in advance of hurricane season each year. Once a storm is imminent, time to shop will be limited, and if supplies are even available, you will have to search for them.

Many residents of Southwest Florida experienced shortages on plywood, batteries, flashlights, water, generators and other such storm necessities during the recent busy hurricane seasons. Each time a storm was predicted to make landfall near Southwest Florida, lines were long, shelves were bare, and stress levels were high. It pays to be prepared!

Supplies can be divided into several categories, but the essentials should be gathered and kept easily accessible throughout the hurricane season. Be sure to place the items that you will most likely need for an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container.

**Special Needs**

If you have family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons, remember to include items and supplies that may be unique to their special situation.



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ESSENTIALS**



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**THREE DAYS**

Make sure you have enough food and water to sustain every member of your family for at least three days!

**3**

- One gallon of water per person per day.
- Additional water for food preparation and sanitation.
- Bags of ice. Supply will be severely limited once a storm strikes.
- Partially fill plastic one-liter or larger soft drink bottles with water and place in the freezer. The bottles will freeze without cracking (stronger plastic than one gallon water bottles). If the power goes out, the frozen water will help keep the freezer cool and when the ice melts, the water will be drinkable.

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# SUPPLIES



**Keep Your Gas Tanks Full**  
Supply may be severely limited once a storm strikes.

**Keep Cash on Hand**  
Banks may not be open, ATMs may not be accessible, debit cards and credit cards may not be accepted if power is lost.



## Documents

Keep these documents in a waterproof, portable container:

- Important telephone numbers
- Record of bank account numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Record of credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Copy of will, insurance policies, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Copy of passports, social security cards, immunization records, etc.

## Sanitation

- Disinfectant
- Toilet paper, towelettes, paper towels
- Soap and liquid detergent
- Personal hygiene items
- Household chlorine bleach
- Water purification tablets
- Large bucket or trash can with lid for storing water to flush toilets

## Medical

- First aid kits (for home and each car)
- Insulin
- Denture needs
- Prescription drugs, minimum two-week supply
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Heart and high blood pressure medication
- Insect repellent
- Itch-relief cream

## Tools & Supplies

- Traveler's checks
- Battery-operated radio or Television
- Flashlight and lanterns
- Extra batteries and extra bulbs
- Lighter or matches for your grill
- Rabbit ears for your TV
- Extension cords (heavy duty and three-pronged)
- Thermos for hot food and coolers/ ice for cold food
- Manual can opener / utility knife
- Plastic sheeting / tarps
- Duct tape
- Generator
- Gas cans
- old towels for clean up
- Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Plastic trash bags
- Full propane tanks
- Charcoal and lighter fluid
- Camp stove
- Sterno
- Tree saw for cutting fallen limbs
- Hand tools: knife, ax, pliers, screwdrivers, wrench
- Hammer and nails
- Fire extinguisher
- Fix-a-Flat ® aerosol
- Mops, buckets and cleaning supplies



**Don't Forget!!** Blankets, pillows, rain gear, work gloves, clothing, shoes, work boots, hiking shoes, games, books, crayons, paper and quiet toys, playing cards, diapers

# Storm SHELTERS

## **EVACUATE** if at all Possible!

If you must go to a shelter, here are some important things for you to consider:



**Public Shelters are a LAST RESORT!!**

If an evacuation order has been issued, officials stress that you make every effort to leave the area.

Photo courtesy of FEMA

- ▶ **Shelters are not hotels!** They will not be able to provide you with any conveniences or luxuries. Bring your family's disaster supply kit to ensure proper provisions.
- ▶ **Be considerate!** Shelters have a community environment that consists of a large number of people. It is important to be considerate and cooperative and follow the instructions of the refuge management team.
- ▶ **Food and Water may be scarce at first.** You may experience the shortage or rationing of food, especially for the first few hours. The condition will be temporary.
- ▶ **No weapons or liquor allowed!** Weapons and liquor are not permitted in shelters under any circumstances, and could lead to your arrest.
- ▶ **Be patient!** Try to be patient and cheerful about the situation, and your attitude will help the overall morale of the entire group. Listen only to official information and refuse to pass on another person's speculations.

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<b>Fort Myers • 277-7655</b> 3263 Colonial Blvd. MV#55313	<b>Naples • 596-1668</b> 9401 Tamiami Trail N. MV#36658
<b>Fort Myers • 489-0010</b> 18092 S. Tamiami Trail MV# ON FILE	<b>Naples • 304-2072</b> 7445 Vanderbilt Beach Rd. MV#74436

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# Storm SHELTERS

## ABOUT the Shelter Listings

On the following pages is a county-by-county listing of possible emergency public storm shelters.

*It is VERY IMPORTANT to understand that these lists include POSSIBLE shelters.*

Local Emergency Management officials will decide which shelters to open — and when to open them. When hurricanes threaten, stay tuned to WINK NEWS for up-to-the-minute disaster information.



Photo courtesy of FEMA

**Persons with Special Needs MUST be Pre-Registered!!**  
Persons with special medical needs MUST pre-register with their county's Emergency Management Office! Special Care Centers are opened on an as-needed basis. Please verify that the centers are open before evacuating!

### Pets are NOT Allowed in Most Public Storm Shelters

The only exceptions are dogs certified to assist the hearing- or vision-impaired. Residents who intend to go to a shelter must make other arrangements to ensure their pet's safety and care in the event of an evacuation.

*(Note: As of press time, only Lee and Collier counties had announced their intention of designating Pet Friendly shelters. See page 26.)*

# THE LEADER IN LIVE AND BREAKING NEWS



# WINK HD NEWS

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S NEWS LEADER

# Storm SHELTERS

## CHARLOTTE County

941-255-7590

▶ **Kingsway Elementary**  
2330 Quasar Avenue,  
Port Charlotte

Special Needs and additional shelters will be announced and opened as needed.

*When hurricanes threaten, dial 211 for additional information.*

## LEE County

239-477-3600

- ▶ **Alico Arena**  
12181 FGCU Lake Pkwy., San Carlos
- ▶ **Alva Elementary/Middle School**  
17500 Church Street, Alva
- ▶ **Bonita Springs YMCA**  
27200 Kent Road, Bonita Springs
- ▶ **Colonial Elementary School**  
3800 Schoolhouse Rd. E., Fort Myers
- ▶ **Diplomat Elementary School**  
1115 NE 16th Terrace, Cape Coral
- ▶ **Diplomat Middle School**  
1039 NE 16th Terrace, Cape Coral
- ▶ **Dunbar High School**  
3800 E. Edison Avenue, Fort Myers
- ▶ **East Lee County High School**  
715 Thomas-Sherwin Eve, Lehigh
- ▶ **Estero Recreation Center**  
9200 Corkscrew Palm Blvd, Estero
- ▶ **Estero High School**  
21900 River Ranch Road, Estero
- ▶ **Germain Arena**  
11000 Everblades Pkwy., Estero
- ▶ **Harnes Marsh**  
1800 Unice Ave. N., Lehigh Acres
- ▶ **Island Coast High School**  
2125 DeNavarra Pkwy., Cape Coral
- ▶ **J.C. English Elementary School**  
120 Pine Island Rd., N. Fort Myers
- ▶ **Lee Middle School**  
1333 Marsh Avenue, Fort Myers
- ▶ **Lehigh Senior High School**  
801 Gunnery Road N., Lehigh Acres

