Message from the County Executive’s Office and Board of County Commissioners

Hurricane season can be a stressful time for Miami-Dade County’s residents and visitors. There are supplies to buy, emergency kits to prepare and contact lists to compile. With this in mind, residents can lessen the last-minute hassles by preparing now – before a storm threatens.

This guide includes important information on how to develop your family’s disaster plan, prepare your home and boat for hurricane season, and create a hurricane kit for your pets. You’ll even find a shopping list to take with you when you buy supplies – and supplies are crucial, since every resident should have provisions to last three days.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, so be ready! Let’s take action now to get ready for any storms that threaten our region.

Sincerely,

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor
Miami-Dade County

Bruno A. Barreiro
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

The information in this guide is designed to help ensure that you, your family, pets and property are ready for any storm that might come our way this year.
For more information on hurricane preparedness in your area, call your local commission office:
Developing your hurricane preparedness plan

Below are some tips to help you create a plan:

Household
• Plan to safeguard your home with storm shutters.
• Use a weather radio and change the batteries every six months.
• Bring in or remove free-standing objects outside your home and ask your neighbors to do the same.
• Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
• Locate a safe room in your home. This is usually an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows or exterior walls, such as a closet, bathroom or utility room.
• Bring your emergency supply kit into your safe room or take it with you if you evacuate.

Evacuation
• If you live in an evacuation zone, identify where you will evacuate to (i.e. shelter, friend’s or relative’s home, hotel).
• If a family member requires special care, such as life support equipment, register for the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program by calling 3-1-1.
• Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
• Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact.

Yard & surroundings
• Prune your trees during the species’ dormant season or during early spring. Dispose of all tree cuttings to prevent branches and stumps from becoming projectiles during a storm.
• Never “hatrack” a tree, which means to cut or chop so severely that it’s left with few or no leaves. Also, don’t remove more than 25 percent of the tree canopy or cut a tree’s root system.

Insurance
• Check your insurance coverage – flood damage often isn’t covered by homeowner’s insurance.
• Make sure that your insurance policy covers windstorms. Some homeowner’s and renter’s policies may not.
• Take photos of your home before and after a storm.

Other
• If you own a boat, secure the vessel with double lines at a marina or consider dry-dock storage. NEVER ride out a storm on a boat.
• Put valuables, photos and copies of important papers in waterproof bags and store in a safe place, including photos of the interior and exterior of your home; your driver’s license; list of medications; important names; addresses; phone numbers (doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, family and friends); account numbers and policy numbers (health, flood, auto and home).

Other Important Information

If trees growing on swales or County property need to be trimmed and/or removed, or a hedge is growing too tall, call 3-1-1. If you’re concerned about trees growing into power lines please contact FPL at 800.468.8243.
Register now for help in an emergency

The Miami-Dade Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEM&HS) coordinates a program that provides assistance for individuals who need special help during an emergency. The Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) is specifically designed to identify and support members of the community who may require specialized shelter and transportation.

Residents are encouraged to register for the program well before a storm threatens our region. If residents call at the last minute, all attempts will be made to assist them. The application is available in English, Spanish and Creole at www.miamidade.gov/oem/EEAP.asp. Vital medical information included in the application will help DEM&HS determine eligibility for the program and the types of services needed.

Space at these facilities is limited. It’s also important to note that these shelters offer the same amenities as general population shelters. Evacuees will still need to bring their own bedding, food (particularly special dietary needs), and water. Like general population shelters, these specialized shelters allow service animals, but not pets.

If you have electrically powered, life-sustaining medical equipment, register it in advance with Florida Power & Light by calling 800.226.3545.

If you’d like to learn more about special needs shelters or the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program visit www.miamidade.gov or call the Miami-Dade Answer Center at 3-1-1.

Bottling your own water is safe and easy

This hurricane season, invest in plastic water containers for your family instead of buying bottled water. Plastic water containers — the kind used for camping and other outdoor activities — are available in a variety of sizes, from 4-10 gallons or more. Some are even collapsible to fold easily for storage. They can be purchased at sporting goods stores and are built to last for years of use. Calculate about one gallon per person, per day. Be sure to include enough water for your pets as well. Don’t fill your containers up in advance and store them; the water can get stale. Wait until a hurricane warning has been posted for your area, clean and rinse the container, then fill it with fresh water from your tap.

