

**East Lake Woodlands
Community Association, Inc.**

Emergency Operations Plan



September 2017

East Lake Woodlands Community Association, Inc.

Emergency Operations Plan

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Promulgation Statement

Information Contained in this document is the **Emergency Operations Plan for the East Lake Woodlands Community Association (ELWCA) in Oldsmar, Florida**

The intent of this plan is to provide a frame work for use in responding to, supporting and performing emergency functions during a major disaster or a wide range of potential emergency incidents occurring in areas within East Lake Woodlands owned by and/or under the jurisdiction of the **East Lake Woodlands Community Association (ELWCA)**.

This plan can be adapted for use with special events within East Lake Woodlands.

This Emergency Operations Plan includes the four phases of emergency management. They are:

Prevention: Those activities which eliminate or reduce the probability of an incident, also known as mitigation.

Preparedness: Those activities developed to save lives, avoid harm and minimize damage.

Response: Immediate activities which prevent loss of lives and property and provide emergency assistance.

Recovery: Short & long term activities which return all systems to normal and/or improve standards.

This plan is prepared in accordance with the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** concepts and terminology.

This plan will be tested, revised and updated as required. All recipients are requested to advise the East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Property Manager regarding recommendations for improvements.

Approved by the East Lake Woodlands Community Association's – Board of Directors

Date: 09/19/2017

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide a local level integrated emergency management manual. The plan is designed to both describe and guide the emergency- disaster response of the East Lake Woodlands Community Association.

The goal of the plan is to provide a means to utilize all available resources needed to:

- ✓ **Mitigate** and/or prevent potential emergencies or disasters whenever possible!
- ✓ **Prepare** to deal efficiently with the effects of emergency events!
- ✓ **Support** matters of life safety and property protection!
- ✓ **Promote** a means to recover rapidly from unavoidable damages!

ELWCA is reliant on Pinellas County for Law, Fire & Emergency Services!
First contact should always be Pinellas County for Law, Fire & Emergency Services!

The plan is intended to **support** and **not to interfere with and/or impede** the efforts of Pinellas County Emergency Management Services, Emergency/Ambulatory Services, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, State Law Enforcement, the Pinellas County Fire Department, FEMA, the National Guard, Federal/State/County Safety Personnel, Utility Company Services (Electricity, Water, Telephone), Wild Life Services, etc.

Recognizing all possible situations can never be anticipated, the plan is intended to be both "generic" and "hazard specific" while covering a wide range of potential emergency and disaster situations. This plan is also based on the possibility of any given incident and not necessarily the probability of incident occurrence.

Emergency and disaster situations include but are not limited to the following: hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, floods, lightning strikes, major structural fires, forest fires, sink holes, aircraft accidents, energy/fuel outages & shortages, water contamination, pollution, major automobile accidents, accident, hazardous material incidents/ accidents/spills/explosions and/or technological hazards as a result of our modern society and proximity to local businesses, or other impending or actual calamity endangering or threatening to health, life or property of constituted government.

Weather related disasters (hurricane, tropical storm, tropical depression, tornado, etc.) and fire pose the greatest threat to the East Lake Woodlands Community Association. The guidelines set forth in this document are intended to prepare for such a disaster, though aspects of this plan can be used for other disaster scenarios.

Disclaimer(s): Exercising personal responsibility for emergency planning and evacuation is incumbent on all residents!

Goals of the Plan

Priorities are (1) Life Safety, (2) Incident Stabilization, (3) Property Preservation, (4) Maintaining Communications with State, County & Local Agencies as Needed

- ✓ Support Pinellas County & State Law Enforcement Officials
- ✓ Support Pinellas County Fire, Emergency Care and Rescue Officials
- ✓ Support Pinellas County, State & Federal Emergency Management Personnel
- ✓ Support Evacuation Efforts
- ✓ Preserve Structural Safety
- ✓ Maintain Accurate Documentation Throughout the Event.
- ✓ Return the East Lake Woodlands Community Association to operational levels.

Situations and Assumptions

Situation:

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association (ELWCA) is located in Pinellas County within the State of Florida. East Lake Woodlands is located on the West Central Coast of Florida in Northern Pinellas County at the top of Tampa Bay. The community consists of 52 independent homeowners associations with @ 3,789 households including single family homes, cluster homes, villas and condominiums.

Property Location:

- ✓ **East Lake Woodlands is Located in Pinellas County Flood Zones “B” & “C”**
- ✓ **East Lake Woodlands elevation ranges from @ 7 to 20 feet above sea level**
- ✓ East Lake Woodlands is bordered on the North & East by the 8,700 acre Brooker Creek Preserve.
- ✓ Bordered on the South by Tampa Road and on the West by East Lake Road
- ✓ Lake Tarpon is less than 10 minutes away
- ✓ Tampa Bay is less than 20 minutes away
- ✓ The Gulf of Mexico is less than 30 minutes away
- ✓ The Tampa International Airport is less than 30 minutes away
- ✓ The St. Petersburg / Clearwater International Airport is @ 20 minutes away

Ingress & egress to East Lake Woodlands is through 6 entrances:

- ✓ 2 Entrances – Tampa Road (1 Staffed, 1 Electronic Access)
- ✓ 2 Entrances – Behind the East Lake Woodland Shopping (Electronic Access Only)
- ✓ 2 Entrances – East Lake Road (1 Staffed, 1 Electronic Access)

The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department provides law enforcement and has mutual aid agreements with surrounding law enforcement agencies.

Situations and Assumptions - Continued

The Pinellas Fire Department provides fire and emergency response services and has mutual aid agreements with surrounding fire departments (Oldsmar, Clearwater, Safety Harbor, etc.)

The nearest hospitals are Mease Countryside (Safety Harbor), Mease Hospital (Dunedin), Florida Hospital - North Pinellas (Tarpon Springs), Medical Center of Trinity (Trinity).

There are no public shelters within the East Lake Woodlands Community Association.

The closest public shelters are Carwise Middle School (@ 3.5 miles), East Lake High School (@ 4.0 miles), Brooker Creek Elementary School (@ 4.5 miles), Palm Harbor University High School and Palm Harbor Middle School.

Vulnerability:

- ✓ All properties are potentially at risk for flooding due to high water levels and storm surges during tropical storms and hurricanes
- ✓ All properties are potentially at risk for wind, rain and tree damage during tropical storms and hurricanes.
- ✓ Streets are potentially susceptible to flooding during heavy rains.
- ✓ The presence of wild life including alligators and poisonous snakes in unanticipated locations is likely.

Assumptions – Hazard Analysis:

1. **Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, Tropical Depressions & Tornados** are potentially the most problematic natural causes or disasters in the East Lake Woodlands Community Association.
2. **Flooding** can affect properties and travel in heavy down pours.
3. **Fires, Brush Fires** can potentially be a problem during periods of drought and lightning strikes based on the community's wooded areas and proximity to the Brooker Creek Preserve. **Structural Fires** and **Car Fires** can potentially be a problematic in residential areas with attached homes or in close proximity.
4. **Sink Holes** could threaten the welfare of ELWCA.

