



OSCEOLA 20 HURRICANE HANDBOOK 23



A MESSAGE FROM KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

Dear Osceola County Resident,

The timing of last year's late-season hurricanes demonstrates the fact that a hurricane can come at any point during the season. Hurricanes Ian and Nicole came nearly six weeks apart at the tail end of the 2022 hurricane season.

We've prepared this annual hurricane guide so that you and your family can begin preparing for the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season by taking the steps necessary to ensure your safety.

In this guide, you'll find helpful information on what to expect this season, tips on keeping your family safe during the storm and steps to take after the storm has passed.

Last year's hurricane season brought 14 named storms, eight hurricanes and two major hurricanes, making it an above-normal hurricane season. Looking ahead to the upcoming hurricane season, weather forecasters are predicting a below-average hurricane season with 13 named storms, six hurricanes, and two major hurricanes. Experts reference the likely development of El Niño as a primary factor for a below-average season, but the safest plan of action is to always prepare for the worst-case scenario.

We urge you to begin reviewing the information in this guide to help develop a plan. Learn your evacuation routes or best practices for staying home during the storm. Make a plan, build a kit, stay informed and be prepared to take action.

As you prepare, rest assured that KUA is prepared too. We have a team of nearly 300 highly skilled employees ready to respond to severe weather at a moment's notice.

Stay safe!

Sincerely,



Brian Horton
President and General Manager



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REPORT AN OUTAGE

The quickest way to report a power outage to KUA is via text message. If an outage occurs, text the word "OUT" to our toll-free number 877-582-7700 and you will be prompted through the system. When power is restored, a follow-up message will be sent.

Scan the QR code below to report a power outage via text.



To view KUA's outage map in real-time visit kua.com/map.



Alert Osceola is a free emergency notification system utilized by various public agencies in Osceola County to keep residents informed. To register for Alert Osceola, visit www.alertosceola.org or text the phrase "alertosceola" to 888777.



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DIRECTORY OF IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND LINKS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE, POLICE, MEDICAL: 911

OSCEOLA COUNTY CITIZEN INFORMATION CENTER HOTLINE

407-742-0000

LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

Positively Osceola

www.positivelyosceola.com

[f](#) @PositivelyOsceola

WFTV — Channel 9 (ABC)

www.WFTV.com

[f](#) @wftv

WESH — Channel 2 (NBC)

www.WESH.com

[f](#) @wesh2news

WKMG — Channel 6 (CBS)

www.Clickorlando.com

[f](#) @News6

WOFL — Channel 35 (FOX)

www.Fox35.com

[f](#) @FOX35Orlando

Central Florida News 13 (Spectrum)

www.Mynews13.com

[f](#) @LikeNews13

Telemundo — Channel 31

www.Telemundo31.com

[f](#) @Telemundo31

Univision — Channel 43

www.Noticiasya.com/orlando

[f](#) @NoticiasUnivisionOrlando

Osceola News Gazette

www.aroundosceola.com

[f](#) @osceolanewsgazette

El Osceola Star

www.elosceolastar.com

[f](#) @osceolastarnews

Orlando Sentinel

www.orlandosentinel.com

[f](#) @orlandosentinel

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Osceola County Government

407-742-2275

www.osceola.org

[f](#) @OsceolaCountyFl

Osceola County Office of Emergency Management

407-742-9000

emdo@osceola.org

www.readyosceola.org

[f](#) @OsceolaEOC

City of Kissimmee

407-847-2821

www.kissimmee.gov

[f](#) @CityofKissimmee

City of St. Cloud

407-957-7300

www.StCloudFL.gov

[f](#) @CityofStCloudFL

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Kissimmee Police Department

407-846-3333 (Non-emergency)

Kissimmee.gov

[f](#) @KissimmeePolice

Osceola County Sheriff's Office

407-348-2222 (Non-emergency)

407-348-1100 (Administration Building)

www.osceolasheriff.org

[f](#) @osceolasheriff

St. Cloud Police Department

407-891-6700 (Non-emergency)

www.StCloudFL.gov

[f](#) @StCloudPD



HOSPITALS

HCA Florida Osceola Hospital

700 W. Oak Street, Kissimmee, FL 34741
407-518-3801 (Emergency Room)
407-846-2266 (Non-emergency)
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com/locations/osceola-hospital
f @HCAFloridaOsceolaHospital

AdventHealth Kissimmee

2450 North Orange Blossom Trail
Kissimmee, FL 34744
407-933-6632 (Emergency Room)
407-846-4343 (Non-emergency)
www.adventhealth.com
f @AdventHealthKissimmee

Orlando Health St. Cloud Hospital

2906 17th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769
407-498-3620 (Emergency Room)
407-892-2135 (Non-emergency)
www.stcloudregional.com
f @OrlandoHealthStCloudHospital

AdventHealth Celebration

400 Celebration Place
Celebration, FL 34747
407-303-4772 (Emergency Room)
407-303-4000 (Non-emergency)
www.adventhealth.com
f @AdventHealthCelebration

HCA Florida Poinciana Hospital

325 Cypress Parkway, Kissimmee, FL 34758
407-530-2100 (Emergency Room)
407-530-2000 (Non-emergency)
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com/locations/poinciana-hospital
f @HCAFloridaPoincianaHospital

Orlando Health Emergency Room and Medical Pavilion — Osceola

1001 E. Osceola Parkway
321-842-1270
www.orlandohealth.com

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Kissimmee Utility Authority

407-933-9800 or 407-933-7777
Report Outage: Text "out" to 877-582-7700
www.kua.com
f @mykua

Duke Energy

407-629-1010 or 800-700-8744
Report Outage: 800-228-8485
www.duke-energy.com

OUC (St. Cloud)

407-957-7373
Report Outage: 407-957-7373
www.ouc.com
f @oucthereliableone

Peace River Electric Cooperative

863-773-4116 or 800-282-3824
Report Outage: 800-282-3824
www.preco.coop

WATER COMPANY

Toho Water Authority

407-944-5000
www.tohowater.com
f @tohowater

St. Cloud Customers

407-957-7344
<https://stcloudfl.gov/1674/Utilities>



TRASH COLLECTION INSIDE THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE

City of Kissimmee Sanitation Division

Debris Pickup: 407-518-2507

www.kissimmee.gov

TRASH COLLECTION OUTSIDE THE CITIES OF KISSIMMEE & ST. CLOUD

Osceola County Solid Waste Division & Recycling

Trash & Yard Waste

407-742-7750

www.osceola.org

TRASH COLLECTION INSIDE THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD

City of St. Cloud Solid Waste Division

407-957-7289

www.StCloudFL.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

2-1-1 Community Resources & Elder Helpline

407-839-4357 or 800-963-5337

www.hfuw.org or uw211help@gmail.com

American Red Cross

5 N. Bumby Ave., Orlando, FL 32803

407-894-4141 or 407-644-9300

www.redcross.org

www.midfloridaredcross.org

Senior Services Osceola Council on Aging

700 Generation Point, Kissimmee, FL 34744

407-846-8532

Elder Helpline: 800-963-5337

www.osceolagenerations.org

Meals on Wheels

407-847-2144

www.osceolagenerations.org

GAS COMPANIES

(Natural)

TECO Peoples Gas

407-425-4662 or 877-832-6747

www.peoplesgas.com

(Propane)

Suburban Propane

407-847-3582 or 800-776-7263

www.suburbanpropane.com

TELEPHONE COMPANIES

CenturyLink

866-642-0444

www.centurylink.com

TELEVISION CABLE

Spectrum

855-707-7328

www.spectrum.com

Comcast Cable/Xfinity

800-934-6489 or 800-266-2278

www.xfinity.com

PERMITS

City of Kissimmee: 407-518-2120

www.kissimmee.org

City of St. Cloud: 407-957-7224

www.stcloudfl.gov

Osceola County: 407-742-0200

permits.osceola.org

OTHER

Florida Poison Information Center

800-222-1222

www.poisoncentertampa.org

Osceola County Animal Services

407-742-8000

www.osceolacountypets.com

Osceola County Annual Special Needs Shelter Application

407-742-9001

www.osceola.org

UF IFAS Extension in Osceola County

Educational information about:

Tree Inspection/Licensed Arborists

Disaster Preparation and Recovery

321-697-3000

osceola.ifas.ufl.edu

Osceola County Mosquito Control

407-742-0505

www.osceola.org

Osceola District Schools

407-870-4007 (Community Relations Office/School Closings)
407-870-4600 (District Office)
407-870-4897 (Student Services)
www.osceolaschools.net

TRANSPORTATION

(Rail/Train)

Amtrak Information & Reservations
800-872-7245
www.amtrak.com

SunRail

855-724-5411
www.sunrail.com

(Bus)

Greyhound
800-231-2222
www.greyhound.com

Lynx Bus Service

407-841-5969
www.golynx.com

Brightline

831-539-2901
www.gobrightline.com/orlando

FEDERAL/STATE ASSISTANCE

FEMA: 800-621-3362
(Presidential Declared Disasters)
www.fema.gov

Fla. Building Contractor License Verification Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation
850-487-1395
www.myfloridalicense.com

