



THE OFFICIAL BROWARD COUNTY HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



BE READY. STAY SAFE.



[BROWARD.ORG/HURRICANE](https://www.broward.org/hurricane)

About This Guide

Hurricane season is June 1st to November 30th. Broward's official Hurricane Preparedness Guide is designed to provide valuable information that you can use before, during, and after a storm. The time to prepare is now!

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Published by:
Office of Public Communications in collaboration with
Emergency Management Division
115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 506, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

954-357-6990
TTY 954-831-3940

For more information, visit:
Broward.org/Hurricane

This publication can be made available in alternative formats by request. Broward County is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.



Broward County's Official Emergency Notification System, Powered by Everbridge.

Stay Connected with Us Before, During, and After a Storm!

 [@ReadyBroward](https://twitter.com/ReadyBroward)  [Facebook.com/BrowardCountyGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/BrowardCountyGovernment)
Emergency Hotline: 311 or 954-831-4000 | Subscribe: Visit Broward.org/Hurricane



DEVELOP A HURRICANE PLAN

- Step 1 ► Hold a family meeting and get your children involved
- Step 2 ► 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
- Step 3 ► Inventory your home possessions and video/photograph items of value. Review all your insurance policies, including your vehicle policy
- Step 4 ► Look for vulnerabilities such as your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, tree branches near electric lines, etc., and determine what actions to take
- Step 5 ► Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat, or RV
- Step 6 ► Protect your home by trimming trees at the proper time, installing shutters, and/or purchasing a generator
- Step 7 ► Make arrangements in advance for people with special needs
- Step 8 ► Develop a plan for your pets
- Step 9 ► Determine your family's food, water and medical needs. Use our Eight-Week Shopping Guide to help with spreading out the cost
- Step 10 ► Notify others of your plan and establish an out-of-town contact. Let family or friends know your hurricane plan so they can check on you in the aftermath of the storm

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- ☐ At least one 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 non-perishable packaged or canned food, canned or shelf milk, cereal, snack foods, a three to five day supply of special items for babies and/or the elderly: formula, wipes, diapers, special foods, and toiletries
- ☐ Manual can/bottle opener
- ☐ Toilet paper, plates, bowls, napkins, paper towels, and plastic eating 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/prescription drugs
- ☐ Hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes
- ☐ Flashlight, extra batteries, car charger, or solar charger for your cell phone
- ☐ Battery-operated or hand-crank radio and hardline telephone with jack (not cordless)
- ☐ Books, games, and toys
- ☐ Pet food, cat litter, and other pet care items
- ☐ Tool kit including cord, rope, hammer, wood nails, saw, hatchet or ax, crowbar, chainsaw blades, tarp, duct tape, and heavy-duty work gloves, and outdoor extension cords
- ☐ Plastic trash bags and ties, extra re-sealable plastic storage bags, heavy-duty aluminum foil, and disposable aluminum pans
- ☐ Extra charcoal or propane fuel and matches in a waterproof container for outdoor cooking. Sterno can also be used. *Never cook with any of these items inside your house. The smoke and fumes are deadly*
- ☐ Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- ☐ Mosquito repellent with DEET, and sunscreen
- ☐ Home Damage Assessment photos and instructions. Visit [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.broward.org/Hurricane)
- ☐ Any other special equipment or items you may need

View the County's 8-Week Hurricane Kit Shopping Guide Online at [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.broward.org/Hurricane)

SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME

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.

- Hire a licensed professional to check your roof
- Shingles, tiles, and panels should be fastened down tightly and loose ones 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 2"x1" wood strips placed at 48" on center, especially at the edges

Check Doors

- Solid wood or hollow metal doors are more 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"
- 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 manufacturer for braces or retrofitting kits. You can also attach wooden 2"x6" stiffeners running the full width of the door, approximately 18" apart

Shutter Windows

If you have shutters, make sure they're in good working condition.

- Test accordion or roll-down shutters to see if they open and close easily. Clear track of obstructions and lubricate. For panel shutters, check for excessive wear or 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
- Shutters should have the Miami-Dade County Product Approval or a Florida Building Code Product Approval, installed by a licensed professional and inspected by a government agency such as the city's building code department
- DO NOT USE TAPE! Tape will not keep the window from breaking
- Do not leave any window open for equalizing pressure between the inside and outside of your home. It is not necessary and could be a dangerous mistake



PROTECT POOLS

- Keep water in the pool as it will protect the pool's finish from sand and flying debris. You may lower the water level, but no more than one to two feet. Otherwise, hydrostatic pressure could cause the pool to pop out of the ground
- Add extra chlorine to the water to prevent contamination
- Turn off the power to the pool equipment
- Remove the pool pump motor and store it indoors in a dry place, or wrap the motor in a plastic material such as a garment bag and secure it tightly with tape or rope
- Remove all loose items from the pool area (furniture, pool cleaning equipment, and potted plants)
- After the storm, reinstall pump, return the water level to normal; clean pool thoroughly; balance the pH, super-chlorinate, and run the filter until the water is clean

PREPARE BUSINESSES

- Make multiple backups of critical computer data and store them off premises
- Keep checks, purchase orders, financial records, property and vehicle titles off the premises as well
- Unplug and wrap all electronics in plastic and store them in high and dry places
- Have a communication plan in place and make sure your employees' emergency contact information is current
- Take "before" and "after" pictures to aid in any claims
- Allow employees adequate time to prepare for the approaching storm

The Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development has established a network of disaster Business Recovery Centers. The centers are designed to provide services including business disaster recovery information and access to financial assistance programs. Centers will become operational at the onset of a disaster recovery.

