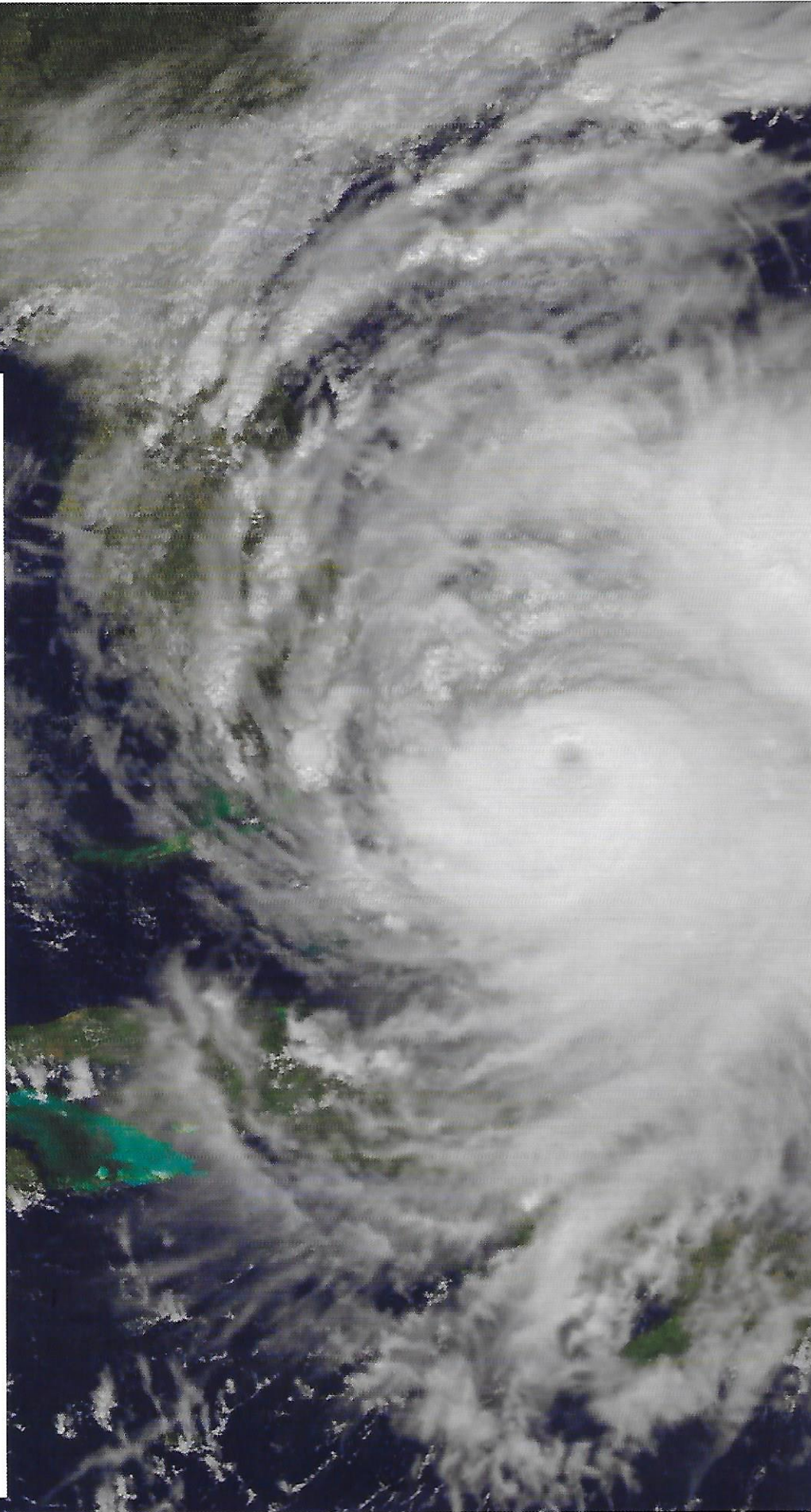
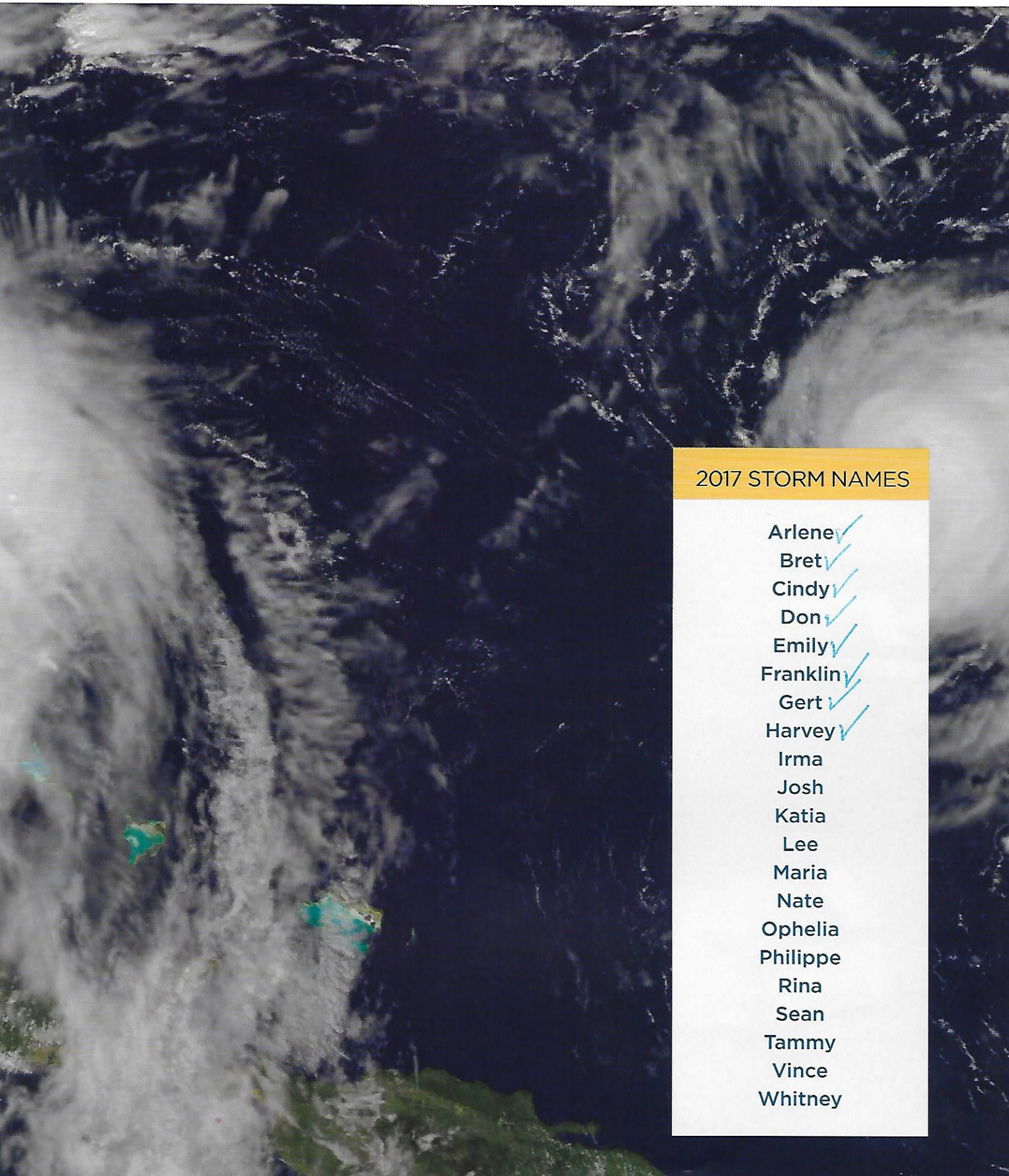