Situations and Assumptions – Continued

5. **Hazardous Materials:** Incidents are possible and most likely related to the transportation of fuels and/or an event at a local manufacturing company.
6. **Aircraft Crashes** can happen anywhere, small private planes, commercial airlines, military and Coast Guard aircraft are the most common in ELWCA's air space.
7. **Shortages:** The shortage of energy, food and water could threaten the welfare of ELWCA residents based on the potential for interruption of deliveries.
8. **Contamination:** The contamination of water could threaten the welfare of ELWCA.
9. **National Emergencies** including a possible attack by foreign interests are not likely but their impact on the availability of resources could affect the community.

A fire or weather related disaster poses the greatest threat to the East Lake Woodlands Community Association. The following are critical assumptions associated with a weather related disaster:

- All or most residents and visitors do not evacuate.
- Areas of the community association's roads are deemed impassable due to flooding, debris and/or fire/rescue operations.
- Utilities (power, water, telephones) will be down for 24-72 hours (or longer).
- All requests for assistance (law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, medical assistance, structural repair may have to be handled initially by the ELWCA Board of Directors, Property Manager and committee members only.
- Routine provisions will become an ELWCA concern including but not limited to: shelter, food, water, sanitary necessities, tree removal, etc.
- The Property Manager's office building is inaccessible due to flood waters, damage, etc. The Property Manager is forced to work remotely.
- ELWCA's President, Board of Directors and Property Manager will be overtaxed and/or **could be unavailable**.

Concept of Operations

General:

The operation of the plan will be coordinated amongst all members of the East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Board of Directors and Property Manager. The intent of the plan is to ensure the ELWCA is not dependent upon any one individual.

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Board of Directors and Property Manager will collect, record and evaluate information in order to determine measures to be taken before, during and after disasters/emergencies.

The information gathered will be evaluated and used to identify the need for critical resources to support response activities and minimize the effects of the emergency.

Areas considered "problematic" including but not limited to gates, guard houses and areas prone to flooding requiring the deployment of resources will be inspected, monitored and/or recorded. Photographs and video recordings should be used to document areas of concern whenever possible!

Public information will be coordinated with local Pinellas County/State/Federal Safety Personnel, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Emergency Care, and Utility Company Services (Electricity, Water & Telephone) as necessary.

The primary meeting space for the Board of Directors and the Property Manager will be at a sight to be determined based on the condition of passable roads due to flooding, debris, utility services and/or fire/rescue operations.

Operations:

Activation, Mobilization and Operation of the plan commences when the President of the East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Board of Directors or in his/her absence a majority of all available members of the Board of Directors determine that the severity and length of the situation warrants plan implementation to reduce the threat of life and/or property.

- **Alert Pinellas County Sheriff's Department. Pinellas County Fire Department**
Ask for assistance and coordination of other resource agencies.

- **Alert Pinellas County Emergency/Ambulatory Services, County/ State/Federal Safety Personnel, Utility Company Services (Electricity, Water, Telephone) and Wild Life Services, etc.** for assistance and coordination of other resource agencies.

Operations (Continued):

- Alert the residents of the ELWCA of the disaster or impending disaster if necessary.
- Support efforts and arrange for the evacuation of threatened areas if necessary.

Organization & Responsibilities

Organization:

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Board of Directors will meet to review and discuss situational issues as needs demand.

The President of the ELWCA and Property Manager at the Direction of the Board of Directors will be the primary conduits for the planning, coordination, organization, administration and operations related to all situational issues requiring attention.

All Board of Directors and committee members shall participate in the emergency management activity as appropriate and their availability dictates within their capabilities and committee responsibilities.

Upon approval by the East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Board of Directors, volunteer agencies and/or persons offering services will also be considered.

Responsibilities:

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Emergency Operations Plan consists of this basic plan (template) with appropriate annexes to cover specific areas of responsibility and information during emergency operations.

Annex A. – Direction & Control: Emergency Management Staffing & Functions

Annex B. – Law Enforcement: Purpose, Mission & Responsibilities

Annex C. – Fire & Rescue: Purpose, Mission & Responsibilities

Annex D. – Damage Assessment: Purpose & Responsibilities Regarding Post Storm Damages

Organization & Responsibilities (Continued):

Annex E. – Communications: Organization regarding communications prior, during and post a disaster/emergency

Annex F. – Resource Management: Outlines resources and facilities available during and post a disaster/emergency

Annex G. – Public Information: Outlines how information will be available prior, during and post a disaster/emergency

Annex H. – Sample Hurricane Operations: Sample Time for a Hurricane Event

Annex I. – After the Disaster / Hurricane: Outlines safety considerations post-event

Annex J. – Essential Information: Includes a list of information to be gathered after a disaster/emergency

Annex K. – Post Disaster Response Outline: Includes an outline of responsibilities to be considered post-event regarding the operation of ELWCA

Annex L. – Re-Entry Policy: Facilitates orderly re-entry after an evacuation.

Annex M. – Evacuation List: Includes an outline of suggested items and supplies to pack that may be needed both prior and post disaster or emergency event.

Annex N. – Security of Residence

Annex O. – Glossary of Terms: Includes a list of definitions of common terms

Plan Development & Maintenance

Plan Development:

This plan has been developed to address a wide range of potential disaster and emergency incidents that may affect the East Lake Woodlands Community Association. Operations and terms have been developed to be consistent with the use of the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**.

Maintenance of the Plan:

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association's Property Manager will schedule a review of the plan annually. Ideally, the plan's review will be conducted in the 1st. calendar quarter of each year to allow ample time for discussion of any proposed changes prior to the beginning of the "rainy/hurricane" season (6/1 – 11/30).

The plan shall be reviewed after an actual emergency/disaster to identify changes and/or to adjust operations to improve its efficiencies and effectiveness.

Recommendations or suggestions to the plan shall be brought to the attention of the ELWCA Emergency Operations Committee, ELWCA Board of Directors and Property Manager. Changes to the plan will be by approval of the ELWCA Board of Directors.

Exercises and/or review of the plan for familiarity should be done annually.

All committees with specific duties are responsible for ensuring their members understand their roles with any subsequent concerns addressed.

Inspection and/or documentation of all assets are critical. Photographs and video recordings should be taken prior to and after any disaster event to ensure all structures, guard houses, gates, walls, roads, bridges, drainage concerns, sidewalks, fountains, flag poles, foliage, etc. are returned to pre-event conditions.

Annex A Direction & Control

Purpose:

To identify personnel assigned to the Emergency Management Team and outline duties and responsibilities of the essential positions in order to provide direction before, during and after disasters and/or emergencies.