PRUNE TREES

- Trim trees and shrubs regularly. Remove weak branches, especially those resting on your roof, and thin out the upper canopy. Do not trim trees once a storm warning has been issued
- Do not attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines. Only specially trained professionals should work around power lines
- Consult with Broward County or your city for specific provisions regarding tree pruning. Hat racking and tree topping are both illegal
- Place properly cut and bundled yard waste at the curb in accordance with your city's solid waste collection rules. However, do not take garbage or waste to the curb once a storm watch or warning has been announced
- If you are inexperienced in the use of a chainsaw, seek professional assistance
- Make sure newly planted trees and recently reset trees are properly staked and braced
- Be aware that Broward County requires all commercial tree trimmers to be licensed. Visit [Broward.org/Building](https://www.broward.org/Building) and under contractors, choose Selecting a Contractor from the menu or call 954-765-4400, and hit option 2

TREE MAINTENANCE NEAR POWER LINES

- All required pruning in the Broward Municipal Services District must be conducted by a licensed contractor with a Broward County "Class A" Tree Trimmer License. Property owners should not attempt to do any required pruning around power lines
- Trees must be maintained in conformance with Florida Power and Light's Right Tree, Right Place Guidelines. Find them at [Fpl.com/Reliability](https://www.fpl.com/Reliability), then click or tap trees and power lines. Then hit Right Tree, Right Place
- Trees must be either pruned or removed depending on the distance from the power line and the species, in accordance with the guidelines



KNOW THE LINGO

Hurricane Watch – Hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours. Your preparations should be underway.

Hurricane Warning – Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.

Storm Surge – An abnormal rise of water generated by a storm. Nine out of 10 hurricane fatalities are attributable to storm surge often causing extreme flooding in coastal areas.

Storm Surge Watch – The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water 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

Wind – A hurricane is a tropical storm with constant winds greater than 73 miles per hour. Hurricanes can also spawn tornadoes, which add to their potential for destruction.

Rain – Because of the tropical nature of hurricanes, they contain rain which can, at times, be torrential and cause floods and flash floods.



KNOW WHEN AND WHERE TO EVACUATE

WHEN

- Evacuate if you live in an evacuation zone, low-lying area, or mobile home when an evacuation order is issued
- 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 one-on-one care and/or hospitalization

SHELTER OPTIONS

- **Stay with family or friends:** outside the evacuation zone. This is your first, best option. Notify them ahead of time if you plan to stay with them
- **General Population Shelter:** Open to all and provides basic care. Twenty square feet per person. *Registration is not required*
- **Special Needs Shelter:** For people with medical conditions who do not require hospitalization. Basic medical assistance and monitoring is provided. *Pre-registration is strongly recommended and open year-round*
- **Stay in a hospital or medical facility:** Use this option if your medical condition is critical and/or you require hospitalization or one-on-one care
- **Pet-Friendly Shelter:** Evacuees must show proof of rabies certificate and if you are a Broward County resident, your pet's current registration tag

Find more detailed information at Broward.org/Hurricane.



