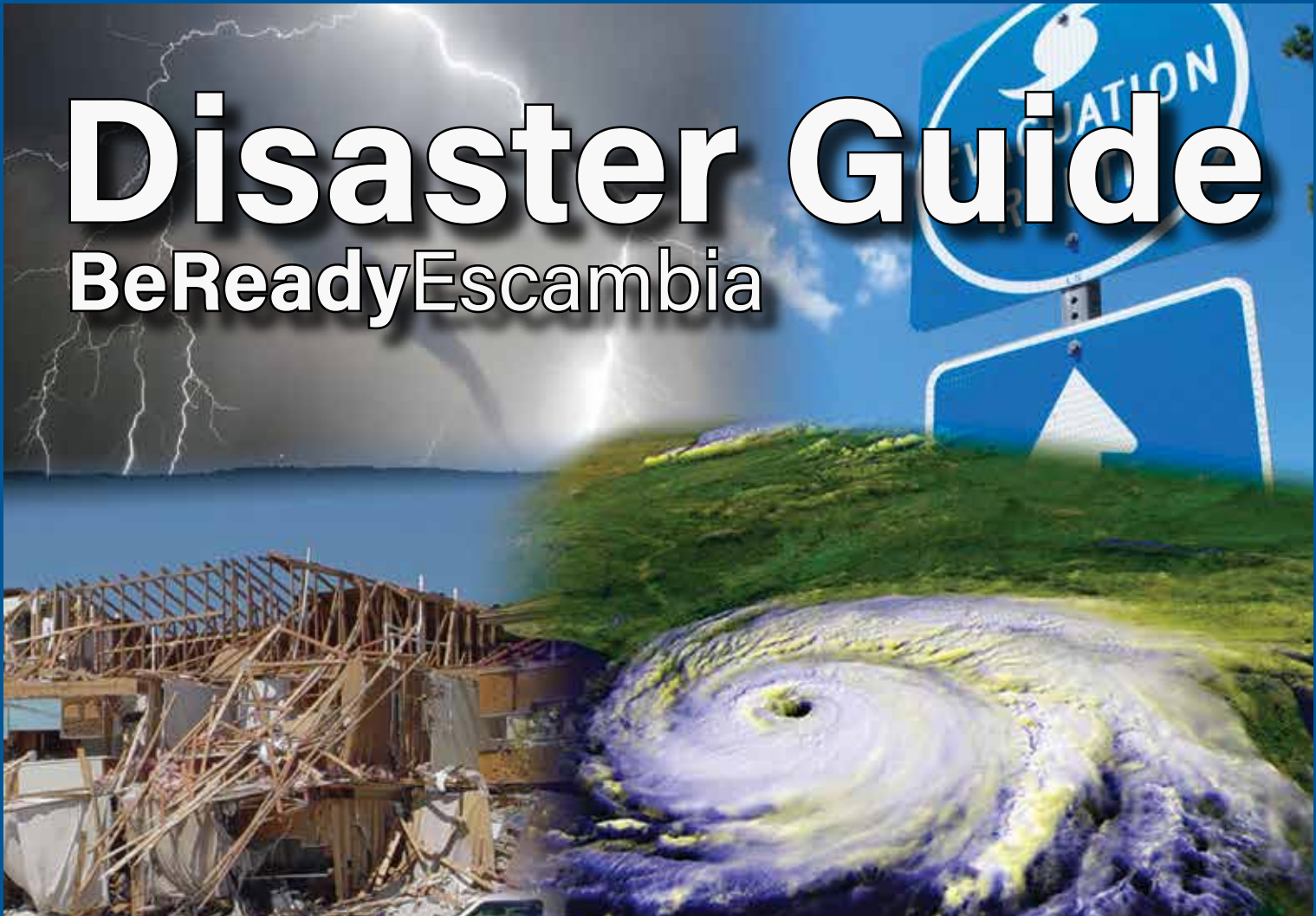


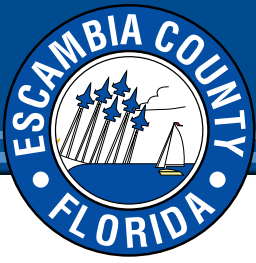
# Disaster Guide

BeReadyEscambia



***Be informed and be prepared!***





# Important Phone Numbers

## Local Government

### Board of County Commissioners

District 1.....	595-4910
District 2.....	595-4920
District 3.....	595-4930
District 4.....	595-4940
District 5.....	595-4950
County Administrator.....	595-4947
Animal Control.....	595-0097
Animal Shelter.....	595-3075
Building Inspections/Permits.....	595-3550
Code Compliance.....	595-1820
Extension Service.....	475-5230
Emergency Management.....	471-6400
Environmental.....	595-3623
Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline.....	(844) 640-0008
Housing Information.....	458-0466
Parks/Recreation.....	475-5220
Planning/Zoning.....	595-3475
Purchasing.....	595-4980
Public Works.....	595-3451
Recycling.....	937-2160
Road & Bridge Division.....	937-2120
Solid Waste Department.....	937-2160
Clerk of Court.....	595-4310
Property Appraiser.....	434-2735
City of Pensacola.....	435-1603
Town of Century.....	256-3208
Tax Collector.....	438-6500
Escambia County School District.....	432-6121
Supervisor of Elections.....	595-3900

## State Government

Attorney General (price gouging).....	(866) 966-7226
Dept. of Children and Families.....	595-8200
Dept. of Environmental Protection.....	245-2118
Dept. of Labor (fraud, waste, abuse).....	(800) 347-3756

FL Dept. of Transportation.....	414-4100
FL Forest Service (burn permits).....	957-5701
Poison Control.....	(800) 222-1222
Florida Dept. of Health in Escambia County.....	595-6500
West FL Regional Planning Council.....	332-7976
Traffic Information (automated).....	511

## Federal Government

FEMA.....	(800) 621-3362
National Weather Service (Mobile).....	(251) 633-6443
US Army Corps of Engineers.....	(202) 761-0011

## Law Enforcement

All Emergencies.....	911
Escambia County Sheriff's Office.....	436-9630
Florida Highway Patrol.....	484-5000
Pensacola Police Department.....	435-1900

## Utilities

AT&T.....	(888) 757-6500
Central Water Works (Century).....	256-3849
Central Water Works Sunshine State One Call (call before you dig).....	811
ECUA.....	476-0480
Escambia River Electric Co-op outages... (877) 688-3732	
Farm Hill Utilities (Cantonment).....	968-2573
Gonzalez Utilities.....	968-5434
Gulf Power outages.....	(800) 487-6937
Molino Utilities.....	587-5538
Pensacola Energy.....	474-5300
Peoples Water.....	455-8552
Town of Century (water/natural gas).....	256-3208

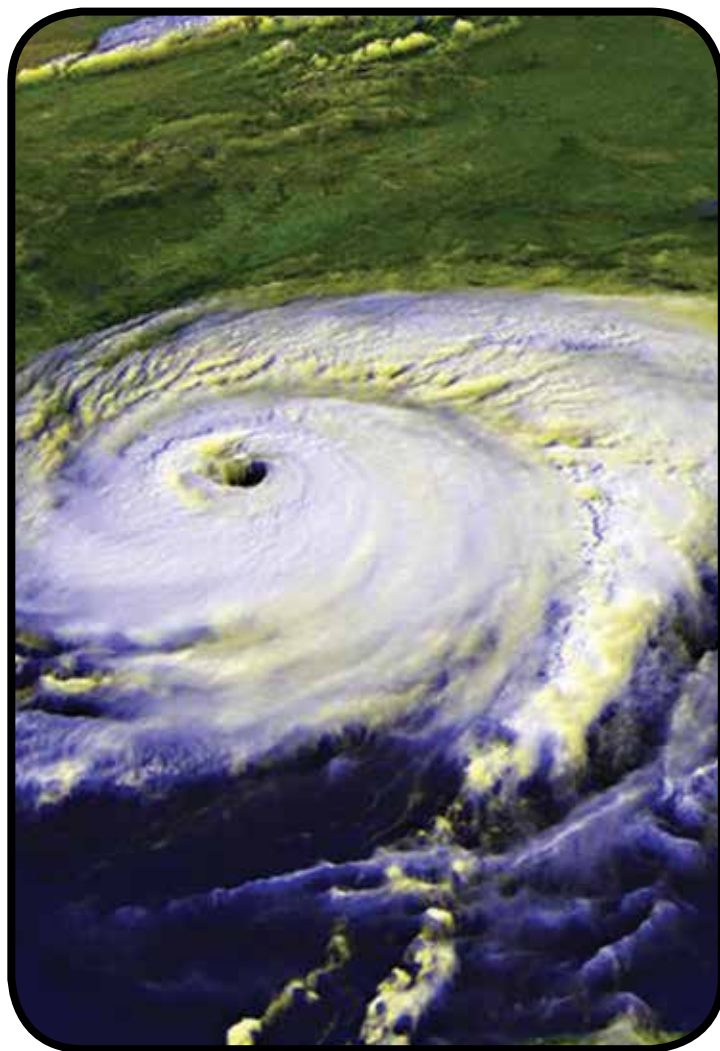
## Garbage Collection

City of Pensacola (black garbage cans).....	435-1890
ECUA (green garbage cans).....	476-0480
(or blue if previously Allied Waste)	
Town of Century (blue garbage cans).....	256-3208
Escambia County Landfill.....	937-2160

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The Escambia County Division of Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for emergency events in our community. Planning, continuous training and teamwork have been the key to a quick response and successful recovery from the many disasters that have impacted our community.

An emergency operations center, or EOC, is a facility designed to serve as a local or regional support center. The EOC, when activated, is a central location where representatives of local government and private sector agencies convene during disaster situations to make decisions, set priorities and coordinate resources for response and recovery. The Escambia County EOC is located at 6575 N. "W" Street in Pensacola. It was built to withstand 200 mph winds and is equipped with a generator sized to power all loads during an emergency.



## Emergency Communications & 9-1-1

Escambia County Emergency Communications utilizes Enhanced 911, which displays the caller's name, phone number and street address. However, the caller will be asked to verify some information.

### Q: What happens during a 9-1-1 call?

**A:** While the dispatcher is gathering the information, the appropriate emergency response units are being sent by another dispatcher. The dispatchers are all certified as National Emergency Medical Dispatchers and are trained to provide instructions and life saving techniques that you can do until emergency responders arrive. It is important that you **remain calm** even though you may be upset or scared. Stay on the telephone and talk to the dispatcher; **do not hang up until told to do so.**

### Q: When do you call 9-1-1?

- A:** To save a life
- To report a fire
- To report a crime in progress
- Anytime you believe there is an emergency



## HELP US HELP YOU



The most important information we need to gather is the location of the emergency and a call back number in case we get disconnected. To provide quality service, other questions will be asked such as:

1. A description of the emergency or event.
2. Any injuries to yourself or other individuals along with the type of injury if known.
3. If any weapons were involved and if so, how many and what kind.
4. Descriptions of vehicles involved.
5. Names and descriptions of persons involved.

Dispatchers work in teams, so while one dispatcher will ask you questions and provide instructions, others will be contacting the first responders. Therefore, these questions do not cause a delay in dispatching emergency responders, but assist them in better preparing for the emergency you are reporting.

Please do **NOT** call 9-1-1 to report traffic congestion, to inquire about government services, to report electricity or other utility disruptions, or to find an address or other general information.



# How will you know?

When disaster strikes, you may have only a short time to make what might be a life or death decision. We cannot predict exactly where or when they will occur, but we can take precautions to minimize the danger. Knowing that a disaster has happened and what steps to take to keep you and your family safe is critical. Most injuries and deaths happen when people are unaware or uninformed. Escambia County utilizes a variety of measures to provide warnings to our citizens:

## ALERT ))) Escambia

The Alert Escambia emergency notification system provides updates during local emergencies and disasters to participating Escambia County residents via text message, email or phone call. This free service can provide lifesaving information in times of emergency, distributed by the Escambia County Division of Emergency Management.

**SIGN UP:** Visit [www.bereadyescambia.com](http://www.bereadyescambia.com) and click on the Alert Escambia icon for the sign-up link.

You'll be able to select your preferred method of communication when signing up for the alerts.

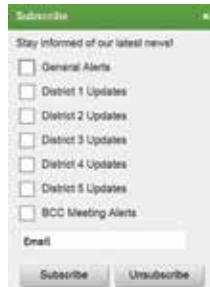
For technical support, email [alertescambia@myescambia.com](mailto:alertescambia@myescambia.com) and you will receive a response within two business days.