Primary Members of the Emergency Management Team:

- The East Lake Woodlands Community Association - Board of Directors
- The East Lake Woodlands Community Association - Property Manager

2nd Tier Members:

- Emergency Operations Committee Members
- Communications Committee Members
- Legal & Government Affairs Committee
- Controlled Access Committee Members
- Finance & Insurance Committee Members
- Grounds / Lakes / Drainage Committee Members
- Roads Committee Members
- Home Owner Association Presidents

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities:

Direction and Control:

- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Board of Directors
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Law Enforcement & Security - Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, State Police:

- ELWCA – Chairman Controlled Access Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Fire & Rescue - Pinellas County Fire Department, Emergency Responders:

- ELWCA – Chairman Controlled Access Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Annex A

Direction & Control - Continued

Community Access / Gates / Guard Houses / Walls / Flag Poles

- ELWCA - Chairman Controlled Access Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Roads & Bridges

- ELWCA – Chairman Roads Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Drainage & Lakes

- ELWCA - Chairman Drainage & Lakes Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Grounds / Trees / Foliage / Fountain(s)

- ELWCA - Chairman Grounds Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Communications – HOA Presidents, Residents, Property Managers

- ELWCA – Chairman Communications Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Resource Management - Pinellas County/Local/State/Federal Agencies

- ELWCA – Chairman Legal & Government Affairs Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Essential Information - Finance / Banking / Insurance:

- ELWCA – Chairman Finance Committee
- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA - Property Manager

Contingency Support - Emergency Operations Committee Chairman & Members

Annex B Law Enforcement

Purpose:

To provide resources and equipment for emergency response during a disaster or emergency incident and assist in minimizing damage to property, save lives, assist with recovery and prevent looting thefts.

Mission:

- ✓ Protection of life and property
- ✓ Preserve law and order
- ✓ Emergency traffic and pedestrian control
- ✓ Assist in warning of citizens and evacuation
- ✓ Evacuation traffic control
- ✓ Assist in search and rescue operations
- ✓ Assist in disaster assessment activities
- ✓ Coordinate re-entry

Organization:

The Pinellas County Sheriff is responsible for the daily and emergency operations of the department. All sworn personnel are issued a wide variety of equipment and receive emergency response training.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Department has mutual aid agreements with surrounding law enforcement agencies. Back-up support if needed will be provided by adjacent county sheriff departments, the State Police and National Guard.

Private Security Services:

East Lake Woodlands Community Association routinely contracts for private security services to staff gates and provide roving patrols. The role of the private security staff during a disaster or emergency incident is to assist residents and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department as directed. The services provided are intended to **support** and **not impede** the efforts of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, State Law Enforcement, Emergency/Ambulatory Services and/or the Pinellas Fire Department.

Direction for **Gate Access, Securing Guard Houses & Private Security Personnel** will be provided by the ELWCA: Chairman Controlled Access Committee, Board President and/or Property Manager.

Annex C Fire and Rescue

Purpose:

To provide for emergency response during a disaster or emergency incident and assist in minimizing damage to property, save lives and assist with recovery.

Mission:

- ✓ Protection fire protection and rescue services
- ✓ Assist in medical related calls
- ✓ Evaluate and preserve structural safety
- ✓ Assist in warning of citizens and evacuation
- ✓ Initiate search and rescue operations
- ✓ Assist in disaster assessment activities

Organization:

The Pinellas County Fire Chief is responsible for the daily and emergency operations of the department. All sworn personnel are issued a wide variety of equipment and receive emergency response training.

The Pinellas Fire Department provides fire and emergency response services and has mutual aid agreements with surrounding fire departments (Oldsmar, Clearwater, Safety Harbor, etc.)

Back-up support if needed will be provided by adjacent county and city departments.

Private Security Services:

East Lake Woodlands Community Association routinely contracts for private security services to staff gates and provide roving patrols. The role of the private security staff during a disaster or emergency incident is to assist residents and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department as directed. The services provided are intended to **support** and **not impede** the efforts of the Pinellas County Fire Department and/or Emergency/Ambulatory Services.

Direction for Gate Access & Private Security Personnel will be provided by the ELWCA: Chairman Controlled Access Committee, Board President and/or Property Manager.

Annex D Damage Assessment

Purpose:

To provide for post disaster or emergency incident assessment of damages in order to give Pinellas County Emergency Management, State of Florida Emergency Management and FEMA information regarding the extent of property damage.

Mission:

- ✓ Provide a preliminary damage assessment within 24 hours
- ✓ Provide a detailed disaster or emergency incident assessment post event
- ✓ Assist in computing damages
- ✓ Assist in determination of proper resources for recovery

Organization:

Primary Members of the Damage Assessment Team:

- ELWCA - Board President
- ELWCA – Chairman Legal & Government Affairs Committee
- ELWCA – Chairman Controlled Access Committee
- ELWCA – Chairman Grounds Committee
- ELWCA – Chairman Roads Committee
- ELWCA – Chairman Drainage Committee
- ELWCA - Chairman Finance Committee
- ELWCA - Chairman Emergency Operations Committee
- ELWCA - Property Manager

2nd Tier Members:

- Committee Members:
 - Communications, Legal & Government Affairs, Controlled Access, Finance & Insurance, Grounds, Drainage / Lakes, Roads & Bridges, Emergency Operations
- HOA Presidents
- Volunteers Approved by the ELWCA Board of Directors

Annex E Communications

Purpose:

To identify the means of communications that will be used during a disaster or emergency incident.

Mission:

To provide the East Lake Woodlands Community Association Board of Directors and Property Manager the ability to communicate with each other as well as all Pinellas County, State and Federal Agencies during an emergency event.

Organization:

Pinellas County Emergency Management, Sheriff and Fire Departments, State Police and Emergency/Ambulatory Services personnel will utilize the communication devices provided to them by their agencies.

Personal land lines, cell phones and “Zello” will be the primary means of communication amongst the East Lake Woodlands Community Association Board of Directors, the Property Manager, committee members and HOA Presidents.

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors will use available communication tools including: land lines, cell phones, Email and the Community Association’s Web Site (if available) to communicate with residents. Other potential communication tools include but are not limited to: “Call-Em-All”, Email Blasts, “Next Door”, “Code Red”, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

**** See the Attachment titled “Important Phone Numbers” for ELWCA Directors and HOA Presidents for Specific Contact Information ****

Annex F Resource Management

Purpose:

The purpose of this annex is to provide information regarding resources/facilities identified in the event of a disaster or emergency incident.

Emergency Operations Center

Primary Location: East Lake Woodlands Country Club
Secondary Location: Rental Space “Town Center” @ ELW
Alternate Location: Rental Space @ ELW Shopping Center
Alternate Location: Rented Trailers @ ELW Country Club Parking Lot

Holding Area – Donated Goods

Primary Location: East Lake Woodlands Country Club
Secondary Location: Rental Space “Town Center” @ ELW
Alternate Location: Rental Space @ ELW Shopping Center
Alternate Location: Rented Trailers @ ELW Country Club Parking Lot

Food & Water:

Primary Sources: Publix, Wal-Mart, Target, Aldi, Costco, Sam’s, etc.
Secondary Sources: Cheney Bros. Gordon, Southeast, SYSCO, US Foods
Alternate: East Lake Woodlands Country Club (if available)

General Supplies: - Generators, Tools, etc.