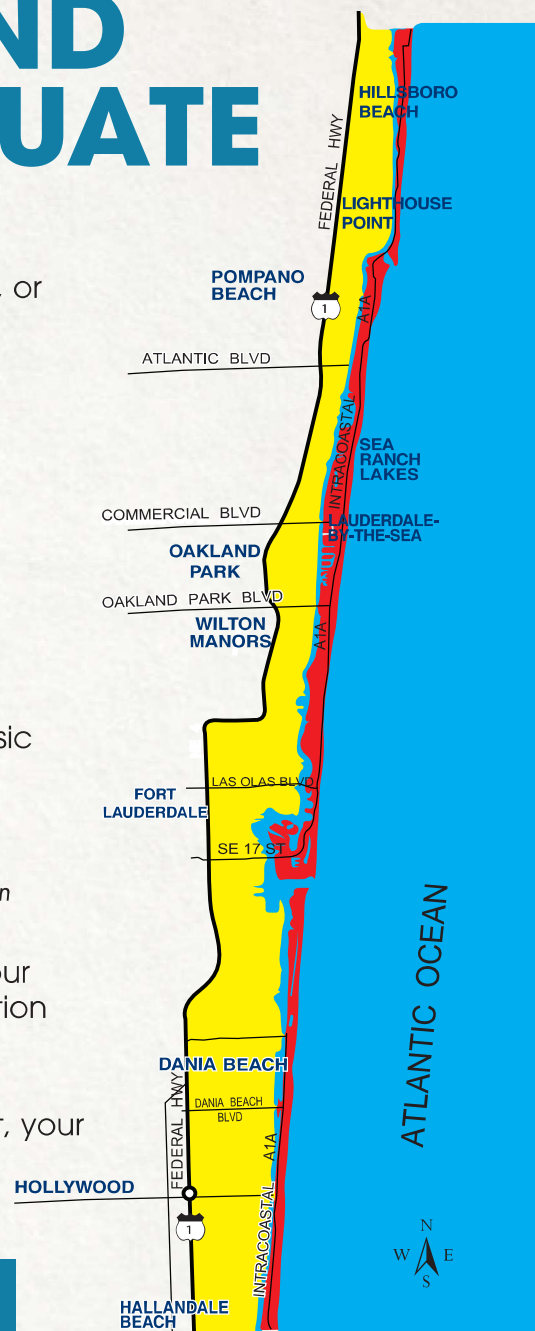
Evacuation Plan A

All residents east of the Intracoastal Waterway, mobile home residents, residents beside tidal bodies of water, and in low-lying areas should evacuate.



Evacuation Plan B

All residents east of U.S. 1 (Federal Highway), mobile home residents, residents beside tidal bodies of water, and in low-lying areas should evacuate.



EMERGENCY EVACUATION MAP



VULNERABLE POPULATION REGISTRY

This Registry is a joint partnership between municipalities and Broward County.

What is it?

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. While registering in the database is not a guarantee that you will be provided services or placed on a priority list for responders, it will help responders be better prepared to meet your needs in a recovery. You only need to register once.

Pre-register:

- 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
- In advance, and before a storm threatens
- Online at [Broward.org/Registry](https://www.broward.org/Registry), by calling the Broward County Call Center at 311 or 954-831-4000 or by contacting your municipality's emergency management agency

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

If you move or no longer want to be included in the Registry, call your city or our Call Center at 311 or 954-831-4000.

A list of our General Population and Pet-Friendly Shelters, which should be considered a refuge of last resort, can be found by visiting the shelter page on the hurricane website.

Monitor our website, [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.broward.org/Hurricane), local television stations, or call our Emergency Hotline at 311 or 954-831-4000 for actual shelter openings. Not all shelters will be open during an emergency.

This Registry is a joint partnership between municipalities and Broward County.



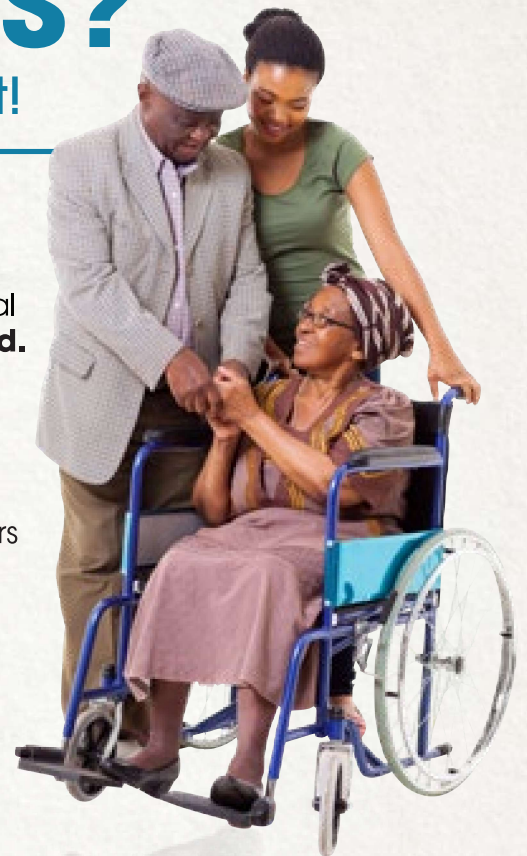
HAVE A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS?

Start Planning **NOW!** Do **NOT** Wait!

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

For people with medical conditions who do not require hospitalization. Special Needs shelters provide basic medical assistance and monitoring. **Registration is open year-round.**

- Register now with the Vulnerable Population Registry at [Broward.org/Registry](https://www.broward.org/Registry), or call 311. You can also call the Special Needs Registry at 954-831-3902
- Make advanced arrangements with your service providers
- Discuss shelter options with your family and health care providers ahead of a storm
- Have at least a 30-day supply of medications
- Label all medical support equipment
- Create a personal information card with your health information including doctors, insurance policies, and medications
- Service animals must have a collar with identification and proof of vaccinations. Have a copy of written instructions for their care as well