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
800-435-7352 or 800-352-9832 (Español)
www.freshfromflorida.com

State Assistance Information Line
800-342-3557
www.floridadisaster.org

Price Gouging Hotline
866-966-7226 or 850-414-3990
www.myfloridalegal.com

State Department of Financial Services Consumer Hotline
877-693-5236
www.myfloridacfo.com

State Volunteer & Donations Hotline

850-414-7400
www.volunteerflorida.org

WEATHER LINKS

National Hurricane Center

www.nhc.noaa.gov
f @NWSNHC

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

www.noaa.gov
f @NOAA

The Weather Channel

www.weather.com
f @theweatherchannel

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.floridadisaster.org
f @FLSERT

Red Cross

www.redcross.org
www.redcross.org/local/florida/central-florida
f @RedCross

Download FEMA's *Are You Ready? Citizen Preparedness Guide*
www.ready.gov/make-a-plan

NOAA Weather Radio Information

www.weather.gov/nwr

Weather Safety and Preparedness

www.weather.com/safety



IMPORTANT TERMS

EMERGENCY TERMS

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS): A digital system designed to give emergency information and instructions from federal, state and local authorities. The system is interfaced with the cable television system as well as radio and television stations. When activated, it broadcasts the latest information on weather reports, road conditions, evacuations, shelter locations and re-entry information.

EMERGENCY SHELTER: A shelter provided during and immediately following a disaster.

EVACUATION ORDER: The most important instruction you will receive from local government officials.

EVACUATION ROUTE SIGNS: Signs are located on all major evacuation routes.

SHELTER PERIOD: The interval of time from the point of evacuation until the primary situation or event has decreased to a level that will permit people to leave designated emergency shelters. The time may vary from several hours to several days, depending upon the severity of the hurricane.

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY: When a tropical cyclone threatens a coastal area, small craft operators are advised to remain in port and not venture to sea.

WEATHER TERMS

EYE: The low-pressure center of a hurricane. It is surrounded by the most intense area of the storm, and in contrast to the eye wall, winds are normally calm and sometimes the sky clears.

EYE WALL: The ring of thunderstorms that surrounds a storm's eye. The heaviest rain, strongest winds and worst turbulence are normally in this area.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH: The National Weather Service issues this type of watch when local flooding can be expected within 12 to 24 hours. Stay alert.

FLOOD WARNING: The National Weather Service issues a flood warning when flood waters are expected to exceed flood stage at any point on rivers and bayous. Most flood warnings will be issued 24 to 60 hours in advance of the crest.

GALE WARNINGS: Issued when winds of 39 to 54 mph (34 – 47 knots) are expected.

HURRICANE: Pronounced rotary circulation with a constant wind speed of at least 74 mph (64 knots).

HURRICANE SEASON: The portion of the year having a relatively high incidence of hurricanes. In the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, generally regarded as June 1 through Nov. 30.

HURRICANE WARNING: Hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area, usually within 36 hours.

HURRICANE WATCH: Hurricane conditions are possible somewhere within the specified coast area, usually within 48 hours.

KNOTS: A measure of wind speed over a nautical mile. A nautical mile is one minute of one degree of longitude and is slightly longer than the ordinary statute mile as used in the United States.

LANDFALL: The term used that indicates the moment the eye of a hurricane hits land.

MILLIBAR: A metric measure of air pressure.

STORM SURGE: A great dome of water, often 50 miles wide, that comes sweeping across the coastline near the area where the eye of a hurricane makes landfall.

STORM WARNINGS: Issued when winds of 55 to 73 mph (48 – 63 knots) are expected. If a hurricane is expected to strike a coastal area, gale or storm warnings will not usually precede hurricane warnings.

TORNADO WARNING: Indicates a tornado has been spotted. Be prepared to take shelter.

TORNADO WATCH: Conditions are favorable for this type of storm.

TROPICAL CYCLONE: A general term for all cyclonic circulations originating over tropical water.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION: Rotary circulation at the surface with a maximum constant wind speed of 38 mph.



TROPICAL DISTURBANCE: A moving area of thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more. This type of disturbance is common.

TROPICAL STORM: Distinct rotary circulation with constant wind speed ranges of 39 to 73 mph.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING: Tropical storm conditions are expected within the specified coastal area within 36 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH: Tropical storm conditions are possible within the specified coastal area within 48 hours.

TROPICAL WAVE: A kink or bend in the normally straight flow of the surface air in the tropics which forms a low pressure trough or pressure boundary, with showers and thunderstorms. These may eventually develop into a tropical cyclone.

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KNOW

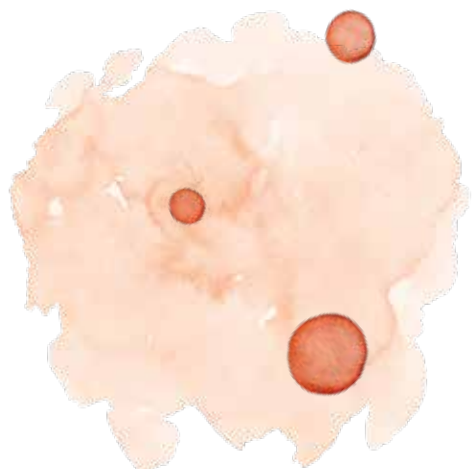
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA): The agency that assists state and local governments, as well as citizens, in recovering from a disaster. FEMA is part of the federal Department of Homeland Security.

NATIONAL OCEANIC ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA): Provides a continuous broadcast of weather conditions in Central Florida. The broadcast frequency is 162.475 for Orange or Osceola or 162.550 for Polk, Tampa and Melbourne.

OSCEOLA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: The county department responsible for providing the coordination of the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters that may affect the residents and visitors of Osceola County.

Public Information Hotline: 407-742-0000 or www.readyosceola.org.

OSCEOLA COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM: Residents with disabilities, medical problems or mobility problems who may need transportation assistance or disaster shelter during an emergency may register with the Osceola County Special Needs Program. To register call the Osceola County Special Needs Program at 407-742-9001 or go online at www.readyosceola.org.



2023 STORM NAMES



Arlene



Bret



Cindy



Don



Emily



Franklin



Gert



Harold



Idalia



Jose



Katia



Lee



Margot



Nigel



Ophelia



Philippe



Rina



Sean



Tammy



Vince



Whitney

SAFFIR-SIMPSON WIND SCALE

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a rating of 1 to 5 based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed, with 5 being the highest. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, however, and require preventative measures.



CATEGORY 1

WINDS 74 – 95 MPH

Very dangerous winds will produce some damage. Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few hours to several days.



CATEGORY 2

WINDS 96 – 110 MPH

Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Failure of aluminum, screened-in, swimming pool enclosures will be common. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.



CATEGORY 3

WINDS 111 – 129 MPH

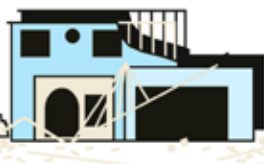
Devastating damage will occur. Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Most commercial signage, fences and canopies will be destroyed. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to a few weeks after the storm passes.



CATEGORY 4

WINDS 130 – 156 MPH

Catastrophic damage will occur. Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles will be downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages may last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area could be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



CATEGORY 5

WINDS 157 MPH OR HIGHER

Catastrophic damage will occur. A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Extensive damage to roof covers, windows and doors will occur. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages may last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area could be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

PREPARATION IS KEY

Work as a “family team” to utilize this handbook and construct your own Family Disaster Plan. Once the plan has been assembled, build the “Survival Kit” (described on page 37) and rehearse your family preparedness plan. Make sure everyone in your family understands the plan completely and knows exactly what to do. Once you have completed the preparations, keep the document in a safe place where it will be easy to find during hurricane season.

IN ANY KIND OF EMERGENCY — ESPECIALLY ONE INVOLVING AN APPROACHING HURRICANE — ADVANCE PLANNING AND PREPARATION ARE THE KEYS TO WEATHERING THE STORM SAFELY.

The first step toward building your Family Disaster Plan is to consider what preparations can be done before hurricane season to alleviate stress once the season begins. Use this checklist to get your pre-hurricane-season preparations underway.

INSURANCE INVENTORY

Inventory information should include values for each insured item as well as date of purchase and serial number. Having the appropriate insurance will help you minimize your losses. Ask your insurance agent to review your current policy.

There are four types of property insurance on the market today:

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE: This type of insurance usually covers losses caused by winds, storms and broken water pipes. However, flooding is not covered. It may be a good time to review what your policy covers.

WIND AND HAIL INSURANCE: This type of insurance covers losses due to storm winds in coastal areas. It is an underwritten policy provided by insurance providers when it is not included in the basic homeowners policy.

FLOOD INSURANCE: This type of policy is underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program. The policy is available in those communities that adopt and enforce flood plain management regulations.