2017 WINK NEWS HURRICANE GUIDE

Southwest Florida is well known for the white sandy beaches, abundant sunshine and warm tropical breezes that beckon thousands of visitors from frozen northern climates every winter. However, as warm winter breezes give way to frighteningly powerful summer storms, full-time residents are quickly reminded that life in paradise does not come without its draw-backs. Hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year, is never to be taken lightly. Hurricane seasons have borne such horrific storms as Katrina, Rita, Charley and Wilma – whose images of disaster, destruction and death will not easily be forgotten. A single hurricane has enough overwhelming power to reduce concrete walls to rubble and to tear 30-foot trees right out of the earth. **DO NOT WAIT** until a hurricane is gathering strength out at sea before you start making preparations. The time to act is now! Gather your supplies, make a plan for evacuation, and take steps to secure your property. This publication was assembled by WINK News and Weather teams to help you protect your family and your property. Take time now to assess the risks you face and take steps to limit those risks. Preventative measures are the best investments you can make! Keep your copy of the WINK Hurricane Guide convenient throughout the hurricane season.





2017 STORM NAMES

- Arlene ✓
- Bret ✓
- Cindy ✓
- Don ✓
- Emily ✓
- Franklin ✓
- Gert ✓
- Harvey ✓
- Irma
- Josh
- Katia
- Lee
- Maria
- Nate
- Ophelia
- Philippe
- Rina
- Sean
- Tammy
- Vince
- Whitney

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is a 1-5 rating based on a hurricane's present intensity.

