

HURRICANE – BEFORE, DURING & AFTER TIPS

BEFORE A Hurricane

In Orlando to get the latest information before, during & after a hurricane, here's who to contact:

Before the Storm contact the Office of Emergency Management at (321) 235-5438

During the Storm contact the Citizens Information Line at (407) 246-HELP (4357) – You can also call 311.

After the Storm contact the Citizens Information Line at (407) 246- HELP (4357) – You can also call 311.

You can also go to the City of Orlando Emergency Management website at

<http://www.cityoforlando.net/emergency/>

(You can also sign-up on Facebook and/or Twitter to get the latest information.)

Before, During & After a hurricane – it is also best to continue to monitor television and/or radio broadcasts in our area for the latest local information.



If someone in your household has special needs be sure to Register on the OUC Special Needs Registry

Link to OUC website

https://www.ouc.com/en/residential/customer_service/assistance_programs.aspx

Available in Orange and Osceola Counties

Persons with disabilities, medical or mobility problems need to make sure they are registered with the Special Needs Program. Your county's Special Needs Program provides transportation assistance and special medical shelters during disaster situations.

To sign up or to learn more, Orlando and Orange County residents should contact the Orange County Special Needs Program at **407.836.9319** (You may dial this number before a storm. If during a storm – please dial 311.) Osceola County residents should contact the Osceola County Office of Emergency Management at **407.742.9000** Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or go to www.osceola.org.

Registration information should be updated annually or as the registrant's needs change.

Fill the Bathtub with water. This water can be used for drinking or can be used to prime/flush the toilet.

Before the Hurricane hits decide on one friend or out of state relative who is not in the hurricane's path as the Contact Person (Friend or Relative) and have all family members who are in the hurricane area check in with that person afterwards. (Be sure everyone has that person's name & phone number stored in their cell phone.) You won't have to all call each other if just one person can be the focal contact person.

Before deciding whether to stay or evacuate during a Hurricane, remember that once the winds get too strong (Once the sustained winds reach 35 miles per hour the city's emergency response stops until it is safe to be in the field.) – which means that NO EMERGENCY (Police, Fire, Rescue, Ambulance, etc.) vehicles are allowed on the roads, so you will not be able to get help until the winds slow down. You have to be prepared to survive the storm – no matter what.

If you decide to stay in your home during a hurricane, you may want to move a mattress into your safe room or the bathroom, before the storm gets too strong. (Be prepared) This way if you need to sleep in the safe room or bathroom overnight you'll have a mattress to sleep on & if during the storm you suddenly fear your house/roof will collapse or tear off and debris may come flying inside, you can place the mattress over your body in the safe room. If in the bathroom, get in the bathtub with a mattress covering you. Also be sure to have some drinking water, flashlights, cell phone, medical prescriptions & First Aid kit located in that same room.

If you are going to evacuate the area, remember to have a full tank of gasoline and that travel times may be much greater than normal, so please leave in plenty of time to leave the area safely.

Remember to prepare your yard/patio/deck/etc. Bring inside all outdoor furniture and umbrellas, planters, garbage cans, etc. If it is not tied down or rooted, you'll need to bring it inside. It is best to put these things in the garage or shed, but if that is not possible you'll need to bring them into your living space in your home or if you have a pool, you can toss the patio furniture into the water in the pool.

More Hurricane Information may be found at www.ready.gov

The Hurricane Rating System – What it all Means (from the on-line PCB Daily)
<http://pcbdaily.com/hurricane-category-rating-system>

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is a 1-5 rating based on the hurricane's present intensity. This is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale, as storm surge values are highly dependent on the slope of the continental shelf and the shape of the coastline, in the landfall region. Note that all winds are using the U.S. 1-minute average.

Category One Hurricane:

Winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt or 119-153 km/hr). Storm surge generally 4-5 ft above normal. No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage. Hurricane Lili of 2002 made landfall on the Louisiana coast as a Category One hurricane. Hurricane Gaston of 2004 was a Category One hurricane that made landfall along the central South Carolina coast.

