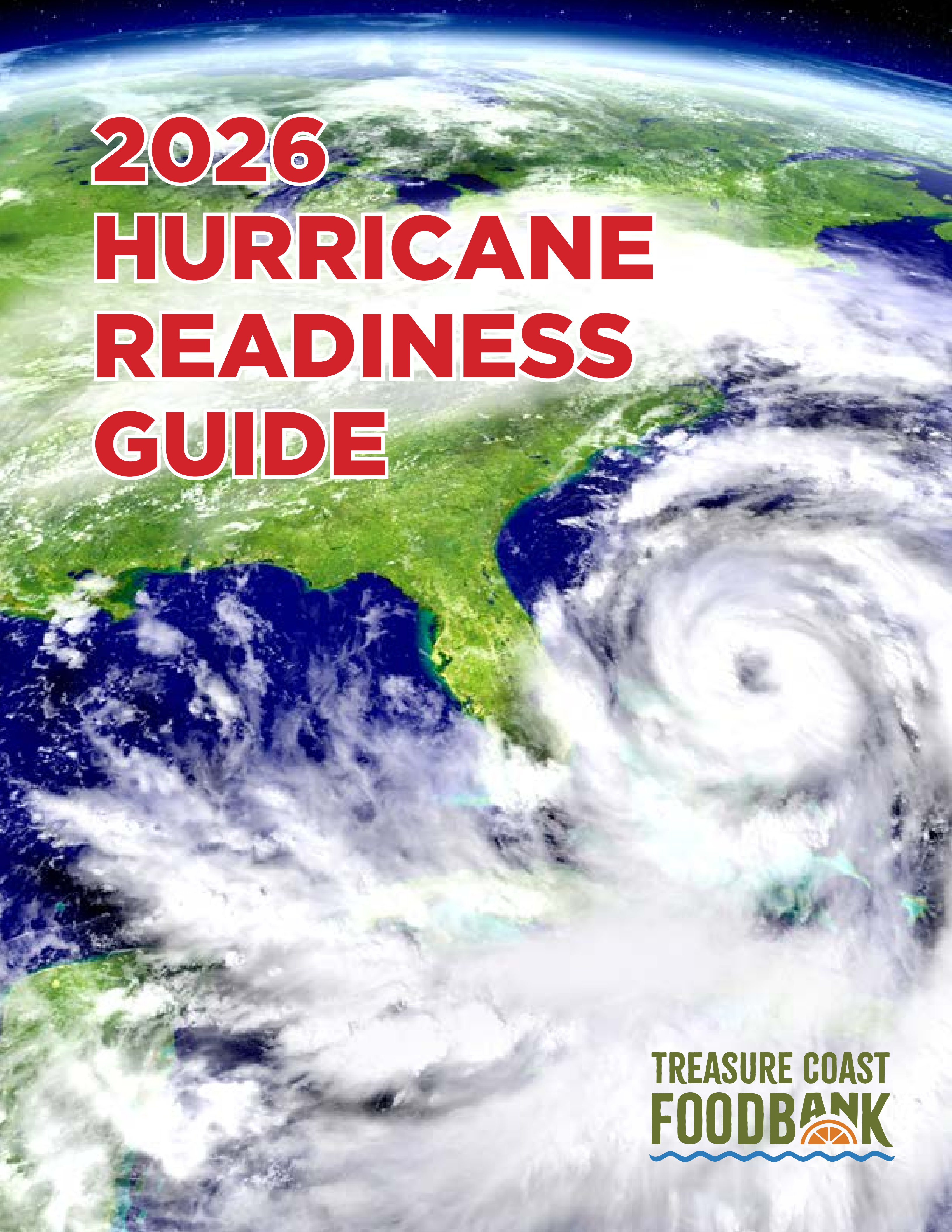
2026 HURRICANE READINESS GUIDE



TREASURE COAST FOODBANK

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In Case of Emergency Call 9-1-1

