



# Hurricane Preparedness Information

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Date: Monday, August 22, 2011

Message from the Property Manager,

We at EDGE Asset Management want to ensure the safety of our clients and urge everyone to have a plan in case of a hurricane or other emergency. We are prepared, and want to make sure that you are too. This guide includes important information on how you should prepare and what to do afterwards. It is never too early to prepare, but it can be too late if you wait.

**Hurricane Season:** The Atlantic hurricane season is officially from June 1 to November 30. Hurricanes have occurred outside of this period, although not very common.

**Forecasts:** It is advised to monitor the weather frequently and to heed the advice of local officials during hurricane season. Tropical systems can speed up, change direction and intensify without warning. The following terms are commonly used by weather forecasters to describe the strength and probability/proximity of a storm from hitting a specific destination:

**HURRICANE WATCH** A hurricane may strike your area within 24- 48 hours

**HURRICANE WARNING** A hurricane is expected to strike your area within 24 hours. The same warnings apply for tropical storms and tropical depressions.

Prepare for a hurricane as early as possible. Once a storm's path is forecasted near South Florida, begin to monitor the storm and prepare for an evacuation. Fill up your vehicle with gasoline before evacuating and be sure to have extra cash in the event of power outage.

## BEFORE A STORM

**Special Needs** – Residents that require special care and/or special transportation to a special needs shelter have to pre-register with the County Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program immediately.

Miami-Dade 305-273-6790 or 305-468-5402 TDD (hearing impaired).

Broward County 954-831-4000 or 3-1-1.

Palm Beach County 561-712-6400

**Pets -DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET AT HOME.** There are pet-friendly evacuation centers for families to go with their furry friends, up to three pets per family. You must pre-register if you plan on using the pet-friendly evacuation center. However, this does not guarantee placement.

If evacuating with your pet is not an option, contact your veterinarian or the Humane Society for assistance. You want to make sure that your pet stays in a comfortable environment wearing proper identification with access to enough water and food for two weeks. Keep a current photo of your pet with you. Do not leave your pet on a leash outside during a storm.

## **Preparation Plan**

Residents are urged to develop a disaster preparedness plan before an emergency strikes. Plan in advance where you will stay, how you will get there, and what supplies you will take. As part of your plan, you should have an emergency supply kit ready. When you return to your unit, you may not have electricity or water for weeks. Consider the needs of elderly and infant family members and pets.

The 911 System may be used in case of emergency however it is important to understand that this system is not able to identify a wireless caller's location. You may be able to register your address in connection with your phone. This may already be in place; however by calling your mobile carrier, you can ensure that your proper home address is listed for 911 identification (If you are not at your home location when calling you will need to inform the 911 operator of your exact location)

- Make prior arrangements with friends or relatives living in a non-evacuation area or check into a hotel located inland; or, as a last resort, use a public shelter. Make sure that you take proper identification with you; you will need it to re-enter the area.
- Send a contact list of friends and neighbors and copies of important papers to family members in another city.
- Tell family, neighbors, and service agencies where you would go to stay in an emergency.
- Have a transportation plan for emergencies.
- If necessary, register with the County Special Needs Evacuation Assistance Registry.
- Make arrangements with a kennel or friend to care for your pets.
- Review your insurance policies to ensure that you are fully covered. Insurers cease issuing policies when tropical systems are within the quadrant.
- Inventory and take photos of your property and valuables, and store these photos and other important documents in a waterproof container and take with you when evacuating.
- Practice your Disaster Plan.
- Maintain a two-week supply of food and drink for when you return to the condominium after a storm. Include the following items: Water and ice- Special dietary needs items -Small containers of canned meats, fruits, soups, etc. Dry Cereal and crackers Granola/cereal/protein bars, nuts, peanut butter, bread canned or bottled juices-Dry or non-refrigerated milk and baby food or formula (if applicable)

## **Survival Kit**

Keep a kit at your home with the following items in it.

- Radio/TV/Fan (battery-powered)- Flashlight(s), Batteries, Can opener, Matches or Lighter
- Two-week food and drink supply, Prescription medicines (a month's supply), Baby diapers and incontinent pads (if applicable), First-aid kit, Spare keys to home and vehicles, Tools (hammer, screw-driver, pliers, and nails), Map of the area, Toiletries, Plastic garbage bags, Zip lock bags, Paper plates, Napkins or paper towels, Plastic Eating Utensils, Toilet Paper, Lantern, Fire extinguisher, Bleach (without lemon or any other additives), Water purification tablets, Rain gear (clothing and shoes) Seasonal clothing for a few days, Blanket and pillows, Mosquito/insect repellent and killer.

## **EVACUATION**

It is advised that you begin evacuation procedures if needed, before an evacuation order is given. This will allow you more time to calmly arrive to a home of a friend or relative that is not in an evacuation-zone. The buildings elevators will be parked and put out of operation until after the evacuation period has elapsed. Please remember to take your emergency suitcase of essential supplies. Red Cross shelters will not open until an evacuation order is given and spaces are limited. Families with pets must register prior to an evacuation warning at one of the County animal-friendly shelters. Once a storm approaches, emergency services are limited and emergency personnel cannot react if an emergency occurs until after the storm. Be patient; official's priority is public safety. Listen to the local news media for possible road closures and curfews. A reoccupation order can take hours, days or weeks

depending on the severity of damage to roads, bridges and buildings. After the order for reoccupation to the city is issued, you will have to provide proof of residency. This is done to protect your home and/or business from unwelcome visitors.