Primary Source(s): Home Depot, Lowe’s, Ace Hardware Target, Wal-Mart,

Medical Supplies:

Primary Source: Pinellas County Emergency/Ambulatory Services
Secondary Source: Pinellas County Fire Department
Alternate – Mease Countryside Hospital (Safety Harbor)
Alternate - Allied Medical Supply (Palm Harbor)

Mortuary Services:

Primary Location: Pinellas County Coroner’s Office
Secondary: Mease Countryside Hospital (Safety Harbor)
Alternate – Curlew Hills Funeral Home (Palm Harbor)

Annex F
Resource Management - Continued

Equipment Staging Area:

Primary Location: ELW Country Club Parking Lot
Secondary Location: Vacant Field @ ELW Parkway/Woodlands Parkway
Alternate – “Town Center” / ELWCC - Tennis Court Parking Lot
Alternate – *East Lake Woodlands Parkway @ Power Lines*
Alternate – *Sunflower Drive/Baseball Field*

Dumpster/Debris Sites:

Primary Location: ELW Country Club Parking Lot
Secondary Location: Vacant Field @ ELW Parkway/Woodlands Parkway
Alternate – “Town Center” / ELWCC - Tennis Court Parking Lot
Alternate – *East Lake Woodlands Parkway @ Power Lines*
Alternate – *Sunflower Drive/Baseball Field*

Sanitary Necessities/Portable Restroom Locations:

Primary Location: ELW Country Club Parking Lot
Secondary Location: Vacant Field @ ELW Parkway/Woodlands Parkway
Alternate – “Town Center” / ELWCC - Tennis Court Parking Lot
Alternate – *East Lake Woodlands Parkway @ Power Lines*
Alternate – *Sunflower Drive/Baseball Field*

*****Locations are Subject to the Condition of Towers & Power Lines*****
(Any appearance of danger including but not limited to damaged towers and/or loose or dangling power lines will not make these sites viable options)

Annex G Public Information

Purpose:

To identify how information will be disseminated to East Lake Woodlands Community Association residents in the event of a disaster or emergency incident.

Mission:

To provide East Lake Woodlands Community Association residents with accurate information before, during, and after an emergency event.

Organization:

Pinellas County Emergency Management in conjunction with local media outlets (Television, Radio Stations, Newspapers, Social Media, etc.) will be the primary sources of information to all residents before, during and after an emergency event.

On a secondary basis, the East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager will be responsible for the dissemination of pertinent East Lake Woodlands information to all residents and stakeholders. Every effort should be made to ensure all information disseminated is based on “fact” verses “speculation”.

Personal land lines, cell phones, “Zello” and Email (subject to availability) will be the primary means of communication amongst the East Lake Woodlands Community Association Board of Directors, the Property Manager, committee members and HOA Presidents.

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Web Site (if available) will be the primary means of communication with residents. Other potential communication tools include but are not limited to: “Call-Em-All”, Email Blasts, “Code Red”, “Next Door”, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

**** See the Attachment titled “Important Phone Numbers” for ELWCA Directors and HOA Presidents for Specific Contact Information ****

Annex H

Sample Time Frame Hurricane Operations

Purpose: This annex contains a sample time frame for operations during a potential hurricane.

The Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center notifies local municipalities approximately 72-96 hours prior to possible landfall of a major storm.

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager acting as the community associations “Emergency Management Team” will begin preparation of securing Community Associations interests.

The ELWCA Finance Committee Chairman and Property Manager will review all documentation associated with Property Insurance, Banking/Credit Lines, Financial Records, property photographs and videos.

72 – Hours to Landfall:

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager should be getting their personal affairs and property in order.

36-48 Hours to Landfall:

- Evacuation is recommended by Pinellas County Emergency Management
- The President of the East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s notifies the Board of Directors and Property Manager.
- Operations: Prepare for evacuation order by Pinellas County or State of Florida
- Planning: Begin documentation and status reporting as needed.
- Logistics: Gather and purchase supplies/resources, secure guard houses and ready electronic equipment as needed.

18-24 Hours to Landfall:

- The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager acting as the community associations “Emergency Management Team” meet to review and finalize remaining details.
- The ELWCA Finance Committee Chairman and Property Manager provide final confirmation of financial records and files being secure.
- The ELWCA Controlled Access Committee Chairman and Property Manager provide confirmation of plans associated with gate status, plans to safe guard and/or remove electronic equipment, lock guard houses and allow private security personnel to leave and evacuate.

Annex H

Sample Time Frame Hurricane Operations - Continued

12-18 Hours to Landfall:

- The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager acting as the community associations “Emergency Management Team” meet in person or by conference call to review new storm updates, plans and finalize remaining concerns.
- The ELWCA Controlled Access Committee Chairman and Property Manager finalize gate status, plans to safe guard and/or remove electronic equipment, lock guard houses and allow private security personnel to leave and evacuate.

Landfall

2-4 Hours After Landfall:

- The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager acting as the community associations “Emergency Management Team” meet by conference call to provide initial assessments of the storm’s impact.
- Immediate contact is initiated and established with The Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center Emergency/Ambulatory Services, the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department, State Law Enforcement, the Pinellas County Fire Department, the National Guard, Federal/State/County Safety Personnel, Utility Company Services (Electricity, Water, Telephone), Wild Life Services, etc. to address needs of immediate concern including but not limited to: Search and Rescue, Fire & Crime Suppression.
- Contact is made with private security personnel providers. Security personnel are directed when to return based on initial damage evaluations and personal safety.

4-6 Hours After Landfall:

- The East Lake Woodlands Community Association’s Board of Directors and Property Manager acting as the community associations “Emergency Management Team” meet at the Property Manager’s office or by conference call to assess the storm’s impact.
- Initial Damage Evaluations are reported.
- Assignments based on initial damage evaluations are made.
- Adjustments to the Emergency Operations Plan are made as needed.

6-8 Hours After Landfall:

- Continued evaluation of all needs: Safety, Sanitation, Debris Removal, etc.

Annex I

After the Disaster / Hurricane

Purpose: This annex identifies outlines safety considerations post-event.

Returning to Your Home: If you're evacuated, delay your return until it is recommended or authorized by local authorities!

Beware of Outdoor Hazards: Watch out for loose or dangling power lines and report them to the proper authorities. Many lives are lost because of electrocution!

Drive Cautiously: Flooded and debris filled streets are dangerous. Washouts may weaken road and bridge structures and cause collapse under your vehicles weight.

Walk Cautiously: Snakes, Alligators and poisonous insects will be a hazard. Be cognizant of your surroundings.

Flooded Areas: Never allow children and animals to play in flooded areas where hidden sharp objects, electrocution, pollution, snakes and alligators are serious hazards.

Spoiled Food: Food may spoil if refrigerator power is off more than a few hours. Freezers typically keep food several days if doors are not opened during a power failure. Food should not be re-frozen after it's been thawed!

Tap Water: Do not use tap water until local authorities announce it is suitable for consumption. Use your emergency supply or boil water until receiving official word that the water is safe! Report water main breaks to the proper authority!

Sanitary Sewers: Report broken sewer lines to the proper authority!

Fire Prevention: Take extra precautions to prevent fire. Lowered water pressure in city mains combined with the interruption of other services may make fighting fire extremely difficult after a hurricane!