Call 911 Only to Report an Emergency

St. Lucie Co. Public Safety **772-462-8100**
St. Lucie Co. Administration **772-462-1100**
St. Lucie Co. Sheriff (non-emergency) **772-462-7300**
St. Lucie Co. Fire (non-emergency) **772-621-3400**
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center **772-461-4000**
St. Lucie Medical Center **772-335-4000**
Poison Control **800-222-1222**
Florida Power & Light – Electrical **800-4-OUTAGE**
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority **772-466-1600**

Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.floridadisaster.org

National Weather Service
www.weather.gov

Official Emergency Public Information

SLC TV	CHANNEL 28
WPTV – NBC	CHANNEL 5
WPEC – CBS	CHANNEL 12
WPBF – ABC	CHANNEL 25
WFLX – FOX	CHANNEL 29

RADIO WQCS – 88.9 FM

ONLINE www.stlucieco.gov

KNOW THE LINGO

HURRICANE

A tropical cyclone that has minimum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater.

HURRICANE WATCH

Hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours.

HURRICANE WARNING

Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. You should be wrapping up all preparations to completion.

TROPICAL STORM

A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds of 73 mph or less.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH

Tropical storm conditions are possible within 48 hours. You should be wrapping up all preparations to completion.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING

Tropical storm conditions are expected within 36 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.

STORM SURGE WATCH

An abnormal rise of waters generated by a storm. The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising waters moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within a specified area, generally within 48 hours.

STORM SURGE WARNING

The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within a specified area generally within 36 hours.

KNOW THE HAZARDS

RAIN

Because of the tropical nature of hurricanes, they contain rain, which can be torrential and cause flooding.

FLOODING

A major threat during a hurricane or tropical storm is flooding. Whether you live on the coast or inland, hurricanes and tropical storms can produce widespread, torrential rain that may result in deadly and destructive floods.

TORNADOES

Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce tornadoes. Usually, these tornadoes are relatively weak and short-lived, but they pose a significant threat to life and property.

SAND

Storm surge water carries the sand over the beach and deposits it further inland. Sand on beaches without dunes will be deposited further inland.

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

Category	Sustained Winds	Type of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	**74 - 95 mph** 64 - 82 kt. 119-153 km/h	**Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, siding, and gutters. Large branches of trees to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	**96 - 110 mph** 83-95 kt. 154-177 km/h	**Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3 (major)	**111 - 129 mph** 96 - 112 kt. 178-208 km/h	**Devastating damage will occur:** Well-built frame homes may occur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 (major)	**130 - 156 mph** 113 - 136 kt. 209-251 km/h	**Catastrophic damage will occur:** Well-built framed homes can sustain sever damage with the loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 (major)	**157 or higher mph** 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	**Catastrophic damage will occur:** A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power lines will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

DON'T FOCUS SOLELY ON THE FORECAST TRACK OR CONE

Just because your area is outside of the storm forecast, doesn't mean you are safe from its possible impact. Also, do not focus on the category of the hurricane, which is strictly wind-based. Actual impacts include storm surge, flooding, high winds, and tornadoes, which typically occur well outside the cone. It doesn't typically take a major storm to produce major impacts. No matter how active or inactive a season may wbe, "it only takes one" storm to bring devastation.

DEVELOP A HURRICANE PLAN

Develop a hurricane emergency kit checklist (see the following page for the hurricane emergency kit checklist).

Determine whether you live in an evacuation zone and where you will go when an evacuation order is given. Staying with family and friends outside the evacuation zone is your best option. If you are evacuating, try to evacuate nearby. The further you travel, the more difficult it may be to return home.

Inventory your home possessions and video/photograph items of value. Review all insurance policies, including your vehicle policy.

Look for vulnerabilities such as your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, tree branches near electric lines, etc. and determine what actions to take.

Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat, and/or RV.

Protect your home by trimming trees at the proper time, installing shutters and/or purchasing a generator.

Make arrangements in advance for people with special medical needs.

Develop a plan for your pet(s).

Determine your family's food, water, and medical needs. Expand your purchases over an eight-week period to spread out the costs.

Notify others of your plan and establish an out-of-town point of contact. Let family and friends know your hurricane plan so they can check on you in the aftermath of the storm.