Category Two Hurricane:

Winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt or 154-177 km/hr). Storm surge generally 6-8 feet above normal. Some roofing material, door, and window damage of buildings. Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees with some trees blown down. Considerable damage to mobile homes, poorly constructed signs, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings. Hurricane Frances of 2004 made landfall over the southern end of Hutchinson Island, Florida as a Category Two hurricane. Hurricane Isabel of 2003 made landfall near Drum Inlet on the Outer Banks of North Carolina as a Category 2 hurricane.

Category Three Hurricane:

Winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt or 178-209 km/hr). Storm surge generally 9-12 ft above normal. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Damage to shrubbery and trees with foliage blown off trees and large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly constructed signs are destroyed. Low-lying escape routes are cut by rising water 3-5 hours before arrival of the center of the hurricane. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by battering from floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 ft above mean sea level may be flooded inland 8 miles (13 km) or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences with several blocks of the shoreline may be required. Hurricanes Jeanne and Ivan of 2004 were Category Three hurricanes when they made landfall in Florida and in Alabama, respectively.

Category Four Hurricane:

Winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt or 210-249 km/hr). Storm surge generally 13-18 ft above normal. More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failures on small residences. 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 arrival of the center of the hurricane. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain lower than 10 ft above sea level may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas as far inland as 6 miles (10 km). Hurricane Charley of 2004 was a Category Four hurricane made landfall in Charlotte County, Florida with winds of 150 mph. Hurricane Dennis (pdf) of 2005 struck the island of Cuba as a Category Four hurricane.

Category Five Hurricane:

Winds greater than 155 mph (135 kt or 249 km/hr). Storm surge generally greater than 18 ft above normal. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. 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 3-5 hours before arrival of the center of the hurricane. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 ft above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5-10 miles (8-16 km) of the shoreline may be required. Only 3 Category Five Hurricanes have made landfall in the United States since records began: The Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, Hurricane Camille (1969), and Hurricane Andrew in August, 1992. The 1935 Labor Day Hurricane struck the Florida Keys with a minimum pressure of 892 mb—the lowest pressure ever observed in the United States. Hurricane Camille struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast causing a 25-foot storm surge, which inundated Pass Christian. Hurricane Katrina (pdf), a category 5 storm over the Gulf of Mexico, was still responsible for at least 81 billion dollars of property damage when it struck the U.S. Gulf Coast as a category 3. It is by far the costliest hurricane to ever strike the United States. In addition, Hurricane Wilma (pdf) of 2005 was a Category Five hurricane at peak intensity and is the strongest Atlantic tropical cyclone on record with a minimum pressure of 882 mb.



Top 10 Hurricane Tips (from the Chiff.com website)

<http://www.chiff.com/a/hurricane-tips.htm>

Top Ten Hurricane Tips



Batten down the hatches!

A hurricane's a comin'!

What does that mean exactly? What are the necessary steps that should be taken for hurricane preparedness?

Most things are usually on hand but should be stocked up and easily accessible. If it turns out the hurricane has changed its path, at least you will have known you were ready.

If your city or town is in imminent danger of a hurricane, most likely evacuation announcements have been made, and should be taken seriously. Here is a checklist to consider before you leave:

- 1. First, get important papers and special photos in order** and secured in plastic. Identification is difficult and time-consuming to replace: so be sure to include social security cards, birth certificates, high school diplomas or GED certificates, titles or deeds to property, as well as your [hurricane insurance policy](#). Photos of special occasions or loved ones cannot be replaced, so including these is important as well.
- 2. Think ahead and take video or photos of your property** before you leave. This will help later on with any [insurance checklist](#) claims for damage that may need to be filed.
- 3. If staying with relatives is not an option, consider booking a room** in a hotel or motel in another nearby town or state. Make sure to get directions and put them in the car ahead of time. It is easy to forget that piece of paper in the rush out the door. A cheaper route might be to find temporary hurricane shelters. Usually nearby towns not in the direct path of the hurricane will provide these for people in need.
- 4. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that your pet will have a place in a motel or hotel.** Keep this in mind, and try to find alternate housing like [pet-friendly hotels and motels](#) or [dog boarding kennels](#) in areas out of the path of the storm until it is safe to return home.
- 5. Designate a spot, in the hall closet, to keep a bag of clothes** for each person in the household. Make sure to include sleeping gear if you plan on going to a temporary shelter.
- 6. Along with overnight clothes, consider stocking your Hurricane Kit with the following:** extra cash, generator, batteries, flash lights, battery operated radio/television, bottled water, toilet paper, non-perishable foods such as cereal or crackers, canned goods, a can opener, a small cooler, candles, prescription medicines and any over-the-counter remedies you use regularly; and if you have small children - diapers, baby wipes, formula, baby food.