Register for Miami-Dade Alerts

Register now to receive wireless emergency notifications from Miami-Dade Alerts! Miami-Dade Alerts issues a message to subscribers when a hurricane is approaching or other emergencies threaten Miami-Dade County. All you need in order to subscribe is your cell phone or text pager number, and/or your e-mail address. No personal information is required. Visit www.miamidade.gov/oem to sign up today.

Stay informed with Miami-Dade Alerts!

3-1-1

Information at your fingertips

Before, during and after a storm, the County’s 3-1-1 Answer Center is an important source of information on government services and updates on subjects ranging from school closings to shelter locations. Anyone living in Miami-Dade can dial the three, easy-to-remember digits, 3-1-1, to access a multilingual call specialist. Call specialists also can handle a request for service.

Remember, 3-1-1 is for non-emergencies. Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies.
Hurricane Preparedness Check List

The kit should have a 3 to 14-day supply of the following items:

THE BASICS:
- Drinking water (1 gallon per person, per day)
- Manual can opener
- Nonperishable foods *
- Canned meat, fish, fruit or vegetables
- Bread in moisture proof packaging
- Cookies, candy or dried fruit
- Canned soups & nonperishable milk
- Powdered or single serve drinks
- Cereal or granola bars
- Packaged ketchup, mustard & mayonnaise
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Instant tea or coffee
- Flashlight (1 per person) *
- Portable battery-powered lanterns
- Large trash bags (lots of them)
- Battery-powered radio *
- Extra batteries, including hearing aid batteries
- First aid kit including aspirin, antibiotic cream
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunscreen (45 SPF recommended)
- Waterproof matches/ butane lighter
- Money *
- Unscented bleach or water purification tablets (add 8 drops of bleach per gal.)
- Maps of the area with landmarks on it

COOKING:
- Sterno fuel
- Portable camp stove or grill with utensils
- Stove fuel, charcoal w/ lighter fluid or propane
- Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups
- Napkins and paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitts

PERSONAL SUPPLIES:
- Prescription medicines (1 month supply and copy of prescriptions) *
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper
- Entertainment: books, games, toys and magazines *
- Bedding: pillows, sleeping bags *
- Change of clothing *
- Rain ponchos & work gloves
- Extra eye glasses or contacts

BABIES:
- Disposable diapers *
- Formula, food & medication *
- Bottles & feeding utensils

PET SUPPLIES:
- Dry and/or canned food
- ID tags and collars
- Proof of recent immunizations
- Water (1/2 gallon per day)
- Litter box & supplies
- Carrying container

OTHER NECESSITIES:
- Tool Box
- ABC rated fire extinguisher
- Masking tape or duct tape
- Outdoor extension cords

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS*:
- Insurance documents
- A list of all your important contacts (family, doctors, insurance agents)
- Banking information
- Leases/mortgage
- Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill) *
- Photo inventory of your personal belongings *
- Waterproof container to keep the documents in

* If you’re planning to evacuate to a Red Cross Evacuation Center, please be sure to take these items.

Hurricane and your pet

Prepare a hurricane kit for your pet:
- Secure pet carriers for cats and small dogs, sturdy leashes/harnesses for larger dogs, and appropriate crates or cages for other types of pets such as reptiles, birds, etc.
- Place medications and medical records, including proof of current vaccinations, in a waterproof container.
- Check with your vet for a laminated card with proof of current vaccinations at each annual visit, which can be used at motels and hotels in case evacuation is necessary.
- A two-week supply of any medication your pet may be taking on a regular basis and familiar food and water. Take bowls and a manual can opener, as well.
- Cat litter/pan, extra litter and a litter scooper.
- Current photos of your pet(s) in case it’s lost. Also, be sure each of your animals have name tags, rabies tags, etc., securely fastened to their collars.
- Portable pet beds, a familiar blanket and lots of toys.
- Ask a veterinarian about implanting a microchip in your pet.
Pet-friendly hurricane evacuation centers

Miami-Dade County has two pet-friendly hurricane evacuation centers. Domestic household pet owners residing in a hurricane evacuation zone must preregister their pets if they plan on going to a pet-friendly shelter. Pet owners will need to provide proof of residency within an evacuation zone or mobile home community, and present medical and current vaccination records for each pet, as well as current rabies tags for dogs. Also, owners should bring supplies for themselves and their pets for the duration of their stay.