HURRICANE EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

At least one (1) gallon of drinking water per person, per day, for three to five days. Extra water is needed for food preparation, pets, and personal hygiene.	
Enough food for three to five days including cereals, nonperishable packaged or canned food, canned milk, and snack foods. Include a three-to-five-day supply of special items for babies and/or the elderly, formula, wipes, diapers, special foods and toiletries.	
Manual can opener/bottle opener	
Toilet paper, plates, bowls, napkins, paper towels, and plastic utensils.	
Unscented household bleach and medicine dropper.	
Extra bedding such as blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, etc. in case you must evacuate.	
Clothing including rain gear and sturdy shoes.	
First aid kit, medicines, & prescriptions.	
Hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes.	
Books, games, toys, pet toys.	
Pet food, cat litter, and other pet items.	
Tool kit including cord, rope, hammer, wood nails, saw, hatchet, crowbar, chainsaw, tarp, duct tape, and extension cords.	

Plastic trash bags with ties, extra re-sealable plastic storage bags, heavy-duty aluminum foil, and disposable aluminum pans	
Extra charcoal or propane fuel and/or match box in a waterproof container for outdoor cooking.	
Fire Extinguisher.	
Mosquito repellent with DEET/sunscreen.	
Battery operated or hand-cranked radio and cell phone chargers.	
Flashlights with extra batteries.	
Vehicle fuel tanks are filled with gasoline.	
Cash - ATMs and banks may be closed.	
Important documents stored in a hard plastic or waterproof container, including insurance, medical records, bank account info, birth certificates, and social security cards. Document all valuables with videotape or photos.	

HOME PREPARATION

Document Valuables – Take photos/video of your home (interior and exterior) in case your insurance company request them.

Look for Vulnerabilities – Before hurricane season begins, walk around your home and look for vulnerabilities.

Assess Roof – A great time to start securing or retrofitting your house is when you are making other improvements. Be sure to hire a licensed professional to complete the inspection and work. Shingles, tiles, and panels should be fastened down tightly, and loose ones should be replaced. Asphalt shingles should be attached using hot dipped, galvanized nails. Roof trusses should have braces and hurricane straps installed. Check that tarps are secured to the roof with a two-inch by one-inch strips placed at 48 inches on center, especially the edges.

Check Doors – Solid wood or hollow medal doors are most likely to resist wind pressure and flying debris. Doors should have at least three hinges and a deadbolt security lock with a bolt throw of at least 1 inch. Install head and foot bolts on the inactive door of double entry doors. The surface bolt should extend through the door header and through the threshold into the subfloor.

Garage doors should have steel bracing. Check with the manufacturer for braces or retrofitting kits. You can also attach wooden 2-inch by 6-inch stiffeners running the full width of the door, approximately 18 inches apart.

Shutter Windows – If you have shutters, make sure that they are in good working condition. Test accordion or roll-down shutters to see if they open and close easily. Clear the track of obstructions and lubricate. For panel shutters, check for excessive wear on rust on connectors. Using plywood may be more economical but may not offer enough protection. Metal hurricane-resistant shutters are preferred. Plywood should be at least 5/8 " thick and be sure to use the proper anchors and support beams.

Make sure that your gutters are installed by a professional and inspected by a government agency such as the county's building code department. Do not use tape. Tape will not keep the windows from breaking. Do not leave the windows open for equalizing pressure between the inside and outside of your home. It is not necessary and could be a dangerous mistake.

Pool Protection – Remove all loose items from the pool area, such as furniture, pool cleaning equipment and potted plants that may be thrown about by the winds. Lower the water level by six inches to one foot, but no more than two feet to allow for heavy rains.

If your pool is covered, it's best to remove the pool cover when a storm is approaching. High winds could rip the cover off and send debris flying into it and damage it. This will also eliminate water from accumulating on top of the cover and causing a sag or tear.

Tree Pruning – Do not begin any pruning or cleanup activities or place trash on the curb during a tropical storm or hurricane watch or warning. Trim trees and shrubs regularly. Remove weak branches, especially those resting on your roof and thin out the upper canopy. Do not attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines. Only specially trained professionals should work around power lines.