- ▶ **Littleton Elementary School**  
700 Hutto Road, North Fort Myers
  - ▶ **Mariner High School**  
701 Chiquita Boulevard, Cape Coral
  - ▶ **Mariner Middle School**  
425 Chiquita Boulevard, Cape Coral
  - ▶ **Mirror Lakes Elementary**  
525 Charwood Avenue S., Lehigh
  - ▶ **N. Ft. Myers Academy of Arts**  
1856 Arts Way, North Fort Myers
  - ▶ **Oak Hammock Middle School**  
5321 Tice Street, Tice
  - ▶ **Riverdale High School**  
2600 Buckingham Road, Riverdale
  - ▶ **Royal Palm Exceptional Center**  
3050 Indian Street, Fort Myers
  - ▶ **Skyline Elementary School**  
620 SW 19th Street, Cape Coral
  - ▶ **South Fort Myers High School**  
14020 Plantation Blvd., Fort Myers
  - ▶ **Tanglewood Elementary School**  
1620 Manchester Blvd., Fort Myers
  - ▶ **Three Oaks Elementary School**  
19600 Cypress View Drive, San Carlos
  - ▶ **Three Oaks Middle School**  
18500 Three Oaks Pkwy., San Carlos
  - ▶ **Tice Elementary School**  
4524 Tice Street, Fort Myers
  - ▶ **Varsity Lakes Middle School**  
801 Gunnery Rd. North, Lehigh Acres
  - ▶ **Veterans Park Academy**  
49 Homestead Road S., Lehigh Acres
- Lee County Special Needs locations will be announced as needed.*

## COLLIER County

239-252-8444

### Naples Area

- ▶ **Barron Collier High School**  
5600 Cougar Drive, Naples
- ▶ **Big Cypress Elementary School**  
3250 Golden Gate Blvd. W., Naples
- ▶ **Corkscrew Elementary/Middle**  
1065 County Road 858, Naples
- ▶ **Golden Gate Middle School**  
2701 48th Terrace S.W., Golden Gate
- ▶ **Golden Gate High School**  
2925 Titan Way, Golden Gate
- ▶ **Golden Terrace Elementary**  
2711 44th Terrace S.W., Golden Gate
- ▶ **Gulf Coast High School**  
7878 Shark Way, Naples
- ▶ **Laurel Oak Elementary School**  
7800 Immokalee Road, Naples
- ▶ **Lely Elementary School**  
8125 Lely Cultural Parkway, E. Naples
- ▶ **Lely High School**  
1 Lely High School Blvd., E. Naples
- ▶ **Naples High School**  
1100 Golden Eagle Circle, N. Naples
- ▶ **North Naples Middle School**  
16165 Learning Lane, Naples
- ▶ **Oakridge Middle School**  
14975 Collier Blvd., Naples
- ▶ *Special Needs Shelter*
- ▶ **Palmetto Ridge High School**  
1655 County Road 858 (Oil Well Rd)
- ▶ **Pelican Marsh Elementary School**  
9480 Airport Road N., W. Naples
- ▶ **Pine Ridge Middle School**  
1515 Pine Ridge Road, N. Naples
- ▶ **Vineyards Elementary School**  
6225 Arbor Blvd., N. Naples

### Immokalee Area

- ▶ **Highlands Elementary School**  
1101 Lake Trafford Road, Immokalee
- ▶ **Immokalee High School**  
701 Immokalee Drive, Immokalee
- ▶ **Immokalee Middle School**  
401 N. 9th Street, Immokalee
- ▶ **Lake Trafford Elementary School**  
3500 Lake Trafford Road, Immokalee
- ▶ **Pinecrest Elementary School**  
313 S. 9th Street, Immokalee
- ▶ **Village Oaks Elementary School**  
1601 State Road 29, Immokalee



Photo courtesy of FEMA

# Storm SHELTERS

## HENDRY County

### GLADES County

863-946-6020

**Primary Shelters**

- ▶ **Buckhead Ridge VFW**  
2002 Hwy. 78 W., Buckhead Ridge
- ▶ **Maple Grove Baptist Church**  
120 E. Hwy. 78, Lakeport
- ▶ **West Glades Elementary**  
2500 CR 731 S.W., Muse

**Refuges of Last Resort**

- ▶ **American Legion Hall**  
600 River Rd., Moore Haven

- ▶ **Buckhead Ridge Comm Ctr 2**  
682 Hwy. 78 W., Buckhead Ridge
- ▶ **Doyle Conner Ag Center**  
900 Hwy. 27, Moore Haven
- ▶ **Lakeport Community Center**  
10245 Red Barn Rd NW, Lakeport
- ▶ **Muse Community Center**  
25895 Loblolly Road, Muse
- ▶ **Ortona Community Center**  
3070 Ortona Road, Ortona
- ▶ **Palmdale Community Center**  
7969 Main Street N.W., Palmdale
- ▶ **West Glades Elem. Bldg 300**  
(Special Needs)  
2500 CR 731 S.W., Muse

863-612-4700

- ▶ **Clewiston Middle School**  
601 W. Osceola Avenue, Clewiston
- ▶ **LaBelle Middle School**  
8000 E. Cowboy Way, LaBelle
- ▶ **Clewiston High School**  
1501 S. Francisco Street, Clewiston
- ▶ **Country Oaks Elementary School**  
2052 N.W. Eucalyptus Blvd, LaBelle
- ▶ **Central Elementary School**  
1000 S. Deane Duff Avenue, Clewiston
- ▶ **LaBelle High School**  
4050 E. Cowboy Way, LaBelle
- ▶ **West Glades Elementary Bldg 300**  
2500 CR 731 S.W., Muse (Special Needs)

### DE SOTO County

863-993-4831

**Primary Shelter**

- ▶ **DeSoto Middle School**  
420 East Gibson St., Arcadia

**Special Needs Shelter**

- ▶ **South Florida Comm College**  
2251 NE Turner Ave., Arcadia

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# Protect Your **PROPERTY**

## Safeguarding Your **HOME**

Hurricane protection can involve a variety of changes to your house and property – changes that can vary in cost and complexity. A professional contractor licensed to work in Florida should carry out complicated or large-scale changes that affect the structure of your house or its electrical wiring or plumbing. However, there are several projects and tasks homeowners can do on their own to protect their homes against a hurricane.

**Stock Up on Supplies Now!**

Do not wait until the last minute to buy supplies that can protect your home. When a hurricane is approaching, stores will be quickly stripped – not only of basic necessities, but of required materials.

### Know Your Home's Vulnerabilities

#### **ROOF**

The roof of your house is most vulnerable to damage from high winds. Proper roof construction is essential. A small investment made before a storm hits can save thousands in future damage. Have your roof inspected today by a qualified building professional to determine if reinforcement is necessary.

#### **WINDOWS**

Installing storm shutters over all exposed windows and other glass surfaces is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect your home. Cover all windows, French doors, glass doors and skylights. There are many types of manufactured storm shutters available. Plywood shutters that you make yourself, if installed properly, can offer much protection from flying debris during a hurricane.

#### **DOORS**

Homes with double-entry doors usually have one door that is active and one that is inactive. The bolts or pins that secure most doors are not strong enough to withstand hurricane-force winds. Check with your local building supplies retailer to determine the type of bolt system that will work best for your door.

#### **GARAGE DOORS**

Double-wide (two-car) garage doors can present a particular problem during hurricanes. Some garage doors can be strengthened with retrofit kits. Check with your local building supplies dealer.



### **Do-It-Yourself Home Preparations**

- ▶ **Windows, Doors, Roof** – Protect all windows and doors, as well as the garage door and roof.
- ▶ **Electricity** – Unplug appliances – especially television sets – and turn off electricity (except refrigerator) and turn off the main water valve. Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.
- ▶ **Outdoors** – Store outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, garden tools, grills, and tractors inside; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside but that could be wind-tossed. Remove outdoor antennas.
- ▶ **Sheds** – Securely anchor all storage sheds and other outbuildings to a permanent foundation, or anchor to ground.
- ▶ **Trees** – Trim and cut back trees and palms. Ensure all trees are located far enough from your house to prevent damage to the structure should trees fall. Clear away any debris as well.
- ▶ **Furniture** – Elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or move it to a higher floor.
- ▶ **Boats** – Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place.
- ▶ **Swimming Pool** – Do not drain your swimming pool. Keeping sufficient water levels in your pool provides the important weight to hold the sides and bottom in place.