Pet-friendly hurricane evacuation centers allow dogs, cats, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice/rats, rabbits (small, under 10 pounds, such as California or Dutch breeds), ferrets and birds. Service animals are permitted in all American Red Cross evacuation centers. Pet owners must remain with their pets at all times.

Dial 3-1-1 or visit www.miamidade.gov to obtain an application package. Keep in mind that submitting this application doesn’t guarantee acceptance into the shelter. A tentative acceptance will be sent upon receipt and verification of eligibility.
**Hurricane Safety Guide**

**During the storm**

- Remain calm.
- Go indoors and stay indoors until the storm has passed. Do not go outside during the eye of the storm.
- Watch local news or listen to the radio for weather coverage and updates. Emergency management officials will let you know when it is safe to go outside.
- Turn off circuit breakers before the power goes. Leave one circuit breaker on with a lamp so you will know when the power is back on.
- Use flashlights, not candles or kerosene lamps, during a storm.
- Stay in your safe room even if you hear breaking glass. Don’t risk exposure to hurricane winds.
- Place animals in carriers.
- If your house starts to break apart, cover yourself with a mattress. If your safe room is a bathroom with a bathtub, get in the tub under a mattress.
- Use the phone only for urgent calls. Don’t use the phone if you hear thunder.
- If you’re in a very tall building, avoid the top floors, as wind speeds are stronger the higher you go. Go to a safe room and use extreme caution.

**Generator safety**

Gasoline-powered generators can be useful after a storm knocks out power to your home. However, generators also can be deadly if not used properly. Generators emit carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be lethal. People have died or been seriously injured due to fires caused by generators. To stay safe, please follow these tips:

- Always operate a generator outside a home in a ventilated area, well away from any windows, doors, vents and other openings.
- Purchase a carbon monoxide detector and install it in your home.
- Never operate a generator on the balcony of a multi-unit building such as an apartment or condominium.
- Never refuel a generator while it’s running or still hot.
- Never overload the generator.
- Never connect a portable generator to the main electrical panel in your home.
- Carefully inspect a generator after long storage periods for broken or missing parts. Wipe off all dust.
- Store the generator in a dry, ventilated area with its fuel tank empty.
- Before storing, clean the generator by removing all oil and dirt.
- Don’t store the generator near fuel supplies.
- Don’t store the generator near appliances such as water heaters or pumps, especially if they’re gas powered.
Debris removal after a storm

- Check your local media for information regarding when waste collection services will resume. You can also call 3-1-1 or visit the Miami-Dade Department of Solid Waste Management Web site at www.miamidade.gov/dswm.
- Small amounts of hurricane debris can be taken to a Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Center.
- Place large piles of hurricane debris on the right-of-way of your property for collection, away from fences, mailboxes, drains, power lines and low-hanging wires.
- Be patient. Due to the high volume of debris that can result from a hurricane, debris removal can be a lengthy process.
- Don’t place hurricane debris on a vacant lot.
- Don’t place hurricane debris in front of commercial properties including nurseries and farmland.
- Don’t place non-hurricane related trash on the right-of-way after a hurricane.

You can schedule a bulky waste pick-up before or after a storm by calling 3-1-1. Be sure to call with enough advance notice to ensure they are able to accommodate your pick up before a storm arrives.

Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Dade</th>
<th>Richmond Heights</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21500 N.W. 47 Ave.</td>
<td>14050 Boggs Dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwood</td>
<td>West Perrine</td>
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<tr>
<td>19901 N.W. 7 Ave.</td>
<td>16651 S.W. 107 Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Springs North</td>
<td>Eureka Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7870 N.W. 178 St.</td>
<td>9401 S.W. 184 St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Glades</td>
<td>South Miami Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140 N.W. 160 St.</td>
<td>20800 S.W. 117 Ct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Little River</td>
<td>Moody Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830 N.W. 79 St.</td>
<td>12970 S.W. 268 St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Kendall</td>
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<tr>
<td>8000 S.W. 107 Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapman Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>13600 S.W. 60 Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snapper Creek</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2200 S.W. 117 Ave.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Hurricane terminology

Tropical Storm Watch
An announcement that tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds of 39-73 mph, are possible within 36 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning
A warning that tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds of 39-73 mph, are imminent within 24 hours.