SECURING BOATS

When securing your boat in preparation of a hurricane, follow these simple steps:

- Charge batteries for automatic bilge pumps.
- For a boat store on a trailer, latch the boat and trailer down in a protected area. Let the air out of the tires before tying the trailer down.
- Place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Secure heavy lines to fixed objects from four directions, if possible.
- Keep your vessel registration number and location information with you.
- Check your lease or ownership contract with your marina. Know your responsibilities.
- Seal all openings to make the boat as watertight as possible.
- Remove all loose gear from the deck.
- Reduce dock or piling crash damage by securing old tires along the sides of the boat.
- Secure the boat in all directions. A boat could be pulled under as the tide rises.
- Boats in dry storage, leash the boat to its cradle with heavy lines. Based on the weight of the boat, consider running water to the bilge to help hold it down.

PRIMARY SHELTERS

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER
HAVERT L. FENN CENTER
2000 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL

PET FRIENDLY SHELTER
FP WESTWOOD ACADEMY
1801 Panther Lane
Fort Pierce, FL

1 **LAKEWOOD PARK ELEMENTARY**
7800 Indrio Road
Fort Pierce, FL

2 **FORT PIERCE CENTRAL**
4101 South 25th Street
Fort Pierce, FL

3 **TREASURE COAST HIGH SCHOOL**
1000 SW Darwin Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL

- **Zone A** (storm surge 1-10 ft)
- **Zone B** (storm surge 10-16 ft)
- **Evacuation Routes**

SECONDARY SHELTERS

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER
PORT ST. LUCIE COMMUNITY CENTER
2195 SE Airoso Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL

4 **OAK HAMMOCKS K-8**
1251 SW California Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL

5 **WESTGATE K-8**
1050 Cashmere Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL

6 **CHESTER A. MOORE ELEMENTARY**
827 North 29th Street
Fort Pierce, FL

7 **SAMUEL GAINES ACADEMY**
2250 South Jenkins Road
Fort Pierce, FL

8 **PARKWAY ELEMENTARY**
7000 NW Selvitz Road
Fort Pierce, FL

9 **FLORESTA ELEMENTARY**
1501 SE Floresta Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL

10 **BAYSHORE ELEMENTARY**
1661 SW Bayshore Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL

11 **MORNINGSIDE ELEMENTARY**
2300 SE Gowin Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL

EVACUATIONS

Evacuation orders are issued for your protection. Evacuate if you live in an evacuation zone, low-lying area or mobile home. Evacuate if you do not feel safe at home or do not want to stay at home alone. Evacuate if you have a medical condition that requires assistance in the management of an illness, ailment, or injury.

VOLUNTARY EVACUATION

You are encouraged to leave, and you should at least prepare to evacuate.

MANDATORY EVACUATION

These are issued when danger is imminent, and conditions exist that seriously endanger the lives of those in a defined area. In this case, residents must seek shelter.

SHELTER OPTIONS

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

This is your first and best option. Stay with family or friends outside the evacuation zone.

GENERAL POPULATION SHELTERS

These shelters are open to all individuals and provide basic care. Hurricane shelters should only be considered as a last resort. Registration is not required.

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTER

The Special Medical Needs Shelter is located at the Havert L. Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, for people with medical conditions who do not require hospitalization. The Special Medical Needs Shelter is for people who:

- Depending on health professionals to administer injectable medication.
- Require daily or more frequent dressing changes by a health care professional.
- Need assistance from a health care professional is ostomy management, continuous peritoneal dialysis, or indwelling catheters of any kind.
- Are restricted by immobility that their basic medical needs must be met by others.
- Require daily assessment of unstable medical conditions by professional nursing personnel (diabetes, cardiac, cystic fibrosis).
- Are terminally ill patients in need of professional assistance in administering heavy doses of medication.
- Depending upon electrically energized equipment within their residence like suction machines, home dialysis machines, o2 concentrators, but excluding electric wheelchairs without other qualifying conditions.
- Depending on oxygen therapy.
- Bedridden and requires custodial care upon the advice of a personal physician and needs 24/7 assistance due to cognitive impairment or other care.