[myescambia.com](http://myescambia.com)

 Stay Updated

In the event of an emergency, Escambia County's website [www.myescambia.com](http://www.myescambia.com) will be updated regularly with the latest information on the emergency including event status, what you can do to keep safe, and any disaster services available.

To sign up for Escambia County email alerts, click on the "Stay Updated" tab on [myescambia.com](http://myescambia.com) and select your desired subscription categories.



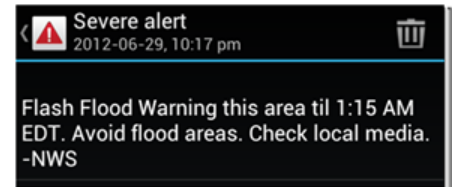
Subscription form showing options for General Alerts, District 1-5 Updates, and BCC Meeting Alerts, with a text field for email and Subscribe/Unsubscribe buttons.



Century tornado damage from February 15, 2016.

## WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS CAPABLE

When extreme weather or other disasters threaten your area, Wireless Emergency Alerts will send up-to-date, lifesaving information directly to your cell phone. The messages are sent through mobile carriers without the need to download an app or subscribe to a service. The alerts provide timely instruction during times of emergency, including extreme weather such as tornadoes or hurricanes. WEAs are offered for free by wireless carriers and will not count toward text limits on your wireless plan.



### What to expect from WEAs:

- Text messages no longer than 90 characters
- Special tone and vibration, both repeated twice
- Instructions about any action you need to take
- Alerts from authorized government partners, including FEMA, the National Weather Service and the Department of Homeland Security

Along with extreme weather, WEAs may be sent for:

- Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- AMBER Alerts for missing, endangered children
- Presidential alerts during a national emergency

During February 2016 tornadoes in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, WEAs alerted thousands of local residents to the danger, providing information about the storm's location and directing those in the area to take shelter immediately. Though the storms destroyed about 45 homes and buildings and damaged more than 300 others in Escambia County, no one was killed during the disaster.

For more information about Wireless Emergency Alerts, visit [www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/wea.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/wea.html).

# Make a Disaster Plan

If a disaster strikes, will you and your family know what to do? After a disaster, you and your family should be prepared to care for yourselves for three to five days. Emergency responders may be busy and unable to provide immediate care to all who need it.

## Before a Storm

Each year prior to hurricane season, your family should review your existing strategy and make changes as necessary. Your hurricane strategy should include evacuation plans, such as where your family and pets will go, what route to take, when to leave and what supplies are necessary. Supplies should last for at least 72 hours.

In the event the storm is a threat to your surrounding area, listen to local media for information and instructions and follow these steps to prepare:



## More pre-storm tips:

- Freeze water in plastic bottles to place in refrigerators and freezers to help keep cold.
- Adjust refrigerators and freezers to the coldest settings.
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water and check for leaks.
- Unplug small appliances that you will not use and turn off propane tanks.

## During a Storm

- Secure all windows, doors and take refuge in a small interior room, such as a closet, hallway or basement.
- Cover yourself underneath a sturdy table or a mattress.

## After a Storm

- If you evacuated, wait until authorities allow you to return before doing so.
- Stay on firm ground and beware of fallen objects, flooded areas and debris.
- Make sure your vehicles have plenty of gas and drive only if necessary.
- Replenish supplies, such as batteries, non-perishable food and water.

## When you return to your home

- Enter with caution and beware of home damages and fallen objects.
- Remove shutters or plywood, open windows and doors to ventilate and dry the home.
- Check gas, water and electrical lines for damage but do not attempt to repair.
- Have a professional assess the water line to clear for contamination. Do not drink the water or prepare food until the water line is evaluated.
- Avoid using candles or other open flames; use battery-operated lighting, such as flashlights or glow sticks.
- Never connect portable generators to your home.



# Get a Kit

All Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Below are some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. However, it is important that individuals review this list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their family in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.

## HOME

This is your main disaster supplies kit and should contain essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days. Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

## WORK

This kit should be in one container, and ready to “grab and go” in case you are evacuated from your workplace. Make sure you have food and water in the kit. Also, be sure to have comfortable walking shoes at your workplace in case an evacuation requires walking long distances.

## CAR

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should contain food, water, first aid supplies, flares, jumper cables, and seasonal supplies.

### KEEP IN WATERPROOF CONTAINER

- Wills, deeds and titles
- Insurance policies for home, health, life and automobiles
- Stocks, bonds and investments
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Utility bills (for proof of residency and to turn off utilities that bill regardless of service)
- Credit card account numbers
- Inventory of household goods
- Bank account numbers
- Mortgage information
- Important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death, divorce and adoption paperwork)
- Receipts for anything you purchase prior to and following a storm, including generators, chain saws and repairs.

**Prepare your Disaster Kit:**  
What items should you have on-hand for a power outage:

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishables. Choose foods your family will eat. Avoid foods that will make you thirsty. Remember any special dietary needs. Choose salt-free crackers and whole grain cereals.

Following a disaster, there may be power outages that could last for several days. Stock canned foods, dry mixes and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water or special preparation. Be sure to include a manual can opener and eating utensils.

- 1 Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables and a can opener
- 2 Protein or fruit bars
- 3 Dry cereal or granola
- 4 Peanut butter
- 5 Dried fruit
- 6 Nuts
- 7 Crackers
- 8 Canned juices
- 9 Non-perishable powdered milk
- 10 High energy foods
- 11 Vitamins

FEMA

This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) and [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov).

### Tools, Food and Other Supplies

- Paper plates
- Plastic utensils
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Spare batteries
- Non-electric can opener
- Fire extinguisher
- Tent
- Whistle (signal)
- Matches
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Garbage bag
- Small shovel
- Sleeping bags
- Hygiene items
- 3-day supply of nonperishable food

### First Aid Kit

- Latex or other sterile gloves
- Sterile dressings to stop bleeding
- Soap and antibiotic towelettes
- Antibiotic ointment
- Burn ointment
- Adhesive bandages
- Eye wash solution
- Thermometer
- Scissors/tweezers
- Petroleum jelly/lubricant
- Daily prescription medications such as insulin, heart medicine and inhalers
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure equipment
- Aspirin/pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid and laxative

### Water

- Store in plastic containers.
- Plan for at least five days: One gallon of water per person, per day.
- Save empty two-liter bottles during hurricane season to fill with water before a storm arrives.
- Fill bathtubs and sinks with water for sanitation use. To purify, boil water for one full minute at a rolling boil then let it cool.

Shelter openings in Escambia County vary with each emergency. Openings will be announced through all means possible, including local media outlets, press conferences and public meetings. Do not go to a shelter until you have verified that it is open.

For a complete list of shelters during a disaster, visit [BeReadyEscambia.com](http://BeReadyEscambia.com).

## Things to know about going to an evacuation shelter:

- Evacuation shelters are provided for public use in the event an evacuation becomes necessary and if you have no other place to go.
- It is recommended that other arrangements be made with a friend or relative that lives in a well-constructed home, out of the evacuation area, and properly protected to withstand hurricane force winds. You will be more comfortable in a less crowded environment and among friends.

### Shelter Conduct

- **Smoking is not permitted inside the shelter. A designated smoking area will be identified outdoors, weather permitting.**
- **Individuals who do not follow the shelter rules will be removed.**
- **Escambia County and its partner agencies will not be responsible for any lost personal belongings or equipment. Personal belongings or equipment brought to the shelter should be marked with your name.**
- **Do not bring weapons of any sort (knives, guns, etc). Alcohol is not permitted at the shelter. Weapons and alcohol will be confiscated by shelter staff and either turned over to law enforcement or disposed of.**



### Things to Take to a Public Shelter

If you go to a public shelter, you will need to take the following items to support you and your family for four days:

- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Toiletries and personal items
- Blankets or sleeping bags and pillows
- Identification and any important papers
- Games, toys or books for children
- Books for adults
- Special items for infants or elderly family members
- Any special dietary needs & non-perishable foods for snacks
- Battery-operated radio, flashlights and plenty of spare batteries
- Prescription medications or any over-the-counter medications you normally take

### Shelters are a Last Resort

Buildings used for evacuation shelters are normally public schools that are staffed by specially trained American Red Cross volunteers and staff. Shelters are generally crowded, usually uncomfortable (especially when the power goes off, since there is no ventilation), have long lines to use restrooms and get food, and are very noisy, making it difficult to rest or sleep. Keep in mind you may have to stay in the shelter for several days.





# Special Needs Shelters

## Special Needs Shelter Information

A special needs shelter is a shelter of last resort for people who need more medical supervision than a general population shelter can provide due to special medical needs, but they do not require hospitalization. A person with special needs is someone who during an evacuation, either mandatory or voluntary, will require assistance that exceeds the basic level of care provided at the general population shelter, but they will not require the level of skilled medical care provided at institutional facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes.

Registration is voluntary. This registry is for planning purposes only and will not initiate any automatic services on behalf of the registrant. Assistance needed by individuals must be initiated at the time of need by the individual by calling local officials when evacuations have been ordered. All registrations expire after one year and must be updated on the anniversary of the registration.

## Registering for the Special Needs Shelter

You must pre-register with the Public Safety Department online at <https://snr.floridadisaster.org>. Should you not have internet access, you may call (850) 471-6400 for an application to be mailed to you. Your home health agency or local physician will also have access to the registration forms if necessary. Once the form is completed, you may mail them to:

**Escambia County Department of Public Safety  
Special Needs Registry  
6575 N. "W" St.  
Pensacola, FL 32505**

Once it has been determined the special needs shelter will open, spaces may fill quickly. The special needs shelter does not accept reservations nor does the registry save shelter spaces for individuals.

For more information about special needs shelters in Escambia County, visit [www.myescambia.com/beready/special-needs-shelter-information](http://www.myescambia.com/beready/special-needs-shelter-information).

### Persons with the following conditions or requirements are not suitable for the special needs shelter and should be referred to a medical management facility (this list is not all inclusive):

- Third trimester pregnancy
- Renal dialysis
- Patients requiring isolation
- Ventilator patients
- IV Therapy
- Hyperalimination
- Bedridden and total care patient
- Acute shortness of breath
- Acute chest pain

Persons with the following conditions or impairments (if not combined with other qualifying conditions) do **not** require sheltering in a special needs shelter and are suitable for a general shelter:

- First and second trimester pregnancy
- Vision Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Amputees
- Wheelchair Bound

## Questions?

For medical questions about which shelter will best accommodate your needs, call the Escambia County Health Department at (850) 595-6500.

## Shelter Q & A

### When does the special needs shelter open?

The special needs shelter will open at the discretion of the Escambia County Public Safety Department, along with general community shelters. Residents are urged to monitor local media outlets for further information.

### How do I get to the shelter?

Should you qualify for the special needs shelter, the Escambia County Transit Authority may provide you transportation round trip from your home to the shelter only upon request. Please reference your registration form for further specifications, including wheelchair accessibility. Contact ECAT for more information at (850) 595-3228.

### What preparations should be made before coming to the shelter?

Home healthcare clients should discuss emergency plans with your caregiver or agency. Have the contact information for your caregiver or agency with you at the shelter.

Alert family members of your emergency plan prior to arriving at the shelter.

Consult with your medical equipment provider to ensure you will have adequate supplies upon your return home.

Phone service and availability cannot be guaranteed at the shelter. Bring a fully charged cell phone with you as the shelter cannot accept phone calls for individuals under its care.

### What are the special needs shelter accommodations?

Severity of emergencies varies and depending on each situation, the following may be available to those staying in the shelter and their caregivers:

- Shower facilities.
- One blanket and one pillow.
- Meals up to three times per day (special dietary needs not available).
- Electrical outlets are available for medical equipment only.
- Caregivers will receive a cot only after all special needs individuals receive one.



# Caring for Your Pets

## Pet Preparedness

A significant number of families have pets and they're part of the family. They need to be ready for a disaster too: take simple steps now so they're prepared.

### How to Prepare Before a Disaster

**Not all shelters will accept pets, plan in advance for shelter options that will work for both you and your pets.**

**Develop a buddy system with neighbors or friends to make sure that someone is available to care for your pets if you are unable to do so.**

**Assemble an emergency kit for your pet.**

### What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:

Food and water (3 days), bowls, manual can opener

Medicines, medical records, and first aid kit

Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash (include backups)

Crate or pet carrier

A picture of you and your pet together

Important documents: registration & vaccination

Familiar items: favorite toys, treats, and bedding

Plastic bags/litter for cleaning up after your pet

### What to Do During a Disaster

Bring your pet inside immediately.