Annex J

Essential Information

Purpose: This annex identifies a list of essential information to be gathered after a potential a disaster or emergency event:

- ✓ Boundaries and Scope of the Disaster Area
- ✓ Access Points to the Disaster Area
- ✓ Status of Law Enforcement Operations
- ✓ Status of Fire & Rescue Operations
- ✓ Hazard Specific Information
- ✓ Local Weather Conditions
- ✓ Status of Utilities
- ✓ Status of Communications
- ✓ Status of Roads & Bridges
- ✓ Status of Drainage / Flooding
- ✓ Status of Guard Houses / Gates / Walls / Flag Poles
- ✓ Status of Grounds / Trees / Fountain(s)
- ✓ Status of Food Supplies
- ✓ Overall Local Priorities for Response
- ✓ Resource Shortfalls
- ✓ Status of Local Disaster Situation
- ✓ Social / Economic / Political Impact

Annex K

Post-Disaster Response Outline

Purpose: This annex identifies responsibilities post disaster or emergency event:

The Disaster Area:

- ✓ Check and Inventory the physical areas for which you are responsible.
- ✓ Check and inventory the equipment, supplies and materials for which you are responsible.
- ✓ Check the records for which you are responsible.

Locations / Relocations / Temporary Structures:

- ✓ Identify all usable buildings and structures including the resources of each building (functionality, centralization, electricity, communications, etc.)
- ✓ Identify all services and response efforts that will need temporary quarters including office space.

Parameters for Governing/Operating ELWCA:

1st 24 Hours;

- ✓ Identify what must be done today and make assignments
- ✓ Identify who needs to be contacted for services and support
- ✓ Document property conditions with photographs and videos
- ✓ Identify items scheduled for the day that need to be cancelled or relocated

1st 24 to 48 Hours;

- ✓ Continue to identify what must be done today and make assignments
- ✓ Continue to identify and follow-up on needs for services and support

1st 2 to 7 Days;

Schedule a meeting of the East Lake Woodlands Community Association Board of Directors and Property Manager to communicate with all Pinellas County, State and Federal Agencies post emergency event as well as all residents.

- ✓ Continue to identify what must be done today and make assignments
- ✓ Continue to identify and follow-up on needs for services and support
- ✓ Resume as much routine as possible
- ✓ Acknowledge agencies, volunteers, victims and individuals with recognition.

Annex K
Post-Disaster Response Outline - Continued

Local Communications:

- ✓ Notify residents about changes in meeting dates & meeting locations
- ✓ Notify residents about changes in property manager's locations
- ✓ Provide contact information to residents (Emergency Numbers, Help Lines)
- ✓ Identify scheduled activities for today that need to be cancelled or relocated
- ✓ Identify who needs to be contacted for services and support

County / State / Federal Communications:

- ✓ Liaison with officials for services and support

Deal With Physical Losses of Community Association Property:

- ✓ Insurance claim coordination
- ✓ Operations relocation
- ✓ Initiate plans to replace building, roads, bridges and sidewalks
- ✓ Continue to remove debris and damaged foliage

Annex L Re-Entry Policy:

Purpose: This annex identifies suggested steps to facilitate preservation of property along with a safe and orderly re-entry process after mass evacuation.

A staged re-entry is suggested to preserve property and ensure a safe and orderly re-entry process after a mass evacuation.

No one will be denied re-entry with an ELWCA issued bar code and/or with proper identification. Proper identification includes a valid driver's license with an East Lake Woodlands address and/or a utility bill with an East Lake Woodlands address.

Re-Entry Stages:

Priority One: Essential Personnel - Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, State Law Enforcement, Pinellas County Fire Department, Pinellas County/State/Federal Safety Personnel, National Guard, Utility Company Services (Electricity, Water, Telephone), Wild Life Services, etc.

Priority Two: Permanent residents and essential personnel for critical businesses.

Priority Three: Non-resident property owners and non-resident employees of critical businesses.

Priority Four: General Public and Visitors

Annex M Evacuation Supplies

Purpose: This annex identifies supplies needed both prior and post disaster or emergency event

Gasoline: Have a full tank of gas and never let your gas be less than half full during hurricane season

Emergency Lights and News Sources:

Flashlight w/ extra batteries, Lanterns, Portable Radio w/ extra batteries, Cell Phone w/ charger

Toiletries:

First Aid Kit, Personal Hygiene Supplies, Hearing Aids w/ extra batteries, Spare Eye Glasses, Contact Lenses w/ supplies, Prescription Medications, Anti-bacterial Hand Wash & Wipes, Sunscreen, Insect Repellent, Aspirin, Tylenol, etc.

Food & Water:

Some food & water may be provided by the evacuation center. Consider bringing canned, dried and/or non-perishable foods and water for drinking. A minimum of 3 gallons of water is recommended per person per day.

Eating Utensils:

Paper plates, cups, can openers, spoon, fork, knife, etc.

Clothing:

Outfits for 3+ days. Rain Gear, Jeans, Boots, Gloves, Hats, etc.
Consider worst case scenario of wet weather, heavy debris, etc.

Sleeping Arrangements:

Sleeping Bags, Blankets, Pillows, Linens, Cots, etc.

Important Documents:

Driver's License and Other Identification, Cash, Credit Cards, Insurance Policies, Property Inventory, Medic Alert Devices, Maps, Extra Car Keys.

Pet Care Items:

Food, Water, Proper Identification, Medical Records, Carrier, Cage, Leash, Muzzle

Annex M Evacuation Supplies - Continued

Emergency Check List:

- ◆ Pillow, Sleeping Bag, Blankets, Linens
- ◆ Freeze Dried Food Kit
- ◆ Portable Fresh Water Container
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Insect Repellent
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Battery Operated Lantern
- ◆ Solar Panel Charger for Electronic Items
- ◆ Rain Poncho
- ◆ Tools, Tool Sets
- ◆ Portable Battery Operated Fan
- ◆ Waterproof Matches and Lighter
- ◆ Portable Battery Operated Chargeable Radio/Walkie-Talkie
- ◆ Water Purification Tablets
- ◆ Portable Camping Stove w/ Charcoal
- ◆ Portable Ice Kit
- ◆ Cooler / Ice Chest

Annex N Security of Residence

Purpose: This annex identifies suggested steps for securing structures and homes prior to a disaster or emergency event.

Inventory Your Property: A complete inventory of personal property will help in obtaining insurance settlements and/or tax deductions for losses. Inventory checklists can be obtained from many sources including your insurance representative. Do not trust your memory. List descriptions, model and serial numbers and take pictures. Store your documents and other important insurance information in waterproof containers or in your safety deposit box,

- ✓ Windows Locked, Taped & Boarded
- ✓ Doors Locked & Braced
- ✓ Power Shut Off
- ✓ Propane Gas Tanks Secure and Shut Off
- ✓ Drapes & Curtains Closed
- ✓ Bath Tub Clean & Filled w/ Water
- ✓ Water Supply to House Cut Off
- ✓ Loose Yard Items Secured.
- ✓ Boats / Vehicles Secured
- ✓ Tools / Materials for Damage Control & Repair
- ✓ Waterproof Container for Documents & Valuables
- ✓ Insurance Agents Contact Information
- ✓ Move Valuables you cannot take with you to higher points in your Home

Annex O Glossary of Terms

This annex covers the common definitions used by the National Incident Management System.