Photo courtesy of FEMA

# About **INSURANCE**



*Photo courtesy of FEMA*

## Are You **COVERED**

When hurricane warnings are issued, take precautions to protect your family, yourself and your property. You must also take actions to protect your financial interests. The Florida Department of Financial Services is mobilized to assist with insurance and banking questions and concerns. Residents can call their toll-free hot line at 800-22-STORM.

### Insurance Coverage Tips

- ▶ **Purchase insurance now.** Insurance companies do not accept new applications or requests for increased coverage once a hurricane nears Florida.
- ▶ **Know what your insurance covers.** Flood and wind damage are often covered in separate policies. Decide if you need this protection and contact your agent for more information.
- ▶ **Make sure you have adequate coverage.** Consider increasing your coverage if your policy does not cover the

- current value of your home and its contents.
- ▶ **Know the name of your insurers.** Write down the names of your agent and agency, your insurance company, your policy number and a telephone number to report a claim.
- ▶ **Safeguard your records.** Store important insurance and financial papers in a safe and accessible place.
- ▶ **Secure your home.** Fortify your home's roof, windows, garage and entry doors against damage.

## National **FLOOD** Insurance Program

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**Plan Ahead!**  
There is usually a 30-day  
waiting period before  
any flood insurance  
goes into effect.

- ▶ **Everyone lives in a flood zone.** You don't need to live near water to be flooded. Many floods are caused by storms and water backup due to overloaded drainage systems.
- ▶ **Flood damage is NOT covered by homeowner's policies.** You can protect your home, business and belongings with flood insurance from the NFIP.
- ▶ **You can buy flood insurance no matter what your flood risk is,** as long as your community participates in NFIP. A maximum of \$250,000 of building coverage is available for single-family residential buildings; \$250,000 per unit for residential condominiums. Commercial structures can be insured to a limit of \$500,000.
- ▶ **Flood insurance is easy to get.** Just call your homeowners insurance agent today!
- ▶ **Contents coverage is separate, so renters can also insure their belongings.** Up to \$100,000 contents coverage is available for homeowners and renters.
- ▶ **Federal disaster assistance is not the answer.** Federal disaster assistance is only available if the U.S. President declares a disaster. More than 90 percent of all disasters in the United States are not declared disasters by the president.



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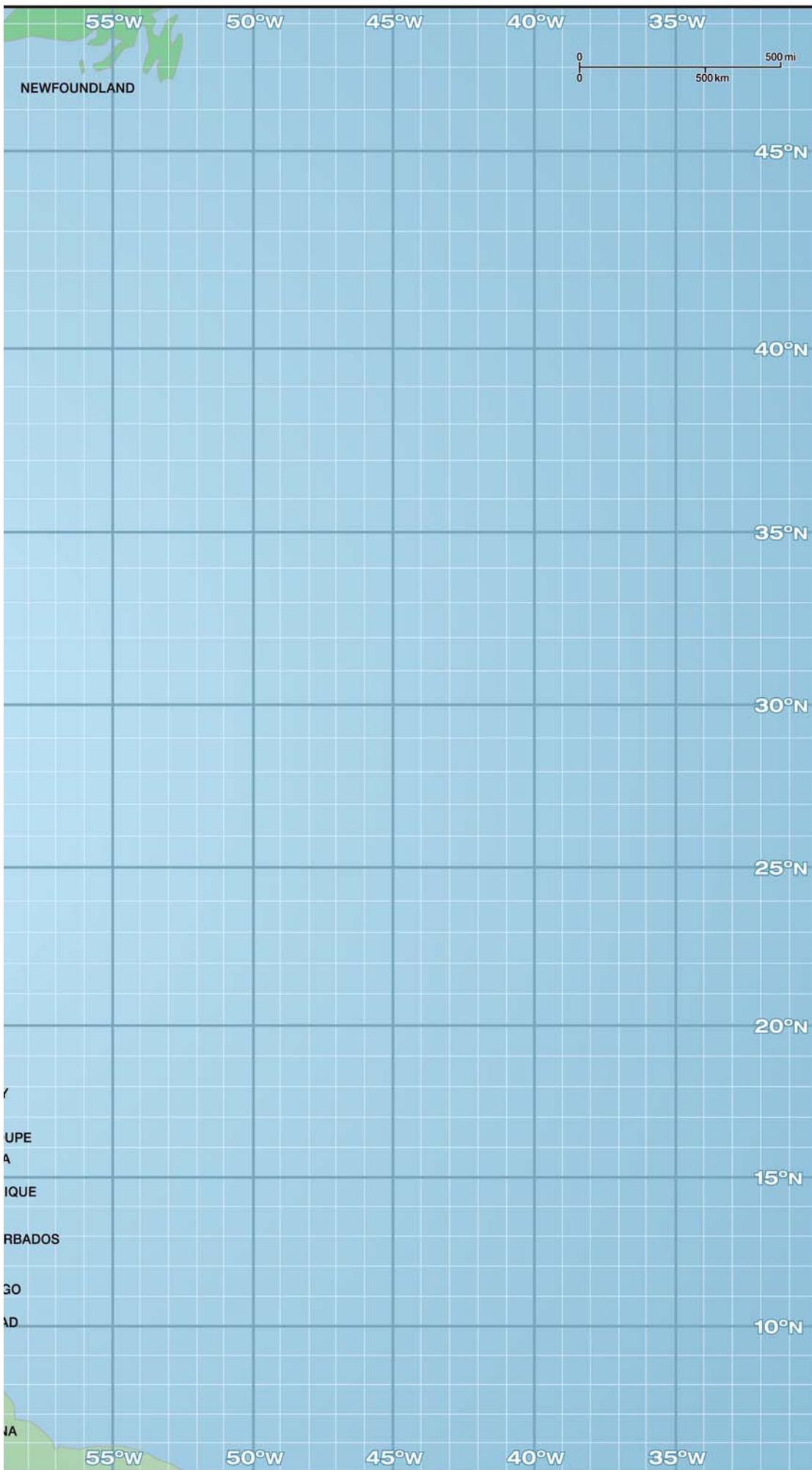
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# About the ANIMALS

## Potential Pet-Friendly Shelters

South Fort Myers High School in Lee County, and North Collier Regional Park in Collier County have both been designated as pet-friendly emergency shelters. All pets must have proof of rabies vaccination and owners must stay in the shelter with their caged or crated pets. Collier pet owners must pre-register. Call 239-530-7387 for more information. Lee pet owners will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 239-344-4424 for more information.

## Include **PETS** in Your Disaster Plans

- ▶ If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!!** Most pets cannot survive alone.
- ▶ For public health reasons, most emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Learn which hotels in your area allow pets well in advance of needing them.
- ▶ If it is impossible to take your pet to a temporary shelter, contact friends, family, veterinarians or boarding kennels to arrange for care.
- ▶ Carry a current photo of your pet with you for identification.
- ▶ Make sure ID tags are up-to-date and securely fastened to your pet's collar.
- ▶ Pack a "pet survival" kit. Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter and pan, manual can opener, first-aid kit and food dishes.



Photo courtesy of FEMA

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# Protecting Your BOAT

## Have a **PLAN**

Southwest Florida, with its inland waterways and profusion of land slightly above sea-level, presents a particular vulnerability for boats during tropical storms and hurricanes. The geography here simply offers little protection.

The keys to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe weather are planning, preparation and timely action. The following precautions and checklists are meant as guidelines only. Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, the local boating environment and the characteristics of safe havens and/or plans for protections.