RENTERS INSURANCE: Both property protection insurance and flood insurance for contents are available for those who live in rental units. Contact your insurance agent for details.

Important note: there may be a waiting period before your policy is activated. Contact your insurance agent for details.

IMPORTANT PAPERS INVENTORY

Gather copies of your family’s important paperwork, and store them in a secure location that will be well within reach if you have to locate them quickly because of an approaching storm. Consider including copies of the following for each family member:

- Social Security Cards/Visas
- Passports
- Driver’s license
- Vehicle registration and proof of insurance
- Local map
- Wills, deeds and powers of attorney
- Insurance policies (life, health and property)
- Medical and vaccination records, including medicine or food allergies and other specific health conditions
- Copies of prescription medicine labels
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Tax or other important business and personal records
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers
- Veterinary and vaccination records for pets



FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLANS

You've already taken the first step toward additional disaster planning by acquiring a copy of the Osceola Hurricane Handbook — now it's time to put the handbook to good use by completing your Family Disaster Plan (see page 15). Use this checklist to assist you with:

PROPERTY INVENTORY: Create a thorough inventory of your property and possessions using photographs, video and/or manual records.

INDOOR SAFETY PLAN: Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a hazard during a hurricane. An indoor home inspection and teaching responsible family members how to cut off utility connections at the source will minimize potential problems and hazards.

OUTDOOR SAFETY PLAN: An inventory of small outdoor items such as toys, potted plants and lawn furniture should be made. Give family members responsibility for knowing their locations as well as how and where to secure them.

CARING FOR TREES: To increase storm resistance of trees, they need to be checked yearly and pruned if necessary by an insured, licensed and qualified International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. Call UF IFAS Extension in Osceola County at 321-697-3000 or visit www.treesaregood.org for a list of arborists.

FINANCIAL PLANNING: You should be prepared to sustain yourself and your family away from your home for several days, keeping in mind it could be several weeks. Government agencies may not be able to react with assistance as quickly as you think they can. The following breakdown will give you an idea of expenses for a family of four with one of the four having "special needs" requirements.

DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT: Water, food, first aid kit, clothing, bedding, tools and special needs items. \$100 or more. (In addition to items you may already have; see page 37.)

HOME AND PROPERTY PREPARATION: The estimated cost of securing a 1,400 sq. ft. home with 11 to 13 openings requiring 5/8" plywood, visqueen, screws, duct tape, etc., \$250 to \$350.

- Prepare your property by keeping ditches, ponds, inlets and swales free of debris and report clogs.
- Prevent flooding at your home by using storm-proofing measures and elevate utilities on the property.

EVACUATION EXPENSES: These expenses include fuel expense, restaurant expense and your stay in hotels. The average hotel night is \$120. Add to that the fuel and eating expense, and you may need to budget \$220 per day.





PET BOARDING: Average boarding costs, depending on the animal, are \$20 to \$35 per night.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES: You should budget enough money to pay for a one-month supply.

CASH ON HAND: During a disaster, credit and bank card use may be limited due to loss of power. The amount of cash you have on hand should be determined by what you believe your needs will be.

KEEP A LARGE SUPPLY OF FRESH BATTERIES ON HAND TO OPERATE RADIOS AND OTHER EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

TIPS FOR EMERGENCY STORAGE

- Store emergency supplies in airtight plastic bags. Keep a supply on hand to use throughout your hurricane preparations.
- Have enough waterproof containers, such as plastic bins or buckets, to store last-minute items such as clothing, evacuation supplies, groceries and more.
- Re-evaluate your “Survival Kit” at least once a year to confirm it still meets your family’s needs.
- Replace batteries according to expiration dates recommended by manufacturer. Check at least every six months, and keep a large enough supply of fresh batteries on hand to operate radios and other emergency equipment for several days.
- Re-evaluate all clothing items, rain gear, sleeping bags and similar supplies every six months.
- Ask your pharmacist how long prescriptions may be stored and make arrangements.

BEFORE THE STORM

BY THE TIME A STORM WATCH OR WARNING IS ISSUED FOR YOUR AREA, THE MAJORITY OF YOUR FAMILY'S EMERGENCY PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED.

Here are a few tips to help you complete those last-minute details once a tropical storm or hurricane watch has been issued:

- Check food, water, first aid, batteries, pet and other stored supplies to make sure they are fresh, adequate and ready to use.
- Start a “last-minute” shopping list for any items you may need and pick them up as soon as possible.
- Fill your car with gas; check oil, tires and other maintenance points.
- If you plan to evacuate, place items you’ll need in your car.
- Complete any laundry or other household chores to ensure your family will be more comfortable if you have to spend time at home without electricity.
- Pick up loose items around your property and store them until after the storm passes.
- Check the tools and supplies you’ll need to secure windows, doors and other storm-vulnerable areas.
- Make sure your generator, if you plan to use one, is ready with gas, oil and a safe location for operation.
- Update your family’s emergency phone list if necessary.
- Contact your doctor, veterinarian, dentist or pharmacist to arrange for any extra prescriptions or other medications you need to have on hand.
- Once a hurricane “Warning” has been issued for Osceola County, check with your local government on their sandbag distribution policy and locations.

PREPARATION PAYS OFF

By the time a tropical storm or hurricane warning is issued for our area, options for dealing with the storm will be limited to two fundamental choices — remaining in a secured, prepared home or evacuating. Use these guidelines for last-minute preparations involving either of those choices.

IF YOU STAY HOME

SECURE YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY

The most susceptible areas of your home are the exterior windows, glass doors, garage doors and roof and gable ends. If hurricane winds enter any of these openings, increased internal pressure and uplifting on walls and roof supports can cause major damage. Address any danger areas early in the season, so you can be ready to take action quickly when a storm approaches.

- Secure your home and property to protect it from hurricane-related damage. This includes boarding up windows, securing all doors, including the garage door, turning off power at the source, etc.
- Make sure all family members and pets are safely indoors, and that they stay there until the danger has passed.
- Make sure your vehicle is parked in the safest possible location to minimize storm-related damage.
- Continue monitoring local news and weather updates.
- Keep in touch with friends and family during the storm to let them know how you’re faring.

EXTERIOR WINDOWS

The most secure coverings for windows are shutters. If there are no shutters on your home, temporary coverings can be made of 5/8" plywood that must be installed with a 4" overlap on all sides. The plywood should be bolted to the house. This procedure will ensure it will stay in place and not become detached during a hurricane.

LARGE WINDOWS AND GLASS DOORS

Reinforcement of plywood over large windows and glass doors can be accomplished by bolting a two-by-four support beam across the plywood and angling another two-by-four beam from that beam to an anchor that has been firmly set in the ground.





GARAGE DOORS

Garage doors can be reinforced by adding horizontal bracing to each panel at its weakest point. Kits are available at your local home improvement center.

ROOF GABLE ENDS

Hurricane force winds can cause damage by lifting off the roof when entering unsecured openings of roof gable ends. Use the same temporary shutter procedures for exterior windows to cover the openings in this area.

ROOF PROTECTION

Hurricane straps can increase the strength of your roof against the uplifting forces of hurricane winds by 50 to 75 percent. They are galvanized metal bracing materials designed to hold the roof joist to the top plate and reinforce the bonding strength beyond that of regular nails. Retrofitting your home with these straps is not considered a “do-it-yourself” project. A professional should be contracted.

WIND-BLOWN DEBRIS

Check around the yard for loose objects, such as toys, gardening tools, barbecue equipment, lawn chairs and other items that could cause damage if blown around. Have a “cleanup drill” to practice gathering these items quickly and putting them in a safe location.

IF YOU EVACUATE

- Secure your home and property to protect it from hurricane-related damage. This includes boarding up windows, turning off power at the source, etc.
- Continue monitoring local news and weather updates.
- Let your family, friends and neighbors know where you will be, how you can be reached and when you plan to return home.
- Leave the area as soon as possible to help minimize traffic delays along evacuation routes. Plan to leave early and allow extra driving time.
- Once you arrive at your destination outside the risk area, call to let your loved ones know you have arrived safely. Plan to stay until local officials give the “all-clear” for returning home.

KEEP CASH

After a disaster, you may need cash for the first few days, or even weeks. Income may stop if you can't work. To help stay solvent, consider keeping a small amount of cash or traveler's checks at home in a place where you can get at it quickly in case of a sudden evacuation. A disaster can shut down local ATMs and banks.

CREATE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR A DISASTER SITUATION,
FOLLOW THESE FIVE STEPS.

STEP ONE: GATHER INFORMATION

Contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and your local American Red Cross Chapter for the following information:

- What disasters are most likely in your community?
- How would you be warned?
- How should you prepare for each?

STEP TWO: SHARE INFORMATION WITH YOUR FAMILY

Meet with all in your household to share information in these areas:

- Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
- Explain how to prepare and respond.
- Discuss what to do if advised to evacuate.
- Practice what you have discussed.