Separate dogs and cats. Anxiety may affect their behavior.

Feed them moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.

Have extra newspapers, for sanitary reasons.



This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) and [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov).

## Sheltering with pets

Escambia County has identified a pet-friendly shelter for household dogs and cats only. Visit [BeReadyEscambia.com](http://BeReadyEscambia.com) for the location. The pet-friendly shelter should be a last resort – identify other locations to shelter pets before a disaster.

Space is limited at the pet-friendly shelter. Pet owners will be required to shelter in the Red Cross shelter adjacent to the pet-friendly shelter so they will be available to care for their pets as required. The people and pet shelters are separate facilities, but are adjacent to each other.

For the protection of people and other pets at the shelter, animals brought in without proof of current vaccinations will be vaccinated by Escambia County Shelter staff. We highly encourage making arrangements to move your pets from the shelter into other safe housing as quickly as possible.

Owners will be issued a wristband or card that will be used to verify their ownership of their pets so that they can come visit them or care for them while they are staying at the shelter.

## Pre-registration

Pre-registration will help expedite the check-in process, and it is recommended for people who anticipate they will be evacuating with their pet to the pet shelter. The registration forms can be downloaded from [BeReadyEscambia.com](http://BeReadyEscambia.com). Once completed, fax (850) 595-3081 or mail the registration forms to:

Escambia County Animal Shelter  
Attn: Pet Shelter Registration  
200 W. Fairfield Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32501



Pre-registration does not reserve a space at the pet shelter, and the pet shelter does not take reservations. Shelter usage/space is based upon a first come-first served basis until the facility is full.

## Intake Process

Upon arrival at the public shelter, a person must register at the general population shelter and must also register their pets as they are received in the pet shelter facility. Cats and dogs will be separated as much as possible to minimize the stress of the animals.

## Service Animals

Service animals are allowed in any building accessible by the person and to the extent of federal, state or local laws. Service animals may accompany their owners in general or special needs shelters.

## Preparing to Evacuate with your pet(s)

- Have a plan. Do not wait until the last minute to form an evacuation plan when you have the additional responsibility of planning for your pet(s).
- Confirm your plan 24 hours before you will need to evacuate in the event things have changed.
- Bring all pets inside the house so you will not have to search for them should you need to leave in a hurry.
- Make sure all pets are wearing their collars and I.D. tags. Be sure the I.D. tag has your cell phone number on it in the event you and your pet become separated.
- Keep all dogs securely leashed and cats in sturdy carriers during travel. Even a usually calm pet may panic and try to escape or bite in a stressful situation.





# Planning for the Farm & Animals

## Disaster Preparedness and Evacuation Planning for Livestock and Equine Animals:

Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it is particularly important for livestock and equine because of the animals' size and their shelter and transportation needs. Disasters can happen anywhere and can take many different forms, all of which may necessitate evacuation. It is imperative that you are prepared to protect your livestock and/or equine, whether by evacuating or by sheltering in place.

The leading causes of death of large animals in hurricanes and similar events are collapsed barns, dehydration, electrocution and accidents resulting from fencing failure. In a slowly evolving disaster, such as a hurricane, leave no later than 72 hours before anticipated landfall, especially if you will be hauling a high-profile trailer such as a horse trailer.



## Preparing the Farm

Planning ahead can minimize damage to livestock, property and recovery time. You should:

- Establish escape routes for cows, horses, sheep and other livestock to higher elevation in case of flooding.
- Arrange for a place to shelter your animals.
- Drive large animals out of barns that may be flooded. They will often seek shelter in barns in emergency situations.
- Make sure livestock have a good source of food and water.
- Move hay, machinery, fuels, pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals out of flood-prone areas.
- Turn off electrical power to machines, barns, and other structures that may become damaged or flooded.
- Secure loose items, such as lumber, logs, pipes, machinery parts, and tools.

Take your disaster supplies with you or make sure they will be available at your evacuation site. You should have or be able to obtain feed, water, veterinary supplies, handling equipment, tools and generators.

Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places to ensure they are accessible to emergency workers in case you are not able to evacuate the large animals yourself.

Important documents for your livestock and equine should be taken with you in a waterproof envelope, as well as color photographs for identification, emergency telephone numbers and veterinary documents.

**James C. Robinson Escambia County Equestrian Center**, 7750 Mobile Highway in Pensacola, may accept equine animals during an evacuation as a result of hurricanes, based on the severity of

the approaching storm. Once the stalls have been filled, people may bring their animals and keep them in their animal travel trailers if desired. All care of the animals will be at the responsibility of the animal owners. No feeding or care services will be provided by the county or pet shelter managers.

## Sheltering in Place

If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made about whether to confine large animals to a shelter on your farm or leave them out in pastures. Owners may believe that their animals are safer inside barns, but in many circumstances, confinement takes away the animals' ability to protect themselves. This decision should be based on the type of disaster and the type of sheltering structure.

If your pasture area meets the following criteria, your large animals may be safer in the pasture than being evacuated:

- No barbed wire fencing (woven wire fencing is best)
- Larger than one acre in size. If less than an acre, your livestock may not be able to avoid blowing debris
- No exotic (non-native) trees, which uproot easily
- No overhead power lines or poles
- No debris or sources of blowing debris

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

In addition to family disaster kits, agriculture producers should also keep on hand additional supplies to protect the farm. These include:

- Sandbags and plastic sheeting, in case of flood
- Wire and rope to secure objects
- Lumber and plywood to protect windows
- Extra fuel for tractors and vehicles stored in a safe location
- Hand tools to assist in preparation and recovery
- Fire extinguishers at all barns and in all vehicles
- A safe supply of food to feed livestock
- A gas-powered generator in case of power failure

**Useful Websites:**

Emergency equine shelter/evacuation info  
[www.sshc.org](http://www.sshc.org)

Florida Dept. of Agriculture, animal sheltering  
[www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com)



# Preparing for Power Outages

When power interruptions or blackouts occur, people lose their sources of light, heat and water. Safety is a concern in a power blackout situation. A storm, an accident or widespread loss of electrical distribution system capacity can cause an extended power outage. Here are some things to do if you know there is a chance of power blackouts:

## Getting Ready

- If you use life-sustaining electrical equipment, pre-register with the special needs shelter (see page 7).
- Consider purchasing a small generator or know where to rent one if you use life-sustaining equipment that requires electrical power.
- Post the telephone number of the new construction, repairs and power outage listing of your local utility.
- If you own an electric garage door opener, learn how to open it without power.
- Prepare a power outage kit. For short outages, consider having glow light sticks, flashlights, battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a wind-up clock on hand.
- Make sure you have an alternate heat source and a supply of fuel.
- Have a corded phone available (cordless phones do not work without power).
- When installing large home generators, follow the manufacturer's instructions and have it inspected by the utility company and the county inspection and code compliance department.
- Unplug computers and other voltage sensitive equipment to protect them against possible surges (even if you have surge protectors) when power is restored.

**Please do not call 9-1-1 to report power outages. Power outages should be reported to:**



**Gulf Power at  
1-800-GU-POWER  
(1-800-487-6937)  
or outagemap.  
gulfpower.com**

**Escambia River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc. at  
1-877-OUT-EREC  
(1-877-688-3732)**



Be Prepared	When the Power Goes Out	When the Power Returns
Make sure you have an appliance thermometer.	If the freezer isn't full, group together to form an "igloo."	Check temperature inside fridge and freezer.
Have a few days of ready-to-eat food.	If you anticipate a power outage, put water in the fridge ahead of time, it'll help keep everything cool.	Discard perishables, meats, poultry, seafood, eggs, leftovers. When in doubt, throw it out!
Know where to get dry ice or block ice.	Keep the fridge and freezer door closed.	Unusual odor, color, or texture? Throw it out!

## When the Outage Could be Lengthy

- Report power outages to your utility company.
- Once you report your outage, do not use your telephone or cell phone. Phone lines are needed for emergency use.
- If power is out in the neighborhood, disconnect electrical heaters/appliances to reduce demand and protect motors from low-voltage damage.
- If you leave home, turn off or unplug heat-producing appliances.
- Stay away from downed transmission lines and report them to your utility company.
- Conserve water, especially if you are on a well.
- Keep doors, windows and draperies closed to retain heat in your home if it is cold outside.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Be extremely careful of fire hazards from candles or other flammable light sources.
- When using kerosene heaters, gas lanterns or stoves inside the house, maintain ventilation to avoid a build-up of toxic fumes.
- If your house is not pre-wired for proper generator connection, connect lights and appliances directly to a generator, not an existing electrical system.



This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) and [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov).

## Items you will Need to Operate a Generator

### 1 CO Detector



This will protect you from any possible exposure to carbon monoxide fumes while the portable generator is in use. The price range starts at about \$20 to protect different rooms in your home.

### 2 Gas Cans

It is a good idea to have some extra gas cans so you don't run out of gas for your generator. The National Agriculture Safety Database offers tips for storing gasoline:

- Store gasoline in a well ventilated area separate from the house, with no electrical equipment, open flames or other sources of ignition present.
- Do not store gasoline in the utility room. The furnace, water heater, clothes dryer or other items could ignite fumes, which may leak from the can and travel considerable distances.
- If you do not have a suitable storage area, consider building or buying a cabinet for outside your home.
- Once a month, check for leaks from fuel tanks, engines, or storage containers.



### 3 Fuel Stabilizers & Lubricants

The stabilizer is used to prevent stale gas from forming due to a long storage period. It is best to change the oil after the first five hours of operation, then after every 50 hours of use.

### 4 Extension Cords

You should always have these in your home, because they can be used for a wide variety of household operations. Heavy duty 12 or 14-gauge grounded (3-prong) or GFCI cords work great with the operation of a generator.



**Remember, connecting generators improperly puts our electrical workers at risk for injury or even death.**

## Generator Safety Tips

Having a portable generator can make the days after a storm much more bearable. However, they can be hazardous. Generator safety and proper handling is imperative for everyone who operates one.

- Because it runs on gas (which can cause carbon monoxide poisoning), never operate a generator indoors, whether it's in your home, garage, basement or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. It is also important not to install the generator beside your home, or in your garage or carport because the carbon monoxide can accumulate in the attic or extra roof space of your home. Be sure to keep the generator dry. Only operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Before touching the generator, make sure your hands are dry.
- Before refilling the gas tank, turn it off and let it cool. It should not be refilled while the generator is running. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite and cause a fire. Check your oil every time you re-fuel and store any extra fuel away from any fuel-burning appliances.
- Plug appliances directly into a generator starting with the largest electric appliance first; then plug in other items, one at a time or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. Grounding the generator is recommended to help prevent electrical shock. NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet. The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.

A generator is something everyone should keep in their home or workplace in case of a disaster. It can keep the lights and fans running as well as other necessities such as refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, stoves, air conditioners, washers and dryers, televisions and computers. After a disaster, a generator can be used to run your outdoor power equipment when cleanup is needed.



# ✓ Safety - Preventing Damage

Mitigation is taking action to prevent or reduce effects of emergencies or disasters before they occur. By taking action now, residents, governments and businesses can decrease property damage and save lives. There are several grant programs offered by both FEMA and the State of Florida including hazard mitigation pre-disaster flood, repetitive flood claims, severe repetitive loss and residential construction mitigation programs. These programs help to rebuild lives and communities that have been impacted by a major disaster, and to reduce the impact of future disasters through mitigation. Find more information at:

- [www.fema.gov/what-mitigation/mitigation-fact-sheets](http://www.fema.gov/what-mitigation/mitigation-fact-sheets)
  - [www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/index.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/index.htm)
- [www.myescambia.com/business/ds/local-mitigation-strategy](http://www.myescambia.com/business/ds/local-mitigation-strategy)



## Do not top Your Trees

Professional arborists say that “topping,” the cutting of main branches back to stubs, is extremely harmful and unhealthy for your trees. Stubs will often grow back many weakly attached branches that are higher and are more likely to break when a storm strikes.

Investigate the condition of your trees. You or a certified arborist should look for damage such as cracks in the trunk or major limbs, hanging branches and hollow, aged, or decayed trees.