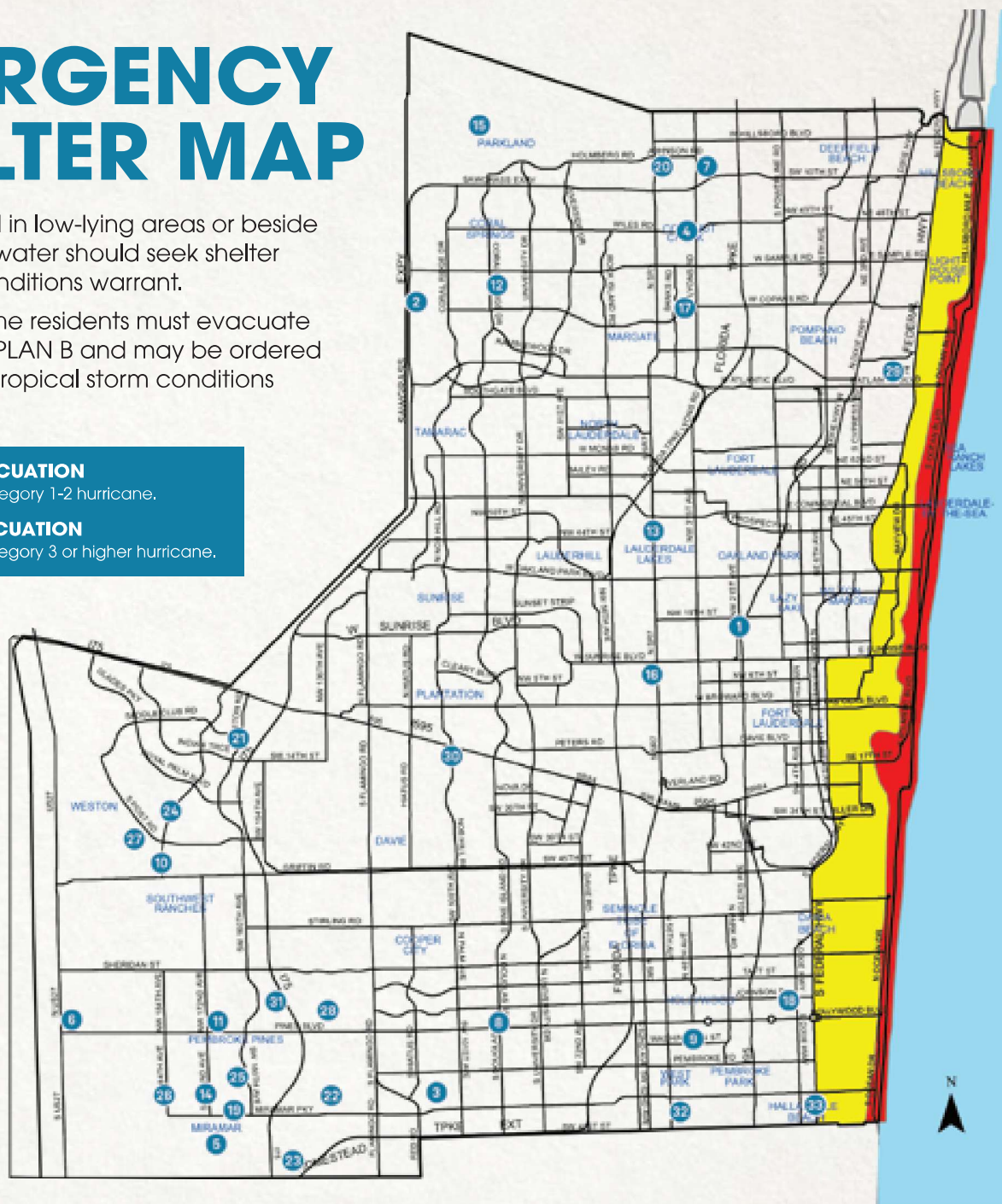
Find more detailed information
at [Broward.org/AtRisk](https://www.broward.org/AtRisk).

EMERGENCY SHELTER MAP

People located in low-lying areas or beside tidal bodies of water should seek shelter elsewhere if conditions warrant.

ALL mobile home residents must evacuate in PLAN A and PLAN B and may be ordered to evacuate if tropical storm conditions warrant.

- **PLAN A EVACUATION**
Typically a Category 1-2 hurricane.
- **PLAN B EVACUATION**
Typically a Category 3 or higher hurricane.



General Population and Pet-Friendly Shelters

All shelters do not automatically open during a state of emergency. **They are opened as needed.** Monitor Broward County's website, Broward.org/Hurricane, local television stations or call our Emergency Hotline at 311 or 954-831-4000 for actual shelter openings. Emergency shelters are a service of the Broward County Commission and the School Board of Broward County.