PET FRIENDLY SHELTER

Owners must register their pet before admittance and owners must have proof of immunization records. Space is limited and registration is required.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from emergency shelters will be provided, if necessary. Transportation registration can be done by visiting the St. Lucie County Special Medical Needs website:

www.stlucieco.gov/specialneeds

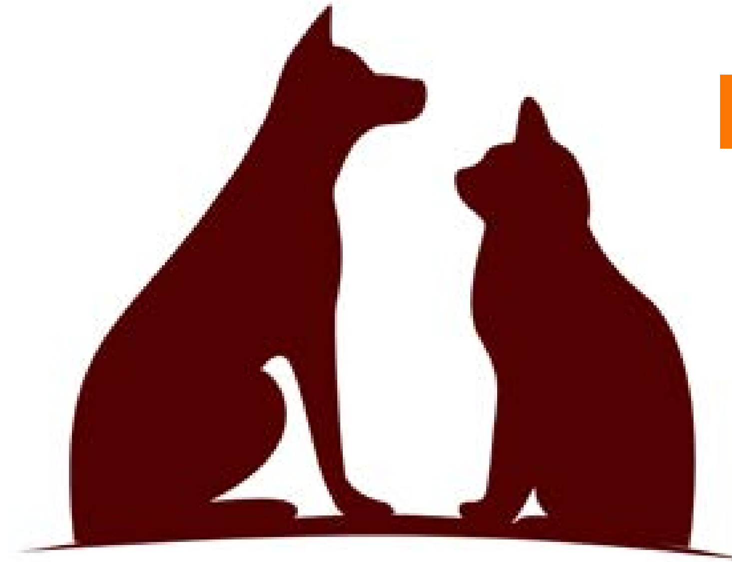
Transportation needs will be assessed through an automated system via email or telephone. If you need transportation after the website portal is shut down before a storm, please contact MV Transportation at **(772) 462-1778** and press 1 for reservations.

HURRICANE SHELTER EVACUATION KIT

- Identification
- Cash (ATMS & Banks may be closed)
- Personal Aids, Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids
- Prescription Medications
- Special Medical Information
- Special Dietary Food
- Foods (canned goods – non-perishable)
- Cellphones, Chargers and Cables
- Games, Books, Toys, Playing Cards
- Drinking Water 1 gallon per person per day
- Infant Care Items (formula, food, diapers)
- Flashlight, Radio, Headphones, Batteries
- Important Documents, photos, family heirlooms, and insurance policies
- First Aid Kit
- Personal Hygiene Items: (soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Bedding: cot, mattress, sleeping bag, blankets, pillows
- Utensils such as a manual can opener, disposable plates, forks, knives, spoons, and napkins.
- Change of clothing and rainwear

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS EVALUATION KIT

Sanitary Supplies
Hearing Devices and Batteries
Health Monitors
Dentures and Retainers
Heavy Duty Gloves for Hand Safety
Compact Bedding
Folding Lawn Chair/Loung Chair
Dressing Devices for Clothing
Caregivers Must Stay with Patient
Paper, Pens, Mobile Devices
Batteries, Chargers, and Cables
Health Information Card
Emergency Contact list
Walker, Wheelchair, Cane
Special Dietary Foods
Books, Magazines, Tablets, etc.



PET FRIENDLY SHELTER EVACUATION KIT

Three (3) Day Supply of Food/Water
Pet Food & Water Bowls
Can Opener and Spoon
Pet Medication and First Aid Needs
Vaccination Records
Pet Carrier & Crate
Leash, Collar and/or Harness
Identification Tags
Photo of You and Your Pet
Blankets, Toys, and Treats
Cat Litter and Litter Box
Cleaning Supplies
Paper Towels & Plastic Bags
Doggie Pee Pads
or Newspaper

HURRICANE MYTHS & FAQ'S

It will never happen here.
It only takes one storm to devastate a community.

My windows are ready. I have them taped.
Taping windows to prevent breakage or limit the amount of shattering is not an effective form of window protection and can create airborne daggers of glass should the window break. Window coverings made of 5/8-inch plywood or metal and fastened correctly can improve the chances of having your home survive the impact of the storm.