Where the Hurricane Categories come from: When it comes to hurricanes, meteorologists rely on the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** to help us understand the magnitude of the hurricane's impact. This 1-to 5-categorization scale does not address the potential for other hurricane-related impacts, such as storm surge, rainfall-induced floods, and tornadoes, but it does help residents (and disaster organizations) gauge the safety measures that must be taken to prepare before a hurricane makes landfall. Use this breakdown to help you understand what's at stake. More information visit: www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php

Hurricane: When a tropical storm reaches winds of **74 mph** or more, it is classified as a hurricane.

Category 1: Winds range from **74 to 95 mph** and can be expected to produce some minor damage to property. Damage is primarily to shrubbery, tree foliage and unanchored mobile homes. No real damage to other structures. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Injuries to people and animals are generally isolated and limited to flying or falling debris. During a **Category 1 Hurricane**, protected glass windows generally remain intact. Some roof damage to frame homes, apartments, and shopping centers can also occur, as well as short-term power outages due to snapped power lines and downed trees. **Storm surges are typically 4-5 feet above normal tide levels.**

Category 2: Winds range from **96 to 110 mph** and can be expected to produce extensive property damage. Greater wind velocities mean that debris poses a greater threat to humans and animals, while the roofing, siding, and glass windows (protected and unprotected) of frame homes are more vulnerable to damage. In a **Category 2 Hurricane**, significant structural damage to apartment buildings, mobile homes, shopping centers and poorly constructed signs is also expected as well as flooding in low-lying areas. Extensive power outages ranging from a few days to a few weeks are common, and residents are encouraged to stock up on potable water as filtration systems also fail during this time. **Storm surges are typically 6-8 feet above normal tide levels.**

Annex O Glossary of Terms – Continued

Category 3: Winds ranging from **111 to 130 mph** cause significant damage to property, humans, and animals. Mobile and poorly constructed frame homes are often destroyed, and even well-built frame homes commonly sustain major damage. Significant damage to apartments and shopping centers (even those made of wood or steel) can be expected. Electricity and water are commonly unavailable for several days to several weeks after the storm, therefore it's important for residents to have their own stores of canned food and water. Category 3 storms can also cause extensive inland flooding. **Storm surges are typically 9-12 feet above normal tide levels.**

Category 4: Winds range from **131 to 155 mph** and can cause catastrophic damage to property, humans, and animals. Severe structural damage to frame homes, apartments, and shopping centers should be expected. Category 4 hurricanes often include long-term power outages and water shortages lasting from a few weeks to a few months, so again, it's important for any remaining residents to have a significant nonperishable food and water supply at hand. **Category 4 Hurricanes** can also cause extensive inland flooding. **Storm surges are typically 13-18 feet above normal tide levels.**

Category 5: Winds at or **greater than 155 mph** cause catastrophic damage to property, humans, and animals. Massive evacuation is required! (Read: you should be nowhere near this storm!). Complete or almost-complete destruction of mobile homes, frame homes, apartments, and shopping centers should be expected, and nearly all trees in the area will be snapped or uprooted. Power outages can last for weeks and possibly months. Long-term water shortages should be expected as well, and most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. **Category 5 Hurricanes** can also cause extensive inland flooding. **Storm surges are typically more than 18 feet above normal tide levels.**

Hurricane Advisory/Advisories: Messages issued by the National Hurricane Center in Miami which summarize all coastal warnings that are in effect including Hurricane Watches. In addition to a description of the storm, its position, anticipated movement and prospective threats are given.

Hurricane Watch: A first alert a hurricane poses a possible threat to area within 24 to 36 hours but still uncertain. Small craft advisories are issued.

Annex O Glossary of Terms – Continued

Hurricane Warning: A hurricane is expected to strike the area within 24 hours.

Eye: The relatively calm area in the center of the hurricane. Winds are often light in the area and the sky is only partly covered by clouds.

Gale Warning: A warning of sustained winds within the range of 39 to 54 miles per hour.

Landfall: The position at a seacoast where the center of a hurricane passes from sea to land.

Local Statements: A public release prepared by a Weather Service Office in or near a threatened area giving specific details to protect life and property in the office's area of responsibility.

Mitigation: Mitigation is the process of taking actions designed to **minimize, reduce and/or prevent the effects** of natural or man-made hazards. Local governing bodies should realize the need to carry out mitigation for the following potential hazards: hurricanes, tornadoes, electrical storms, lightning strikes, major fires, forest fires, hazardous material incidents/accidents/spills, aircraft accidents, energy/fuel shortages, water contamination, major automobile accidents, etc.

Storm Surge: The strong winds associated with hurricanes and tropical storms cause the sea level to rise above normal tidal heights, with giant wind-driven waves and strong un-predictable water currents sometimes covering 50 miles.

Tornadoes: Tornadoes can last only a few minutes but can cause severe damage. The damage area of a tornado is usually narrow, but in its direct path winds can be as strong as 200 mph.

Tropical Disturbance: A moving area of thunderstorms of tropical origin that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

Tropical Storm: Counter clockwise circulation of clouds and winds 39 mph to 73 mph. The storm is assigned a name.

East Lake Woodlands Community Association, Inc.

Emergency Operations Plan

Attachments



Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Preparedness



In order to know when to evacuate for hurricane surge flooding, you must **KNOW YOUR ZONE!** Keep in mind, you should evacuate to avoid deadly surge flooding.

There are many ways to learn your zone.

- **The NEW "Ready Pinellas" App:**
"Ready Pinellas" provides checklists, preparedness assistance and information. Download the new mobile app at [Google Play](#) and [Apple Store](#). [Ready Guide](#)
- **Check out Pinellas County's Evacuation Level / Zone Lookup. Storm surge levels have changed. Your evacuation zone may be impacted. Check your zone.** Enter your address and you will be provided not only information on your evacuation level, but also the closest shelter, the closest special needs shelter and the closest hotel accommodation.
- Call the Pinellas County Interactive Hurricane Evacuation Inquiry Line at (727) 453-3150 and key in your home phone number without the area code to hear your home's evacuation zone.
- Call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800 for help looking up your home's evacuation level. Regular business hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Your evacuation zone is printed on your [Pinellas County Utility bills](#) and the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notices sent by the Property Appraiser.
- To learn more, go to the [Evacuation Level FAQ page](#)
- View Maps: [County Evacuation Map](#) [GIS Evacuation Level Lookup](#)