- 1) **Arthur Ashe/Rock Island**
1701 NW 23rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale 33311
- 2) **Coral Glades High School**
2700 Sportsplex Drive, Coral Springs 33065
- 3) **New Renaissance Middle School**
10701 Miramar Blvd, Miramar 33025
- 4) **Monarch High School**
5050 Wiles Road, Coconut Creek 33073
- 5) **Everglades High School - Pet Friendly**
17100 SW 48th Court, Miramar 33027
- 6) **West Broward High School**
500 NW 209th Avenue, Pembroke Pines 33029
- 7) **Lyons Creek Middle School - Pet Friendly**
4333 Sol Press Blvd, Coconut Creek 33073
- 8) **Pines Middle School**
200 NW Douglas Road, Pembroke Pines 33024
- 9) **Orange Brook Elementary School**
715 S. 46th Avenue, Hollywood 33021
- 10) **Falcon Cove Middle School - Pet Friendly**
4251 Bonaventure Blvd, Weston 33332
- 11) **Panther Run Elementary School**
801 NW 172nd Avenue, Pembroke Pines 33029
- 12) **Parkside Elementary School**
10257 NW 29th Street, Coral Springs 33065
- 13) **Park Lakes Elementary School**
3925 N. State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes 33319
- 14) **Silver Lakes Elementary School**
2300 SW 173rd Avenue, Miramar 33027
- 15) **Park Trails Elementary School**
10700 Trails End, Parkland 33076
- 16) **Plantation Elementary School**
651 NW 42nd Avenue, Plantation 33317
- 17) **Liberty Elementary School**
2450 Banks Road, Margate 33063
- 18) **Beachside Montessori Village Elementary School**
2230 Lincoln Street, Hollywood 33020
- 19) **Dolphin Bay Elementary School**
16450 Miramar Parkway, Miramar 33027
- 20) **Tradewinds Elementary School**
5400 Johnson Road, Coconut Creek 33073
- 21) **Gator Run Elementary School**
1101 Glades Parkway, Weston 33327
- 22) **Coconut Palm Elementary School**
13601 Monarch Lakes Blvd, Miramar 33027
- 23) **Coral Cove Elementary School**
5100 SW 148th Avenue, Miramar 33027
- 24) **Everglades Elementary School**
2900 Bonaventure Blvd, Weston 33331
- 25) **Silver Shores Elementary School**
1701 SW 160 Avenue, Miramar 33027
- 26) **Sunset Lakes Elementary School**
18400 SW 25th Street, Miramar 33029
- 27) **Manatee Bay Elementary School**
19200 Manatee Isles Drive, Weston 33332
- 28) **Lakeside Elementary School**
900 NW 136th Avenue, Pembroke Pines 33026
- 29) **Pompano Beach High School**
600 NE 13th Avenue, Pompano Beach 33060
- 30) **Fox Trail Elementary School**
1250 Nob Hill Road, Davie 33324
- 31) **Silver Palms Elementary School**
1209 NW 155th Avenue, Pembroke Pines 33028
- 32) **Watkins Elementary School**
3520 NW 52nd Avenue, Pembroke Park 33023
- 33) **Hallandale Elementary School (Gulfstream Academy)**
1000 SW 8th Street, Hallandale 33009

WHAT TO BRING TO A GENERAL POPULATION SHELTER

- Identification
- Compact bedding such as pillows, blankets, and air mattress
- Games, reading materials, cell phone, and mobile device with charger, batteries, etc.
- Non-perishable snacks (including special dietary foods)
- Extra change of clothing
- Sanitary wipes or other hygiene products
- Flashlight
- Medications
- Emergency health information card and emergency contacts
- Battery-operated radio
- Water
- Supplies for children, elderly and disabled family members, (games, baby formula, diapers, walker, wheelchair, and hearing device, etc.) if applicable
- Important documents such as birth and/or marriage certificates, social security cards, passports, immunizations records, wills, vehicle titles, insurance policies, stocks, bonds, and important electronic files
- Service animals, if they meet the requirements under Federal Law



Provisions at the shelter are very limited and cots are not provided. Evacuees are encouraged to carry with them all items they will need during their stay at a shelter. Each person is allocated 20 square feet of space.

Find more detailed information at Broward.org/Hurricane.



WHAT TO BRING TO A SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

In addition to the general population shelter list, bring the following items:

- Communications aids (paper, pencils, pens, and/or mobile device)
- Batteries or chargers for communication aids
- Emergency health information card and emergency contacts
- Mobility equipment (walker, wheelchair)
- Dressing devices for clothing
- Sanitary supplies
- Hearing devices and batteries
- Health monitors
- Dentures or retainers
- Heavy-duty gloves to use maneuvering wheelchair
- Special dietary foods, if required (meals are provided at the shelter)
- Compact bedding (medical cot provided)
- Folding lawn/lounge chair
- Service animal supplies and identification



TRANSPORTATION TO SHELTERS

When an evacuation is ordered, Broward County Transit buses cease regularly scheduled service and begin emergency evacuation service from evacuation zones. The service coincides with the opening of shelters and will not begin before the shelters open. Under Evacuation Plan A, you can go to any regular bus stop along A1A. Under Evacuation Plan B, buses will run routes along both A1A and Federal Highway. Refer to map on page 12.

People with disabilities: If you need transportation to your assigned location, you are encouraged to make arrangements in advance as part of the Special Needs Shelter application process. Transportation is coordinated by Broward County Paratransit or the Office of Medical Examiner and Trauma Services, depending on your level of need.

HOMELESS SHELTERS

Broward County Transit buses will offer evacuation transportation from three assigned pick-up points to shelters when a hurricane warning is announced and a mandatory evacuation order is issued. For more information, contact the Homeless Helpline at 954-563-HELP (4357).





DURING THE STORM

RIDING OUT THE STORM

Once a storm arrives, there are some additional measures you can take to keep everyone as safe as possible.

- 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 for “safe rooms.” Interior bathrooms have the added advantage of having a water supply and toilet. The strongest part of a house is usually away from windows and exterior doors. Keep in mind that a space selected as your “safe room” should be free of clutter for quick and easy entry, so occupants will not be injured by falling objects. A bathroom is often a better choice than a closet or storage space
- Place towels along window sills and the bottom of doors leading outside to keep water from coming in. 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 absolutely 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 on 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 off. If the electricity goes off, turn off air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, television sets, and computers to avoid the possibility of damage due to power surges. If the power returns and is steady, these 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 rescue, emergency medical, and Red Cross disaster units
- Open refrigerator and freezer doors as little as possible and turn them to the coldest setting
- Stay away from the fuse box, main breaker, and electrical outlets in the event of flooding. Normally, the electrical current will fail with flooding

For more information on safe rooms, visit the Florida Alliance for Safe Homes website at [Flash.org](https://flash.org).