I'm going to open the windows on the side opposite the wind, so the air pressure doesn't cause my windows to explode.
The best way to keep your home safe is to keep the wind out. Studies have shown that opening a window can increase the amount of damage done by the wind. When a hurricane threatens, keep your home sealed up tight.

Why should I prepare my house? When the big one comes, it's going to be destroyed.
While a hurricane's winds can destroy even the most solid structures, taking some basic precautions can significantly reduce damage from a storm. Pictures of areas devastated by hurricanes will often show one house standing while a neighbor lies in ruins. The difference? The owners of the house in good shape too some basic precautions to safeguard their property. Shuttering windows, bracing garage and entry doors and bringing in yard items can mean the difference between destruction and minor damage.

The storm surge is only 9 feet at the most and my condo is on an upper floor, so I'm riding the storm out.
Vertical evacuation or scaping the rising storm surge by going to the upper stories of a building is an option, however, wind speeds increase the higher you go, so you may be moving into a more dangerous place. If so, the high winds and water could make getting help to you nearly impossible after the storm passes.

When I get the evacuation order, I'm leaving. There is no high ground here and it will be much safer inland.
Even when there is a long coastline, not all near-coastal areas are subject to evacuations. In fact, in some locations, beach residents need to travel no more than one mile to get to a safe area. Traveling a great distance to escape the effects of the storm may lead you to danger if you become stranded in traffic while evacuating when the storm nears. Also, the further you go to evacuate, the longer it will take you to get there and to your home after the storm.

Are there sufficient shelters for people if we're threatened by a category 4 or 5 storm?
Yes, studies have shown that less than 10% of the people in evacuation zones or mobile/manufactured homes or substandard housing, they do not need to go to shelters and should make plans to either leave the county or stay home with friends.

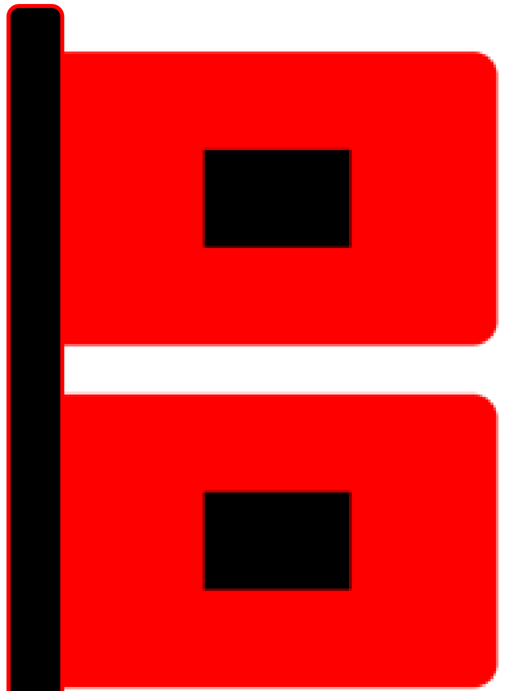
Should I evacuate during a category 3, 4 or 5 storm?
Mandatory evacuations are issued for people living along the coastal area and barrier islands subject to seawater surge; mobile/manufactured homes regardless of location; and persons living in substandard housing. We encourage people to "run from water and hide from wind".

Is Treasure Coast Food Bank prepared?
Yes, Treasure Coast Food Bank's Emergency & Disaster Response Team are well-seasoned and ready to work during a storm. TCFB partners with St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties to coordinate relief efforts in the wake of a tropical storm or hurricane.

DURING A WATCH

Follow these simple steps to keep you and your family safe:

- Turn on the television and listen for continuing updates.
- Set the refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings; open only when necessary and close quickly.
- Freeze plastic jugs of water.
- Scrub your bathtub and fill it with water. Keep a bucket handy for flushing the toilet
- Stow and cover irreplaceable items and move breakables away from windows.
- Bring outdoor furniture, wind chimes, flags, trash cans, grills, and antennas indoors.



DURING A WARNING

Stay indoors in a secure location or your safe room. A good safe room location is an interior room on the first floor of the house. Closets, bathrooms, and small storage rooms with only one door and no windows are well suited.