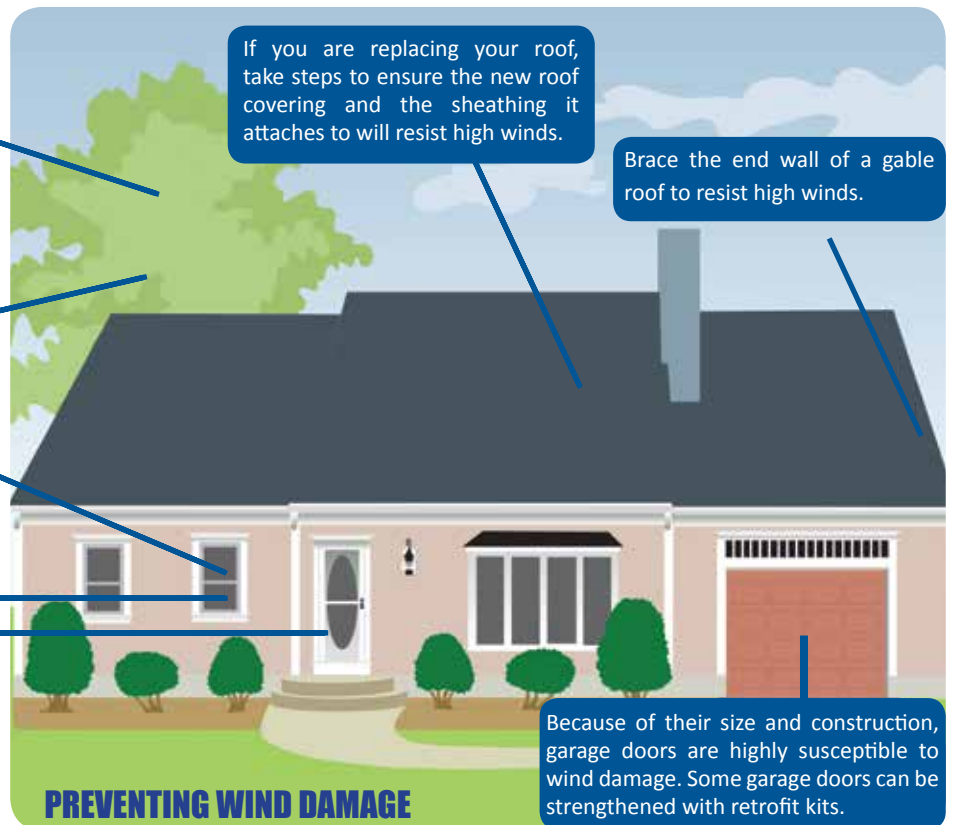
- *International Society of Arboriculture*

The exterior walls, doors and windows are the protective shell of your home. You can protect your home by strengthening the doors and windows.

Install storm shutters on windows and glass doors or make plywood shutters (for instructions, visit [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org)).

Make certain your doors have at least three hinges and a dead bolt security lock with a bolt at least one inch long. Anchor door frames securely to wall framing.

Sliding glass doors are more vulnerable to wind damage than other doors. Shutter or install impact-resistant patio doors.

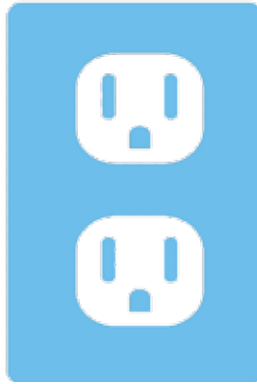


## PREVENTING FLOOD DAMAGE

One way to protect your home from flood damage is to elevate. Most types of homes, including wood frame, brick veneer, slab-on-grade, crawl space or homes with basements can be elevated above floodwaters. This is a reliable flood proofing method and requires little human intervention to prepare for a flood. Elevation requirements vary with local codes and ordinances but the new first floor elevation should be at or above the 100-year-flood level. You may wish to exceed the code requirements. Some buildings may be elevated high enough for the new lower level to serve as a garage. All elevated homes need new stairs and porches built to the new height. Elevating a home requires the services of plumbers, electricians, house movers and contractors. Because the new foundation will be in the floodwaters, it is important that it be structurally designed to withstand lateral (sideways) forces like fast-flowing currents and the impact of waterborne debris. A structural engineer can help you design your new foundation and obtain a permit from your building department.

## Turning off Utilities

Water, gas and electric utilities produce a constant supply to your home. If there is a failure in a pipe, valve, circuit, equipment or appliance, flow of any utility can pose serious damage to your home or even lethal consequences. In case of an emergency, all adults in the home should know where and how to operate the main shutoffs. It is also important the area around each utility shutoff is kept clear of obstructions like furniture or overgrown plants.



### Turning Off Natural Gas

- Because there are different gas shut-off procedures for different gas meter configurations, it is important to contact your local gas company for guidance on preparation and response regarding gas appliances and gas service to your home.
- Be sure not to actually turn off the gas when practicing the proper gas shut-off procedure.
- If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.
- **CAUTION:** If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

### Turning Off Water

You will need to protect the water sources already in your home from contamination if you hear reports of broken water or sewage lines, or if local officials advise you of a problem.

- To close the incoming water source, locate the incoming valve and turn it to the closed position. To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your home at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the home.
- To use the water in your hot water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is off, and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning off the water intake valve at the tank and turning on the hot water faucet. Refill the tank before turning the gas or electricity back on. If the gas is turned off, a professional will be needed to turn it back on.

### Turning Off Electricity

- Locate your electricity circuit box.
- Flip the breaker fully to the off position.
- **FOR YOUR SAFETY:** Always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.

## Steps for Renters

Renters also need to take steps to plan for and take action before a disaster strikes. If you rent, be sure to:

- Have a plan and a disaster kit (see pages 42-44).
- Know if you live in an evacuation or flood zone (see pages 40-41). Be ready to take action if evacuation orders are given for your area.
- Talk with your landlord - what steps will they take to protect your home? Are there shutters, pre-cut plywood or other window protection available? If not, make plans to shelter in a protected structure.
- The renter's personal property is not covered by the landlord's homeowners insurance. Personal property insurance and flood insurance for renters are a low cost way to protect yourself. Be sure to make a list of your belongings in case you ever need to make an insurance claim.

### Preparing Your Pool

- **Never completely drain the pool.**
- **You do not need to lower the water level in the pool; if you do, close the skimmer valve to prevent damage to the pump when the power is turned on.**
- **Turn off all electrical power to the swimming pool (pump, motor, lighting, chlorinators). If your filter pump is in an unsheltered area, have the motor removed and stored, or wrap the motor with a plastic bag and tie it securely in place to prevent sand and water from entering the motor.**
- **Remove loose items from the pool area. It is not advisable to throw patio furniture or accessories into the pool. Furniture may chip and damage the pool finish and the pool chemicals will have an adverse affect on the furniture.**
- **Add extra chlorine to your pool to prevent contamination. The pool provides a handy source of water for washing and flushing if your house water supply fails.**
- **If your pool area is screened, you may prevent costly damage to the frame structure by removing one or two panels of screen above the chair rail on each side to allow the wind to blow through.**



# Cleaning Up Safely

Escambia County, the city of Pensacola and the town of Century will determine if a storm warrants special debris collection. After a severe storm, residents should follow regular service schedules and watch for changes published in the local news media. Storm debris should be prepared for pickup as quickly as possible since special collection may be available only for a limited time. After the designated time, debris will be the responsibility of the property owner. The debris left behind by storms can carry hidden dangers and hazards. Follow these safety tips when cleaning up:

- ✓ Always wear gloves and work boots when cleaning or removing debris.
- ✓ Discard unsafe food.
- ✓ Open windows to provide ventilation.
- ✓ Remove wet contents including carpet, furniture and building materials.
- ✓ Do not allow children to play in or around debris piles. Check play areas for hazards.
- ✓ Do not try to move any displaced propane tanks. Get in touch with fire officials to provide them the location of these tanks.
- ✓ Mold growth can be removed from hard surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than one cup of bleach in one gallon of water. Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners; mixing can produce dangerous, toxic fumes.



## Please separate storm debris into these categories:

- **Construction:** Furniture, carpet, tile, steel, glass, brick, concrete, asphalt roofing material, pipe, gypsum wallboard, lumber or anything used in the construction, renovation and demolition of a structure.
- **Vegetative debris:** Tree limbs, leaves, logs, pallets and tree branches.
- **White goods:** Washers, dryers, refrigerators, ranges, microwaves, water heaters, freezers and small AC units.
- **Electronics:** TVs, computers, monitors, fax machines, stereos, speakers, etc.
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** Cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemicals, oils, oil-based paints and stains and pesticides.

**Commercial Customers:** Please contact your contracted waste services provider for disposal services. Commercial waste should not be placed on the right of way.



## CHAIN SAW SAFETY

- Become familiar with the recommended safe operational procedures before attempting to work with a chain saw.
- Be sure that you are in top physical and mental condition when operating dangerous machinery. Medications and alcohol can cause you to be a hazard to yourself and others when working with chain saws.
- Equip yourself with protective clothing and equipment including safety goggles, hearing protection, steel-toed shoes, hard hat, gloves, and close-fitting clothing.
- Never make cuts with the saw between your legs; always cut with the saw to the outside of your legs.
- Don't stand on a log and saw between your feet.
- Always stand to one side of the limb you are cutting; never straddle it.
- Always keep in mind where the chain will go if it breaks; never position yourself or other people in line with the chain.
- Keep the chain out of the dirt; debris will fly.



## Purifying Water

There are two primary ways to treat water: boiling and adding bleach. If tap water is unsafe because of water contamination from flooding, boiling is the best method.

### Boiling

- Fill a large pot with water after straining the water through a coffee filter or cheesecloth to remove dirt and other particles.
- Bring the water to a rolling boil and keep it boiling for three minutes.
- Pour the water into a disinfected drinking water bottle.
- Store in the refrigerator, if possible.

### Using Bleach

- Strain the water through a coffee filter or cheesecloth to remove dirt and other particles.
- It is easiest to use gallon size drinking water containers to calculate the correct chlorine bleach solution.
- Pour a mixture of 1/8 teaspoon or 16 drops of pure, unscented, household chlorine bleach into a gallon size, purified drinking water container. Let this stand at least 30 minutes before drinking the water.
- If the water is still cloudy after 30 minutes, you may add an additional 1/8 teaspoon or 16 drops of chlorine bleach to the gallon size container. Let the water stand another 30 minutes.
- If the water is still cloudy after the second treatment, do not drink the water.
- CAUTION: Do not use more chlorine bleach than recommended. Excessive amounts can be poisonous!

## WELL WATER

Heavy rainfall and flooding may cause some drinking water from private wells to become unsafe. The Escambia County Health Department urges the following precautions:

- If you are unsure about the impact of flooding on your well water, either use bottled water, or boil or disinfect all the water you use for drinking, making beverages, cooking, brushing your teeth, washing dishes and washing areas of the skin that have been cut or injured.
- If your well has been flooded, please call the Escambia County Health Department at (850) 595-6500 for information on how to sample your water and where to bring the sample for bacteriological testing.



## Flooding & Septic Tanks

If your septic tank has been flooded, it is likely that your toilets will not flush. Flushing may cause the untreated sewage to back up into your home. Therefore, it is safest to wait until the water recedes before trying to flush toilets. Depending on the amount of flooding or damage to your system, you may need to have a professional repair or service once the water recedes and the ground is less saturated.

For questions about septic tanks, contact the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County's Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal System at (850) 595-6700.



# Damage Assessments

Immediately following a disaster, an Initial Damage Assessment must be performed by the local jurisdiction to assess the impact of the disaster. This assessment should provide a rough estimate of the extent and location of damages. When the information has been collected, it is transmitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. These assessments are designed to give the governor of each state a better picture of damages in order to determine if further support is needed.

The bottom line is that meeting the needs of disaster survivors and affected communities after a disaster requires a team effort, and determining the extent of support is done through close coordination with our partners at all levels of government.



Century tornado damage from February 15, 2016.

## About Damage Assessments

Damage assessments are done by combining multiple sources of information, such as aerial surveys, door-to-door evaluations in the affected areas and initial damage reports from various partners.

- **Public Assistance** – provides assistance to state, tribal and local governments, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities. It also encourages protection of damaged public facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.
- **Individual Assistance** – provides assistance to individuals and business owners affected by the disaster. Individual assistance provides funds directly from FEMA, or through Small Business Administration low-interest loans, to fulfill unmet needs such as housing for disaster survivors, disaster unemployment assistance, legal services, crisis counseling and other disaster-related needs from survivors or small business owners. Often times, individual assistance covers a portion of the uninsured losses of homeowners and business owners.



Once the state has received the initial damage assessment data and information, the state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration may conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment with the affected county government. This action is taken to verify the severity of the impact and justify the need to pursue a request for federal assistance.