COMFORTING KIDS DURING A HURRICANE

Here are a few suggestions from the National Mental Health Association:

- Reassure them that they are safe
- Be honest and open about the disaster, but keep information age-appropriate
- Encourage them to express their feelings through talking, drawing or playing
- Try to maintain your daily routines as much as possible
- Limit their exposure to media reports

Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and under Resources select Hurricane and Kids for a sampling of kid-friendly hurricane sites with games and activities.



KEEPING SAFE IN THE STORM'S AFTERMATH

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

- Treat all downed power lines as if they are live. If you see a power line that is sparking or arcing, call 911
- Walk cautiously and avoid standing water which may hide downed 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
- Debris-filled streets are dangerous. Snakes and poisonous insects may be a hazard
- Do not drive unless it is an emergency. If the power is out, traffic lights will not be working, stop signs and street signs may have blown away. Streets will be littered with debris. Washouts may have weakened road and bridge structures
- 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. Make temporary repairs that won't endanger your safety
- Notify insurance representatives of any losses
- Take photographs or a video of damaged areas to substantiate your claim
- Prepare a detailed inventory of damaged or destroyed property for the adjuster. Include a description of the item, date of purchase, cost at time of purchase, and estimated replacement cost
- 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 efforts

BEWARE OF FLOODING HAZARDS

- If there is flooding in your home or business, be sure the building is not in danger of collapsing, and watch for loose and falling debris
- If floodwaters have reached your belongings, they are considered contaminated. This includes food, canned goods, cosmetics, and medicines
- Call a licensed electrician if you have significant water damage to your home that might make it unsafe for you to receive electricity
- If your home has natural gas service, be alert for gas fumes and call your local utility from outside the home if any are detected
- Do not drink water from the faucet unless it has been declared safe



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.

- 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 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 to fresh air immediately
- Install battery-operated or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery back up in your home
- Do not refuel a generator while it is running
- Do not store fuel indoors



Chainsaw Safety Tips

The University of Florida Extension Service recommends:

- Keeping both hands on the chainsaw handles
- Never cutting branches above your head
- Cutting with the lower edge of the saw blade whenever possible. Do not force the saw
- Wear protective clothing: a hard hat, goggles, sturdy shoes, gloves, and trim-fitting clothes



Traffic Safety Tips

When traffic signals are not working, intersections should be treated as four-way stops. Prevent chaos by waiting your turn. Do not report downed traffic signals as Broward County Traffic Engineering's damage assessment teams will be aware and will dispatch repair crews as soon as possible.

IF THE POWER GOES OUT...

KEEP YOUR COOL

Since hurricanes occur during the hottest time of year in South Florida, heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses become a consideration when the power goes out and homes are without air conditioning. Problems can develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Drink cool, non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages. If your doctor limits the amount of fluid you drink or you take water pills, ask how much you should drink when the weather is hot. Also, avoid extremely cold liquids because they can cause cramps
- Rest frequently
- Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath
- If possible, seek an air-conditioned environment such as a mall or public library, if they have power
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
- If possible, remain indoors during the heat of the day
- Avoid strenuous activities
- Signs of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps,

tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, cool and moist skin, fast and weak pulse rate, and fast and shallow breathing. If you experience these symptoms, consider seeking medical attention

USE RUNNING WATER SPARINGLY

During power outages, lift stations that normally pump raw sewage/wastewater may not be operating if they are not powered by a generator. Please restrict your use of running water as the system can eventually back up into your street, showers, toilets, and sink drains inside your home.

DON'T DRINK THE WATER

Immediately following a hurricane, don't use tap water until you know it is safe. This includes not giving it to your pets or using it for washing, cleaning, cooking, brushing your teeth, making ice, and/or making formula. If a boil water order is issued for your area, follow these guidelines from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County:

- Boil water at a rolling boil for one minute to kill infectious organisms
- If you do not have power, you can mix eight drops (1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water and allow to stand for 30

minutes. If the water is cloudy, add 16 drops (1/4 teaspoon) and let stand for 30 minutes. The water will not be toxic, though it may have a chlorine odor and taste

- If a boil water order is issued, remember that water system boundaries do not always correspond to city boundaries

Residents who are not sure of their water service provider should check their water bill or call their individual municipality.

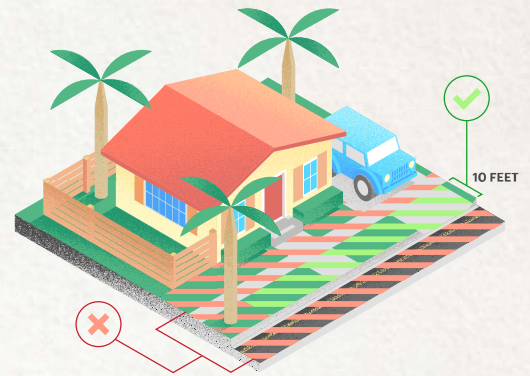
OBSERVE CURFEWS

Listen to local radio and television stations for curfew announcements. Curfews are not unusual for communities that suffer a direct hit from a storm. Roads and highways may be blocked, and hidden dangers may exist after dark such as downed trees and power lines, especially in flooded areas. Law enforcement and emergency services may be strained. All residents and businesses are expected to follow curfew laws. Exemptions to this are essential personnel such as law enforcement, fire-rescue, hospital or other healthcare workers, emergency management, and others involved in recovery efforts.