Tropical Depression
A tropical system with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less. Tropical depressions can produce heavy rainfall.

Tropical Storm
A tropical system with sustained winds of 39-73 mph. A tropical storm can produce heavy rainfall and strong winds.

Hurricane Watch
An announcement that hurricane conditions, including sustained winds of more than 74 mph, are possible within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning
A warning that hurricane conditions, including sustained winds of 74 mph or higher, are imminent within 24 hours or less.

Hurricane
A tropical system with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

Hurricane Eye
The calm center of the storm that is often only partly covered by clouds.

Storm Surge
An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm that’s caused by storm’s barometric pressure, forward speed and wind intensity.

Saffir-Simpson Scale
Assigns hurricanes to one of five categories based on a storm’s wind speed and damage potential.

Voluntary Evacuation
A warning to persons within a designated area that a threat to life and property may be imminent. While individuals aren’t required to evacuate, it would be advantageous for them to do so, particularly those who require additional time to leave or take preparatory actions, such as tourists, people who are elderly and those with special needs.

Mandatory Evacuation
A notification to persons within a designated area (evacuation zone) that an imminent threat to life and property exists. Individuals MUST relocate and seek refuge in an inland, non-evacuation area.

2008/2009 hurricane names

The names assigned for the 2008 hurricane season are:

- Arthur
- Bertha
- Cristobal
- Dolly
- Edouard
- Fay
- Gustav

The names assigned for the 2009 hurricane season are:

- Ana
- Bill
- Claudette
- Danny
- Erika
- Fred
- Grace
- Henri
- Ida
- Joaquin
- Kate
- Larry
- Mindy
- Nicholas

Omar
Paloma
Josephine
Kyle
Laura
Marco
Nana
Hanna
Ike
Kyle
Laura
Marco
Nana
Omar
Paloma
Josephine
Kyle
Laura
Marco
Nana

Rene
Sally
Teddy
Vicky
Wilfred

Odette
Peter
Rose
Sam
Teresa
Victor
Wanda
Category One
Winds of 74-95 mph. Storm surge generally 4-5 feet above normal. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, power lines and trees. Example: Hurricane Katrina (Florida), 2005.

Category Two

Category Three

Category Four
Winds 131-155 mph. Storm surge generally 13-18 feet above normal. More extensive roof damage on small homes. Shrubs, trees and all signs are blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to doors and windows. Low-lying escape routes may be cut by rising water 3-5 hours before the arrival of the center of the hurricane. Example: Hurricane Charley, 2004.

Category Five
Winds greater than 155 mph. Storm surge generally more than 18 feet above normal. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. All shrubs, trees and signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Severe and extensive window and door damage. Low-lying escape routes are cut by rising water three to five hours before the arrival of the center of the hurricane. Damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Example: Hurricane Andrew, 1992.

Important phone numbers

Local
Miami-Dade Consumer Services (report price gouging)
305.375.3677
TDD: 305.375.4177
www.miamidade.gov/csd

Humane Society of Greater Miami
305.696.0800
www.humanesocietymiami.org

American Red Cross
305.644.1200
www.miamiredcross.org

Switchboard of Miami
305.358.4357
www.switchboardmiami.org

Miami-Dade County
Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
305.248.3311
www.miamidade.gov/oem

Utilities
FPL
800.4OUTAGE
800.468.8243
TDD: 800.251.5325
www.fpl.com

Comcast
800.266.2278
www.comcast.com

TECO/Peoples Gas
877.832.6747
TDD: 813.228.4613
www.peoplesgas.com

Federal/State
Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension
305.248.3311

Federal Emergency Management Agency
800.621.3362
TDD: 800.462.7585
www.fema.gov

Florida Department of Financial Regulation
800.342.2762
www.fldfs.com

Florida Office of Insurance Regulation
850-413-3140
www.flori.com

Florida Division of Emergency Management
850.413.9969
www.floridadisaster.org

National Flood Insurance Program
800.638.6620
TDD: 800.447.9487
www.fema.gov/business/nfip

Elderly/People with Special Needs
Special Transportation Services (STS)
305.248.3311
www.miamidade.gov/transportation

Elder Helpline/Alliance for Aging
305.670.4357

Weather
National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

South Florida Weather Forecast Office
305.229.4550
www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl

Important phone numbers

For non-emergency information call 3-1-1