CATEGORY	1	2	3	4	5
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (MILLIBARS)	980-994	965-979	945-964	920-944	less than 920
WINDS (MPH)	74-95	96-110	111-129	130-156	157+
SUMMARY	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage	Devastating damage will occur	Catastrophic damage will occur	Catastrophic damage will occur
PEOPLE, LIVESTOCK & PETS	Possibility of getting struck by flying/falling debris could injure or kill	Substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying/falling debris	High risk of injury or death to people, livestock & pets due to flying/falling debris	Very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock & pets due to flying/falling debris	Very high risk of injury/death due to flying/falling debris even if indoors
MOBILE HOMES	Older mobiles (pre-1994) could be destroyed, especially if they are not anchored properly	Older mobiles (pre-1994) have a very high chance of being destroyed. Newer are at risk	Nearly all older mobiles (pre-1994) will be destroyed. Most newer mobiles will sustain damage	Nearly all older and newer mobiles will be destroyed	Almost complete destruction of mobile homes
FRAME HOMES	Some poorly constructed homes can experience damage	Some poorly constructed homes have a high chance of damage	Poorly constructed homes can be destroyed by the removal of roof and exterior walls	Poorly constructed homes' walls can collapse as well as loss of roof structure	High percentage of homes will be destroyed
APARTMENTS, SHOPPING CENTERS & BUILDINGS	Some building's roof and siding coverings could be removed	Unreinforced masonry walls can collapse	High percentage of roof and siding damage	High percentage of damage to top floors. Steel frames can collapse	High percentage of buildings will be destroyed
TREES	Large branches of trees will snap and shallow rooted trees can be toppled	Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted	Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted	Most trees will snap or uproot and power poles downed	Nearly all trees will snap or uproot and power poles downed
POWER & WATER	Extensive damage to powerlines and poles. Power outages for a few days	Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last for days to weeks	Electricity and water will be unavailable for days to weeks after the storm	Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks	Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months
EXAMPLE	Hurricane Dolly (2008)	Hurricane Frances (2004)	Hurricane Ivan (2004)	Hurricane Charley (2004)	Hurricane Andrew (1992)

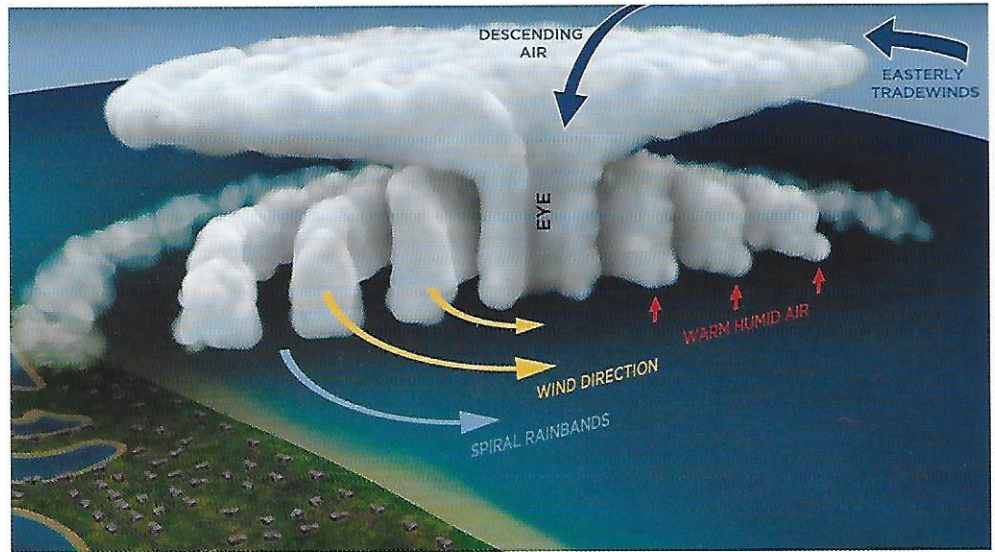
WIND & WATER

Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm surge, which can increase water levels by 15 feet or more. Wind-driven waves also can raise water levels to devastating heights – causing severe flooding in coastal areas. Because much of the densely populated U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Coast coastlines lie less than 10 feet above sea level, the danger from storm surge is tremendous. In general, the more intense the storm, and the closer a community is to the right-front quadrant of the storm, the larger the area that must be evacuated. The problem is always the uncertainty about how intense the storm will be when it finally makes landfall.

Tornadoes

A damaging by-product of hurricanes can be tornadoes. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right front quadrant of a hurricane, but they are not limited to that area. They often spring out of feeder bands that come ashore well ahead of a hurricane. Meteorologists have no definite way to predict whether one hurricane will produce more tornadoes than the next.

Just because a hurricane has moved out of the area, it doesn't mean you are safe from tornadoes. They can develop for several days because of the remnants of the low pressure system associated with it. If a tornado warning is issued, move to a small, interior room away from windows, or to an interior hallway on a lower floor. If that's not possible, you can protect yourself by getting under heavy furniture or use a mattress to shield your body. Stay away from windows.