PICKING UP THE PIECES

In the wake of the hurricane, debris pick-up varies by municipality. While trash and debris may not be picked up immediately, if properly bundled, they will eventually be removed. Help expedite the clean-up process by properly separating debris into:

- **Yard debris** cut and stacked (including limbs, branches, and other vegetative materials); collect small and loose material in bags and place on swales
- **Building debris and building contents** (including fence material, roof tiles, screens, windows, carpet, broken framework, torn porch/pool screening)
- **Regular garbage and trash.** Place the separated debris piles on swales, away from power lines, mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, valves, water meters, gas lines, and storm drains



MAKE SURE YOUR CONTRACTOR IS LICENSED

To check the status of a contractor, or to file a complaint, visit Broward.org/Building and select Search Contractors or call 954-765-4400, option 2. You can also call the State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395. In addition, consider the following:

- Ask how long the contractor has been in business and check 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, or agreements in writing and read all the fine print
- Obtain a current copy of the contractor's insurances including worker's 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

TO HELP YOU COPE

- **Talk About It.** Realizing that others share your experiences and feelings can relieve the stress
- **Take One Thing at a Time.** Pick one task and complete it, then select another
- **Get Back into a Routine.** Resume your family routine as quickly as possible after a storm. This is important, especially for children. It provides a sense of normalcy and security, and often revitalizes a family
- **If You Can, Help Others.** Give blood, or prepare "care packages" for people who have experienced a loss. Volunteer in the rebuilding effort. Helping others can give you a sense of purpose in a situation that feels beyond your control
- **Avoid Drugs and Excessive Drinking.** Drugs and alcohol might seem to help you feel better, but in the long run, they generally create additional problems that compound the stress you are already experiencing
- **Ask For Help If You Need It.** If your stress level does not begin to subside, talk with a trusted relative, friend, doctor, mental health professional, or spiritual advisor. Don't try to go at it alone

HOME DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Broward County's Home Damage Assessment program enables residents to assist in quickly identifying areas of devastation.

Before an event:

- Take pictures of your home and include this information in your emergency preparedness kit
- Download the Home Damage Assessment App by visiting the app store or by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone:



After an event:

- When it is safe to go outside, survey the damage to your home and compare to the five Home Damage Assessment levels (shown on the right)
- Select the level photo that best represents the condition of your home. It doesn't matter if you live in a single-family home, condo, townhouse, apartment, duplex, or mobile home

To report damage by phone, call 311.

Remember, you must have access to the photos to make a report, as Hurricane Hotline call takers will only be able to accept numbers "1-4" as damage levels and "5-6" for flood levels.

Resident reports will provide a critical early indication of where major damage has occurred. These reports do not constitute a request for individual assistance and do not replace the normal grid-by-grid assessments performed by County assessment teams.

DISASTER RECOVERY RESOURCES

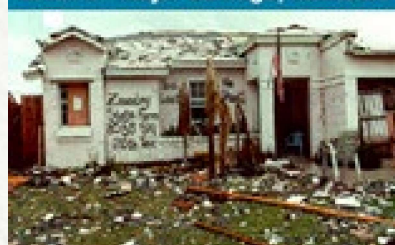
Stay tuned to local media for announcements about disaster relief and recovery services that may be available to you. These may include distributions of water and food, mobile medical services, Operation Blue Roof, and FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers. Details are announced once recovery efforts are underway.

HOME DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PHOTOS

Level 1 - No or minor damage; habitable



Level 2 - Major damage; habitable



Level 3 - Major damage; uninhabitable



Level 4 - Destroyed



Level 5 or 6 - Flood Level, if any





QUICK TIPS

Gas Safety Tips

Evacuate immediately

- If you smell natural gas which has the odor of rotten eggs, or see a broken gas line. Ventilate the area by opening windows or opening a door. Do not light matches, turn on any light switches, or use the telephone
- Call the gas company immediately from a telephone outside the home or business. TECO Peoples Gas crews are available to respond to natural gas emergencies. For 24-hour service, call 1-877- 832-6747. If you are unable to contact your gas company, call 911
- If you evacuate, do not turn off the gas supply at the main meter. Only emergency or utility personnel should turn this valve. If you choose to do so, you can turn off the gas for individual appliances
- If you have difficulty re-lighting pilot lights, or if gas appliances have been exposed to floodwaters, do not attempt to operate the appliance. Contact a plumber, qualified service contractor, or your gas company

Telephone/Cell Phone Tips

- Be patient. Expect delays in getting calls through because of the high demand
- Use your phone only for necessary calls, leaving lines open for emergency calls
- Your phone line may be inoperable if your phone equipment requires power. Plug in a hardline phone (not cordless) directly into the phone jack to verify whether you have service
- Use your cell phone to send text messages which often get through when voice calls will not
- Use your cell phone car charger to charge your cell phone

Tip For Saving Fallen Trees

If you have a downed tree in your yard and it is not blocking a road and has not downed a power line, it is your responsibility to remove the tree. Downed trees on private property are the responsibility of the homeowner. However, remember that trees that have been overturned are not necessarily lost. To protect the tree until you know whether it can be saved, immediately cover the root ball with soil, mulch or burlap, then keep the root ball moist. To determine whether a tree can be saved, and to learn the correct procedures for doing so, look at "Management Tips for Storm-Damaged Trees" at Broward.org/Hurricane. Select A to Z Guide, and go to Trees.