# \$ Insurance Tips

## Filing Insurance Claims: Storm Damage Insurance Checklist

- Contact your insurance agent as quickly as possible informing them of your losses. If you are relocated temporarily, provide the new address and phone number. Your insurance company may send a claim form for you to complete, or an adjuster may visit your home first before you are asked to complete any forms.
- Many homeowners' policies cover additional living expenses, such as an advance if you need temporary shelter, food and clothing due to sustained damages.
- Keep receipts for all monetary expenditures and be sure the check for additional living expenses is written out to you and not your mortgage holder, the bank or other lender. This money is separate from the money used for repairs to your home.
- Make only repairs necessary to prevent further damage to your home or business, including covering breaks or holes in the roof, walls or windows with plywood, canvas or other waterproof material. Do not allow permanent repairs without first consulting your insurance agent. Unauthorized repairs may not be reimbursed. If household furnishings are exposed to weather, move them to a safe location for storage. Save receipts for what you spend and submit them to your insurance company for reimbursement.
- Avoid using electrical appliances, including televisions and stereos, that have been exposed to water unless a technician has approved it is safe.

Source: Florida Insurance Council



## Do you suspect insurance fraud?

To report suspected insurance fraud, call the Florida Department of Financial Services Fraud Hotline at **1-800-378-0445**, or fill out the form online at [www.fldfs.com/Division/Fraud](http://www.fldfs.com/Division/Fraud).

### 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE

- 1 Have an insurance checkup with your agent once a year, well before hurricane season, whether you own or rent.
- 2 Make sure you have flood insurance that must be obtained separately and has a 30-day waiting period to take effect.
- 3 Visit [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) to learn about your flood risk and flood insurance options for your area.
- 4 Prepare your home and vehicles according to your specific insurance policies to ensure damages are covered.
- 5 Know where your insurance documents and contact information are located. Take them with you if you evacuate.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit [weather.gov/hurricanesafety](http://weather.gov/hurricanesafety)

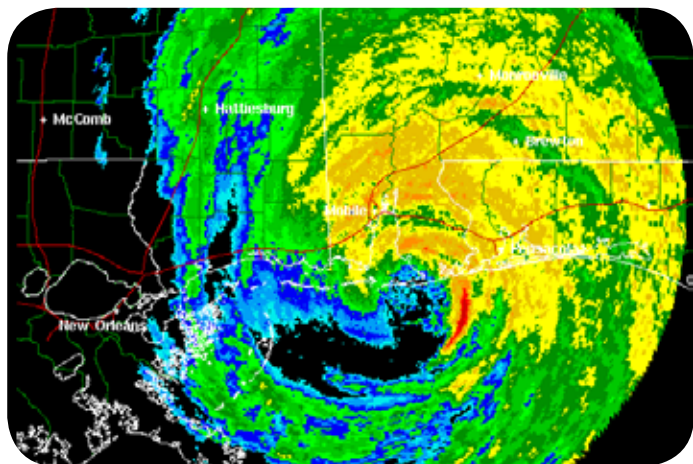
## Preparing for the Insurance Adjuster's Visit

- Make a list of damaged items and take photographs of the damage for records of each item, including receipts or bills.
- Do not discard items. The adjuster will need to see everything to properly assess the damages.
- Identify the structural damage to your home and other buildings on your premises and make a list of everything you want to show the adjuster when they arrive. The adjuster may recommend hiring a licensed engineer or architect to inspect the property.
- If possible, get written bids from reliable, licensed contractors for repair work. This may assist in adjusting the claim.
- Contact your insurance agent regarding your coverage and the need for flood insurance, if applicable.
- If your home was severely damaged, sections may require work be completed in accordance with current building codes. Some insurance companies offer an endorsement that pays for a specified amount toward such changes.

# Tropical Storms and Hurricanes

## About Hurricanes

A hurricane is an intense tropical weather disturbance that occurs in the ocean when sustained winds reach 74 mph or more. Hurricanes thrive in waters with a temperature of at least 80 degrees Fahrenheit, combined with a moist environment and non-shearing winds in the upper atmosphere, which allow the hurricane to grow vertically.



Hurricane Ivan, 2004. Category 5.

## Hurricane Categories

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage, providing examples of the type of damage and impacts in the United States associated with winds of the indicated intensity.

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.

The scale does not address the potential for other hurricane-related impacts, such as storm surge, rainfall-induced floods, and tornadoes. Hurricane wind damage is also very dependent upon other factors, such as duration of high winds, change of wind direction and age of structures.

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage at Landfall
1	74-95	Minimal
2	96-110	Extensive
3	111-129	Devastating
4	130-156	Catastrophic
5	157+	Catastrophic

## Watch vs. Warning

**Tropical Storm Watch:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions are possible within the specified area.

**Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area. Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm-force winds.

**Tropical Storm Warning:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions are expected within the specified area.

**Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are expected within the specified area. Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

- National Weather Service

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT  
**HURRICANE HAZARD RISKS**

- 1 Storm surge is water pushed ashore by the winds of a tropical cyclone. It has caused more fatalities than any other hurricane hazard.
- 2 Winds from a hurricane are 74 mph or greater and can cause massive damage to buildings and structures in its path.
- 3 Inland flooding is the most frequent cause of tropical cyclone fatalities. It can occur far from the coast and long after landfall.
- 4 Tornadoes are commonly spawned by a hurricane and can cause damage far away from the center of the hurricane.
- 5 Rip currents and waves along and near the coast can be deadly even if the center of the storm passes well offshore.



# The Hurricane Cone & You

Florida Gulf Coast residents should track every Atlantic hurricane or tropical storm. When a storm forms, you will hear weather forecasters talk about the “forecast cone.” The cone represents the probable track of the center of a storm. A “5-day cone” and “3-day cone” are created to show the forecast path of the center of the storm with as much as a 300-mile “cone of uncertainty.” Because the storm could track anywhere within the cone, everyone in the cone area needs to begin storm preparations.

The most important thing to remember is to do as much as you can before a hurricane warning is issued, even before a storm ever enters the Gulf of Mexico. Waiting until the warning is issued will only give you about 24 hours to complete preparations and evacuate if necessary. We must remember that hurricane forecasting is not an exact science, and they don’t always go where predicted.

## ACTIONS TO TAKE BEFORE THE CONE

- Make a family plan. Don’t forget special plans for elderly, handicapped, children and pets.
- Get a disaster supply kit.
- Know your evacuation zone.
- Understand Watch vs. Warning.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio.
- Trim trees and shrubs around your home.
- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters are best. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8” marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.

## 5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- If you or a family member is elderly, handicapped or has special care needs, be sure you know about special needs shelters (see page 7).
- Take photos of your property from all angles. It may not look the same after the storm passes.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- Check for, fix or remove loose items on your structures/homes.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and down spouts.
- If you live in an evacuation zone, know where you will go and how you will get there.

*Text in part courtesy of Pinellas County*

As a storm moves closer, the accuracy of the forecast improves. If Escambia County is within the 3-day cone, residents should step up their preparations.

## 3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

- Double check your disaster kit and make necessary purchases to avoid lines and traffic.
- Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

About 48 hours ahead of a storm, forecasters will issue a hurricane watch for areas within the cone that can expect hurricane conditions. Everyone in that area must prepare as if the storm is headed directly for their home. If the storm changes path or speed, the time between a watch and a warning might be only six hours.

If you are in an evacuation zone or a mobile/manufactured home, the goal is to be fully prepared to evacuate one or two hours ahead of the warning being issued if needed. If you live in a non-evacuation zone, the goal is to complete all preparations within one or two hours after the warning.

## HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS

- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash. Secure papers & valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating - you may need the water when you return.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools.
- Shutter your windows.
- Prepare boats.
- Help neighbors with their preparations.
- If your plans are to evacuate out of



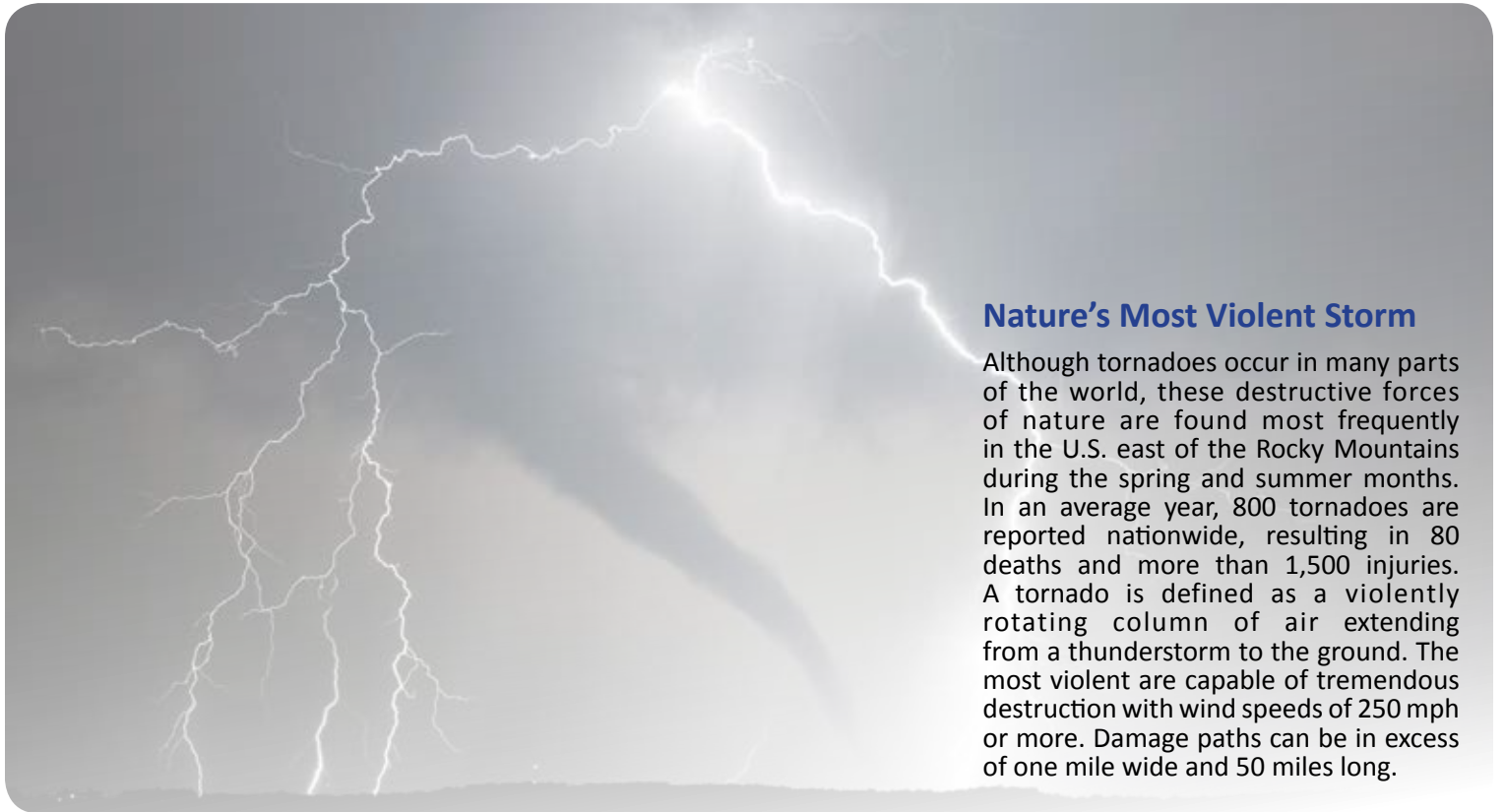
the local area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.

- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need for your “go bag”.

A storm will be about 36 hours from impact when the hurricane warning is issued. Official evacuation orders may be issued not long after a warning. Whenever any evacuation is ordered, all manufactured home residents should evacuate. For those not in manufactured homes, be sure to know your zone so you can understand and follow official emergency instructions.

## HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS

- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete any final preparations.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep the doors closed.
- If you plan to travel out of the area and can leave at this point, do so now to avoid traffic jams.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, have a “go bag” ready.
- If evacuation orders are issued, determine if your residence is affected.
  - ✓ If you are evacuating locally, leave for your designated safe location. If you are utilizing a public shelter, check which shelters are open.
  - ✓ If you are not required to evacuate, prepare a safe room in your home and stay off the roads to enable evacuation traffic to clear the area.
- Notify your designated out-of-town contact and let them know where you are sheltering.
- Avoid using the phone, except for emergencies.