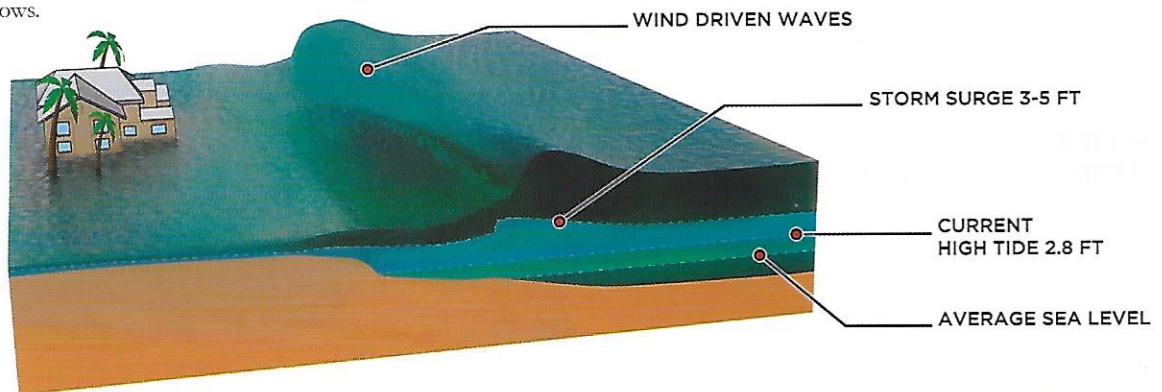


Hazards

Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught outside in them. Powerful, hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water and underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen utility poles cause considerable disruption. High-rise buildings are also vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, particularly at the higher levels since wind speed tends to increase with height. Research suggests you should stay below the tenth floor, but still above any floors at risk for flooding. It is not uncommon for high-rise buildings to suffer a great deal of damage due to windows being blown out. Consequently, the areas around these buildings can be very dangerous. The strongest winds usually occur in the right

side of the eye wall of the hurricane. Wind speed usually decreases significantly within 12 hours after landfall. Nonetheless, winds can stay above hurricane strength well inland. Hurricane Charley (2004), for example, battered DeSoto County (75 miles inland) with gusts to nearly 100 mph.

When it comes to hurricanes, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes can produce storm surges, tornadoes, and often, inland flooding. While storm surge is always a potential threat, more people have died from inland flooding in the last 30 years. Intense rainfall is not directly related to the wind speed of tropical cyclones. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts occur from weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area. Inland flooding can be a major threat to areas hundreds of miles from the coast when intense rain falls.



TERMS TO KNOW

Center The vertical axis of a tropical cyclone, usually defined by the location of minimum wind or minimum pressure.

Eye The relatively calm area in the center of a hurricane. It can range from 5 to more than 50 miles wide.

Eye Wall A doughnut-shaped zone of the highest winds and heavy rain surrounding the eye.

Feeder Bands Thunderstorms that spiral into and around the center of a tropical system. A typical storm may have three or more bands, usually 40 to 80 miles apart.

Hurricane Warning Issued when hurricane conditions—winds of 74 mph or greater—are expected within 24 hours.

Hurricane Watch Issued when hurricane conditions are possible within 36/48 hours.

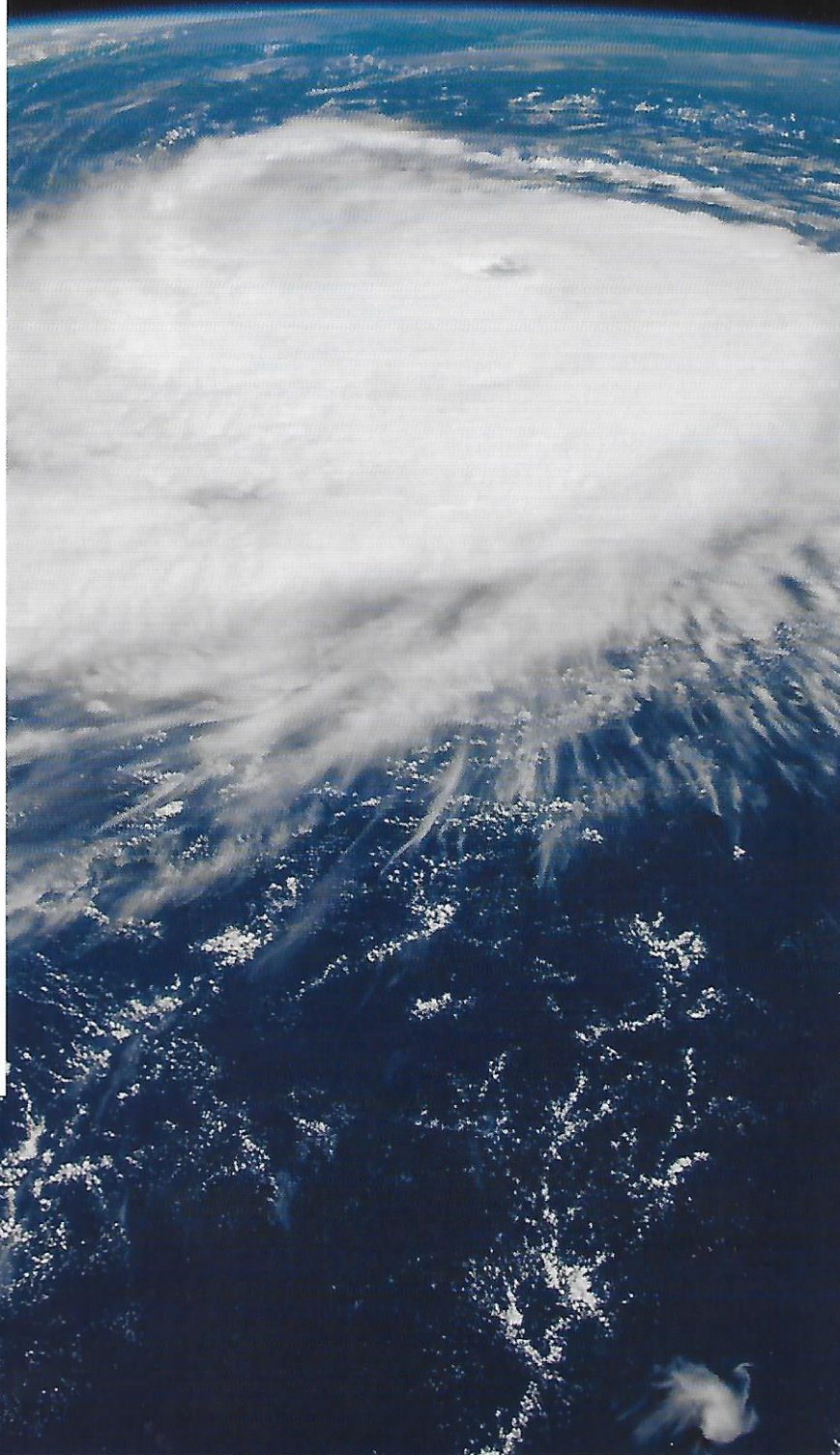
Landfall When the surface center of a tropical cyclone intersects with the coastline.

