

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Information provided by the Long-Term Recovery Coalition of Broward County

The Long-Term Recovery Coalition of Broward County is a humanitarian association of nonprofits, governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, and businesses with disaster capabilities or resources that respond to a declared disaster locally. Financial partners include: The Red Cross, FEMA and Volunteer Florida, in addition to others.

Disaster Plan for Your Family

Planning and preparing can make a big difference in safety and resiliency in the wake of a hurricane.

Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency

- Choose two places to meet up:
 - Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.
 - Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home.
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. Everyone should carry emergency contact information in writing and saved on their cell phones.
- The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter.
 - Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds.
 - Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows.

Disaster Supply Kit

At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below stored in plastic containers with lids.

- Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home).
 - Suggestions - you may be without power so don't rely on cooking/microwaving (Pop top canned foods, peanut butter, nuts, granola bars)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight with radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
 - Hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents inside a plastic zip lock bag (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Map(s) of the area
- Manual can opener
- Pet supplies - see detailed list on this page
- Extra set of car keys and house keys

Have a Pet Plan

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water for your pet.

- Make sure your pet(s) are up to date on vaccinations
- Renew dog license if not up to date - assure current tags are on the collar

- Important documents: Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and add them to your family kit. Kennels will require up to date vaccination records.
- Purchase enough food and supplies (cat litter, etc.) for at least a week
- A picture of you and your pet together: If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.
- Talk with your veterinarian about microchipping. If your pet is microchipped, keeping your emergency contact information up to date and listed with a reliable recovery database is essential to you and your pet being reunited.
- Evacuation sheltering:
 - Broward County Pet Shelters:
 - Pet shelters are located at Lyons Creek Middle School in Coconut Creek, Everglades High School in Miramar, and Falcon Cove Middle School in Weston.
 - Pets accepted include: dogs, cats, domestic birds, rabbits, gerbils, guinea pigs, mice and hamsters.
 - Owners **MUST** stay at the evacuation shelter with their pet and provide care for them - not a drop off service.
 - Pets must have a carrier/crate and a collar and leash
 - Evacuees must show proof of rabies certificate for dogs and cats.
 - Private Boarding - Make reservations for boarding way in advance since they will fill up. Ensure that the kennel is at least Category 4 hurricane rated and that staff will be on-site throughout the storm.

Evacuation - Have a Place to Go - Prepare NOW

- Based on your location and community plans, make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place. Let a friend or family member located outside of the disaster area know what your evacuation plan is.
- Become familiar with your evacuation zone, the evacuation route, and shelter locations.
- Review insurance policies. Do you have flood insurance?

Broward County Evacuation Shelters:

The shelters for Broward County **may not all open** during a state of emergency. **They are opened as needed.** Do not go to a shelter until you have verified the shelter is open and has available space. Monitor the [Broward County website](#), local television stations or call the Emergency Hotline at 311 or 954-831-4000 for actual shelter openings.

Please note which shelters are pet-friendly. Do not bring pets to shelters not listed as pet-friendly. Emergency shelters are a service of the Broward County Commission and the Broward County School Board.

General Population Shelters - what to expect

Provisions at the shelter will be very limited. Cots and bottled water are **not** provided. While a shelter is intended to help keep you safe during a storm or other emergency, it isn't a hotel. Bring these essential items along to make your stay as comfortable as possible:

- Bedding such as pillows, blankets, air mattress
- Books, games
- Water
- Non-perishable snacks
- Extra change of clothing
- Sanitary wipes or other hygiene products
- Medications, if any
- Driver's license, other identification
- Cell phone and mobile device with charger

- Personal items such as extra eyeglasses, hearing aid, etc.

Special Needs Shelters

If you have a medical condition that requires a greater level of care than that provided at a General Population Shelter, but you do not require hospitalization or a medical institution, a Special Needs Shelter may be appropriate for you. These shelters offer basic medical assistance and monitoring. They are staffed by qualified medical personnel and have back-up electricity for limited lighting and essential medical equipment. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany you.

Special Needs Shelters are appropriate if you:

- have minor health/medical condition(s) that require professional observation, assessment, and maintenance
- require assistance with personal care and/or assistance with medications but do not require hospitalization or a medical institution
- need assistance with medication administration and/or vital sign readings and are unable to do so without professional assistance.

Pre-registration for the Special Needs Shelter is open throughout the year, and while not required, is strongly encouraged to ensure that the shelter will be adequately prepared to meet your needs. All residents seeking shelter in a Special Needs facility will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the best shelter option.

Use the **Special Needs Shelter Kit Checklist** (found at www.ltrcbroward.org) to help you when preparing to go to the Special Needs shelter.

The Vulnerable Population Registry

This registry is for residents at risk due to disability, frailty or health issues, regardless of age, who elect to stay at home in the event of a hurricane or other emergency. The Registry is a partnership between Broward County and municipalities to help emergency responders better plan for recoveries from hurricanes and other emergencies. It is not a guarantee of assistance.

After a hurricane or other emergency, residents may experience prolonged power and phone outages. Residents may not be able to leave their homes to get assistance or let others know that they are in need. The Vulnerable Population Registry is a tool that municipalities can use to help evaluate resident needs in their communities and assist in planning a response in an emergency.

You should pre-register in the Vulnerable Population Registry if you are at risk due to a disability, frailty or health issue, regardless of age, AND you elect to stay at home in the event of a hurricane or other emergency. Registration should be in advance, and before a storm threatens. The Registry is used by municipalities for planning purposes only, and is not a guarantee of assistance. Register online, or by calling the Broward County Call Center at 311 or 954-831-4000 (TTY 954-831-3890), or by contacting your municipality's emergency management agency.

All information provided will be held in strict confidence as required by State law.

All information contained in this article can be seen on the Web site for the Long-Term Recovery Coalition of Broward County at www.ltrcbroward.org.