- Place towels along windowsills and the bottom of doors leading outside to mitigate water intrusion. Have buckets, mops, and sponges handy in the event of flooding.
- Elevate valuables to tabletops or high places if flooding occurs.
- Do not go outside as the eye of the hurricane passes over unless repairs are essential. The storm is not over. The worst can happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Tornadoes can appear anytime during a hurricane. Monitor your local stations and if a tornado warning is issued, take cover in an interior hallway or in the lower level if in a tall building. Stay away from glass doors and windows. You can also take cover under heavy furniture in the center of a house.
- Leave the main breaker on unless the electricity goes out. If the electricity goes out, turn off the air conditioning system, refrigerators, televisions, and computers to avoid the possibility of damage due to power surges. If the power returns and is steady, those items may be turned back on.
- Use flashlights for lighting when the power goes off. Do not use candles or any other type of open flame, because the fire department may be unable to respond to a fire during a hurricane.
- Use the telephone for emergencies only. Jammed phone lines may obstruct emergency calls for police, fire, and emergency medical services.
- Stay away from the fuse box, main breaker, and electrical outlets in the event of flooding.
- Keep animals inside preferably in a carrier or crate.

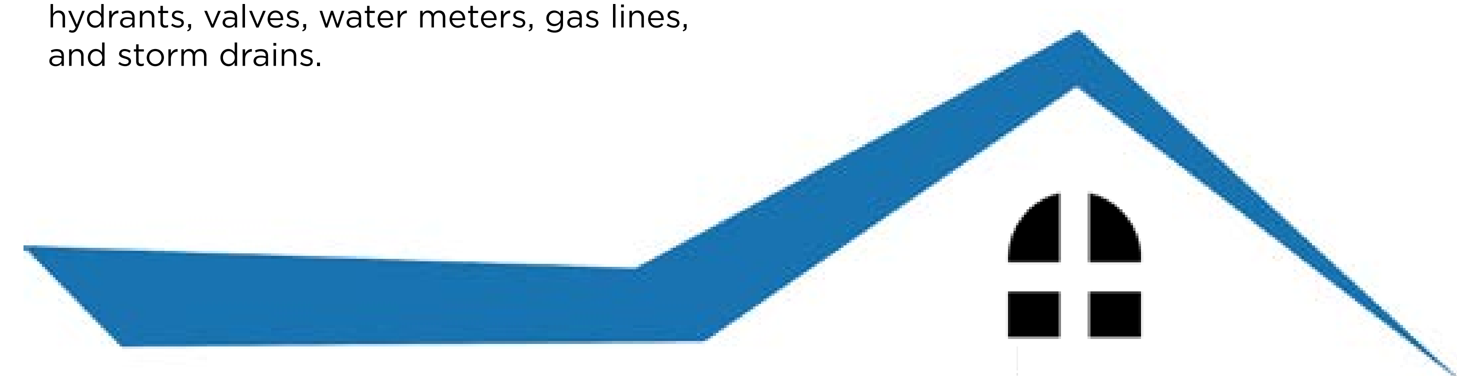
DEBRIS CLEAN-UP

Debris pick-up varies by municipality. While trash and debris may not be picked up immediately, if properly bundled, they will eventually be removed. To help expedite the clean-up process, properly separate the debris into:

Yard Debris – Cut and stack (including limbs, branches, and other vegetation materials); collect small and loose materials in bags and place them on swales. Be careful using a chainsaw.

Building Debris – Fence material, roof tiles, screens, windows, carpet, broken framework, torn porch or pool screening.

Regular Trash – Place the separated debris piles on swales, away from power lines, mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, valves, water meters, gas lines, and storm drains.



BLUE ROOF PROGRAM

The US Army Corps of Engineers implements the Blue Roof Program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Operation Blue Roof provides homeowners with free temporary blue plastic roof coverings for eligible homes damaged by a hurricane. This program allows victims to go back to their homes, so that they can return to their routine as quickly as possible. After a hurricane, registration sites will be established in the county. Registrants must fill out an application and sign a right-of-entry form.