Guttschalk Family Photo

▶▶ Do not stay aboard! First and foremost, safeguard human life. ◀◀

## General Precautions and Damage Prevention

- ▶ **Make sure your boat is in sound condition.** This includes the hull, deck hardware, rigging, ground tackle, machinery and electronics. Make sure that the batteries are charged, bilge pumps are operable, fuel tanks are full, fuel filters are clean, cockpit drains are free and clear, fire-fighting equipment is in good order and life-saving equipment is accessible and in good condition.
- ▶ **Enhance the watertight integrity of your boat, both above and below the water line.** Seal windows, doors and hatches with duct tape.
- ▶ **Secure all items on your boat.** Remove and/or secure all deck gear, portable gear, radio antennas, outriggers, fighting chairs, deck boxes, cushions, bimini tops and side canvas/curtains, sails, boom, dorades, extra halyards, canister rafts and dinghies.
- ▶ **Know your hurricane action plan for your vessel.** If you plan to move your vessel, and you have sufficient notice, do it at least 48 to 72 hours before the hurricane is estimated to strike the area. Rehearse your planned boat movement, including an actual visit to the alternate dock or hurricane mooring/anchoring location.
- ▶ **Inspect the boat's deck hardware in light of planned mooring arrangements.** Assess the size and structural attachment of the primary chocks, cleats, bits, bollards and winches. These high-load/high-stress points should have substantial backing plates and be secured with bolts of adequate size.
- ▶ **Provide special attention to avoid chafing of mooring lines.** Chafing gear that has been proven successful is a double neoprene hose arrangement.
- ▶ **Storm moorings, whether at dockside or otherwise, should have doubled lines.** The second set of lines should be a size larger than the normal lines including spring lines at a dock.
- ▶ **Make a list of important phone numbers.** These numbers include your insurance agent, Harbor Master, Marina Facility, Coast Guard and National Weather Service.
- ▶ **Purchase necessary materials ahead of time** such as additional lengths of mooring lines, screw anchors, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear and anchors.
- ▶ **Make sure your insurance policy is current.** Read the policy thoroughly. There is quite a bit of helpful and advisory information in the policy relative to what the boat owner should do and should not do if there is a storm or hurricane-related loss or damage to the vessel.

### Make a List!

Make up an inventory list of all boat equipment. Note items to be removed from vessel. Keep a copy of equipment inventory both on board and ashore. Take a recent photo of your boat to keep with all records.

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# After the STORM

## HELP is on the Way!



Photo courtesy of FEMA

**Assist the Injured**

Help injured or trapped persons. Do not move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help. Give first aid where appropriate.

Relief supplies and other aid will be arriving as quickly as possible following a major hurricane. Insurance companies will send special disaster teams, as will the state and federal governments and a host of private organizations.

It is very important to understand that it may take several days for them to arrive at the disaster site. Not only does it take time to gather and load the unique supplies that this area may require, but roadways may be blocked by debris and may be unsafe for travel.

*This is why it is so very important to have enough ice, water and food to sustain your family for at least three days!!*

**THE LEADER IN SEVERE STORM FORECASTING**

**WINK HD NEWS**

**SKYTRACKER WEATHER**

# After the STORM



Photo courtesy of FEMA

## What to EXPECT

Debris is scattered across roads, parking lots and yards. The nice, neat neighborhoods that existed prior to the hurricane will be covered with fallen trees and limbs, gutters, and other wreckage. In many cases, there will be no water, sewer, electrical or telephone service — no air-conditioning or refrigeration.

Roadways may be blocked for days or weeks. Devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley and Wilma demonstrated that a hurricane can be a traumatic experience — both physically and emotionally. The hardest part of dealing with a hurricane is the recovery process. It is important to understand that the disaster affected everyone. Be calm, patient and understanding. In this section, you will learn post-storm procedures and considerations, information on disaster assistance, generator safety and procedures to recover your boat.

### First Things FIRST!

- ▶ **Return home only after authorities say it is safe to do so!!** Keep tuned to WINK NEWS, WINK-AM, WINK-FM and WINKNEWS.com for recovery information.
- ▶ **Avoid loose or dangling power lines.** Report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department.
- ▶ **Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.** Allow emergency crews to remove fallen power lines and other hazardous debris.
- ▶ **Enter your home with caution.** Open doors and windows to ventilate or dry your home. Beware of snakes, insects and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- ▶ **Check for gas leaks.** If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve and if you can, call the gas company. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
- ▶ **Look for electrical system damage.** If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- ▶ **Check for sewage and water line damage.** If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid water from the tap.
- ▶ **Check refrigerated foods for spoilage. Discard any spoiled foods.** Keep your refrigerator closed as much as possible to protect food from additional spoiling.
- ▶ **Take pictures of the damage,** both to the house and its contents for insurance claims, and save receipts for reimbursement — including temporary lodging and food. Keep a record of all receipts, cancelled checks, bills and other documents received for repair work or temporary living.

### About Generators



- ▶ **Be sure to read the owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommendations!**
- ▶ **Do not use a generator until it is properly grounded.**
- ▶ **Plug devices directly into the generator.** Never "back feed" your house circuits or connect your generator to your house wiring. Do not overload the generator capacity.
- ▶ **Be aware of carbon monoxide.** Never use indoors, outside under a window, on a covered patio, or in any space without adequate ventilation. **(NEVER operate indoors!)**
- ▶ **Keep flammable items away.** The generator exhaust system is very hot.
- ▶ **Never refuel your generator inside your home or while it is hot.** A serious fire could result.
- ▶ **Prevent electric shock.** Do not use in wet areas.
- ▶ **Check all electrical cords** to be sure the insulation is in good condition, and check the oil and fuel level before starting motor.

**After the STORM****Health & Safety  
CONCERNS****DANGER****Know  
the Signs of  
Heat Exhaustion**

This is a mild form of heat-related illness that can develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly people and people with high blood pressure. Warning signs are heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting and fainting. If left untreated, heat exhaustion can become heat stroke. Cool the victim off: Drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages (water, sports drinks, juice). Get rest.

Take a cool shower or bath and move to an air-conditioned space.

- ▶ **Health Care:** Due to structural damage, the offices and operations of medical facilities and hospitals may very likely be limited. A mobile health unit may be available to provide services to residents with minor medical needs such as cuts, scrapes, bruises and illnesses. Stay tuned to WINK NEWS for information regarding medical treatments.
- ▶ **Food Safety:** Food that has not been refrigerated for two hours or more and has an unusual odor, color or texture and is no longer cool to the touch is considered unsafe. Officials say, "When in doubt, throw it out!"
- ▶ **Drinking Water:** Do not assume that public water in hurricane-affected areas is safe to drink. Use bottled water for eating and drinking until there are public announcements about water safety. If bottled water is not available, boil tap water vigorously for one minute.
- ▶ **Carbon Monoxide:** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, tasteless and odorless poison that can be prevented. Do not burn charcoal or gas grills or gas-powered generators inside a house, garage, vehicle or tent. Symptoms include: fatigue, weakness, chest pains, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headaches, confusion, lack of coordination, and impaired vision.
- ▶ **Hand Washing/Sanitization:** Wash hands often with soap and clean water. If unsure about the water source, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to decrease the risk



Photo courtesy of FEMA

of illness, infection and disease-causing bacteria.

- ▶ **Mold:** Molds are fungi that can be toxic and cause severe reactions for many people. You should replace baseboards and wallboards that have been damaged by water because mold and mildew will form inside walls. A phenol compound such as Pine-Sol or Lysol is best for pressed wood. It is also necessary to replace insulation, carpet and furniture that have been damaged by water.
- ▶ **Mosquitos:** Heavy rains and flooding lead to an increase in the mosquito population. Public health authorities recommend following the "5 D's of prevention."
  - **Dusk & Dawn** – avoid the outdoors from sunset to sunrise.
  - **Dress** – wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks.
  - **DEET** – use repellents containing DEET, usually 30% solutions. Do NOT use DEET on children under 2 months old.
  - **Drainage** – check your home and neighborhood, and dump standing water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.