7. Count on the power being out for at least a day or two. Remember that ATM's will be non-operating, so have at least some hard cash in your Hurricane Kit (see no. 6, above) to see you through the storm.

When TV and computer games no longer operate, board games or a deck of cards come in handy! Arts and crafts, crayons and downloadable coloring pages are always great distractions for the kids - so make sure you've stored some of these supplies in a tote bag or in the car trunk.



8. If you decide to tough out the storm, stay downwind in your home. This means if the wind is hitting the living room windows, go to the room opposite the living room.

9. Plywood is a 'hot' commodity for those of who decide to stay. Boarding up windows that will take the brunt of the wind and rain is a wise decision. If board is not available, protect your windows from the wind by criss-crossing them with layers of duct or packing tape. This will be enough protection for light-to-medium winds, but learning [how to build and install plywood hurricane shutters](#) is your safest bet. If you can afford it, have them installed by a professional.

10. Finally, STAY INSIDE. However tempting it may be to videotape or take photos of the storm, be sure to shoot from indoors - where it's safe, and dry!

Hurricanes are serious business. Weather forecasters can only predict so much. Educate yourself and stay on top of [hurricane updates](#) in your area. There is no harm in being overly cautious. In most cases where a hurricane is concerned, it truly is better to be safe than sorry.

also see -> [Stay Calm During Hurricane Season](#)

[Hurricane Cleanup & Recovery Tips](#)

[How Do Hurricanes Get Their Names?](#)

More about hurricane preparedness around the Web:

[How to Build Your Own Storm Shutters](#)

[Hurricane Weather Center](#)

[American Red Cross Disaster Safety: Hurricanes](#)

[Community Hurricane Preparedness](#)



How To Survive a Hurricane (from Hurricane-Facts.com)

<http://www.hurricane-facts.com/How-To-Survive-A-Hurricane.php>

Expect to stay bunkered down from a couple of hours to 12 hours during a large slowing moving hurricane. [Here are some tips on hurricane survival.](#)

When Winds reach 40 MPH, follow these instructions:

NEVER use candles or have any open flame while the wind is blowing.

Stay away from unprotected windows. Don't give into temptation to see what's happening through it.

If power blinks off and on, turn off all of the circuit breakers except the one that powers a lamp in an internal part of your house.

Put any food you're going to want to eat during a storm in coolers.

If you rely on an elevator to get to your safe spot, you need to go there now. You do not want to be stuck in the elevator if the power goes out.



Develop a Family Plan (from the National Hurricane Center's website)

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to [storm surge](#), [flooding](#) and [wind](#).

Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.

Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.

Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.

Make a plan now for what to do with your [pets](#) if you need to evacuate.

Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.

Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.

Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a [Disaster Supply Kit](#).

Use a [NOAA weather radio](#). Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.

Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

Creating a Disaster Supply Kit (from the National Hurricane Center's website)

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days

- non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
- foods for infants or the elderly
- snack foods
- non-electric can opener
- cooking tools / fuel
- paper plates / plastic utensils

Blankets / Pillows, etc.

Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes

First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs

Special Items - for babies and the elderly

Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes

Flashlight / Batteries

Radio - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio

Telephones - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set

Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods

Keys

Toys, Books and Games

Important documents - in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag
— insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.