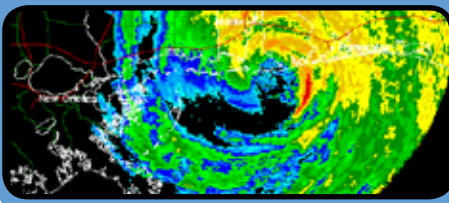


## Nature's Most Violent Storm

Although tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, these destructive forces of nature are found most frequently in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains during the spring and summer months. In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and more than 1,500 injuries. A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

## Stay informed with weather apps

There are a number of weather apps available for your smart phone to help you track storms and stay informed during severe weather. Look for apps powered by the National Weather Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the latest alerts, live radar and weather forecasts in your area.



## What to do if a warning is issued

In a building, move to a pre-determined shelter such as a basement. If underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows. If you can, cover yourself with a blanket or sleeping bag. In a high-rise building, use the stairs to go to the designated shelter area or an interior room on the lowest floor possible. If caught outside, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression in the ground. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

Weather radios are the main source of emergency weather notification for the county. Stay informed, in tune and in touch a NOAA weather radio is your best option for instant local severe weather notifications. Read more at [www.weather.gov/nwr/](http://www.weather.gov/nwr/).

Special NOAA Weather Radio receivers, available at most electronics stores, can be set to turn on only if a severe weather warning is sent out from an NWS office. When a special frequency tone is picked up by the radio, the tone turns the radio on and sounds a brief alarm, followed by the warning information. NOAA Weather Radios are becoming standard equipment in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, places of worship and other public gathering places throughout the country.



## The Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF Scale)

The Enhanced Fujita Scale categorizes each tornado by intensity, estimating wind speed associated with the damage caused by the tornado. The scale is divided into six categories:

EF Rating	Wind Speed	Expected Damage
EF-0	65-85 mph	'Minor' damage: shingles, gutters, tree branches.
EF-1	86-110 mph	'Moderate' damage: roof, broken windows, exterior doors, overturned mobile homes.
EF-2	111-135 mph	'Considerable' damage: roofs torn off, mobile homes destroyed, trees uprooted, cars tossed.
EF-3	136-165 mph	'Severe' damage: homes destroyed, buildings damaged, homes with weak foundations can be blown away.
EF-4	166-200 mph	'Extreme' damage: homes leveled, cars thrown, top story exterior walls of masonry buildings likely to collapse.
EF-5	>200 mph	'Massive' damage: homes swept away, high-rise buildings severely damaged, steel-reinforced concrete structures damaged, trees snapped.

### NOT SAFE!

Rooms above ground level or rooms with windows, doors or exterior walls.

### SAFEST

Interior rooms on the ground floor like a hallway, stairwell or bathroom. Cover yourself with blankets, pillows or a mattress for added protection.



### Know the terms

**Tornado Watch** - Issued when conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. Monitor local radio or TV stations to stay informed and to know immediately if a Tornado Warning is issued.

**Tornado Warning** - Issued when a tornado has been sighted in the area. Take shelter immediately. Radar technology known as DOPPLER has the ability to detect wind directions that may indicate a tornado and a Tornado Warning may be issued before one is actually sighted by the public.

**Note:** In Northwest Florida, tornadoes form quickly and seldom last very long. Warning for these types of tornadoes is often not possible. Remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado. Many people have stated that a tornado "sounds like a train." Tornadoes are usually not detected until they have picked up visible dust and debris.

## Taking Shelter During a Tornado



# Flooding

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Although many floods are caused by huge storms like hurricanes, more floods occur every day and can result from small, localized events, such as a typical afternoon thunderstorm.

Unfortunately, most flood fatalities are not due to limitations in the forecast system. All too often, people in vehicles literally drive into harm's way. While it may appear that water is not deep enough to cause problems, there is almost no way of knowing if the roadbed itself has been eroded or undermined. Always remember: Turn around, don't drown.



## Flood Safety

- Do not walk through flowing water: Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to locate the ground below.
- Do not drive through flooded areas: During a flood, more people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around barricades, as there may not be a road or a bridge where one used to be.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires: The second highest cause of death during a flood after drowning is electrocution. Report any downed power lines. Electrical currents can travel through water.
- Have your electricity turned off by the power company. If an appliance or motor has gotten wet, make sure it has been properly cleaned and dried before resuming use.

## Watch vs. Warning

**Flash Flood Warning:** Take Action! A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area, move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop.

**Flood Warning:** Take Action! A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

**Flood Watch:** Be Prepared: A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

**Flood Advisory:** Be Aware: A Flood Advisory is issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur may become a nuisance. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

- National Weather Service



## General Flood Information

Floodplains are areas where water can collect to provide holding areas until the water has the opportunity to seep into the ground, replenishing our water table and creating natural habitat for wildlife and plant life. A floodplain includes wetlands, marshes, lakes and rivers.

Escambia County has floodplains on three sides from the Perdido and Escambia rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the proximity of Escambia County to water, it is important to understand the severity of a storm and to heed any warnings and evacuation orders.

## Flood Insurance

More than 13,300 Escambia County residents have flood insurance. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners if their community participates in the NFIP. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding.

You do not have to live near a body of water to be susceptible to flooding. Check to see if your home is in or near a flood hazard area at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.



*April 2014 flood damage - Newcastle*

## What can you do?

Escambia County relies on its residents for cooperation and assistance for the following efforts:

- **Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches, streams, creeks, or rivers. Dumping is a violation of Escambia County Ordinance 42-154. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate, plug channels, creeks and streams. A blocked channel cannot carry rain or flood water.**
- **If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Escambia County maintenance can assist to remove major blockages such as fallen trees.**
- **If you see dumping or debris in the ditches, please contact Escambia County Public Works Department, (850) 937-2130, or in the City of Pensacola, (850) 435-1755.**
- **Always check with the building inspections division before you build, alter, re-grade or fill on your property. A permit may be needed to ensure projects do not cause problems on other properties. Escambia County Building Inspections Division, (850) 595-3550.**
- **If you see building or construction without a county permit sign posted, contact the building inspections division, (850) 595-3550.**

## Property Protection

- **Wet flood proofing:** Making uninhabited areas of your home resistant to flood damage when water is permissible to the building.
- **Dry flood proofing:** Sealing the home to prevent waters from entering.
- **Levee and flood wall:** Constructing barriers to prevent floodwaters from entering the home.
- **Elevation:** Raising the home so the lowest floor is above the flood level.
- **Relocation:** Moving the home to higher ground where the exposure to flooding is eliminated.

## Local Services

For assistance with flood zone determination or an elevation certificate:

- Escambia County: (850) 595-3553 (elevation certificate (850) 595-3550)
- City of Pensacola: (850) 436-5600
- Pensacola Beach: (850) 932-2257

To determine if you live in a storm surge area, call Escambia County's Emergency Management office at (850) 471-6400 or see county storm surge maps at [BeReadyEscambia.com](http://BeReadyEscambia.com)



# Thunderstorms & Lightning

Lightning is one of the most underrated severe weather hazards, yet ranks as the second-leading weather killer in the United States. More deadly than hurricanes or tornadoes, lightning strikes in America kill an average of 49 people and injure hundreds of others each year, according to NOAA's National Weather Service.



## Lightning: What you Need to Know

- **NO PLACE** outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area.
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder move to a safe shelter immediately: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

## Severe Thunderstorms

Florida has more thunderstorms than any other area of the United States. Thunderstorms affect relatively small areas when compared to hurricanes, but they occur much more frequently. The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes. Nearly 1,800 thunderstorms are occurring at any moment around the world.

Despite their small size, all thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people each year than tornadoes. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can lead to flash flooding. Strong winds (straight-line winds or downbursts), hail and tornadoes are also dangers associated with some thunderstorms.



## Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

## Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby, the following actions may reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

Info & photo: NOAA



# Lightning Myth vs. Fact

**Myth:** Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year.

**Myth:** If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

**Myth:** Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

**Fact:** Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

**Myth:** A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

**Fact:** The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

**Myth:** If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

**Fact:** Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!

**Myth:** If you are in a house, you are 100 percent safe from lightning.

**Fact:** A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

**Myth:** If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

**Fact:** Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or life-long injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

**Myth:** Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.

**Fact:** Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Mountains are made of stone but get struck by lightning many times a year. When lightning threatens, take proper protective action immediately by seeking a safe shelter - don't waste time removing metal. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay away from metal fences, railing, bleachers, etc.

**Myth:** If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

**Fact:** Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, keep moving toward a safe shelter.

## IF LIGHTNING STRIKES A PERSON

- ✓ Call 9-1-1 for medical assistance immediately.
- ✓ If the person is not responsive and not breathing, BEGIN CPR IMMEDIATELY. Use an Automatic External Defibrillator if available.
- ✓ Check for other injuries - Check for burns in two places. The injured person has received an electric shock and may be burned both where struck and where the electricity left their body. Being struck by lightning can also cause nervous system damage, broken bones and loss of hearing or eyesight. People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and cannot shock other people.

- NOAA

# Wildfires

If you live near wildland areas, there is a threat of wildfires affecting you and your home, as dry conditions at various times of the year greatly increase the potential for wildland fires.

Advance planning and knowing how to protect buildings can lessen the devastation of a wildfire. To reduce the risk, you'll need to consider the fire resistance of your home, the topography of your property and the nature of the vegetation close by.



**Prepare for wildfire.**  
Have an emergency bag of personal items ready in case you are asked to leave your home.



**During a wildfire.**  
Follow evacuation instructions from your emergency officials.



**After a wildfire.**  
Return home only when emergency officials say it is safe.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | ICS

## Preparing to Leave

- Turn on outside lights and leave a light on in every room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke.
- Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. It may be necessary for firefighters to gain quick entry into your home to fight fire. The entire area will be isolated and patrolled by sheriff's deputies or police.

## What to Do after a Wildfire

- Check the roof immediately. Put out any roof fires, sparks or embers. Check the attic for hidden burning sparks.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a "fire watch." Check again for smoke and sparks throughout the house.

## Before the Fire Approaches Your Home

- Evacuate your pets and all family members who are not essential to preparing the home. Anyone with medical or physical limitations, the young and the elderly should be evacuated immediately.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Remove combustibles. Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.
- Close outside attic, eaves and basement vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close all shutters, blinds or heavy non-combustible window coverings to reduce radiant heat.
- Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace, but close the fireplace screen.
- Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source.
- Connect garden hoses. Fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs or other large containers with water.
- If you have gas-powered pumps for water, make sure they are fueled and ready.
- Disconnect any automatic garage door openers so doors can still be opened by hand if the power goes out. Close all garage doors.
- Place valuable papers, mementos and anything of importance inside the car in the garage, ready for quick departure.
- Close all doors and windows when evacuating your home.



**Know 2 ways out of every room.**  
It is important to find 2 ways out of every room in the house in case one exit is blocked or dangerous to use.



**Make a fire escape plan.**  
Talk to your family about what you should do if there is a fire. Practice your fire escape plan at least 2 times a year.



**Think about your needs.**  
Be sure to keep your glasses, hearing aid, cane or wheel chair close to your bed at night. If there is an emergency, you will be able to grab them quickly as you leave.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | ICS

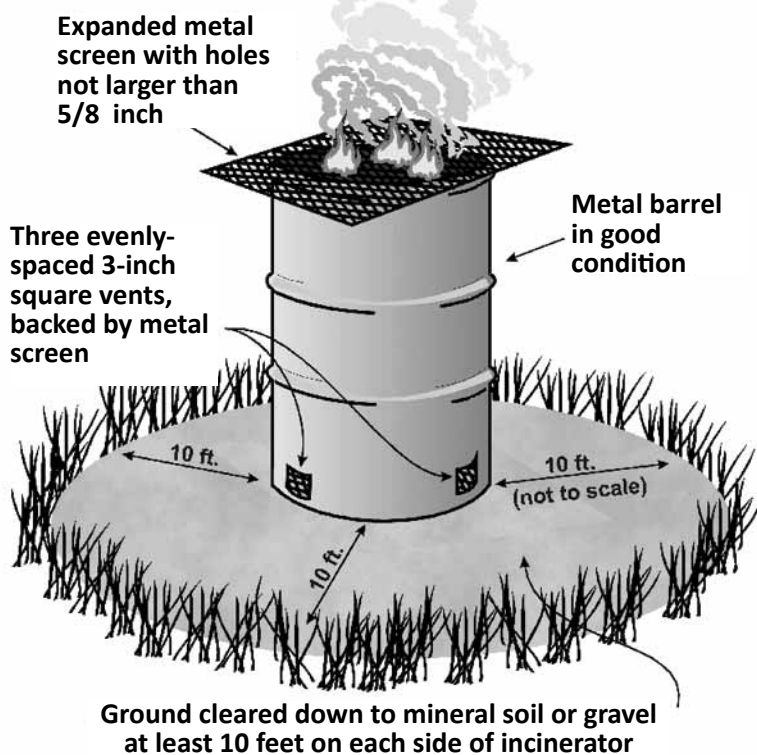
# Burning Safely

Outdoor burning is a viable way to get rid of vegetation debris like tree branches, brush cuttings, needles, and leaves. However, each year in the United States, wildfires damage or destroy thousands of acres, many of which are the unintended result of careless outdoor or open burning practices.