STEP THREE: PLAN HOW YOUR FAMILY WILL STAY IN CONTACT IF SEPARATED BY A DISASTER

In a disaster, normal communications may not be possible. To contact your loved ones, you should choose a meeting place:

- A safe distance from your home in case of a fire.
- Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.

- Use an out-of-state friend as a check-in contact for everyone to call. Sometimes it is easier to make long-distance calls than to make local calls in a disaster situation.

STEP FOUR: PREPARE YOUR FAMILY AND HOME

- Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone.
- Show responsible family members how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at main switches.
- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change the batteries twice each year.
- Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.
- Learn first aid and CPR. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information and training.

STEP FIVE: MEET WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster.

- Know your neighbors' skills.
- Determine how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons.
- Make plans for childcare in case parents cannot get home.



HOUSEHOLD INVENTORY



KEEPING A HOUSEHOLD INVENTORY & PROTECTING VALUABLE RECORDS

A disaster strikes. Your home and possessions are destroyed. Will you be able to pick up the pieces? You will, if you:

- Keep an up-to-date household inventory.
- Keep this guide and other valuable documents in a secure location.

KEEPING A HOUSEHOLD INVENTORY

An up-to-date household inventory is a valuable resource. Before a disaster, the inventory will help you determine if you have enough insurance to cover the contents of your home. After the disaster, the inventory will help prove the value of the possessions that are damaged or destroyed for insurance or tax deduction purposes. An inventory consists of:

- Description of each item (include model and serial numbers)
- When you bought it
- How much it costs

It is highly recommended to have photos or a video to accompany your inventory.

Do not forget less expensive items, such as towels and clothes. It will be costly to replace them entirely. Be

thorough. Do not forget lawn furniture or tools in the garage. Keep the inventory up to date.

PROTECTING VALUABLE RECORDS

The key to a smooth recovery is documentation. Secure your valuable papers in a waterproof, fireproof container.

Table 1 is a list of the valuable papers that need to be in a safe-deposit box, especially during a disaster such as a hurricane. Table 2 is a list of valuable papers that need to be in your possession at home at all times in a waterproof, fireproof locked box. Additional copies of valuable records should be in the care of a lawyer, the administrator of wills, business associates or trusted family members residing outside of your home.

TABLE 1: VALUABLE PAPERS TO KEEP IN YOUR SAFE DEPOSIT BOX

PROPERTY

- Property records (deeds, titles, leases)
- Household inventory
- Home improvement records
- Automobile title and bill of sale
- Copies of insurance policies

IDENTIFICATION

- Social Security cards
- Citizenship papers
- Passports
- Birth certificates
- Death certificates

FINANCIAL

- Income tax returns
- Copyrights and patents
- Contracts (including promissory notes)
- Copies of insurance policies
- Certificates for stocks, bonds, etc.
- Important receipts and bills of sale
- Supporting documents for years of large transactions, unusual losses or deductions

OTHERS

- Divorce decrees
- Adoption/Custody Papers
- Military service records
- Retirement documents
- Religious records
- Copies of your and your partner’s wills
- Trust agreements, wills, powers of attorney, and notarized health care powers of attorney

TABLE 2: VALUABLE PAPERS TO KEEP AT HOME IN A WATERPROOF, FIREPROOF LOCKED BOX

GENERAL

- Safe deposit box key
- Safe deposit records and inventory of items
- List of emergency contacts (doctors, vets, financial advisors, clergy, reputable repair contractors and family members)

PROPERTY

- Rental property records
- Guarantees and warranties
- Appliance manuals
- Copies of insurance

FINANCIAL

- Income tax returns
- Current bank balances
- Loan payment books
- Employee benefits
- Bank account, loan, credit card, investment account numbers

IDENTIFICATION

- Social Security numbers
- Drivers license numbers
- Copies of citizenship papers
- Copies of birth certificates
- Copies of marriage certificates
- Educational records

HEALTH

- Health records
- Copies of immunization records
- Copies of prescriptions for medicines and eyeglasses
- Copies of veterinary/ vaccination records
- Health/dental or prescription insurance cards

FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Residents with disabilities, medical problems or mobility problems who may need transportation assistance or disaster shelter during an emergency may register with the Osceola County Special Needs Program at www.readyosceola.org. Keep these considerations in mind when making plans for your loved ones who have special needs.

HOME HEALTH CARE & HOME-BOUND LIFE-SUPPORT PATIENTS

Notify your health agency where you will be during a hurricane and when care can be re-established. Contact your physician if you are home-bound and under the care of a physician, but not a home health agency. If you require respirators or other electric-dependent medical equipment, you should make prior medical arrangements with your physician.

If you require oxygen, check with your supplier about emergency plans. If you evacuate, remember to take medications, written instructions regarding your care, your walker, wheel chair, cane or special equipment, along with your bedding.

If you do not evacuate, keep a list of the names and phone numbers of friends or family, so you can make quick arrangements to stay with them in the event of a power interruption. Also, locate the nearest hospital that can help provide emergency power for your life support equipment.

Remember that although KUA does give priority to life support customers during isolated electric outages, during a time of a widespread outage from a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, it is often impossible to give priority because of the extent of damage and the order in which power must be restored.



IF YOU DO NOT EVACUATE, KEEP A LIST OF THE NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF FRIENDS OR FAMILY, SO YOU CAN MAKE QUICK ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY WITH THEM IN THE EVENT OF A POWER INTERRUPTION.

- A list of items that will accompany him/her if your special needs family member is evacuated, including an adequate supply of medications and special foods.
- Maps with evacuation routes highlighted.
- Transfer forms readily available authorizing admissions into hospital facilities if necessary.
- A list of friends and family members who have agreed to help in emergency situations.
- The best and safest arrangements for special needs family members may be to bring them with you when you evacuate.

CARING FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT HOME

Some disabled and elderly citizens may have special needs that hinder them from being able to leave their homes during emergencies. Government and emergency personnel recognize the needs of this segment of the population. However, due to their increasing numbers, it is almost impossible to provide aid for everyone. You can be a part of a care program to offer assistance to those family members who cannot help themselves by:

- Educating and physically helping them prepare their homes and property for emergencies such as hurricanes.
- Helping them shop for their necessary supplies.
- Helping them create and post their “Family Disaster Plan Checklist” (see page 35) in a visible location as a reminder to them and others.

SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILY MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES

Special needs family members in nursing homes also need assistance in preparing for disasters. You can ensure the safety of your family members by inquiring if their health care providers are adequately prepared for disaster or emergency situations. These agencies should have the following:

- A disaster plan that is reviewed annually by administration and staff.
- Policies that provide for in-house emergency preparedness training for employees.
- Identification procedures for patients, such as bands or cards that indicate names, ages, medical conditions and current medications.
- Transportation services for evacuations that are renewed annually.
- Agreements with other health care providers that are renewed annually.