Photo courtesy of FEMA

# About the **DEBRIS**

## What the Storm leaves **BEHIND**

Photo courtesy of FEMA

### Debris Removal Info

Charlotte: 941-575-3600  
Collier: 239-403-2380  
DeSoto: 863-993-4831  
Glades: 863-946-6020  
Hendry: 863-612-4700  
Lee: 211

► **Storm Debris:** It will be necessary to separate your curb side trash. Cleanup debris will be accepted by priority. As soon as roads are cleared, raw garbage such as animal, fruit or vegetable waste will be collected. The second priority will be normal household garbage including food waste. The third priority is yard waste. Place trees, branches and the like in piles that can be easily managed

by collection personnel. And finally, the last priority will be construction debris such as lumber, roofing, concrete and similar materials. Your county may accept food waste at the Waste Management facility. Contact the facility for drop-off hours. **DO NOT BLOCK YOUR ROAD WITH GARBAGE!**

► **Pool Care:** Remove as much debris by hand as possible and lower the water level to normal. Add a chlorinator, as in the form of the 10 percent hypochlorite granules commonly known as shock. Superchlorinate again and clean the filter frequently until the pool is back to normal. Have the gas company

reconnect the heater line. If your pool needs structural repairs, choose a contractor carefully.

► **Looting/Curfew:** As soon as the hurricane ends, looting can begin. With walls and more blown away – and since many of the inhabitants are snowbirds summering up north – homes become easy targets. The fear of looting is widespread within the community and many residents stay in their damaged homes to protect their valuables. However, it is important to note that incidences of crime are actually statistically lower after a disaster. A curfew may be enacted for several nights to combat theft and vandalism.

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### Chain Saw SAFETY

- **Be sure that you know how to use your chain saw!!** Don't be afraid to read the owner's manual.
- **When using a chain saw, always use the proper safety equipment.** This equipment includes eye wear, footwear, tightly fitting clothes (to avoid getting clothing caught in motor), nonslip gloves, hearing protection, and helmet.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Know what hazards are in your way, such as power lines, and if other people are present. Keep small children and pets out of harm's way, preferably in the house, while you are using the chain saw. Be sure you have a secure footing and a planned evacuation path from the falling tree or limb.
- **Match your equipment to your job.** Your chain saw should be the right size and power for the material you are cutting.
- **When possible, use a chain saw with an anti-kickback device** mounted on the guide bar.
- **Never cut from a ladder or above your chest level.**

# CLEANING Up

## What a MESS

Photo courtesy of FEMA

### The Priorities

Pump or bail water out of the house as soon as possible.

Open the windows to let the house air out and give the walls and floors a chance to dry.

Shovel mud out before it can dry, then scrub floors and walls with a brush and mild soap and water.

Make sure all appliances are unplugged as a general safety precaution.

## Household TIPS

### Stoves & Ovens

- ▶ Clean the outside with a grease cutter, then with detergent and water.
- ▶ Clean the inside with conventional oven cleaner.

### Refrigerators & Freezers

- ▶ To remove odors, wash the inside and the plastic door gasket with detergent and water.
- ▶ Rinse with a cloth and clear water. Wipe dry.

### Washers & Dryers

- ▶ Pour a disinfectant into the empty washer. Run a 15-minute cycle using the hot water setting.
- ▶ Unplug the dryer and wipe the drum and dryer door with a cloth dipped in disinfectant solution.
- ▶ Rinse with a cloth dipped in clear water.
- ▶ Leave the dryer door open until all parts are dry, preferably overnight.
- ▶ Leave the dishwasher door open until all parts are dry.

### Books & Papers

- ▶ Place books on end with leaves separated. When they are partially dry, pile and press books. Alternate drying and pressing until thoroughly dry.
- ▶ If books and papers are very damp, sprinkle some cornstarch between the leaves to absorb moisture. Leave on for several hours, then brush off.
- ▶ When papers and books are almost dry, try using an electric iron set on low heat to flatten the pages.
- ▶ Separate the pages to prevent musty odors.
- ▶ When books are completely dry, close them and clamp them closed to help them retain their shape.
- ▶ Photocopy important papers because they may quickly disintegrate, even if they have dried out.

## About ELECTRONICS

- ▶ Never open an electronic appliance to dry it inside. A tube television is especially dangerous. It has components that will retain very high electric voltages for quite awhile.
- ▶ Unplug the appliance and let it dry thoroughly. When you notice the moisture on the outside has dried, do not assume the inside has dried. Let the item continue to dry for a few more days.
- ▶ Placing the equipment in the sun will help, but monitor the item closely. LCDs can be damaged by over exposure to bright sunlight.
- ▶ After you are certain the item is completely dry inside and out, plug it in. If it will not work right away, give it another day to dry.
- ▶ If the power indicator lights come on, leave the equipment on for about 10 minutes, then turn it off for about 30 minutes. Repeat the process, leaving the appliance on for an extra five minutes each try.
- ▶ VCRs often have moisture sensors that refuse to let the machine play a tape until dry. Do not despair yet; keep following the procedures above.
- ▶ If an appliance power indicator does not come on, and you're sure the outlet works, unplug it and take it to a repair shop.
- ▶ If you see smoke or hear crackling sounds, unplug it immediately and take it to a repair shop.



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- Cape Coral 1338 Del Prado Blvd. S., Cape Coral, FL 33904 (239)772-7277
- Ft. Myers 5999 South Pointe Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919 (239)415-3737
- Fort Myers 4901 Palm Beach Blvd. Ste., Fort Myers, FL 33905 (239)694-7200
- Fort Myers 3412 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901 (239)936-7272
- San Carlos 19031 S. Tamiami Trail/ US 41, Fort Myers, FL 33901 (239)267-3322
- Bonita Springs 27990 S Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs, FL 34134 (239)947-8200
- Lehigh Acres 1418 Lee Blvd. Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 (239)303-3197
- Naples 1026 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, FL 34108 (239)434-9500
- Naples 1249 Airport Rd. South, Naples FL 34104 (239)732-7272
- Naples 4885 Golden Gate Pkwy, Naples, FL 34116 (239)352-7272
- Englewood 1951 S McCall Rd., Englewood, FL 34223 (941)475-3131
- Venice 1223 US 41 Bypass S., Venice, FL 34285 (941)483-1111
- Port Charlotte 1900 Tamiami Tr., Port Charlotte, FL 33948 (941)613-2332



**About FEMA****Emergency Management  
starts at HOME!**

Photo courtesy of FEMA

Responsibility for disaster planning, preparation and recovery lies first and foremost with individuals, assisted by their local emergency management agencies. FEMA and other federal agencies exist to assist those local governments and agencies.

*Individuals must take personal responsibility to assure that they and their families are adequately prepared for disaster – by securing their homes, gathering enough ice, water and provisions to last at least three days, and evacuating the area when mandated by local officials.*

**Disaster Assistance Programs**

FEMA is responsible for providing and coordinating emergency services in federally declared disaster areas. FEMA works as a partner with other parts of the federal government and with state and local governments and voluntary organizations.

There are two primary federal programs that offer disaster assistance:

**The Individuals and Households Program (IHP)** provides money and services to people in the disaster area when losses are not covered by insurance and property has been damaged or destroyed.

**The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** offers long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes. The SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to help victims pay for their repairs while keeping costs to the taxpayer reasonable.

**Individuals & Households Program**

Following are the types of assistance available through the Individuals & Households Program (IHP) and what each provides. Applicants will need to be able to prove that their losses were directly caused by a federally declared disaster.