With proper site preparation and forethought, people can burn vegetative debris with reasonable safety. Taking the time to plan an outdoor burning project, preparing the burn site, and equipping yourself with basic fire suppression tools before lighting the match will dramatically reduce the chance of a burn pile fire getting out of control and becoming a 9-1-1 call.



## Using a Burn Barrel



## Outdoor Burning Regulations

- It is illegal to burn household garbage (including paper products), treated lumber, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint and aerosol containers.
- Dry (not green) vegetative debris such as grass clippings, pine straw, leaves, tree limbs and shrub trimmings can be legally burned between 8 a.m. and one hour before sunset if it is in a pile not larger than 8 ft. in diameter and located:
  - **25 feet** from any forested area (grasslands, brush or wildlands).
  - **25 feet** from your home or other combustible structure.
  - **50 feet** from any paved or public roadway.
  - **150 feet** from any occupied dwelling other than your own home.

Burning material in a pile larger than 8 ft. diameter, or burning any area of land, requires an authorization from the Florida Forest Service at (850) 957-5700, and is subject to additional restrictions.

## Tips for Burning Yard Waste Safely

- Clear down to bare, mineral soil around your pile to prevent the fire from spreading.
- Don't burn on windy days.
- Never leave a fire unattended, even for a moment.
- Grass fires can spread quickly. Be prepared. Keep handy a water hose, shovel or other means to put out the fire.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving it – no smoke and no heat.
- If your fire escapes, call for help quickly. Several minutes might pass before a fire department or the Forest Service can arrive on scene.

- Florida Forest Service

## IS IT REALLY OUT?

To ensure that a backyard debris burn is really out, follow these steps:

- Drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times until it is dead.
- Check the burn area regularly over the next several days.
- At the onset of warm, dry weather, especially when accompanied by wind, check the burn area again, even if it is weeks after the burn.

## Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. About 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes without smoke alarms, or the alarms are not working. Smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom. Install alarms on every level of the home, including the basement. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- People who are hard of hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed. This will help smoke detectors alert you before the smoke reaches your room.

### Don't Have a Smoke Alarm?

For information about obtaining a home smoke alarm in Escambia County, call (850) 595-HERO (4376). Residents within Pensacola city limits may call (850) 436-5200 for smoke alarm installation assistance.

### SAFETY TIPS

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

### IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.



Info: National Fire Protection Association

## Fire Extinguishers

When it's time to use a fire extinguisher, just remember

# PASS!



## Pull

Pull the pin.

## Aim

Aim the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire from the recommended safe distance.



## Squeeze

Squeeze the operating lever to discharge the fire extinguishing agent.

## Sweep

Starting at the recommended distance, sweep the nozzle or hose from side

to side until the fire is out. Move forward or around the area as the fire diminishes. Watch the area in case of re-ignition.



Source: FEMA

# Earthquakes

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and planning in advance can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake.

## Before an Earthquake

- Make sure all family members know how to respond after an earthquake. Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water. Teach children how and when to call 911, police, or fire and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- In case family members are separated from one another during an earthquake (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the “family contact.” After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

## Precautions in your Home

- Install anchor bolts to better connect your home to its foundation.
- Bolt or strap shelves, cupboards and bookcases to the wall.
- Use flexible conduits and connectors for electrical and gas appliances.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches and other seating areas.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in foundations or ceilings. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves.

## Aftershocks

Post earthquake, be prepared for aftershocks. Although smaller than the main shock, aftershocks cause additional damage and may bring weakened structures down. Aftershocks can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake.

## Remember Drop, Cover, Hold

At the first sign of shaking:



1. Drop to the ground.

2. Take cover by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture.

Cover

3. Hold on until the shaking stops.

Hold

## During an Earthquake

### If you're indoors:

- Take cover under a piece of heavy furniture or against an inside wall and hold on. The most dangerous thing to do during the shaking of an earthquake is to try to leave the building, because objects can fall on you.

### If you're outdoors:

- Move into the open, away from buildings, street lights and utility wires. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

### If you're in a moving vehicle:

- If in a moving vehicle, stop quickly and stay in the vehicle. Move to a clear area away from buildings, trees, overpasses, or utility wires. Once the shaking has stopped, proceed with caution. Avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged by the quake.





# Extreme Heat



## BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat related deaths are preventable

### WHAT:

Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

### WHO:



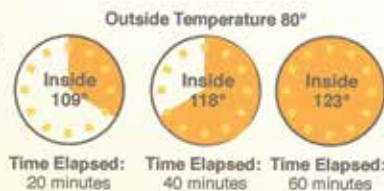
### WHERE:



### HOW to AVOID:



During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!



### HEAT ALERTS: Know the difference.

HEAT OUTLOOK	HEAT WATCHES	HEAT WARNING/ADVISORY
Minor Excessive heat event in 3 to 7 days	Excessive heat event in 12 to 48 hours	Excessive heat event in next 36 hours Major

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Sunburn** can significantly slow the skin's ability to release excess heat.

Most **heat-related illnesses** occur because of overexposure to heat or over-exercising.

Residents in Northwest Florida are familiar with extreme heat, but can sometimes become complacent. If you suspect any of these heat-related conditions, seek immediate medical attention.

### Know the Signs

**Heat Cramps:** Muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. Although heat cramps are the least severe, they are often the first signal that the body is having trouble with the heat.

**Heat Exhaustion:** Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock. If not treated, the victim's condition will worsen. Body temperature will keep rising and the victim may suffer heat stroke.

**Heat Stroke:** A life-threatening condition. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

**Sun Stroke:** Another term for heat stroke.

### During a Heat Emergency

- Limit exposure to the sun and stay indoors.
- Never leave children or pets alone in vehicles.
- Stay on the lowest floor in air conditioning. If air conditioning is not available, stay in shaded area.
- Eat well-balanced, light and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed by a physician.
- Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney or liver disease, are on fluid restricted diets, or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages. None is best.
- Dress in loose, lightweight and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your head.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and live alone.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat and take frequent breaks.

### Don't Forget Your Pets!



- Look for signs of heat stress: heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, unsteadiness, vomiting or a deep red or purple tongue.
- Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle.
- If your pet is overheated, move him/her to a cooler area and take these emergency steps:
  - Apply cool (not cold) water all over your pet's body or soak him/her in a cool bath.
  - Offer water if your pet is alert and wants to drink, but do not force him/her to drink.
  - Take your pet to a veterinarian immediately.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response



For more information on ways to beat the heat please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/extremeheat/>



# ❄️ Extreme Cold

## Extreme Cold Weather Tips

- Stay indoors and use safe heating sources.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials.
- Check on elderly or disabled family, friends or neighbors.
- Leave faucets dripping slightly to avoid freezing.
- Before winter, have your home heating checked out.
- Store a supply of wood for fireplaces/wood-burning stoves.
- Insulate walls and attics and weather-stripping doors and windows or covering them with plastic.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case pipes burst).
- Check vehicle maintenance/antifreeze levels to avoid freezing.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.


## Pet Safety

- Do not leave pets out in the cold. Bring them indoors.
- Make sure pets have a warm blanket to lie on and plenty of food and water. Bring into a garage, taking care to make sure toxins, such as antifreeze and bleach, are out of their reach.
- If pets must stay outdoors, provide a pet house or other type of shelter and line the bottom with plenty of blankets or hay along with extra food and water. Try installing a light bulb flood light in the pet house at a safe distance away from the pet to avoid burns. The light bulb will help keep pets warm. However, do not use light bulbs when bedding with hay.

### ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ SPOT ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

#### FROSTBITE

A victim is often unaware of frostbite because frozen tissue is numb.



**Signs & Symptoms**


- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

**Other signs include:**

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

#### HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia often occurs at very cold temperatures, but can occur at cool temperatures (above 40°F), if a person is wet (from rain, sweat or cold water) and becomes chilled.




**Signs & Symptoms**

**Adults:**

- shivering
- exhaustion
- confusion
- fumbling hands
- memory loss
- slurred speech
- drowsiness

**Infants:**

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy



**If a person's temperature is below 95° get medical attention immediately.**

### AVOID \* SPOT \* TREAT


### FROSTBITE & HYPOTHERMIA

In cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced, which can lead to serious health problems.

### ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ AVOID ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️


When the weather is extremely cold, try to stay indoors. If you must go outside, **dress properly** and know who is at **high risk** for hypothermia or frostbite.

**When going outside be sure to wear:**



When going outside in winter make sure body parts most often affected by frostbite are covered in warm, dry clothing.

NOSE
EARS
TOES
CHEEKS
CHIN
FINGERS



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.asp>

## Plants

- Water your plants thoroughly. The water will act as an insulator. Dry plants are more susceptible to freezing.
- After watering, cover plants with a breathable material, such as fabric not plastic.
- Place mulch at the base of your plants and do not prune prior to a freeze.
- If possible, move smaller plants inside.



# Terrorism

Terrorist attacks can leave many concerned about the possibility of future incidents in the United States and their potential impact. They have raised uncertainty about what might happen next, increasing stress levels. There are things you can do to prepare for the unexpected and reduce the stress that you may feel now and later should another emergency arise.

Taking preparatory action can reassure you and your children that you can exert a measure of control even in the face of such events. Finding out what can happen is the first step. Once you have determined the events possible and their potential in your community, it is important that you discuss them with your family or household. Develop a disaster plan together.

## If a Terrorism Event Occurs

- **Remain calm and be patient.**
- **Follow the advice of local emergency officials.**
- **Listen to your radio or television for news and instructions.**
- **If the event occurs near you, check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.**
- **Confine or secure your pets.**
- **Call your family contact—do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.**
- **Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.**

- American Red Cross

## Terrorism Advisory System

The National Terrorism Advisory System communicates information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

Each alert provides information to the public about the threat, including, if available, the geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat; protective actions being taken by authorities, and steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves and their families, and help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.

The “If You See Something, Say Something™” campaign across the United States encourages all citizens to be vigilant for indicators of potential terrorist activity, and to follow NTAS Alerts for information about threats in specific places or for individuals exhibiting certain types of suspicious activity. If you see something suspicious taking place, report the behavior or activity to local law enforcement, or in the case of emergency call 911. Visit [www.dhs.gov/ifyouseesomethingsaysomething](http://www.dhs.gov/ifyouseesomethingsaysomething) to learn more about the campaign.



**NTAS Alerts are organized into two categories:**

**Imminent Threat Alert** - Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

**Elevated Threat Alert** - Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.

**Alerts are Available via:**

- Official DHS NTAS webpage: [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)
- Email signup: [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)
- Facebook and Twitter by searching NTASAlerts

## What is a Pandemic?

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness and then easily spreads person-to-person worldwide. During a pandemic, social isolation should be practiced. Always follow the directions of local authorities during and after a pandemic.

## The Flu & You

Flu is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death. Flu is unpredictable, and it is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be. Wherever and whenever a pandemic starts, everyone in the world is at risk.

### How does flu spread?


Most experts think that flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. A person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own eyes, mouth or nose.

## Protect Your Family & Yourself

- ✓ Cover your cough and sneeze with tissues, dispose of them properly, and then wash your hands.
- ✓ Wash your hands often and well.
- ✓ Stay at home if you are ill and minimize exposure to sick persons by staying three to six feet away.
- ✓ Regularly disinfect common surfaces such as phones, remote controls, door knobs, light switches, and toys.
- ✓ Get vaccinated yearly.

## The Get Ready guide to hand-washing

**Your hands aren't as clean as you think they are.**




Harmful viruses and bacteria can live on your keyboard, smartphone and more for hours.

**Did you wash your hands in the bathroom today? Really?**

A study found that **91 percent** of adults say they did, but only **83 percent** were observed washing up. And even less of us wash up after sneezing or coughing.


Translation: gross stuff gets everywhere.