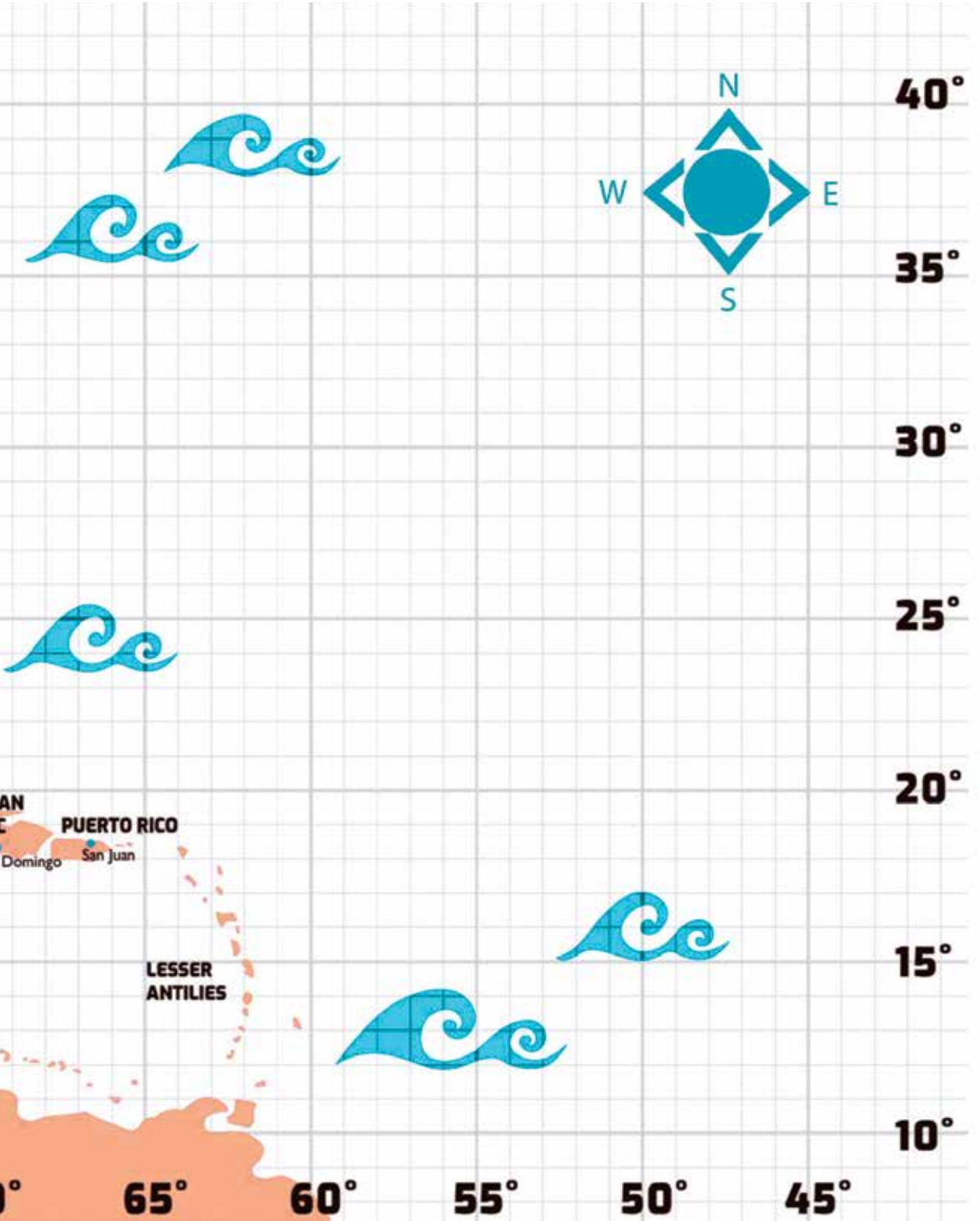
TROPICAL CYCLONE



2023 TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

- ___ Arlene
- ___ Harold
- ___ Ophelia
- ___ Bret
- ___ Idalia
- ___ Philippe

TRACKING CHART



___ Cindy
 ___ Jose
 ___ Rina

___ Don
 ___ Katia
 ___ Sean

___ Emily
 ___ Lee
 ___ Tammy

___ Franklin
 ___ Margot
 ___ Vince

___ Gert
 ___ Nigel
 ___ Whitney

WHAT ABOUT PETS?

WHAT TO DO WITH PETS

- Gather up pedigree and health records (including vaccination records) and lists of special dietary or other needs for your family's pets. Keep this information together so you have quick access to it.
- Include contact information for your family veterinarian in the "Important Numbers and Notes" page of this handbook.
- Keep at least a one-month supply of any food and medications your pets may need, including flea and tick treatments, special shampoos, dietary supplements, etc. Label them clearly with your pet's name and instructions for safe use of each product.
- Keep blankets, toys, and cleaning supplies including paper towels, spray bottles and trash bags in air tight bags within a plastic tote container.
- Be sure to have enough pet carriers, leashes, muzzles and any other restraining equipment you might need, and label them with your pet's name, your name and your contact information.
- Decide ahead of time whether you will leave your pets at home, board them, or take them with you if you decide to evacuate.

BOARDING

- It won't help to board pets anywhere within the area threatened by a hurricane — they won't be any safer than they would be at home. Choose boarding facilities well out of the threatened area, and make arrangements in advance to get your pets to that location.
- Budget for boarding costs of \$20 or more per animal per night, depending on the animal's size and special needs.

HOTELS

- If you plan to keep pets with you in a hotel, motel or campground, confirm ahead of time that the facility will accept your pets.
- Study your travel map ahead of time to determine where you will be able to stop to feed, water and exercise your pet.

STAYING AT HOME

- The safest thing to do is evacuate before a hurricane ever arrives — but if for some reason you can't evacuate (or choose not to evacuate), make plans to keep your pets indoors until the emergency is over.

- Don't let pets go outdoors until you're certain it's safe. Be sure power lines, dangerous tree limbs, wildlife and other hazards have been addressed before any family member or pet goes outdoors alone.

SHELTERS

Ideally, it is best for pet owners not to rely on pet-friendly shelters; they should make plans in advance to take pets with them to a location out of the threatened area. However, if no other option exists, pet-friendly shelters will serve as locations where pets and their owner can stay in the same building. Owners should bring the following supplies:

- A crate to house your pet with enough room to stand up, lie down, and stretch out
- Label crates with pet owner's name and phone number
- Medications stored in a waterproof bag
- Food that is in a waterproof bag, water and bowls
- Blankets and toys
- Cleaning supplies including paper towels, spray bottles and trash bags
- A leash and harness collar with identification tags
- Veterinary records for each pet in an air-tight bag

Osceola County has three approved pet-friendly shelter locations:

Harmony High School

3601 Arthur J. Gallagher Blvd.
Harmony, FL 34771

Liberty High School

250 Pleasant Hill Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Kissimmee Middle School

2410 Dyer Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34741



Specific shelter location openings are announced prior to an event.

SANDBAGS



One of the most effective ways to protect your home from potential damage caused by powerful storms is to use sandbags. Sandbags can be a simple yet highly effective method of preventing water damage during a hurricane, and they are an essential tool for anyone living in an area at risk of flooding.

Sandbags are essentially just bags filled with sand, which can be placed in strategic locations around a property to prevent floodwaters from entering. They are typically made of heavy-duty materials, such as burlap or polypropylene, which can withstand the weight of the sand and the force of the water. When placed correctly, sandbags can act as a barrier, diverting water away from the property and preventing it from seeping in.

Prior to a tropical storm or hurricane, Osceola County will open sandbag distribution at one or more locations. Supplies including bags and sand are provided, and residents are typically allowed 25 sandbags per household and should bring their own shovel or filling tool.

Osceola County recommends that residents store uncontaminated sandbags for reuse during possible future storms. Sandbags that have not come into contact with water can be saved to be used in case of additional flooding. Uncontaminated sand can be used for gardens or flower beds and bags can be thrown in the garbage.

Never use the sand from sandbags to fill children's sandboxes or playgrounds. Residents must dispose of sandbags that have come in contact with floodwater by taking them to the Bass Road Yard Waste Disposal Site at 750 S. Bass Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746.

PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS



PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS TO WEATHER THE STORM

Businesses are just as likely to suffer hurricane-related damage as are private homes. Businesses, however, also carry the risk of lost productivity due to hurricane damage or to the absence of key employees who may not be able to make it to the office for several days after a storm has passed. Here are practical steps you can take to prepare your business for a storm.

MAKE YOUR PLAN

Your business can benefit from using the information presented throughout the Osceola Hurricane Handbook — simply convert the guidelines from home use to business use. Then, make your emergency preparation plan, share it with your employees and practice the plan before it must be used in a real weather emergency.

PROTECT YOUR WORKERS

- Create an Evacuation Plan and post it on each level of your building. Be sure to conduct evacuation drills annually with employees.
- Determine with your employees how much time they might need away from the office to make last-minute

preparations in the event of an approaching storm. By putting employees in a position to prepare early at home, you will be better positioned to have their help in preparing your business to weather the storm.

- Decide ahead of time if or when your business will close early because of a storm. Communicate this to your employees so they can plan their own preparations accordingly.

PROTECT YOUR WORK FLOW

- Photograph all of your office equipment and keep a current inventory of all office machines and supplies.
- Store copies of valuable paperwork, files and data in a safe location, preferably outside the risk area. Or, prepare portable backup files that can be driven out of the risk area.
- Follow instructions in this handbook for securing your property to make sure your offices will be protected.
- Consider adding insurance coverage to help you recover from productivity lost as the result of a hurricane.
- Make sure key employees are cross-trained and able to handle one another's duties in case a staff member has to be out for an extended period of time because of an evacuation or storm damage.
- Think about whether you might try to relocate your operation or ask your employees to work from home if storm damage prevents you from returning to your normal location for an extended period of time.
- Keep a record of companies that provide disaster recovery services such as cleanup.

43%

OF BUSINESSES THAT EXPERIENCE A DISASTER AND HAVE NO EMERGENCY PLAN NEVER RE-OPEN.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE

WHEN IT COMES TO HURRICANES, WE'RE USUALLY FORTUNATE TO HAVE NOTICE OF THE STORM'S APPROACH SEVERAL DAYS IN ADVANCE. THE SMARTEST PLAN FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE STORM'S PATH IS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO EVACUATE THE AREA EARLY AND SAFELY, AND TO TRAVEL FAR ENOUGH TO BE SURE YOU WILL BE OUT OF THE AT-RISK AREA.

- Let trustworthy family and friends know when you leave and where you are going.
- Use recommended evacuation routes.
- Make arrangements for your pets. Remember, only a few emergency shelters accept pets.
- Stay tuned to the local EAS radio broadcast stations for status of the storm and evacuation shelter information.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

As an element of your family preparedness plan, choose an out-of-area contact for all family members to call in case of an emergency. Your contact should live far enough away that he or she will not be affected by the disaster.