Tip for Mosquito Bites

Protect against mosquito bites by taking these precautions: stay indoors at dawn and dusk; wear clothing that covers most of your skin; use repellent containing DEET, except on children under two months; get rid of standing water, where mosquitoes lay eggs.

Tip for Medical Needs

Prepare ahead for your medical needs such as dialysis, insulin, oxygen, and any prescription drugs. The emergency refill law now allows you to obtain a 30-day supply of medications when an emergency is declared.

Tip for Special Needs People

If you are elderly, frail, disabled, or have special needs and are concerned about your sheltering plan, or if you want the latest information on shelter modifications for individuals with disabilities or special needs, contact Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940).

Planting

Go native! For a complete database of native trees and plants, and guidelines to help you select trees that do well in the South Florida environment, visit Broward.org/NatureScape.

Tip for Disposal Procedures

Many older homes in South Florida were constructed with materials containing asbestos. When clearing debris after a storm, homeowners should use caution when handling building materials. To learn more about the dangers of asbestos and proper disposal procedures, visit Broward.org/Environment and select Asbestos Compliance or call 954-519-0340 (TTY 954-831-3940).

Call Before You Dig!

One phone call can prevent damage to underground water, gas, communications, and electric lines; save lives; and prevent groundwater contamination. Call 1-800-432-4770 two business days before digging, so buried utility lines can be located and marked for your safety.

Power Outage Tip

Analog broadcasting for local television stations started in 2009. Battery-operated televisions purchased prior to 2009 may no longer work. Battery-operated televisions that receive a digital signal are available. For more information call The Federal Trade Commission 1-888-225-5322.

Keep Thermometer in Refrigerator

The temperature should read 41° F or lower. Thawed food can usually be eaten if it is still "refrigerator cold." However, you should discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture. Remember - when in doubt, throw it out.

Travel Tip

Before you go to the airport or the port, be aware that operations may be interrupted due to the storm. Be sure to contact your cruise line or airline for scheduling information. A list of phone numbers can be found by visiting Broward.org/Hurricane, select About Hurricanes, then A-Z Guide, then Airport or Port. Or call 311 or 954-831-4000.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency	911
24-hour Helpline for Crisis, Health, and Human Services Support	211
Broward County Hurricane Hotline	311 or 954-831-4000
Broward Emergency Management For Special Needs Shelter Registration	954-831-3902 / TTY 954-831-3940
Broward County School District Hotline	754-321-0321
FEMA Hotline	1-800-621-3362 / TTY 1-800-462-7585
Broward County Emergency Management	954-831-3900
Broward County Animal Care and Adoption	954-359-1313
Insurance—State of Florida Department of Financial Services Hurricane Helpline	1-800-22-STORM (78676) / TTY 1-850-413-3089
Price Gouging Hotline	1-866-966-7226
Broward County Environmental and Consumer Protection	954-357-5350
Broward County Solid Waste and Recycling Services	954-765-4999
Broward County Paratransit Services	1-866-682-2258
Broward County Transit	954-357-8400 / TTY 954-357-8302
Homeless Information	954-563-HELP / 954-563-4357

LEND A HELPING HAND

- **American Red Cross** The American Red Cross South Florida Chapter needs people with various backgrounds, talents, and skill levels. A variety of opportunities are available. Visit [RedCross.org](https://www.RedCross.org)
- **Center for Independent Living** The Center offers assistance to people with disabilities in Broward County before and after the storm. Call 954-722-6400 (Voice/TTY). Visit [Cilbroward.org](https://www.Cilbroward.org)
- **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)** CERT offers basic skills training in disaster preparedness through fire, police, and other emergency management agencies that will enable you to assist. Call Broward Emergency Management at 954-831-3900
- **Neighbors to the Rescue** This program of HandsOn Broward will teach you everything you need to know to volunteer safely, then send you on a worthwhile mission to help your neighbors in need. Call 954-233-1300 or visit [Handsonbroward.org](https://www.Handsonbroward.org)
- **United Way** United Way of Broward County is a volunteer-driven, community-based, nonprofit organization that unites resources from across the community to target the most pressing needs. For information, visit [Unitedwaybroward.org](https://www.Unitedwaybroward.org), or call 954-462-4850

Stay Connected with Us Before, During, and After a Storm!

 @ReadyBroward  Facebook.com/BrowardCountyGovernment
Emergency Hotline: 311 or 954-831-4000 | Subscribe: Visit [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.Broward.org/Hurricane)

Revised 5/2023 EM202391865