Tools - keep a set with you during the storm

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Pet care items

- proper identification / immunization records / medications
- ample supply of food and water
- a carrier or cage and a muzzle and leash



Having a Place to Go (from the National Hurricane Center's website)

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens your area. If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location for any of the reasons specified with in this web site, then it is important to consider the following points:

If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.

If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.

Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.

In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large, multi-county hurricane evacuation event.

If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait in traffic.

The large number of people in this state who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.

If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of the hurricane season.

If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave.

Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.

If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels/motels rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter.

Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your [disaster supply kit](#) with you to the shelter. Find [Pet-Friendly](#) hotels and motels.

Make sure that you fill up your car with gas, before you leave.



Staying at a Public Shelter (from the ask.com website)

http://goflorida.about.com/od/floridaweathe1/a/hurricane_safe.htm

Area public shelters are for people who have no other place to go. If you must stay in a shelter, listen to news broadcasts for announcements of shelter openings. Shelter volunteers do their best to make you comfortable, but a shelter is not a very comfortable place. Stay with friends or relatives if at all possible.

- Those with special medical needs (oxygen, etc.) should go to special needs shelters only. Special needs shelters do not provide hands-on medical care, only medical monitoring. Bring a caregiver with you if needed.
- Only service animals are permitted in public shelters.
- Eat before you arrive. Meals may not be available during the first 24 hours. Bring snacks.
- Bring your identification, valuable papers and medications in their original containers.
- Bring baby supplies.
- Bring blankets/sleeping bags, pillows. Those are either not provided or limited in supply.
- Bring cards/games/books to pass the hours.
- Bring flashlights and a battery operated radio or TV with extra batteries for all.
- Stay inside and follow directions that are given for your comfort and safety.
- You will not be allowed outside until the official "all clear."

Suggested Reading

- [All About Hurricanes](#)
- [Hurricane Preparations](#)

Suggested Reading

- [Florida Climate & Weather](#)
- [Lightning Is Serious Risk](#)

Elsewhere on the Web

- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- [Tropical Update](#)

Related Articles

- [Preparing For Hurricane Season - Hurricane Season](#)
- [Hurricane Season Returns!](#)
- [Helping Kids Prepare for Hurricanes, Thunderstorms, and Tornadoes - 5 Steps...](#)
- [Hurricane Warning - Hurricane Earl Threatens The East Coast...Be Prepared! ...](#)
- [Hurricane Gustav](#)



Tips on What to do Before a Hurricane Strikes (from the FEMA website)

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

Before a Hurricane (Home & Yard Preparation)

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Consider building a safe room.

["How To" guides for protecting your property from flooding & high winds.](#)



Securing Your Home (from the National Hurricane Center's website)

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

RETROFITTING YOUR HOME

The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter. According to recent wind technology research, it's important to strengthen the exterior of your house so wind and debris do not tear large openings in it. You can do this by protecting and reinforcing these five critical areas:

[ROOF](#) | [STRAPS](#) | [SHUTTERS](#) | [DOORS](#) | [GARAGE DOORS](#)

A great time to start securing - or retrofitting - your house is when you are making other improvements or adding an addition.

Remember: building codes reflect the lessons experts have learned from past catastrophes. Contact the local building code official to find out what requirements are necessary for your home improvement projects.

FLOOD INSURANCE

The National Flood Insurance Program, is a pre-disaster flood mitigation and insurance protection program designed to reduce the escalating cost of disasters. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners.

Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.

[National Flood Insurance Program](#) call

1-888-CALL-FLOOD ext. 445, TDD# 1-800-427-5593.

Having a Pet Plan (from the National Hurricane Center's website)

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

[BEFORE THE DISASTER](#)
[DURING THE DISASTER](#)
[AFTER THE DISASTER](#)

Contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.

BEFORE THE DISASTER (Pet Information)

- Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Have a current photograph
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.
- Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal - carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.
- Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.

If you plan to shelter your pet - work it into your evacuation route planning.

Don't forget your pet when preparing a family disaster plan.



PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- Proper identification including immunization records
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash



ADDITIONAL LINKS

- The [HUMANE SOCIETY](#) Disaster Center
- [FEMA](#) - Animals and Emergencies
- Locate [PET-FRIENDLY](#) Hotels & Motels

Please remember to not only have enough fresh water for all people in the home, but also for all of the pets in the home, plus water to wash out cuts/injuries, water to wash up, water to flush toilets, etc.

Also if you have outside animals – they must be brought inside if you are staying in your home and/or taken with you if you decide to evacuate.



DURING A Hurricane

What to do During a Hurricane (from the FEMA website)

http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_during.shtm

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks. Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

- If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors—secure and brace external doors.

- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm - winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

If during the storm you suddenly fear your house/roof will collapse or tear off and debris may come flying inside, you can place the mattress over your body in the safe room. If in the bathroom, get in the bathtub with a mattress covering you. Also be sure to have some drinking water, flashlights, cell phone, medical prescriptions & your First Aid kit located in that same room.

Information Regarding a Safe Room/Place (from the Palm Beach Post)

<http://blogs.palmbeachpost.com/eyeonthestorm/during-the-storm/>



Click above for a larger version

A secure room should be an interior room that has enough space for everyone, and a quick way out if necessary. It should be a secure, windowless (but ventilated) place. It can be a standard, 6-by-6-foot room, bathroom or walk-in closet. Special accessibility needs should be considered.

An emergency supply and first aid kit should be in the room. There should be an adequate supply of food and water for everyone who will be in the room.

Surviving the storm: Remain in the safe room— you could be in it for hours — until weather authorities have issued an “all clear” for your area.

More: www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/saferoom/

DURING THE DISASTER (Pet Information)

- Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have: Proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings, a carrier or cage, a leash, an ample supply of food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications, specific care instructions and news papers or trash bags for clean-up.
- Bring pets indoor well in advance of a storm - reassure them and remain calm.
- Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.



AFTER A Hurricane

Regarding Electric Lines to your House

Your Power Company is responsible only for the lines that run throughout your neighborhood. But it is the Homeowner who is responsible for the following:

The Weatherhead (Which is that metal pipe with a curved/hooked end where the wires go through from the street into your home) & insulator.

The Meter Box (but not the actual meter itself.)

If any of these things become damaged in any way – it is the Homeowner’s responsibility to have it/them repaired by a licensed Electrician. The Electrician will need to pull a City permit for the work & have it Inspected by the City, before the Power Company can restore electricity to your home or business.

There may also be additional things the homeowner is responsible for, so it is best to contact your Power Company before a hurricane strikes to know what your responsibility is and what is the responsibility of the Power Company.

Information Regarding Downed Trees

Who has to clean it up & have it removed? The rule of thumb for all downed trees is that it is not where the tree originated, but where it has landed. Meaning if a tree was planted in Neighbor A's yard, but during the storm completely fell over and into Neighbor B's yard – it would be Neighbor B's tree to clean up and remove.

If the tree lands on City property, the City will remove only the portion located on City property.

If the tree lands on private property, then the property owner(s) of where it landed must clean it up and remove it.

(An example would be – If a tree is planted in Neighbor A's yard, but after a storm or hurricane it falls over and the tree lands partially in Neighbor A's yard, partially in Neighbor B's yard and partially on City property (being the parkway, sidewalk, etc.) – then each party (Neighbor A, Neighbor B & the City) would have to clean up and remove the portion that is on their property.)

Do Not attempt to go outside after a Hurricane because there are many life threatening hazards. Some of these can include – Down “Live” Power Lines, Flashing Flooding, Missing Manhole covers, snakes, projecting nails, broken glass and lots of sharp items - so there are many, many reasons to stay inside!

What to Do After a Hurricane (from the Disaster Center website.)

<http://www.disastercenter.com/guide/hurricane.html>


What to Do After a Hurricane

- **Continue listening to local radio or television stations or a NOAA Weather Radio for information and instructions.** Access may be limited to some parts of the community, or roads may be blocked.
- **If you evacuated, return home when local officials tell you it is safe.** Local officials on the scene are your best source of information on accessible areas and passable roads.
- **Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding, even after the hurricane or tropical storm has weakened.** Hurricanes may stall or change direction when they make landfall, or they may bring a lot of rain upriver, causing additional flood hazards for hours or days after the storm.