Use this list as a guide for making your evacuation process as smooth and efficient as possible.

- **REMEMBER:** When you evacuate, your family will be one of many with the same need to get out of town quickly. Expect driving times to be approximately four times longer than normal because of heavy traffic.
- Stay calm and set a good example for your family members, friends and neighbors.
- Fuel and check your car. Make sure you have an extra set of keys.
- Check your disaster supplies, and make sure you have at least a three-day supply to take with you.
- Make sure you have flashlights and extra batteries.
- Make sure you bring cash. Your credit cards may not work.
- Include items for family members with special needs (elderly, infants, disabled, etc.).
- Bring your important documents (household inventory list, insurance documents, mortgage papers, etc.).
- Turn off electricity at home at the main box. Simply turning off lights and appliances is not enough.
- Gas heating and cooling systems must be turned off.
- Lock your home.



6.5 MILLION

FLORIDIANS WERE ORDERED TO EVACUATE AHEAD OF HURRICANE IRMA IN 2017, MOSTLY FOR THOSE LIVING ON BARRIER ISLANDS OR IN COASTAL AREAS; IN MOBILE OR SUB-STANDARD HOMES; AND IN LOW-LYING OR FLOOD-PRONE AREAS.

HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES



PREPARATION PAYS OFF

Knowing your evacuation routes should be part of your family's evacuation plan. For those of us in Osceola County that usually means moving further inland or to the west. However, as we saw in 2004 with the approach of Hurricane Charley in the Gulf, there are times when the population may be evacuating to the east.

CENTRAL FLORIDA HURRICANE EVACUATION PHASES

PRECAUTIONARY:

This phase concentrates on people who are most vulnerable to the effects of hurricane winds and water. The emphasis is on safely evacuating offshore workers, persons on coastal islands, persons living in low-lying areas, the "special needs" population (the elderly, infirm and others) and persons aboard boats.

RECOMMENDED:

This phase concentrates on all people who are at risk — that is those who live in a low-lying or flood-prone area, and those who live in a manufactured home (mobile home, RV, etc.).

MANDATORY:

In this stage, maximum emphasis will be employed by authorities to encourage evacuation of everyone except essential emergency personnel out of the risk area. Entry back into the risk area will be curtailed and monitored by public safety and emergency personnel. When the hurricane is close to the risk area, even the designated evacuation routes will be closed — so it's important to get out early, before your "escape routes" are no longer passable.

EMERGENCY SHELTERS OFFER A TEMPORARY HOME

PLANNING FOR HURRICANE SEASON AND OTHER POTENTIAL DISASTERS CAN BE STRESSFUL.

WHEN TO EVACUATE

- If you live in a site-built home, shelter in place at your home. If you have to leave, make plans to stay with family or friends to ride out the storm.
- Shelter space will be prioritized for the following:
 - Those living in low-lying or flood-prone areas
 - Those living in manufactured homes
 - Those with special needs
- All shelters will include enhanced registration and medical screening to include temperature checks.

PREPARING FOR A SHELTER

If you evacuate to a public shelter, prepare a kit with personal items you cannot do without during an emergency.

FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If your family has “special needs” relatives, it is important to decide what you will do in the event of an emergency or evacuation. Evacuation centers will not be able to offer the same quality of care that is provided for your elderly or disabled family members, only basic care and assistance will be available. Medications, skilled nursing care, oxygen and other special medical equipment will not be available. Remember, evacuation centers are staffed with volunteers, and supplies are limited to the basics such as food, water and first-aid kits.

WHAT TO PACK

- Face coverings
- Blankets, pillows, sleeping gear
- Non-perishable foods that do not require cooking
- Important papers, including this Osceola Hurricane Handbook
- Water
- Extra clothing for each family member
- Baby supplies, such as diapers, baby formula/food, baby wipes, quiet toys
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Medications
- Disinfectants
- Portable ice chest
- Personal hygiene items
- Quiet family activities — books, cards, puzzles, children’s coloring books and crayons, etc.

DON'T PACK

- Weapons or firearms
- Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
- Pets
- Valuables and “family treasures” of irreplaceable value
- Candles, kerosene lamps or other flammables

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE DURING THE STORM

AS A HURRICANE APPROACHES, LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFICIALS WILL RECOMMEND WHO SHOULD PREPARE TO EVACUATE, WHEN TO EVACUATE AND WHICH EVACUATION ROUTES THEY SHOULD FOLLOW.

If a hurricane strikes our area, the best place to ride out the storm is far away, well outside the storm's path. In some cases that may mean traveling several hours' distance to get out of the storm's path. If you are not able to travel that far, and your home is not a safe location, take your family to an emergency shelter located as far as possible from the danger area.

STAYING AT HOME

Every family should make every possible effort to prevent being trapped at home during a hurricane. Even after all necessary arrangements have been made to evacuate in plenty of time, it might be a good idea to discuss these "during the storm" safety tips, just in case someone becomes stranded and must weather the storm at home:

- Never go outdoors during a hurricane — not even during the "quiet time" that occurs while the storm's eye is moving through the area. In addition to wind, flying debris and possibly hail or lightning, you may also encounter dangers such as rising water and downed power lines.

- Stay away from any windows or glass-paned doors that haven't been boarded up from the outside. Cover them with blankets from the inside to prevent injury or damage from water, flying debris or broken glass.
- Stay tuned to local news and weather broadcasts via battery-operated radios or televisions to keep abreast of the storm's progress and other emergency bulletins.
- Never rely on candles, kerosene lamps or other flammable lighting materials. Use glow sticks, flashlights or battery-powered lamps instead.
- Keep your family together at all times, preferably in an interior room of your home, or whatever indoor location you feel will provide the best protection from hurricane-force winds.
- Gather up extra pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, sofa cushions and mattresses to make a "soft shelter" your family can utilize in case your home is damaged by hurricane winds or tornadoes.
- Keep pets with you at all times so you can monitor their behavior and keep them safe.
- Never attempt to travel the roads until after the storm is over and local authorities have declared the area safe for traveling.



AFTER THE STORM



TIME FOR CAUTION

It's natural to feel a great sense of relief when the storm moves away from our area. That feeling of relief, however, shouldn't diminish your sense of caution, because many dangers remain after a hurricane has passed. In fact, most hurricane-related deaths occur after a hurricane, often when people are removing debris.

Downed power lines; broken water, sewer or gas lines; clogged roadways and dangling tree limbs are just a few of the lingering hazards that must be dealt with after a hurricane has moved through the area.

Here are several tips to keep you and your family safe during the cleanup and recovery period following any major storm.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Avoid driving until authorities clear roadways of debris and downed power lines.
- Don't drive through standing water. You could be stranded, injured or swept away by flash-flood waters.
- Watch out for downed power lines. Stay away from them, and report them to authorities.
- Be on the lookout for other broken utility lines — water, sewer and gas lines in particular, but also phone, cable and other service hook-ups. Report these kinds of problems to authorities as well.

- Never try to touch or move downed lines or repair broken electric or gas connections.
- Be careful not to accidentally set fires, and quickly report any fires you do notice. Fires spread rapidly during emergency situations when decreased water pressure and transportation problems may hinder firefighters.
- Be extremely careful clearing storm debris, which may camouflage downed power lines and serve as hiding places for wild animals, or be contaminated with raw sewage or other hazards.
- Always wear heavy gloves and boots, and wear chainsaw chaps if operating a chainsaw.
- If remodeling or rebuilding your home is necessary, be sure to check with your local building office for proper permits.



KEEP A SAFE WATER SUPPLY

It may be several days before authorities can restore water and sewer service to your home after a hurricane. While you're waiting, it is important to keep stored water safely potable and free of contamination. Store a three-day supply for each family member. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water daily. If you have the slightest doubt about the water's safety for drinking, purify it by using one of the following methods:

- Boil for 10 minutes and pour between containers to replenish oxygen.
- Add eight drops of liquid chlorine bleach (contains 5.25% sodium hypochlorite/no soap or fragrances) per gallon.
- Purification tablets and iodine are not effective and are no longer recommended by the USDA.
- Water can be safely stored in a cool dark place for up to six months.
- You can safely store water in your freezer by filling plastic bags or other leak-proof containers about 2/3 full, then freezing. When the electricity goes out during a storm, simply let the stored ice melt.

• Even a water bed, bathtub or spare bucket can be used to store extra water — just make sure to fill them up before you lose electric or water service at home. For water beds, fill with fresh water and treat with two ounces of bleach per 120 gallons. Use water stored in bathtubs or open containers for cleaning and washing, but not for cooking or drinking.

FOOD STORAGE TIPS

- While you are waiting for the lights — and the refrigerator — to come back on, you may not be able to travel safely to the grocery store. Plan ahead to have enough non-perishable food on hand for several days of use.
- Check all canned or stored dry goods for quality before consuming them. Toxins can form quickly in the form of bacteria or mold in the hot, humid days after a hurricane.
- If you aren't sure whether the food is safe, do not eat it! You might not have quick access to emergency medical care to treat food poisoning because of blocked roadways or other storm-related delays.
- Keep a supply of non-perishable food in the trunk of your car or some other safe location, just in case your primary food stores become damaged during the storm and cannot be used.