### **During a Hurricane**

- If an evacuation order was issued, everyone should have evacuated. Sheltering at an evacuation area can be extremely dangerous and should only be used as a last resort. However, if you were not able to leave before the onset of storm conditions -- notify family and friends of your situation.
- **SAFE ROOM:** If you have not evacuated prior to the arrival of Tropical Storm conditions, you must shelter in place. In a high-rise building, you want to shelter in the lower levels, but not on the first three levels. Hurricane winds increase at higher levels. Stay in an interior room or hallway away from windows and doors. Take your immediate emergency supplies with you that should include, at a minimum, a battery-powered radio, flashlight, important papers in a zipped-up plastic bag, and cellular phone.
- **EMERGENCY CALLS:** Rescue and Police crews cease emergency operations at the arrival of Tropical Storm force (40mph+) winds. Following a hurricane, emergency calls will be very limited due to flooding, downed power lines, and limited street access and personnel. Before Evacuating, Secure Your Home
- Take down and bring in any tables, plants, furniture, and other loose and/or unsecured structures from outdoors, including all balconies. The building staff will not be available to help you bring in items as they will be busy securing the building. They also have to go home and prepare for their families. If the items are too heavy for you to move, make arrangements beforehand. (You shouldn't have anything out there you can't move.)
- **Do NOT** tape windows and do not leave any windows or doors ajar. Securing your windows and doors will minimize damage to your unit; however, unsecured windows and doors of neighboring units can cause damage to your unit too. Please keep this in mind when preparing your home before evacuating.
  - Fill prescriptions.
  - Fill car gas tank.
  - Unplug TV/computers or electrical devices.
  - Move furniture and electronics away from windows and cover with plastic.
  - Pull curtains, blinds and shutters.
  - Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting.
  - Place valuables in waterproof containers and store in high place.

### **Shelters**

The American Red Cross in coordination with other agencies operate shelters for evacuees at schools and other facilities as deemed necessary during an evacuation. The locations are not pre-determined.

A list of shelters will be made available through the County Emergency Operation Center as soon as they become available. Shelter announcements will be made available online:

[www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov)

<http://www.broward.org/HURRICANE/Pages/EvacuationShelterInformation.aspx>

[http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/resources/pdf/2011\\_SHELTERS.pdf](http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/resources/pdf/2011_SHELTERS.pdf)

(Shelters are not temporary housing. After a disaster, assessments will be made with local emergency managers as to continued and other shelter needs.)

### **AFTER A STORM Recovery**

- Find out if the authorities have declared the area safe
- Watch for debris on the road while driving
- Return to your pre-determined assembly point and/or contact your pre-established out-of-area contact person. Make sure all family members have been accounted for and let others know of your status
- Make sure the main electrical switch to your home is off before entering the structure
- Be careful when entering a structure that has been damaged
- If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and notify the gas company

- If possible, listen to the radio or contact authorities to find out if sewage lines are intact before turning on the water or using the toilet
- Report utility damage to the proper authorities
- Continue to monitor your local news for up-to-date emergency information such as boil water advisories

**SAFETY TIPS:**

**DOWNED POWER LINES:** stay away and do not touch downed power lines. Stay away from standing water that may have active electrical currents. Although you may be without power in your home/business, it does not mean the lines are not active.

**GETTING AROUND:** if you must travel, treat all intersections as four-way stops. Some roads may be restricted. Curfews may be imposed.

**FOOD:** if you are concerned that your food may have spoiled, when in doubt, throw it out. For additional food safety information, call the toll-free USDA/FSIS Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1.888.674.6854.

**INSECTS:** uprooted insects and mosquitoes thrive in post-storm conditions. If you are without power, it is likely you have windows and doors open for periods of time. Use mosquito repellent and nets and spray entrance areas with insect killers.

**SUN AND HEAT EXPOSURE:** You will be exposed to more heat and sun, especially if you are without power. Wear sunscreen, drink water and try to keep cool. A portable, battery-powered fan will make you feel more comfortable.

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS:**

- > EMERGENCY FIRE RESCUE/POLICE: 911
- > CITY AND COUNTY SERVICES: 311
- > FLORIDA'S EMERGENCY INFORMATION LINE: 1.800.342.3557
- > NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: 305.229.4522
- > NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER: 305.229.4470
- > AMERICAN RED CROSS: 305.644.1200
- > FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT-HAZARDS/POWER OUTAGES: 1.800.468.8243
- > HUMANE SOCIETY OF MIAMI: 305.696.0800
- > AMERICAN RED CROSS: 305.644.1200
- > SALVATION ARMY: 1.800.SAL.ARMY
- > FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA): 1.800.621.3362 • TTY: 1.800.462.7585

Each county in Florida has compiled a county specific Hurricane Preparedness Guide. Please take the time to download and print the guide for your county so that you can familiarize yourself with the important information within to protect yourself in the event of an emergency.

**Miami:** <http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/>

Guide Only:

[http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/library/Hurricane\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/library/Hurricane_Guide.pdf)

**Broward:** <http://www.broward.org/hurricane/Pages/Default.aspx>

Guide Only:

<http://www.broward.org/Hurricane/Documents/HurricanePrepGuideJune2011.pdf>

**Palm Beach:** [http://www.pbcgov.com/hurricane/hurricane\\_preparedness.htm](http://www.pbcgov.com/hurricane/hurricane_preparedness.htm)

Guide Only:

[http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/resources/pdf/hurricane\\_guide.pdf](http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/resources/pdf/hurricane_guide.pdf)

We hope that you and your family will monitor the weather conditions closely and be safe throughout. If you have any other questions, concerns or special needs, please do not hesitate to contact us at the management office at 305-771-1818

Sincerely,  
Orah Bengal, C.E.O  
EDGE Asset Management