Storm Surge Flooding Kills

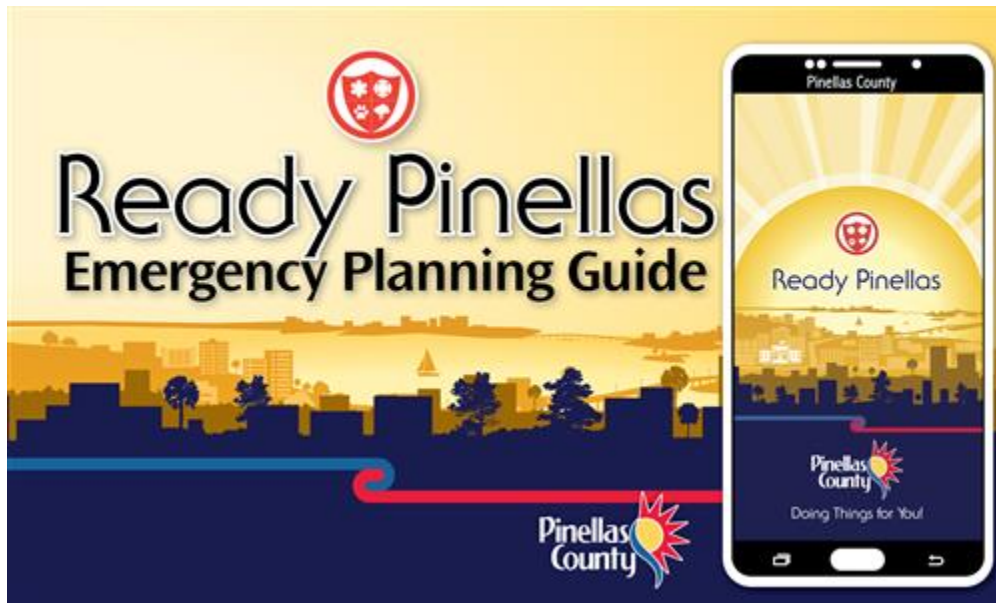
The greatest killer of people during hurricanes is storm surge – the dome of water pushed ashore by powerful hurricane winds. Storm surge isn't a gradual rising of water. It rushes in and out sweeping anything not secured back out to sea, people included. During Hurricane Katrina, residents of coastal Mississippi were caught off guard by storm surge flood waters. Entire buildings were moved and the loss of life was staggering. Pinellas County is extremely vulnerable to surge flooding because of its coastal and low-lying geography.

In fact, a Category 3 storm could flood 42 percent of the county's households.

Staying safe from surge flooding is easy. Here's how....

- If a hurricane is predicted for Pinellas County and you live in a zone that has been ordered to evacuate, get out.
- Do not stay in an area at risk for surge flooding.

Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness



Pinellas County officials unveiled new emergency preparedness tools and urged residents to check their evacuation zone during June 1 Media Day: Kick Off to the 2017 Hurricane Season.

With the first day of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the county highlighted the launch of the new “Ready Pinellas” mobile app designed to help residents with preparedness and decision-making ahead of storm events. It is available for free download on the [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Newly-released storm surge data produced by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) has resulted in changes to the assigned evacuation zones for more than 85,000 properties in Pinellas County. About 20,000 of these properties are now in an evacuation zone for the first time.

To keep residents informed about these changes, the county provided phone, text and email notifications via its Alert Pinellas notification service. Sign up for Alert Pinellas at www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

Residents are reminded to review their current insurance policies and consider adding flood insurance to their coverage, which takes 30 days to go into effect.

“We encourage residents to follow three key preparedness steps: connect to emergency information by signing up for Alert Pinellas, assess your risk by checking your evacuation zone and plan to prepare for during and after the storm by downloading the Ready Pinellas app,” said Sally Bishop, director of Pinellas County Emergency Management.

Emergency Management has made copies of the 2017 All Hazards Preparedness Guide available at county government facilities, public libraries, city locations and online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency. The guide provides residents important tips on a variety of emergency and hurricane-related topics, as well as a basic, fillable template for an emergency plan.

Residents are also encouraged to review their emergency kits and take advantage of a three-day sales tax holiday for hurricane supplies starting June 2. During the hurricane supply sales tax holiday, residents will be able to purchase items such as flashlights, batteries, weather radios and other essential items tax-free.

For more information on hurricane preparedness, please visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency or call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800.

Pinellas County - Important Telephone Numbers & Shelters

Emergency 9-1-1

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office – 727-582-6200, Website: www.pcsoweb.com

Pinellas County Emergency Management Office - (727) 464-3800

Website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency>

Pinellas County Hurricane Evacuation Inquiry Line: (727) 453-3150

Pinellas County Automated Evacuation Alerts by Phone:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas/>

Facility/Department/Address	Phone
EMERGENCIES - DIAL 911	9-1-1
County Government Information Desk	(727) 464-3000 (727) 464-4062
Animal Services	(727) 582-2600
Consumer Protection	(727) 464-6200
Emergency Communications / Regional 9-1-1	(727) 464-3835
<u>Emergency Management</u>	(727) 464-3800 (727) 464-4431
<u>Emergency Medical Services / Fire Administration</u>	(727) 582-5750 (727) 587-2111
Flooding Information	(727) 464-3471
Health Department: Clearwater:	(727) 469-5800
Health Department: St. Petersburg	(727) 824-6900
Medical Examiner / Forensics Lab	(727) 582-6800
Mosquito Control	(727) 464-7503
Public Works -Control Room (Signal Issues Malfunction):	(727) 464-8926
Roadwork Issues / Maintenance:	(727) 464-8900
Traffic Management:	(727) 464-8922
Traffic Engineering & Transportation Safety:	(727) 464-8907

Pinellas County - Important Telephone Numbers & Shelters

Recommended or Mandatory Evacuations?

Recommended Evacuation: A tropical storm is approaching or a hurricane is expected to cross Florida and exit over Pinellas County, and there is a chance of severe weather. Emergency managers may recommend that 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. Mobile homes must always evacuate during a mandatory order regardless of where they are located. All residents should pay attention to which letter zone is being ordered to leave. It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order.

Shelter Options: Listed below is a list of public shelters that MIGHT be opened during an evacuation. **NOT ALL SHELTERS WILL BE OPENED FOR EVERY EVACUATION.** Before going to a public shelter, check to see if it is open. Online: www.pinellascounty.org
Citizens Information Center: (727) 464-4333 V/ TDD (727) 464-3075

North Pinellas County Shelter Options:

- ✓ Tarpon Springs Middle School - 501 N. Florida Avenue, Tarpon Springs
- ✓ Brooker Creek Elementary School - 3130 Forelock Road, Tarpon Springs
- ✓ East Lake High School - 1300 Silver Eagle Drive, Tarpon Springs
- ✓ Carwise Middle School - 3301 Bentley Drive, Palm Harbor
- ✓ Palm Harbor University High School - 1900 Omaha Street, Palm Harbor
- ✓ Palm Harbor Middle School - 1800 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor
- ✓ Dunedin Community Center - 1920 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin
- ✓ Dunedin Highland Middle School - 70 Patricia Avenue, Dunedin
- ✓ Dunedin Elementary School - 900 Union Street, Dunedin
- ✓ McMullen-Booth Elementary School - 3025 Union Street, Clearwater
- ✓ Safety Harbor Middle School - 901 First Avenue – North, Safety Harbor
- ✓ Clearwater Fundamental Middle School - 1660 Palmetto Street, Clearwater
- ✓ Skycrest Elementary School - 10 N. Corona Avenue, Clearwater
- ✓ Belleair Elementary School - 1156 Lakeview Road, Clearwater
- ✓ Ross Norton Recreation Center - 1426 S. MLK Jr. Avenue, Clearwater
- ✓ Oak Grove Middle School - 1370 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater

North Pinellas County Shelter Options – Special Needs & Pet Friendly*

- ✓ Dunedin Highland Middle School - 70 Patricia Avenue, Dunedin
- ✓ Oak Grove Middle School - 1370 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater

Must Register Pets in Advance!

Tampa Bay Times:
2017 Hurricane Season: Time to Freshen up Your Hurricane Kit

Floridians had 11 hurricane-free years to stock up on canned goods, batteries and first aid kits before Hurricane Hermine struck the west coast in September.