Major Hurricane A storm with highest winds of 111 mph or higher.

Tropical Disturbance An area of thunderstorms that keeps its intensity for at least 24 hours.

Tropical Storm A warm-centered, low-pressure circulation with highest sustained winds between 39 and 73 mph.

Wind Shear Upper level winds that can blow the tops off hurricanes, weakening or destroying them.



PREPARING YOUR HOME

DO-IT-YOURSELF HOME PREPARATIONS

- Windows, Doors, Roof - Protect all windows, doors, garage door and roof.
- Electricity - Unplug appliances - especially television sets - and turn off electricity (except refrigerator) the main water valve. Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.
- Outdoors - Store outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, garden tools, grills, and tractors inside; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside but that could be wind-tossed. Remove outdoor antennas.
- Sheds - Securely anchor all storage sheds and other outbuildings to a permanent foundation, or to the ground.

Hurricane protection can involve a variety of changes to your house and property – changes that can vary in cost and complexity. A professional contractor licensed to work in Florida should carry out complicated or large-scale changes that affect the structure of your house or its electrical wiring or plumbing. However, there are several projects and tasks homeowners can do on their own to protect their home against a hurricane.

Know Your Home's Vulnerabilities

WINDOWS

Installing storm shutters over all exposed windows and other glass surfaces is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect your home. Cover all windows, french doors, glass doors and skylights. There are many types of manufactured storm shutters available. Plywood shutters that you make yourself, if installed properly, can offer much protection from flying debris during a hurricane.

ROOF

The roof of your house is most vulnerable to damage from high winds. Proper roof construction is essential. A small investment made before a storm hits can save thousands in future damage. Have your roof inspected today by a qualified building professional to determine if reinforcement is necessary.

DOORS

Homes with double-entry doors usually have one door that is active and one that is inactive. The bolts or pins that secure most doors are not strong enough to withstand hurricane force winds. Check with your local building supplies retailer to determine the type of bolt system that will work best for your door.

GARAGE DOORS

Double-wide (two-car) garage doors can present a particular problem during hurricanes. Some garage doors can be strengthened with retrofit kits. Check with your local building supplies dealer.

Mobile Homes Require Special Precautions

Mobile Homes are particularly vulnerable to hurricane-force winds. Anchor the mobile home with over-the-top, or frame ties. When a storm threatens, do what you can to secure your home, and then take refuge with friends or relatives or at a public shelter. **DO NOT** ride out a hurricane in a mobile home. Follow mandatory evacuation orders!

Before you leave your mobile home take the following precautions:

- Pack breakables in boxes
- Remove mirrors
- Wrap mirrors and lamps in blankets and place them in the bathtub or shower
- Install hurricane shutters or precut plywood on all windows
- Shut off utilities and disconnect electricity, sewer and water lines
- Shut off propane tanks and leave them outside after anchoring them securely
- Store awnings, folding furniture, trash cans and other loose outdoor objects

PREPARING YOUR FAMILY

Some disasters strike without any warning, and family members may not all be in the same place. How will you get in touch with each other? Where will you meet? What if your neighborhood is being evacuated? It's important to make a plan now so that you will know what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency.