GENERATOR SAFETY

PURCHASING A GENERATOR

If you choose to buy a generator, make sure you get one that is listed with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

Look at the labels on lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect to the generator to determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate the equipment.

For lighting, the wattage of the light bulb indicates the power needed. Appliances and equipment usually have labels indicating power requirements on them.

Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances and equipment you plan to connect, including the initial surge when it is turned on.

If your generator does not produce adequate power for all your needs, plan to stagger the operating times for your equipment. If you cannot determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate your appliances, lighting and equipment, ask an electrician to determine that for you.

If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.

USING A GENERATOR

Follow the directions supplied with the generator. Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors, including inside a garage. Adequate ventilation is necessary, and proper refueling practices, as described in the owner's manual, must be followed.

It is a good idea to install one or more carbon monoxide (CO) alarms inside your home. If CO gas from the generator enters your home and poses a health risk, the alarm will sound to warn you.

Many home fires and deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning have occurred from using a generator improperly.

Be sure to let the generator cool down before refueling. Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the generator label. Local laws may restrict the amount of fuel you may store, or the storage location. Ask your fire department for additional information about local regulations. Store fuel for the generator outside in a locked shed or other protected area. Do not store fuel in a garage, basement or anywhere inside a home, as vapors can be released that may cause illness and are a potential fire or explosion hazard.



Q & A

HOW LONG WILL I BE WITHOUT POWER?

KUA employees work tirelessly to restore power as quickly as possible after a storm or hurricane — including bringing in crews from other areas to assist, if necessary. To view a real-time map of outages affecting KUA customers, visit <http://kua.com/map>.

PHASES OF POWER RESTORATION

Phase 1: Assess & Protect

We send highly trained workers into the field to locate and monitor safety hazards. These hazards can include downed wires and poles. Our crews then make sure electricity is off for your safety. They also ensure that power is flowing to critical facilities like hospitals, fire stations and other essential services.

Phase 2: Repair Damage

Once damage has been assessed and safety measures enacted, we dispatch crews to make repairs. Substations and main electric lines and wires must be repaired to restore power to you. Even if you do not see our field crew teams, rest assured we are working nearby to get your power restored.

Phase 3: Restore Power

Once damage is repaired, we begin restoring power to homes and buildings. If you notice that a neighbor's power is back before yours, don't worry. Your home may be on a different circuit or line. We appreciate your patience as we work as safely and quickly as possible to get your lights back on.

Please review the illustrations on page 33 for information on power restoration and who is responsible for fixing what.

HOW DOES KUA DECIDE WHO GETS POWER FIRST?

After we repair our power plants and the lines that carry electricity from them, we restore customers who provide essential services to the community, including hospitals, care facilities and police/fire stations. Then, we repair damage that will return power to the greatest number of customers in the least amount of time. Finally, we restore small neighborhoods and individual customers.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY HOUSE FLOODS?

If you, your friends or neighbors remain without power following severe flooding from a hurricane, please know that KUA and Osceola County will work together to get your service restored. Please follow these steps to ensure power is connected to your property quickly and safely.

Step 1 – Contact KUA to determine the reason you are without power. If you cannot receive power because of flood concerns, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2 – Contact a licensed electrician of your choice. They will need to pull a permit through Osceola County to inspect your property's utility connection, and ensure power can be restored safely to your structure. This permit is generally free of charge following a storm.

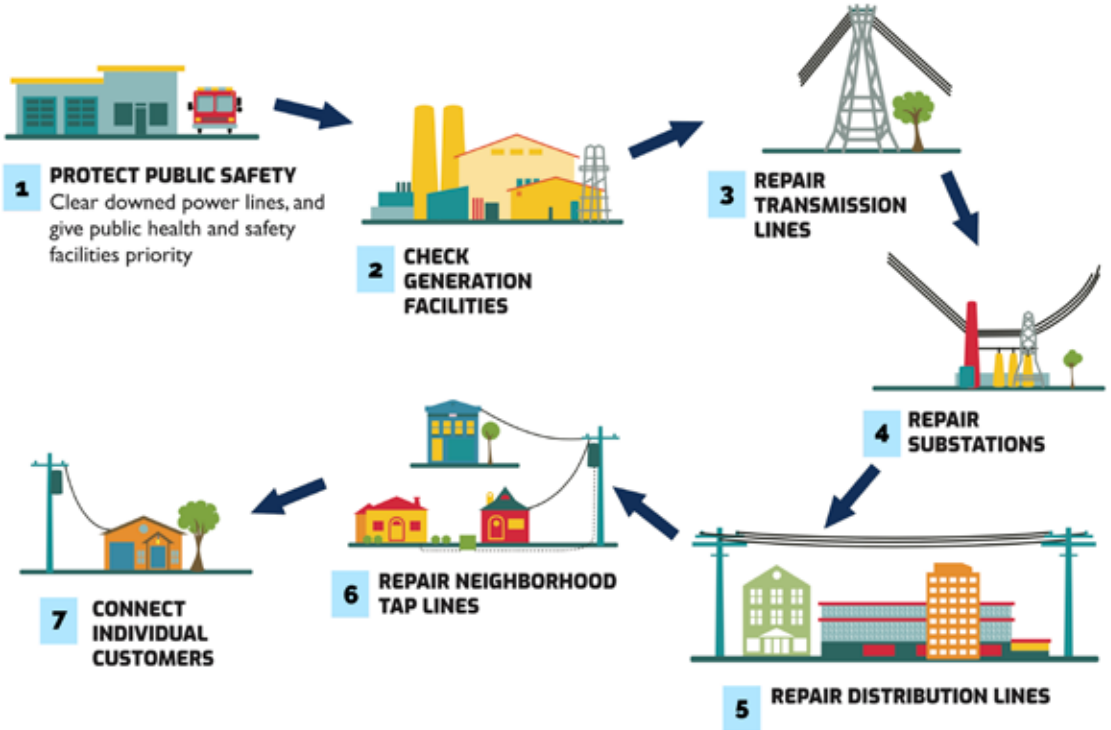
Step 3 – With a completed permit and approval from a licensed electrician, Osceola County officials will mark your meter safe to receive power, and will then alert KUA that power can be restored.

Step 4 – KUA will restore power.

POWER OUTAGE RESTORATION

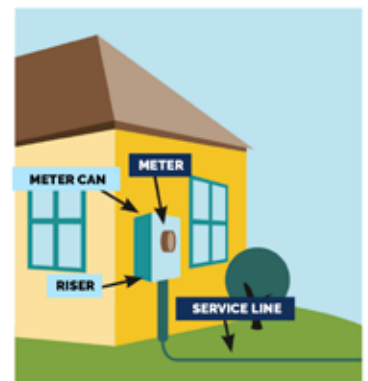
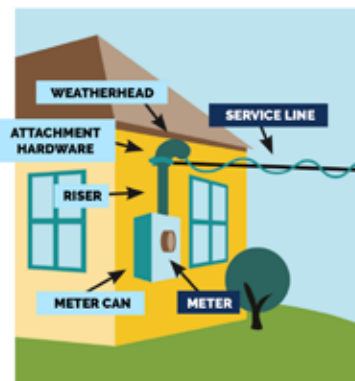
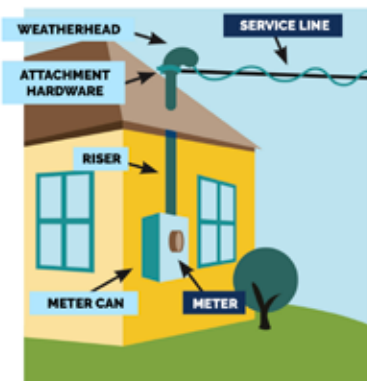
HOW WE RESTORE POWER

When a power outage happens, KUA first ensures public safety, then we work our way down the line making repairs. At each step, we prioritize the jobs that help the most people. We greatly appreciate your patience while we move through these steps to restore power to everyone.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIXING WHAT?

If your electrical components are damaged, you may be responsible for repairs. Identify your type of service connection below to learn what your responsibilities are.



CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY

KUA RESPONSIBILITY

INSURANCE CLAIMS

WHAT IF I HAVE TO FILE AN INSURANCE CLAIM?

If there is damage to your home, contact your insurance company as soon as possible for an adjuster to come to your home and appraise the damage. Remember, in a disaster situation, someone may not come immediately. Try to be patient.

Listed here are steps you can follow while you are waiting. These steps will help to expedite the adjuster's evaluation of the damage and thus speed up the process.