Then a more powerful Hurricane Matthew hammered the east coast of Florida in October. Those two storms wreaked havoc on homemade "hurricane kits" throughout the state in 2016. That's why experts said it's even more important that Floridians restock their emergency supplies well before blue skies turn to a menacing gray.

"You never know when a hurricane or any disaster will force you to leave your home at a moment's notice," said Brady Smith, principal planner with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. "But if that time comes, you don't want to be scrambling to pack up everything you need."

Smith said each household should keep a durable cooler or other portable container stocked with enough supplies to sustain each family member for up to seven days after a storm strikes.

- Start with seven gallons of water per person — enough for one gallon of water a day for each person for up a week should water supplies become contaminated. Also be sure to take out plenty of cash well before any potential storms knock out power.
- Stock up on powdered sports drinks high in electrolytes and high-calorie, non-refrigerated food items like protein bars, peanut butter and canned goods that will help maintain energy in humid conditions. Keep in mind, though, that emergency food supplies should be replaced every six months, as should any pet food, baby food, infant formula and other dietary items.
"And make sure you have a manual can opener, not one that requires electricity," Smith said. "It sounds silly, but especially if you've had a hurricane kit for years, you need to double- and triple-check that you have enough batteries, you've got the can opener, your food isn't all expired."
- At the start of hurricane season, make sure you have an ample supply of any prescriptions and keep an updated list of all medicines and dosages for each family member.
In Florida, doctors can provide a 90-day supply for most medications, and the planning council recommends storing enough to last two weeks.
- Also stock up on common household items and first aid supplies, such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, garbage bags, insect repellent and sunscreen.
- Camping and survivalist items such as waterproof matches, hand-crank radios, external cellphone chargers, solar chargers and waterproof gadget cases could become necessities when riding out a storm at home.

Tampa Bay Times:
2017 Hurricane Season: Time to Freshen up Your Hurricane Kit - Continued

- **Fill up extra gallons of gasoline** to take the guesswork out of getting out of town when gas stations are closed. Make sure any containers used to store gasoline are approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation and hold no more than 5 gallons, are secured at least 50 feet away from any ignition sources with a tightly fitting cap and are kept at room temperature out of direct sunlight. Tampa Fire Rescue warns against leaving small amounts of gasoline in a gas can, or filling a can to more than 95 percent capacity to allow expansion.

If you have to drive with a gas can, securely fasten it in an upright position on the top of your car or car rack if possible to avoid the possibility of fumes accumulating inside the car. Tampa Fire officials say gas cans should always be placed on the ground a safe distance away from people and vehicles when being filled, never inside the bed of a truck or car trunk.

And remember that deadly carbon monoxide gas created by generators and other gasoline-powered appliances accumulates quickly. Never run a generator inside, or even in an attached structure such as a garage or barn. Generators should sit at least 15 feet away from your house in a dry, cool location with the exhaust pointing away from any windows, doors or vents.

- If you do evacuate, make sure to prepare to take your pets with you well in advance of a storm. Keep in mind that pet-friendly shelters require documentation showing all vaccinations are up to date, and most require pet owners to provide their own crate and food. Prepare instructions for any dietary or medical needs and register and microchip your pet in case you become separated. Smith also suggests carrying a picture of you with your pet for identification purposes should they wander off.

- Smartphone photos of your home can also come in handy if you need to provide an inventory of damaged valuables for an insurance claim. But if you lose power, keeping printed photos helps in a pinch.

- Keep all essential documents with you as you seek shelter, including Social Security cards, drivers' licenses, birth certificates, passports, immigration documents, and a copy of your insurance policy with your agent's name and contact information. You should also scan and store documents to portable hard drives and cloud services like Google Drive, iCloud and Dropbox.

- Be sure to have a bag packed with clothes, pillows, sleeping bags and any other comfort items that you would need to make your stay in a hurricane shelter more comfortable.

- Above all, every household should have a portable radio to receive emergency communications broadcast from local officials and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) radio network, said Tampa Fire Rescue emergency planner John Antapasis.

Tampa Bay Times:
2017 Hurricane Season: Time to Freshen up Your Hurricane Kit - Continued

- You may also want to keep some old-fashioned entertainment around, something that doesn't require a Wi-Fi signal and an iPad.

"A lot of these items are already laying around the house, but taking a few minutes to get them organized into one kit will take a lot of worry out of hurricane season," Antapasis said. "Then, once you get the basics, stock up on board games like Monopoly to keep everyone entertained if you end up trapped in a house without power."

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Tampa Bay Times:
2017 Hurricane Season:

Pet Owners Must Come up With a Plan for Their Animals Before the Storm Strikes

When it's storming outside, your cats and dogs will (likely) be hiding under the bed instead of preparing themselves for an evacuation. It's not their job to get ready for a hurricane. It's your job to get them ready.

"Your pets are your responsibility just as much as the other members of your family," said Dr. Sonja Olson, a senior clinician for BluePearl Veterinarian Partners, "and part of that responsibility is to be prepared."

- Think of what your pet will need to get by for a few days: Bring extra food and sealable bags to store it in; think two weeks of regular food and four weeks if your pet is on a prescription diet; also get a month's supply of your pet's prescription medication; your pet will also need its own supply of bottled water, just like the rest of the family, but also bowls to drink out of; and a favorite toy or blanket.
- But what if you're separated from your pet during a storm? SPCA Tampa Bay recommends having your pets microchipped in case you lose them. Make sure you have the contact information for your microchip provider to help you locate your missing animal. Also make sure to give your most current contact information to the pet recovery service.
- Have a pet carrier ready, along with leashes, harnesses, a portable litter box or whatever else you may need to make travel as easy as possible.
- The Humane Society of Tampa Bay has checklists for different kinds of animals (even horses) on its website (humanesocietytampa.org), if you're worried you might forget something in the chaos.
- The most important thing, according to veterinarians, is having a plan of where you and your animals can go long before a storm hits. Remember: Most shelters don't take pets, so you need to plan your evacuation ahead of time.

Ideally, this would be a friend or family member's home who lives on higher ground or away from any potential danger. Chances are, that's where you and your animals will be most comfortable. You can also seek out animal friendly hotels and motels.

There are certain shelters in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties that allow animals, but generally only dogs and cats. They typically fill up on a first-come, first-serve basis. Often, these shelters will want your pet's updated records for proof of shots or their county license, so have those on hand.

Tampa Bay Times:
2017 Hurricane Season:

Pet Owners Must Come up With a Plan for Their Animals Before the Storm Strikes Continued

Looking out for pets during a hurricane became a big issue when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005. Many stayed behind to protect their pets, and those who evacuated weren't able to get back to their pets for weeks. Left by themselves, an estimated 250,000 dogs and cats were displaced by the storm, according to the ASPCA, or died because of Katrina.

That's why the experts say it's best to have a plan (and a backup plan) for you and your animals before a storm hits.

Pinellas County

Oak Grove Middle School, 1370 S Belcher Road, Clearwater

John Hopkins Middle School, 701 16th St. S, St. Petersburg

Dunedin Middle School, 70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin

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