- Pick the same person for each family member to call or email. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.
- Text, don't talk, unless it's an emergency. It may be easier to send a text. You don't want to tie up phone lines for emergency workers.
- Keep your family's contact info and meeting spot location in your backpack, wallet, or taped inside your school notebook. Put it in your cell phone if you have one.

Family Communication Tips

Identify a contact such as a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify they are safe. It may be easier to

make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.

Teach family members how to use text messaging. Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.

Remember, the first and most important thing to do when facing hazardous weather conditions is to use common sense. Please get together with your family today so that you

can prepare a plan for disaster. Here's how to prepare:

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm dangers.
- Decide your evacuation route and destination. Plan to go to family or friends who live in safer areas. Use county evacuation shelters only as a last resort.
- Outline an alternate plan in case your friends are out of town, your evacuation route is flooded or other unforeseen circumstances arise.
- Select an out-of-state relative as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Plan what you will do with your pets if you need to evacuate (page 30).
- Review your homeowners and flood insurance policies and keep them with you in a secure, waterproof place.
- Register individuals with special needs with your county's Emergency Management Office (page 45).
- Make a list of prescription medicines that you will need to refill and take with you.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and food. Also prepare a disaster supply kit (page 34).
- Take all necessary precautions to protect your vehicles, boats and windows.

PREPARE YOUR VALUABLES

- Keep all photos and videos in one location
- Scan all important documents and photos
- Back up all computers/files to a storage outside your home
- Remove all framed photos from your walls
- Place all valuables in waterproof container keep with your evacuation kit
- Take a photo/video inventory of the inside of your home



REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE

Insurance policy details are critical. As hurricane season approaches, it is important to review your policy. Remember: If Florida is under a hurricane watch or warning, it is likely too late to purchase insurance. Here are some details to review about your insurance:

- Windstorm insurance typically carries a much higher deductible than other coverage.
- Take your insurance documents with you if you leave the area because of the storm.
- Scan your insurance documents into your computer and then mail those files to an email account.
- New or increased coverage cannot be issued when a tropical storm or hurricane watch or warning is in place for any part of Florida.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance, which is usually written separately from homeowners insurance.
- Make certain the amount of your coverage matches the value of your home. List any steps you have taken to protect your home, such as installing storm shutters.
- Understand in the event of a loss, you would receive the cash value of your belongings or whether your policy specifies replacement.
- Understand what is covered ... or not.
- When hurricane warnings are issued, the Florida Department of Financial Services is mobilized to assist with insurance and banking questions. The toll-free hot line is 800-22- STORM.
- Everyone lives in a flood zone in Southwest Florida. You don't simply need to live near the water to be flooded. Many flooded areas are caused by overloaded drainage systems.
- Flood damage is not covered by your home owners policy.
- You can purchase flood insurance no matter what your flood risk is, as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. A maximum of \$250,000 of building coverage is available for single-family residential buildings and per unit in a condominium. Commercial structures can be insured to a limit of \$500,000.
- Call your insurance agent for details about how to get flood insurance.
- Plan ahead because there is usually at least a 30-day waiting period before any flood insurance goes into effect.
- Content coverage is separate. Up to \$100,000 contents coverage is available.
- Federal disaster assistance is only available if the President declares a disaster. A rule of thumb: About 90 percent of all disasters in the United States are not declared disasters by the President.



STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES NOW

Supplies are a critical part of every family's health and safety and should be gathered well in advance of hurricane season each year. Once a storm is imminent, time to shop will be limited, and if supplies are even available, you will have to search for them. Many residents of Southwest Florida experienced shortages on plywood, batteries, flashlights, water, generators and other such storm necessities during the recent busy hurricane seasons. Each time a storm was predicted to make landfall near Southwest Florida, lines were long, shelves were bare, and stress levels were high. It pays to be prepared! Supplies can be divided into several categories, but the essentials should be gathered and kept easily accessible throughout the hurricane season. Be sure to place the items that you will most likely need for an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. Keep gas tanks full. Keep cash on hand. Banks may not be open, ATMs may not be accessible, debit cards and credit cards may not be accepted if power is lost.

DOCUMENTS

- Important telephone numbers
- Record of bank account numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Record of credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Copy of will, insurance policies, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Copy of passports, social security cards, immunization records, etc.
- Prescription drugs (minimum two-week supply)
- Aspirin or non-aspirin supply
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Heart and high blood pressure medicine
- Insect repellent
- Itch-relief cream

GROCERIES

- Baby formula
- Bread, crackers
- Canned fruits
- Canned juice
- Canned meats
- Canned vegetables
- Dry cereal
- Instant coffee and tea
- Peanut butter
- Quick energy snacks
- Ready-to-eat soups
- Soap and liquid detergent
- Personal hygiene items
- Household chlorine bleach
- Large bucket or trash can with lid for storing water to flush toilets

MEDICAL

- First aid kits (for home and car)
- Insulin
- Denture needs
- Traveler's checks
- Battery-operated radio or TV
- Flashlight and lanterns
- Extra batteries and extra bulbs
- Lighter or matches for your grill
- Antenna for your TV
- Extension cords (heavy duty and three-pronged)
- Manual can opener/utility knife

THE ESSENTIALS

- One gallon of water per person per day.
- Additional water for food preparation and sanitation.
- Bags of ice.
- Partially fill plastic one-liter or larger soft drink bottles with water and place in the freezer. The bottles will freeze without cracking. If the power goes out, the frozen water will help keep the freezer cool and when the ice melts, the water will be drinkable.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons, remember to include items and supplies that may be unique to their special situation.