BEFORE THE STORM

- Review your insurance coverage to make sure it is adequate. Hurricane damage is covered under a standard homeowners policy, but it is very important to insure your home and belongings to their full replacement cost. Flooding is generally not covered under standard homeowners policies, so ask your agent about flood insurance.
- Know the difference between replacement cost versus actual cost. If a hurricane destroys a television bought in 1995 for \$700 with a current market value of \$300, actual cost would pay only \$300 for the television.
- Take an inventory of your possessions. Pictures or video recordings may also be helpful for insurance purposes. Store the inventory and pictures/videos off the premises to help facilitate the claim filing process if your belongings are damaged.
- Know your insurance company and insurance agent and how to get in touch with them quickly.
- If you rent a house or apartment, talk to your agent about purchasing a renters insurance policy if you don't already have one.

AFTER THE STORM

- Before beginning any cleanup, take photos and keep notes. It is important to document everything that is damaged before starting to replace or to restore.
- Make temporary repairs. Keep all receipts for work done on your property.

- Notify your insurance agent as soon as possible. If you have vacated the premises, make sure your representative knows where to contact you. If you're at home, but your phone isn't working, leave a number where you can be reached.
- File your claim in the time limits required by your insurance company.
- Make sure your adjuster provides you with a proof of loss statement. Report any additional damage found as soon as possible so that damage may be added to your claim.
- If your home is uninhabitable and you must live in temporary lodging, save all receipts.
- Don't be rushed into signing repair contracts. Deal with reputable contractors. If you are unsure about a contractor's credentials, contact your claims adjuster, Better Business Bureau or Chamber of Commerce for referrals. Make sure the contractor you hire is experienced in repair work.
- Make copies of any and all correspondence and information sent to you by your insurance company.

Insurance Information Institute: www.iii.org

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Office of Insurance Regulation
200 E. Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0300
877-693-5236
www.myfloridacfo.com
Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer

TAKE AN INVENTORY OF YOUR POSSESSIONS. PICTURES OR VIDEO RECORDINGS MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES.

MY FAMILY DISASTER PLAN CHECKLIST

This is where you apply what you have read in this handbook in order to create your own personal disaster plan. Entering the vital information on this page now will make it easier to follow when it is needed.

I PLAN NOT TO EVACUATE AND WILL GO TO A FRIEND/FAMILY MEMBER'S HOME. I HAVE NOTIFIED THEM AND MADE THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

I PLAN TO EVACUATE AND WILL GO TO A FRIEND/FAMILY MEMBER'S HOME OUT OF THE AT-RISK AREA. I HAVE NOTIFIED THEM AND MADE THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

I PLAN TO GO TO A PUBLIC SHELTER (IF AVAILABLE).

City: _____

I PLAN TO STAY IN A HOTEL/MOTEL.

Name of hotel/motel: _____

Phone number: _____

Location and city: _____

ALTERNATE HOTEL/MOTEL LOCATION.

Name of hotel/motel: _____

Phone number: _____

Location and city: _____

I HAVE CALCULATED THE DRIVING TIME TO MY DESTINATION AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES THE NORMAL DRIVING TIME, AND IT IS:

I HAVE STUDIED THE EVACUATION ROUTE THAT BEST SUITS MY NEEDS.

My evacuation route will be:

I HAVE MADE PLANS FOR MY SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILY MEMBERS.

My plans are:

I HAVE MADE PLANS FOR MY PETS.

My plans are:

I HAVE COMPLETED MY PROPERTY INVENTORY AND PLACED IT IN A SAFE, WATERPROOF PLACE.

Location:

I HAVE MADE AN ASSESSMENT OF MY INSURANCE NEEDS. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

_____ Homeowners Insurance

_____ Flood Insurance

_____ Wind and Hail Insurance

_____ Renters Insurance

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

Name of Company/Agent: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

I HAVE COMPLETED THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

_____ Exterior windows

_____ Roof protection

_____ Large windows and glass doors

_____ Indoor hazard protection plan

_____ Garage doors

_____ Outdoor property protection plan

_____ Roof gable ends

_____ Trees

I HAVE IDENTIFIED ANY ANTICIPATED EXTRA EXPENSE DUE TO A DISASTER, AND HAVE CALCULATED AN APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SEE MYSELF AND MY FAMILY THROUGH A DISASTER.

That amount is: \$ _____

HURRICANE SURVIVAL KIT

Your “Survival Kit” should contain the following seven basic categories: WATER, FOOD, FIRST AID SUPPLIES, CLOTHING AND BEDDING, TOOLS, EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ITEMS. Listed below are some items that could be included. Decide what items best fit your family’s needs. Gather quantities for 5 – 7 days.

FOOD

- _____ fruits: canned, dried, roll-ups
- _____ meats: canned or dried
- _____ vegetables: canned
- _____ milk: dried
- _____ juices: canned or bottled
- _____ drinking water
- _____ peanut butter
- _____ crackers
- _____ soups: canned
- _____ high energy bars

BABY SUPPLIES

- _____ diapers, baby wipes
- _____ milk, food, formula
- _____ clothes
- _____ disposable bottles and liners
- _____ blankets, sheets, bed liners
- _____ medications
- _____ portable crib
- _____ toys

CHILDREN’S SUPPLIES

- _____ quiet toys
- _____ coloring book
- _____ crayons
- _____ puzzles
- _____ books
- _____ CD player
- _____ iPod/MP3 player and charger
- _____ extra batteries

ADULT SUPPLIES

- _____ shaving kit
- _____ mirror
- _____ eye glasses and contact lenses
- _____ cash
- _____ post cards, stamps, cards
- _____ books, stationery

PERSONAL ITEMS

- _____ soap, toothbrush, deodorant
- _____ towel and washcloth
- _____ sewing kit
- _____ shampoo
- _____ feminine hygiene items

CLOTHING & BEDDING

- _____ rain gear
- _____ sleeping bags and pillows
- _____ extra shoes and work boots
- _____ extra clothes

COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

- _____ battery operated radio
- _____ extra batteries
- _____ NOAA weather radio
- _____ cellular phone and charger

LIGHTING

- _____ waterproof flashlights
- _____ fluorescent distress flag
- _____ extra batteries

COOKING EQUIPMENT

- _____ gas grill
- _____ extra propane gas
- _____ barbecue grill
- _____ lighter fluid/charcoal
- _____ sterno stove
- _____ outdoor cooking utensils
- _____ manual can opener
- _____ bottle opener
- _____ disposable eating utensils
- _____ disposable plates and cups
- _____ paper towels

FIRST AID SUPPLIES

- _____ first aid handbook
- _____ scissors, tweezers
- _____ thermometer
- _____ first aid tape
- _____ gauze rolls
- _____ large non-stick pads
- _____ Band-Aids™
- _____ arm sling
- _____ snake-bite kit
- _____ cotton swabs
- _____ ice/heat packs
- _____ latex gloves
- _____ safety pins



PAPERS & VALUABLES

- _____ birth certificates
- _____ Social Security cards
- _____ marriage records
- _____ death records
- _____ computer back-ups
- _____ small valuables
- _____ legal IDs
- _____ extra cash
- _____ deeds
- _____ mortgages
- _____ stocks and bonds
- _____ checking account information
- _____ savings account records
- _____ household inventory
(photos, video or DVD)
- _____ driver license

INTERNAL MEDICATIONS

- _____ aspirin/acetaminophen
- _____ sore throat lozenges and spray
- _____ prescription medication
- _____ laxative
- _____ eye drops
- _____ antacids
- _____ nose spray
- _____ vitamins
- _____ cough medicine
- _____ ear drops

EXTERNAL MEDICATIONS

- _____ antibiotic ointment
- _____ antibacterial soap
- _____ baking soda
- _____ hydrogen peroxide
- _____ calamine lotion
- _____ Betadine®
- _____ lip balm
- _____ antifungal cream
- _____ sun block

SANITARY ITEMS

- _____ emergency toilet
- _____ plastic garbage bags
- _____ paper towels, toilet paper
- _____ liquid detergent
- _____ disinfectant

CLEANUP SUPPLIES

- _____ washing detergents
- _____ mops, brooms, etc.
- _____ buckets, extra hose
- _____ old blankets, towels, rags
- _____ large plastic bags
- _____ rubber gloves
- _____ bleach, disinfectants
- _____ camera (used to photograph home before cleanup)

SAFETY SUPPLIES

- _____ fire extinguisher
- _____ waterproof matches
- _____ work gloves
- _____ work knife
- _____ shovel, hand saw, ax
- _____ hammer, nails, tarp, duct tape
- _____ small boat
- _____ chain saw
- _____ chain saw chops
- _____ work boots
- _____ leather gloves
- _____ safety glasses
- _____ generator
- _____ wet/dry vacuum
- _____ extra oil, gas



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & NOTES

PHONE NUMBERS

In the event of a power outage, you may not have access to your cell phone's call log or the internet. Write down additional phone numbers you might need if you are away from home. Bring this list with you if an evacuation is ordered.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NOTES





**HERE FOR
YOU DURING
HURRICANE SEASON** KUA.COM/STORM