- ▶ **Temporary Housing:** Money is available to rent a different place to live, or a government provided housing unit, when rental properties are not available.
- ▶ **Repair:** Money is available to homeowners to repair damage from the disaster that is not covered by insurance. The goal is to make the damaged home safe, sanitary and functional.
- ▶ **Replacement:** Money is available to help replace a home when disaster-related losses are not covered by insurance.
- ▶ **Permanent Housing Construction:** Direct assistance or money for the construction of a home. This type of help is offered only in limited areas or remote locations specified by FEMA, where no other type of housing assistance is possible.
- ▶ **Other Needs:** Money is available for necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster. This includes medical, dental, funeral, and more.

To apply for IHP  
Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)  
TTY ONLY – call 1-800-462-7585

**SBA Loans**

Call 1-800-359-2227 to determine if you qualify

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides disaster loan programs for businesses and individuals:

- ▶ **Home Disaster Loans:** Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster damages.
- ▶ **Business Physical Disaster Loans:**

Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by the business.

- ▶ **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL):** Loans for working capital available only to small businesses with no credit available elsewhere.

# Animal WELFARE

## Helping Animals **COPE**



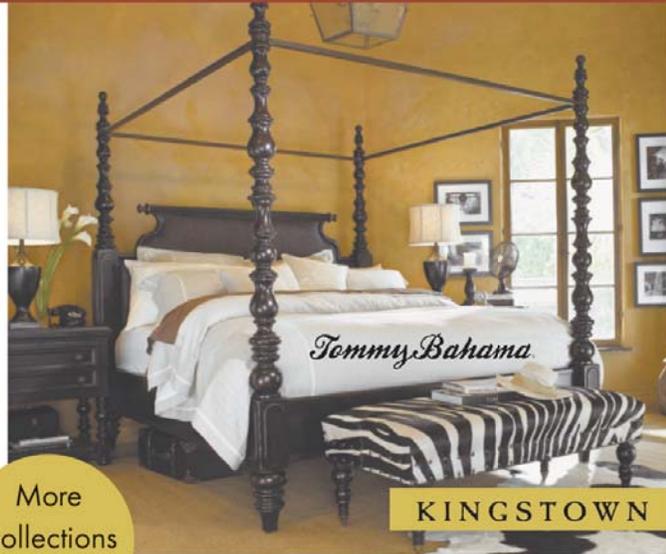
Photo courtesy of FEMA

- ▶ Leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. Also, snakes and other dangerous animals may be brought into the area with flood waves.
- ▶ Watch animals closely. Keep pets away from children until they have become acclimated to their surroundings. The behavior of your pets may change after a hurricane. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive.
- ▶ Seek an appropriate gathering location with a solid perimeter for your livestock. Bring in all animals and have fresh water and food readily accessible.
- ▶ Attend injured or sick animals as circumstances require and resources permit.
- ▶ If you find a lost animal, notify the local animal shelter as soon as possible. Be prepared to give a full description of the animal (color, breed, sex) and its location. Remember that sick and/or injured animals can become unpredictable from the stress of injury.

**Animal Services Numbers**

Charlotte .....	941-764-4320
Collier .....	239-252-7387
DeSoto .....	863-993-4855
Glades .....	863-946-6020
Hendry (west) .....	863-675-3381
Hendry (east) .....	863-983-1474
Lee .....	239-432-2083

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# Insurance CLAIMS



Photo courtesy of FEMA

## Insurance HOTLINES

Acuity	800-242-7666
Allstate	800-547-8676
American International Group (AIG)	888-244-6163
Atlantic Mutual/Ace Private Risk Ser.	800-945-7461
Bituminous	800-822-2905
Church Mutual	800-554-2642
Citizens Property Insurance Corp.	866-411-2742
CHUBB	800-252-4670
CNA	877-706-0671
CUNA Mutual	800-637-2676
Farmers	800-435-7764
Fireman's Fund	888-347-3428
GEICO	800-841-3000
The Hartford	800-243-5860
Holyoke Mutual	800-225-2533
Liberty Mutual	800-225-2467
Metropolitan Auto & Home (MetLife)	800-854-6011
Nationwide	800-421-3535
OneBeacon	877-248-4968
Royal & Sun Alliance	800-847-6925
SAFECO	800-332-3226
Selective	866-455-9969
Shelter Insurance Group	800-743-5837
State Farm Insurance	800-732-5246
Texas Farm Bureau	800-772-6535
USAA	800-531-8222

Report Property Damage Immediately

Immediately report property damage to your agent or insurance company. If you are unable to reach your agent or company, call the Florida Department of Financial Services at 800-22-STORM.

## claim TIPS

- ▶ Beware of unscrupulous adjusters that urge disaster victims to fraudulently overstate their insurance claims. It is illegal to adjust claims in Florida without a license. Call 1-800-227-8676.
- ▶ Consult your insurance agent to see if the repairs or construction are covered by your policy.
- ▶ Bring repair estimates to your adjuster or agent to verify the proper procedure you must follow.
- ▶ Make sure your name is on the claim payment check as the payee and that the claim settlement amount is correct. If your check contains a release provision, make sure you understand it.

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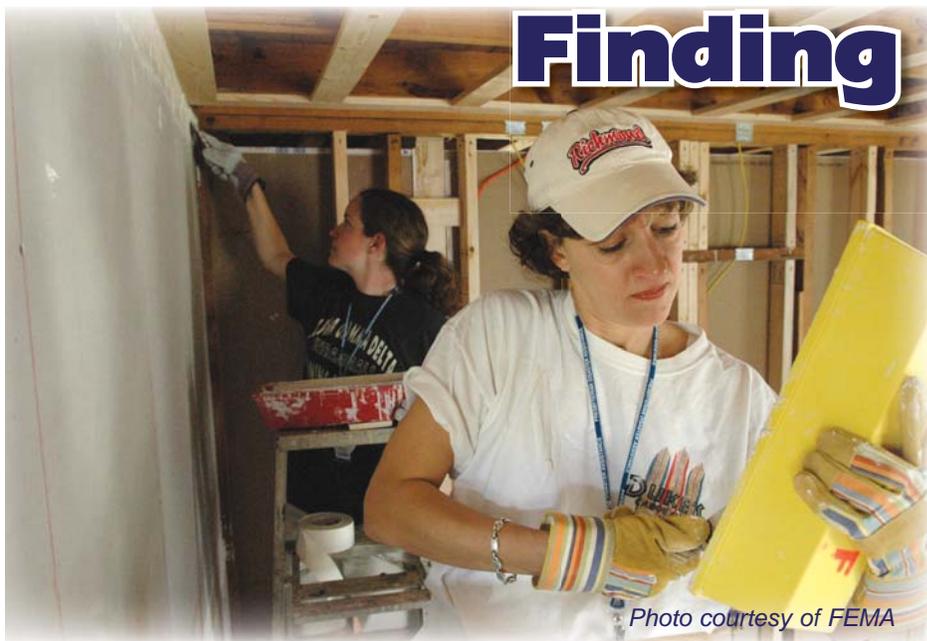
**REBUILDING****Finding a LICENSED Contractor**

Photo courtesy of FEMA

**About Repair CONTRACTS****Entering into a Repair Contract**

- ▶ Get a contract in writing. The contract should cover what is to be done, when work will start, cost and payment schedules, the quality of materials to be used and all necessary building permits and licenses.
- ▶ Never make full payment up front. Do not sign over an insurance settlement check to a contractor. Most reputable contractors accept partial payments as stages of work are completed.
- ▶ Do not make final payment until all work that needs to be done is completed.
- ▶ Request city or county inspection prior to final payment.
- ▶ Do not automatically choose the lowest bidder. If one bid is substantially lower than the others, poor workmanship, inferior materials and unfinished jobs are often the result.
- ▶ Make sure that prior to signing the contract, it accurately reflects your understanding of the work to be done.

**Cancelling a Repair Contract**

Some home improvement or repair contracts may be cancelled without penalty or obligation by midnight of the third business day after signing. These contracts include:

- ▶ Agreements signed anywhere other than the seller's regular place of business.
- ▶ Agreements resulting from door-to-door sales solicitation.
- ▶ Agreements that will pay on an installment basis for more than 90 days.