SANITATION

- Disinfectant
- Toilet paper, towelettes, paper towels
- Plastic sheeting/tarps
- Duct tape
- Generator
- Gas cans
- Old towels for clean up
- Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Plastic trash bags
- Full propane tank
- Charcoal and lighter fluid
- Camp stove
- Sterno
- Thermos for hot food and coolers/ice for cold food
- Tree saw for cutting fallen limbs
- Hand tools: knife, ax, pliers, screw drivers, wrench
- Hammer and nails
- Fire extinguisher
- Fix-a-flat
- Mops, buckets and cleaning supplies

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

THE STORM IS NOW OVER

Relief supplies and other aid will be arriving as quickly as possible following a major hurricane. Insurance companies will send special disaster teams, as will the state and federal governments and a host of private organizations.

It is very important to understand that it may take several days for them to arrive at the disaster site. Not only does it take time to gather and load the unique supplies that this area may require, but roadways may be blocked by debris and may be unsafe for travel. This is why it is so very important to have enough ice, water and food to sustain your family for at least three days!

Assist the Injured

Help injured or trapped persons. Do not move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help. Give first aid where appropriate.

What to Expect

Debris is scattered across roads, parking lots and yards. The nice, neat neighborhoods that existed prior to the hurricane will be covered with fallen trees and limbs, gutters, and other wreckage. In many cases, there will be no water, sewer, electrical or telephone service — no air conditioning or refrigeration.

Roadways may be blocked for days or weeks. Devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley and Wilma demonstrated that a hurricane can be a traumatic experience — both physically and emotionally. The hardest part of dealing with a hurricane is the recovery process. It is important to understand that the disaster affected everyone. Be calm, patient and understanding. In this section, you will learn post-storm procedures and considerations, information on disaster assistance, generator safety and procedures to recover your boat.

First Things First

Return home only after authorities say it is safe to do so!! Keep tuned to WINK News and winknews.com for recovery information.

- Avoid loose or dangling power lines. Report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Allow emergency crews to remove fallen power lines and other hazardous debris.
- Enter your home with caution. Open doors and windows to ventilate or dry your home. Beware of snakes, insects and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve and if you can, call the gas company. 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 hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- 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 water from the tap.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage. Discard any spoiled foods. Keep your refrigerator closed as much as possible to protect food from additional spoiling.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims, and save receipts for reimbursement — including temporary lodging and food. Keep a record of all receipts, cancelled checks, bills and other documents received for repair work or temporary living.



WHAT THE STORM LEAVES BEHIND

GENERATOR HAZARDS

From 1999 to 2010, nearly 600 generator-related carbon monoxide deaths have been reported.

1. Be sure to read the owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommendations!
2. Do NOT use a generator until it is properly grounded.
3. Plug devices directly into the generator. NEVER "back feed" your house circuits or connect your generator to your house wiring. Do NOT overload the generator capacity.
4. BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. Never use a generator indoors, outside under a window, on a covered patio, or in any space without adequate ventilation. NEVER OPERATE INDOORS!
5. Keep flammable items away. The generator exhaust system is very hot.
6. NEVER refuel your generator inside your home or while it is hot. A serious fire could result.
7. Prevent electric shock. Do NOT use in wet areas.
8. Check all electrical cords to be sure the insulation is in good condition and check the oil and fuel level before starting motor.

Storm Debris

It will be necessary to separate your curb side trash. Cleanup debris will be accepted by priority. As soon as roads are cleared, raw garbage such as animal, fruit or vegetable waste will be collected. The second priority will be normal household garbage including food waste. The third priority is yard waste. Place trees, branches and the like in piles that can be easily managed by collection personnel. And finally, the last priority will be construction debris such as lumber, roofing, concrete and similar materials. Your county may accept food waste at the Waste Management facility. Contact the facility for drop-off hours. **DO NOT BLOCK YOUR ROAD WITH GARBAGE.**

Debris Removal Information

Charlotte: 941-575-3600
 Collier: 239-252-2380
 DeSoto: 863-993-4831
 Glades: 863-946-6020
 Hendry: 863-674-5400
 Lee: 239-533-8000

The Priorities

- Pump or bail water out of the house as soon as possible.
- Open the windows to let the house air out and give the walls and floors a chance to dry.
- Shovel mud out before it can dry, then scrub floors and walls with a brush and mild soap and water.
- Make sure all appliances are unplugged as a general safety precaution.