The Corps will employ contractors to install plastic sheeting on the homes of prequalified applicants. The sheeting is for free-standing homes, not apartments, or commercial establishments. The sheeting cannot be installed on tile or flat roofs. No individual tarps will be available for distribution at the registration sites.

USE A LICENSED CONTRACTOR

To check the status of a contractor or to file a complaint, contact the St. Lucie County Contractor Licensing Department at **(772) 462-1672.**

You can also call the State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at **(850) 487-1395**.

In addition, please consider the following:

- Ask how long the contractor has been in business and check the contractor's references by calling people who hired the contractor in the past.
- Check with your local building department and check the contractor's reputation with local suppliers.
- Get all proposals, contracts, and/or agreements in writing and read the fine print.
- Obtain a current copy of the contractor's license, including workers compensation, property damage, and liability.
- Avoid paying cash and make all payments according to a provided payment schedule. Avoid any contractor who requires large advance payments.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

Generators are useful on a temporary basis, but they can be extremely dangerous. Hazards include carbon monoxide poisoning from toxic engine exhaust, electric shock, electrocution, and fire. Follow these safety guidelines to protect you and your family when using a generator.

- Use a licensed electrician to install a permanent generator. Obtain the necessary permits.
- Use the generator according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Place portable generators outside in a well-ventilated area. Never use inside a home, including garages or crawl spaces. Do not connect it directly to your house, as the power generated may flow into power lines causing damage.
- You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get outside for fresh air immediately.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup in your home.
- Do not refuel a generator while it's running.
- Do not store fuel indoors.
- Do not run generators indoors.

ROAD SAFETY TIPS

Driving is extremely hazardous with storm debris on the roads; traffic signals that are not working, signs that are down, flooding and downed power lines. Follow these simple safety tips to protect you and your family when on the road.

• Do not drive unless necessary. Drive slowly and approach all intersections with extreme caution. Treat intersections with missing/non-working traffic signals or missing stop signs as a four-way stop.

• Never drive through flooded roadways. The depth of the water is not always obvious. Also, the road may not be intact under flood waters.

• If there is a danger of flooding and your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants, sweeping them away.

• Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may slow down emergency operations.

• Obey curfews. They are mandatory and will be re-evaluated daily. Anyone out during curfew could be subject to arrest.

• When a traffic signal regains power, it may flash yellow or red; drivers should stop at the flashing red light and proceed cautiously through a yellow flashing light. If the power is out and the signal is dark, the intersection should be treated as a four-way stop.

RE-ENTRY AFTER EVACUATION

Be patient. You won’t be able to return to your home or business until search and rescue operations are complete and safety hazards, such as downed power lines, are cleared. It may take time for emergency crews to reach your neighborhood.

To return to your neighborhood, you must have a valid ID (driver’s license) with your current address or proof of residence (lease/deed).

Business owners must have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/rental, county business tax license, and/or the names of authorized individuals on business letterhead.

KEEPING SAFE IN THE AFTERMATH

Some of the greatest hurricane dangers present themselves after a storm has passed. Keep these important tips in mind.

• Treat all downed powerlines as if they are alive. If you see a power line that is sparking or arcing, call 911.

• Walk cautiously and avoid standing water, which may hide down power lines or hazardous objects. Do not venture out in the dark because you may not see a power line that could still be energized.

• Do not drive unless it is an emergency. If the power is out, traffic lights will not be working and stop signs and street signs may have blown away. The streets will be littered with debris.

• Take precautions to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure and the interruption of other services will make it difficult for the fire department to respond after a hurricane.

• Protect property from further damage. Plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber, and/or other materials can be used to seal or protect property that has been exposed by the storm.

• Notify insurance representatives of any losses.

• Take photographs or a video of the damaged area to substantiate your claim.

• Prepare a detailed inventory of damaged or destroyed property to substantiate your claim.

• Be patient. Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. In a major catastrophe, the insurance industry will have emergency offices and extra adjusters available to expedite claims and speed up recovery.

• Call a licensed electrician if you have significant water damage to your home that might make it unsafe for you to receive electricity.

TREASURE COAST
FOODBANK

401 Loop Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34947
(772) 489-3034

StopHunger.org