- ▶ Know your claims adjuster. There are different kinds of claims adjusters: company, independent and public. Insurance companies pay company and independent adjusters to assess the damage and negotiate the settlement of covered losses on behalf of the company. If you use a public adjuster, you must pay a percentage of the settlement you receive. The fee is capped at 10 percent of the claim amount. However, you can negotiate for a lower fee. Do not pay a public adjuster up front.
- ▶ Get written estimates from at least three Florida licensed contractors, and include everything you want the contractor to do. Beware of contractors soliciting work door-to-door. To verify a license, call the Department of Business Regulation at 850-487-1395.
- ▶ Ask for proof of insurance. If the contractor does not have liability and workers compensation insurance, you may be liable for accidents or injuries on your property. To verify Workers Compensation coverage, call the Division of Workers Compensation at 1-800-742-2214.
- ▶ Ask for and check references of other work the contractor has done.
- ▶ Ask the contractor how many jobs he or she may have ongoing.
- ▶ If you are having difficulty finding a contractor, refer to the Contractor Information phone list on page 43.

**EMERGENCY Repairs**

*It is important to note that emergency home repairs, made at the homeowner's request, are not subject to cancellation under Florida's three-day rule.*

# Stay Safe This Hurricane Season

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# Boat RECOVERY



Guttschalk Family Photo

## Wait Until it's **SAFE**

Safeguarding human life is more important than protecting or checking on your boat. Driving may not be safe after the storm. Wait to check on your boat until travel hazards are removed. Boat owners should be aware of hazards such as dangling wires, flooded roads, fuel leaks, weakened docks, bulkheads, seawalls, bridges, pilings, debris floating under the water etc. Have your insurance policy, your marina lease agreement and a list of contact numbers with you to facilitate any prompt action needed to protect your boat.

**Be Careful**

- DO NOT turn on the power to your lift if you suspect motors have been under water.
- DO NOT board your boat if it is full of water. Try to clear the drain plug opening from land. Once the boat is empty, have your lift inspected for structural damage.

### Notify Insurance Company

If a boat is insured and damages have occurred, a report of loss and/or damage should be made to the insurance agent and/or company as soon as possible. A telephone call will suffice to put them on notice. This should be followed up with a written notice. Provide all the details that you can on this first notice, such as: Exact location and structural condition of boat. Did the boat partially sink and is the machinery and/or interior wet? Must the vessel be removed immediately? If so, to what location?

During a weather emergency, depend on around-the-clock storm coverage.

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**96.9**  
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**WINK**  
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### Inspecting Your Boat

- ▶ Other boats may be upriver or up the canal from your mooring position. Modify your mooring if you are blocking the passage of other boats.
- ▶ Secure your boat from looters or others who may view your boat as abandoned.
- ▶ Report to law enforcement authorities any vandalism or theft or damage other than that which is storm-related.
- ▶ Check electrical cabling for shorts or other damage. Watch for severed cables.
- ▶ Check your boat for storm invaders like snakes, crabs or other dangerous wildlife.
- ▶ Before moving your boat, check it thoroughly for seaworthiness, potential damages, leaks or equipment losses. If your boat has leaked any pollutant, contact the authorities immediately.
- ▶ Do not begin repairs other than those necessary to prevent additional damage. It is necessary to obtain estimates before proceeding with repairs.
- ▶ Remove any potentially hazardous materials like rotting food, dead animals or fish, etc.



Are you ready for the hurricane season?



Do you have a family safety plan?



When was the last time you double-checked your storm supplies?



Have you mapped an evacuation route?



If there's one lesson we've learned from the past few years, it's that it's better to be prepared. From water to canned food and flashlights to batteries, Winn-Dixie has all the essentials you'll need. Stock up now on items for the 2009 hurricane season. And don't forget to pick up your free Hurricane Preparedness brochure at your local Winn-Dixie store.

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# Additional **RESOURCES**

## Helpful **PHONE** Numbers

### Important **HOTLINES**

FEMA Disaster Assistance / Registration	800-621-3362 TTY: 800-462-7585
U.S. Small Business Administration	800-659-2955 TTY: 800-877-8339
FEMA Fraud Hot line – to report false claims	866-720-5721 800-323-8603
State of Florida Emergency Info 24 Hr. Hot line	800-342-3557
Disaster Unemployment Services	866-778-7356
Unemployment Compensation Claims	800-204-2418
Florida Dept. of Financial Services Disaster Help line	800-227-8676
Florida Dept. of Financial Services Consumer Help line	800-342-2762 TTY: 800-640-0886
Red Cross Food, Shelter and Financial Assistance	866-438-4636
Salvation Army Hurricane Relief Information	888-363-2769
Disaster Food Stamp Hot line & Information	866-762-2237 or call a local office
Elder Affairs	800-963-5337
Attorney General's Price Gouging Hot line	866-966-7226
To report unlicensed activity	866-532-1440
To verify contractor licenses	850-487-1395
Agricultural & Consumer Services	800-435-7352