Looting/Curfew

As soon as the hurricane ends, looting can begin. With walls and more blown away – and since many homes belong to snowbirds summering up north – homes become easy targets. The fear of looting is widespread within the community and many residents stay in their damaged homes to protect their valuables. However, it is important to note that incidences of crime are actually statistically lower after a disaster. A curfew may be enacted for several nights to combat theft and vandalism.

Pool Care

Remove as much debris by hand as possible and lower the water level to normal. Add a

chlorinator, as in the form of the 10 percent hypochlorite granules commonly known as shock. Super chlorinate again and clean the filter frequently until the pool is back to normal. Have the gas company reconnect the heater line. If your pool needs structural repairs, choose a contractor carefully.

Household Tips

Stoves & Ovens

- Clean the outside with a grease cutter, then with detergent and water.
- Clean the inside with conventional oven cleaner.

Refrigerators & Freezers

- To remove odors, wash the inside and the plastic door gasket with detergent and water.
- Rinse with a cloth and clear water. Wipe dry.

Washers & Dryers

- Pour a disinfectant into the empty washer. Run a 15-minute cycle using the hot water setting.
- Unplug the dryer and wipe the drum and dryer door with a cloth dipped in disinfectant solution.
- Rinse with a cloth dipped in clear water.
- Leave the dryer door open until all parts are dry, preferably overnight.
- Leave the dishwasher door open until all parts are dry.

Books & Papers

- Place books on end with leaves separated. When they are partially dry, pile and press books. Alternate drying and pressing until thoroughly dry.
- If books and papers are very damp, sprinkle some cornstarch between the pages to absorb moisture. Leave on for several hours, then brush off.
- When papers and books are almost dry, try using an electric iron set on low heat to flatten the pages.
- Separate the pages to prevent musty odors.
- When books are completely dry, close them and clamp them closed to help them retain their shape.
- Photocopy important papers because they may quickly disintegrate, even if they have dried out.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS

- Lee: 239-533-0622
- Collier: 239-252-3600
- Charlotte: 941-833-4000
- DeSoto: 863-993-4831
- Glades: 863-946-6020
- Hendry: 863-674-5400

HOTLINES

- FEMA Disaster Assistance/Registration: 800-621-3362
TTY: 800-462- 7585
- U.S. Small Business Administration: 800-659-2955 TTY: 800-877-8339
- FEMA Fraud Hotline: 866-720-5721
- Report false claims: 800-323-8603
- State of Florida Emergency Info 24-hour hotline: 800-342-3557
- Safe & Wellness Helpline to see if people are OK or in a shelter: 844-221-4160
- Financial Services Hurricane Help line: 800-227-8676
- Red Cross Food, Shelter and Financial Assistance: 866-438-4636
- DCF Information: 866-762-2237
- Elder Helpline: 800-963-5337
- Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline: 866-966-7226
- Report unlicensed activity: 866-532-1440
- Verify contractor licenses: 850-487-1395
- Agricultural and Consumer Services: 800-435-7352
- Domestic Animal Services: 239-533-7387 - Lee
239-252-7387 - Collier

ONLINE RESOURCES

- www.nhc.noaa.gov: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration experts at the National Hurricane Center are leading authorities on Atlantic Basin hurricanes and tropical storms.

- floridadisaster.org: This is the state's Emergency Operations Center's website for up-to-date statewide information, news alerts and contact information about storms, evacuations, storm surge and shelter information.
- hotels.petswelcome.com for pet friendly lodging in Florida.

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION

- Division of Workers' Compensation: 800-742-2214
- Florida Association of Electrical Contractors: 407-260-1511
- Florida Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association: 407-260-1313
- Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida (ABC): 813-879-8064

AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICES

- Lee, Hendry, Glades and Collier: 239-596-6868
- Charlotte & DeSoto: 941-629-4345
- Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee counties and Tampa: flwestcoastredcross.org
- Collier, Lee, Hendry, Glades: redcross.org/southflorida

POWER COMPANIES

- FPL: 800-468-8243
- LCEC: 800-599-2356
- Glades Electric Co-Op: 800-226-4024

AFTER A DISASTER

You can donate food, water and money: The Harry Chapin Food Bank, 3760 Fowler St., Fort Myers. Call 239-334-7007 or harrychapinfoodbank.org

TO VOLUNTEER AND DONATE

- Salvation Army Donation Hotline: 800-725-2769
- American Red Cross: 800-435-7669

AGENCY HELP

- fema.gov: This is the Federal Emergency Management Agency website. It offers detailed instructions to prepare for natural disasters, including action plans, safe rooms and the National Flood Insurance Program.
- redcross.org: The American Red Cross keeps residents informed about response and recovery operations.
- myfloridacfo.com: In the event of a storm, the Florida Department of Financial Services is an organization that is mobilized to assist with banking and insurance concerns.
- flash.org: This is the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, an organization dedicated to promoting disaster safety and property loss mitigation.
- fmo1.org: The Federation of Manufactured Home Owners is a consumer advocate that promotes hurricane safety.