- **Stay away from flood waters.** Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Continue to follow all flood safety messages. Flood waters may last for days following a hurricane. **If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way.** When you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, if you can safely get out of the car, do so immediately and climb to higher ground. Never try to walk, swim, or drive through such swift water. Most flood fatalities are caused by people attempting to drive through water or people playing in high water. If it is moving swiftly, even water six inches deep can sweep you off your feet, and two feet can carry away most automobiles.
- **If you come upon a barricade, follow detour signs or turn around and go another way.** Barricades are put up by local officials to protect people from unsafe roads. Driving around them can be a serious risk.
- **Stay on firm ground.** Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- **Help injured or trapped persons.** Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- **Help a neighbor who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people and people with disabilities.** Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance. People who care for them or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations.
- **Avoid disaster areas.** Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and put you at further risk from the residual effects of floods, such as contaminated waters, crumbled roads, landslides, mudflows, and other hazards.
- **Avoid loose or dangling power lines; immediately report them to the power company, police, or fire department.** Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury.
- **Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.** Call an electrician for advice before using electricity, which may have received water damage.
- **Stay out of the building if water remains around the building.** Flood waters often undermine foundations, causing buildings to sink, floors to crack, or walls to collapse.
- **When entering buildings, use extreme caution.** Hurricane- driven flood waters may have damaged buildings where you least expect it. Carefully watch every step you take.
 - **Wear sturdy shoes.** The most common injury following a disaster is cut feet.
 - **Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights when examining buildings.** Battery-powered lighting is the safest and easiest, preventing fire hazard for the user, occupants, and building.
 - **Examine walls, floors, doors, staircases, and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing.**
 - **Inspect foundations for cracks or other damage.** Cracks and damage to a foundation can render a building uninhabitable.
 - **Look for fire hazards.** There may be broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits, or submerged furnaces or electrical appliances. Flammable or explosive materials may come from upstream. Fire is the most frequent hazard following floods.
 - **Check for gas leaks.** If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.

- **Look for electrical system damage.** If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.
- **Check for sewage and water line damage.** If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company, and avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water from undamaged water heaters or by melting ice cubes.
- **Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes, that may have come into buildings with the flood waters. Use a stick to poke through debris.** Flood waters flush many animals and snakes out of their homes.
- **Watch for loose plaster, drywall, and ceilings that could fall.**
- **Take pictures of the damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims.**
- **Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.**
- **Check refrigerated food for spoilage.** If power was lost, some foods may be spoiled.
- **Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.** Hurricane-driven flood waters may have contaminated public water supplies or wells. Local officials should advise you on the safety of the drinking water. Undamaged water heaters or melted ice cubes can provide good sources of fresh drinking water.
- **Pump out flooded basements gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid structural damage.** If the water is pumped out completely in a short period of time, pressure from water on the outside could cause basement walls to collapse.
- **Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible.** Damaged sewage systems are health hazards.

Use the telephone only for emergency calls. Telephone lines are frequently overwhelmed in disaster situations. They need to be clear for emergency calls to get through.



Remember that all Hurricane's have an eye – which means there is a calm in the middle of the hurricane. Do not be fooled and think the hurricane is over, it could just be the eye of the storm. Listen to a radio or television to know when the hurricane has officially passed through. Stay inside to avoid downed power lines, debris & flash flooding.



AFTER THE DISASTER (Pet Information)

- Walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home - often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, downed power lines, reptiles brought in with high water and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.
- If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet if possible.
- After a disaster animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.



This information was compiled by Bill Stevens (Aide to Commissioner Sheehan – District 4) from personal information learned, presentations given and with the bulk of the information being pulled from internet research.

Please note that the City of Orlando nor its representatives is not responsible for the accuracy of this information and cannot be held liable if following any of these tips.