### EOC Phone Numbers

**County Emergency Management**



Photo courtesy of FEMA

**Charlotte**  
941-833-4000

**Collier**  
239-252-8444

**DeSoto**  
863-993-4831

**Glades**  
863-946-6020

**Hendry**  
863-612-4700

**Lee**  
239-477-3600

### Contractor Information

**Division of Workers' Compensation**  
800-742-2214

**Florida Association of Electrical Contractors**  
407-260-1511

**Florida Wall and Ceiling Contractors Assoc.**  
407-260-1313

**Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors**  
800-767-3772, ext. 100

**Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida (ABC)**  
813-879-8064



**American Red Cross Offices**

**Charlotte**  
941-629-4345

**Collier**  
239-596-6868

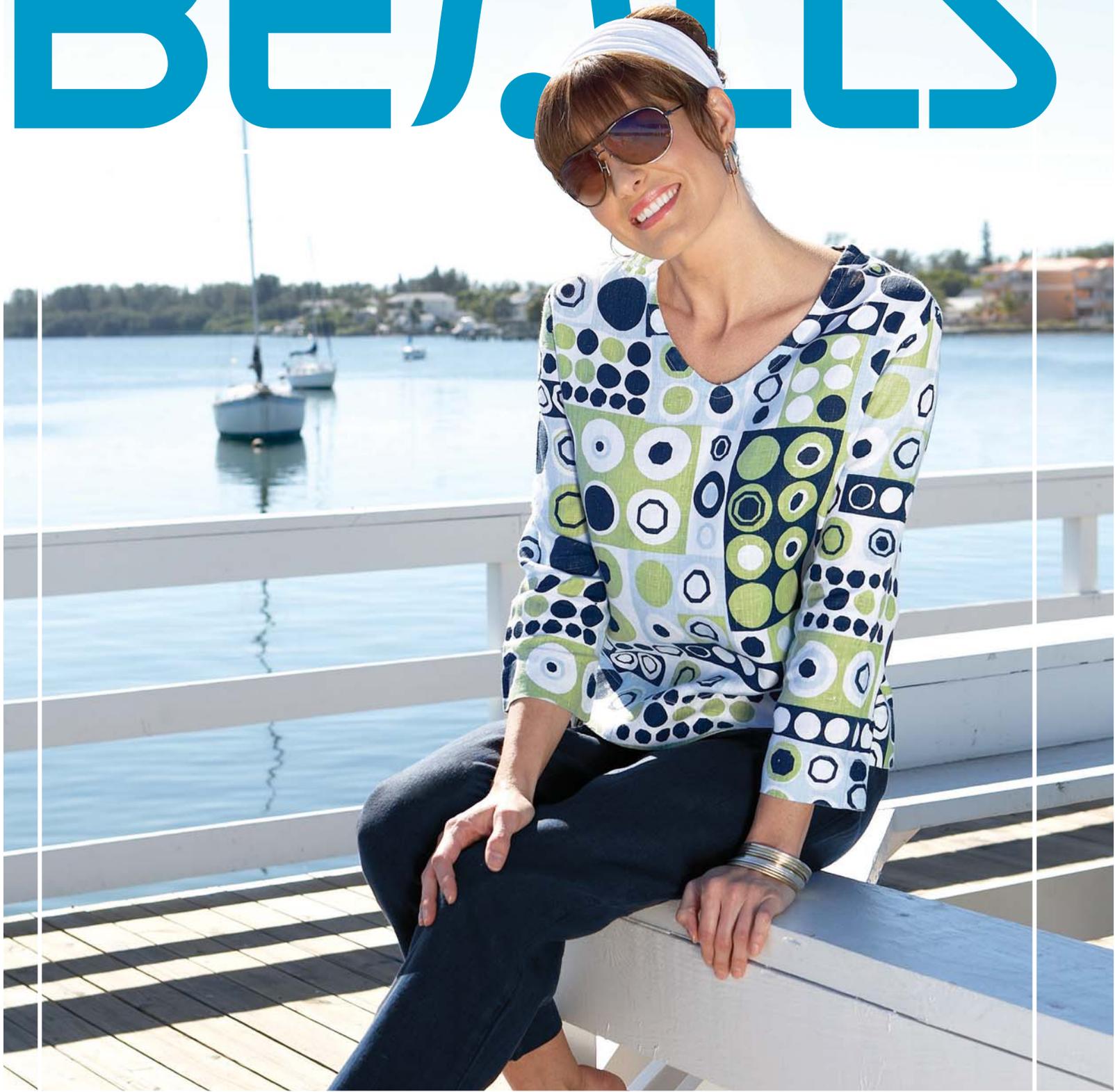
**DeSoto**  
863-494-2348

**Glades & Hendry**  
561-833-7111

**Lee**  
239-278-3401

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# Additional RESOURCES

## Donation & Volunteer Information

State Volunteer & Donations Hot line  
800-FL-HELP-1 or 800-354-3571

Salvation Army Donation Help line  
800-SAL-ARMY or 800-725-2769

American Red Cross  
800-HELP-NOW or 800-435-7669

## Counseling Services

- ▶ **Crisis Counseling:** Call FEMA, The American Red Cross or visit a Disaster Recovery Center.
- ▶ **Free Legal Counseling:** The Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association provides free legal advice for low-income individuals. Contact FEMA.

## Power Company Numbers




Florida Power & Light  
800-468-8243

LCEC  
800-599-2356

Glades Electric Co-Op  
800-226-4024

Photo courtesy of FEMA

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[www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com](http://www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com)  
1-800-218-0007



**HOLLYWOOD, FL**

[www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com)  
1-866-502-PLAY

# Additional RESOURCES

## Find it on the WEB



### [www.winknews.com](http://www.winknews.com)

Visit the leading local Web site for Southwest Florida Weather to determine current conditions, extended forecasts and weather advisories. Also, visit [winknews.com](http://winknews.com) to view tropical satellite images showing the paths and coordinates of the storms.

### [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

Check in with the state Emergency Operations Center's Web site for current activation information, news alerts, and contact information about storms, evacuations, storm surge and shelter information.

### [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Web site is a complete library for disaster preparedness. This site offers detailed instructions to prepare families for natural disasters, including disaster action plans, safe rooms and the National Flood Insurance Program.

### [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

The American Red Cross keeps residents informed on all disaster response and recovery operations. This site is frequently updated to provide shelter, volunteer and donation opportunity information.

- Lee County: [www.arclcc.org](http://www.arclcc.org)
- Collier County: [www.colliercountyredcross.org](http://www.colliercountyredcross.org)
- Charlotte County: [www.redcross-charlotte.org](http://www.redcross-charlotte.org)

### [www.citizensfla.com](http://www.citizensfla.com)

Created during the 2002 legislative session, the online home of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation allows you to search for information on special discounts available for policyholders who protect their homes with tested and approved storm-resistant features.

### [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) experts at the National Hurricane Center in Miami are leading authorities on Atlantic Basin hurricanes. Log on to the Web site for current weather data, including storm warnings, watches and forecasts.



**Additional RESOURCES****www.fldfs.com**

The Florida Department of Financial Services is an organization mobilized to assist with insurance and banking concerns.

**www.flash.org**

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, FLASH, Inc., is an organization dedicated to promoting disaster safety and property loss mitigation.

**www.floridabuilding.org**

View the Florida Building Code, code interpretations, local amendments and more on the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs Building Code Information System Web site.

**www.fmo.org**

The Federation of Manufactured Home Owners educates and promotes hurricane safety to residents statewide. This site offers information on what to do before, during and after a hurricane to help protect life and property.

**www.uan.org/ears**

United Animal Nations is making a world of difference for animals. Visit this site to find out more information on their Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS), a program that saves disaster-stricken animals. Log in for tips on keeping your pets safe from disaster.

**www.myfloridahome.com**

Apply for a free wind inspection for your home, and you may qualify for a discount on your homeowners insurance premiums. If improvements are suggested, you may be eligible for matching grants to bolster your home's defense against wind damage.

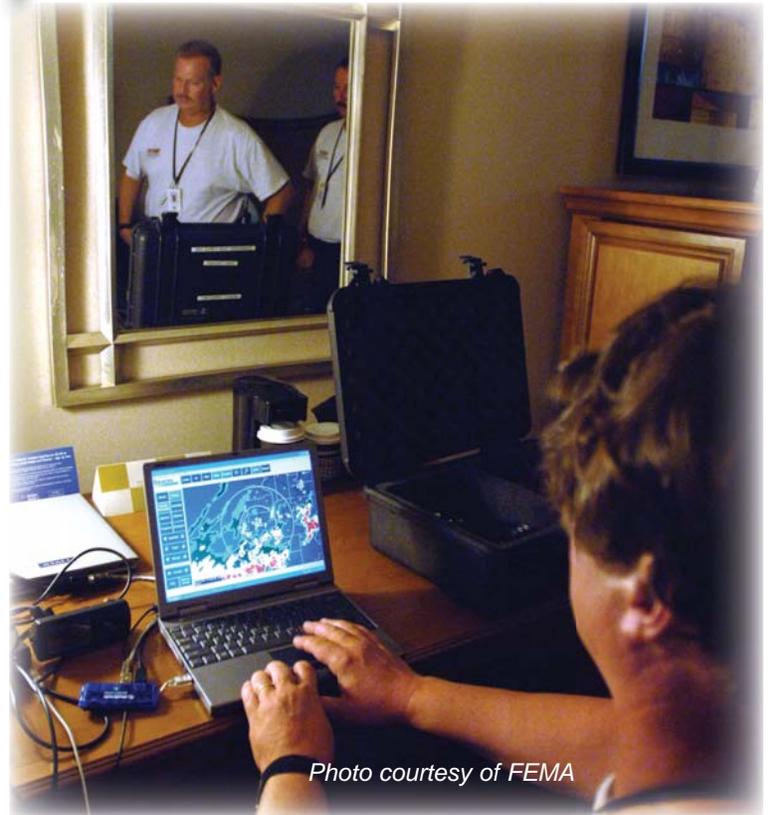
**More Helpful  
WEB SITES**

Photo courtesy of FEMA

**LOCAL Storm Info****Lee County**

[www.leeec.com](http://www.leeec.com)

**Collier County**

[www.colliergov.net/em](http://www.colliergov.net/em)

**Charlotte County**

[www.charlottecountyfl.com/emergency](http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/emergency)

**Hendry County**

[www.hendryclerk.org/storm.htm](http://www.hendryclerk.org/storm.htm)

**DeSoto County**

[www.co.desoto.fl.us](http://www.co.desoto.fl.us)

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