The Food and Drug Administration says that up to half of all foodborne illnesses could be prevented if we all washed up.




**What does that mean? Hand-washing works!**

**Just how important is washing your hands?**




The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls it the "single most important means of preventing the spread of infection."

**Washing your hands isn't hard.**





**What does 20 seconds feel like?**




20 seconds is how long it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.

**By the way, using hand sanitizer isn't as good as washing your hands. It can fill in when a sink isn't available, but a good scrub with soap and water is always best.**

[www.aphagetready.org](http://www.aphagetready.org) AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

## Zika Virus




**Protect yourself from mosquito bites**

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use door and window screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Use insect repellent.

**Watch for these symptoms**  
See your doctor if you develop a fever with:

- Muscle or joint pain
- Headache or pain behind eyes
- Rash
- Red eyes



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Zika is a disease caused by the Zika virus, which is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito.

The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. However, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

- CDC



# Insect & Pesticide Safety

You should always be alert for insects, especially when spending time outdoors. Insects such as ticks and mosquitoes are known to carry diseases. To protect yourself and others, follow these tips:

## Protect Yourself

- **Wear a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and a hat.**
- **Secure your clothes with rubber bands or tape to prevent insects from getting underneath them.**
- **Avoid underbrush and tall grass when hiking.**
- **Use an insect repellent and follow the directions for use. Be sure to read cautionary statements on label.**
- **After being outdoors for a long period, inspect yourself for ticks or have someone else do it. Shower immediately after coming indoors.**
- **If you find a tick, remove it by pulling steadily and firmly. Grasp the tick with a fine-tipped tweezers, as close to the skin as possible, and pull slowly. Wash area and apply antiseptic or antibiotic ointment. Watch area for infection. See a physician if you see signs of a rash in that area.**
- **If you have pets that go outdoors, use a repellent made for that type of pet and apply according to the label. Be sure to check your pet for ticks often.**
- **If you are stung, use a credit card to sweep away the stinger.**
- **A yellow jacket may have been rooting around in your garbage can before stinging you; properly treat the sting, even if it doesn't hurt, as a secondary infection may develop.**

## Protect Your Pets

- Remove all sources of stagnant water around your home where mosquitoes might breed.
- Your pets should be kept inside during peak mosquito feeding times (dawn and dusk).
- Contact your veterinarian if you are concerned about your pets' health.
- Use of mosquito resistant structures such as well-maintained insect screening and fans may reduce mosquitoes' access to equine and other livestock hosts.
- Insect repellents approved for use on horses may be of some value in decreasing exposure; however, there are restraints due to limited duration of effectiveness of some formulations under certain conditions (e.g. rain, perspiration).
- Horse owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarian immediately should they notice any signs or symptoms of Encephalitis infection in horses, especially those exhibiting neurological signs.



## Pesticides in Your Home

A nationwide study conducted by the EPA revealed that almost half of surveyed households with children under the age of five had at least one pesticide stored within their reach.

The basic steps in reducing pesticide risks are:

- Choosing the right pesticide product.
- Reading the product label.
  - △ **DANGER** means poisonous or corrosive
  - △ **WARNING** means moderately hazardous.
  - △ **CAUTION** means least hazardous.
- Determining the right amount to purchase and use.
- Using the product safely and correctly.
- Storing pesticides in a locked cabinet out of reach of children and pets.
- Disposing of pesticides properly. Do not pour leftover pesticides down the sink, into the toilet or down a sewer or street drain.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**, try to determine what the person was exposed to and what part of the body was affected before you take action, since taking the right action is as important as taking immediate action. If the person is unconscious, having trouble breathing, or having convulsions, give needed first aid immediately.

Call 9-1-1. If the person does not have these symptoms, contact your local Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222. Have the product container with you when you call for assistance. Remember to act fast!

### DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS ARE PESTICIDES?

- Cockroach sprays and baits.
- Insect sprays and wasp repellents for indoor use.
- Insect repellents for personal use.
- Termite control products.
- Rat and other rodent poisons.
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars.
- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, including bleach.
- Products to kill mold and mildew.
- Lawn and garden products such as weed killers.
- Swimming pool chemicals.
- Repellents that keep deer, raccoons, or rabbits away from your garden.

**National Pesticide Information Center**  
**800-858-7378**



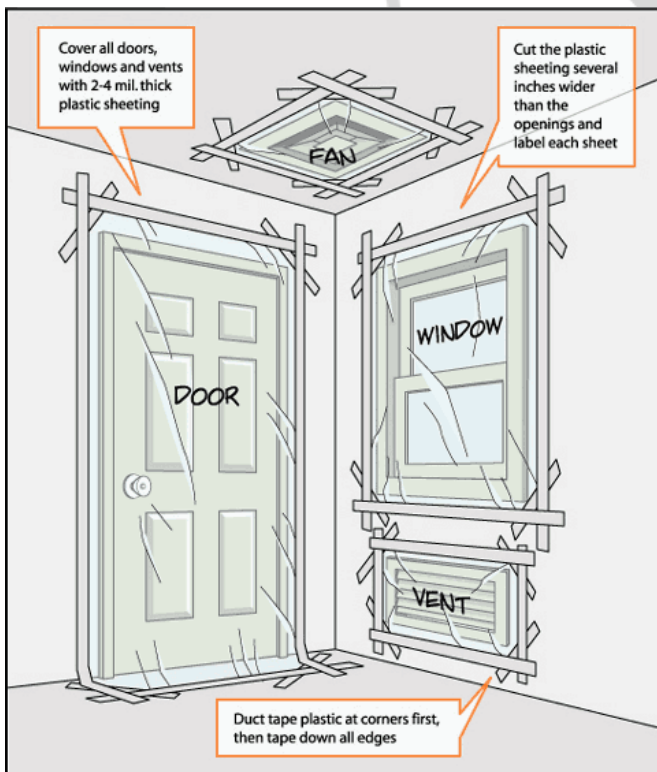
# Hazardous Materials

If there were a chemical emergency near your home, would you know what to do? The following information will help you be better prepared.

In the event of a chemical emergency that threatens your area, you will be notified of the incident in at least one of the following ways:

- A call through an emergency telephone notification system. You will receive a recorded message that will give you some instructions on what to do.
- A law enforcement officer or fire truck using a public address system to warn you of the danger and provide instruction of what to do.
- A law enforcement officer or firefighter going door-to-door to notify residents of the danger and provide some instructions on what to do.
- Through the Emergency Alert System, formerly called the Emergency Broadcast System.

Depending on the situation, it may be necessary for you to evacuate during a chemical emergency. In many cases however, you may be requested to “shelter in place.”



## Sheltering in Place Kit:

- Bottled water
- Bath towels
- Duct tape and plastic sheeting
- Flashlight and battery powered radio with extra batteries
- Non-perishable food
- First aid kit

## Sheltering in Place

Whether you are at home, work or elsewhere, there may be situations when it's best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. There are other circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as “sheltering in place,” is a matter of survival. Use available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action. If you are told to shelter in place, take your children and pets indoors immediately and:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds or curtains.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your disaster supply kit. Make sure the radio is working.
- Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.
- Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door and vents into the room.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) & the American Red Cross

## WHAT IF I AM IN MY CAR?

If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, pull over in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, try to stop under a bridge or in a shady spot to avoid being overheated.

- Turn off the engine. Close windows and vents.
- If possible, seal the heating/AC vents with duct tape.
- Listen to the radio regularly for updated instructions.
- Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to get back on the road. Some roads may be closed or traffic detoured. Follow directions from law enforcement officials.



# Water Safety

## Tips for Parents and Pool Owners

Each year, thousands of American families experience drownings and non-fatal submersions and entrapments. Your greatest water safety assurance comes from adopting and practicing as many safety steps as possible. Adding an extra safety step around the water can make all the difference. You can never know which safety measure will save a life - until it does.

### Practice Supervision

- ✓ Never take your eyes off children in the water - not for a minute! Always designate a “pool watcher.”

### Install Barriers

- ✓ The Consumer Product Safety Commission strongly recommends that all residential pools have a 4 foot barrier, such as a fence with self-closing and self-latching gates. If the house is the fourth side of a barrier, secure doors with alarms that prevent children from wandering into the pool area.

### Avoid Entrapments

- ✓ Suction from a pool or spa drain can be so powerful it can trap an adult underwater. Do not use a pool or spa if there are broken or missing drain covers.
- ✓ Ask your pool operator if your pool or spa drains are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act.

### Know Life-Saving Skills

- ✓ Teach your children how to swim.
- ✓ Know CPR so you can help save a life if a water emergency happens.
- ✓ Understand the basics of life-saving so you can assist in an emergency.

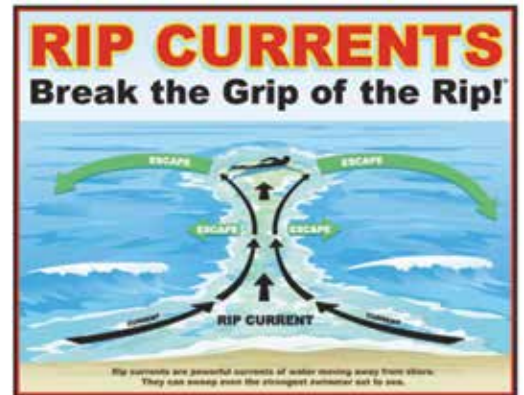
## Securing Your Boat

The key to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe threatening weather is planning, preparation and timely action. Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, the local boating environment, and the severe weather conditions likely to occur.

- Never stay aboard your boat during a hurricane.
- Contact local marinas and ask for advice. You will find marina operators knowledgeable and helpful. They can advise you on the best methods for securing your boat.
- Remove small boats from the water and move them to a secure location. Ensure the trailer and boat are secured above likely flood areas.
- Remove all loose items.
- Ensure the boat is tied securely to the trailer.
- If your boat is too large to be removed from the water, move it to a safe haven well before the storm approaches.
- Double up and secure mooring lines.
- Secure all hatches and portals and cover windscreens.
- Take down mast whenever possible.
- Remove all loose items from decks and superstructure and from area around mooring. Leave nothing unsecured.
- **Never forget that storms move quickly and they are unpredictable. You can always replace a boat; you cannot replace a life.**

Tragic water accidents happen quickly. The most common reason for aquatic mishaps is a lack of safety knowledge. While enjoying the beach or a pool, please follow these simple, life-saving tips:

- Know and understand the meaning of each flag found in the beach warning flag system. Signs and flags are posted at each beach public access area, and current Pensacola Beach surf conditions can be found online at PensacolaBeachLifeguards.com.
- Swim near a lifeguard station.
- Never swim alone.
- Supervise children closely, even when lifeguards are present.
- Don't rely on flotation devices such as rafts. You may lose them in the water.
- Alcohol and swimming don't mix.
- Protect your head, neck, and spine - don't dive into unfamiliar waters. Feet first, first time!
- Don't swim at dawn, dusk or at night, as these are times when sharks feed.
- During thunderstorms, move inside to a building or vehicle.
- Follow regulations and lifeguard directions.



## Rip Currents

Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone and past the line of breaking waves. Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves, including the Great Lakes. Rip currents can be deadly.

The United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) estimates that more than 100 people die annually due to rip currents on our nation's beaches. Rip currents account for more than 80 percent of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards. If caught in a rip current, how you respond could make the difference between life and death.

### Rip Current Tips

- If you are caught by a rip current, do not try to swim straight for the shore. The strong current can exhaust and defeat even the best swimmer.
- Stay calm and remember that the current is narrow and dies out beyond the breakers.
- If the current is weak, swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current, then swim ashore. If the current is strong, float with it until it dies out, then swim toward the shore.
- Strong rip currents form near groins, jetties and piers and they cut deep holes in the bottom. Stay at least 100 feet from these areas.



## What is a tsunami?

Tsunamis are potentially devastating waves that can follow seismic events are threats to any coastal region. Florida has 1,197 miles of coastline, more than any of the lower 48 States. Since most tsunamis are associated with major earthquakes, the possibility of a tsunami impacting the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts of Florida is considered to be remote -- but it is not impossible. The Atlantic Ocean basin is not ringed by large faults as is the Pacific, which is associated both with earthquakes and tsunamis. It is thought that rare underwater landslides would pose a greater risk in the Atlantic Ocean. However, because of the horrific tsunami that impacted Southeast Asia in December 2004 and in recognition of the fact that a tsunami occurrence is possible, the Federal government has decided to expand its warning system to include the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States.

## What could cause a Florida tsunami?

### The Puerto Rico Trench

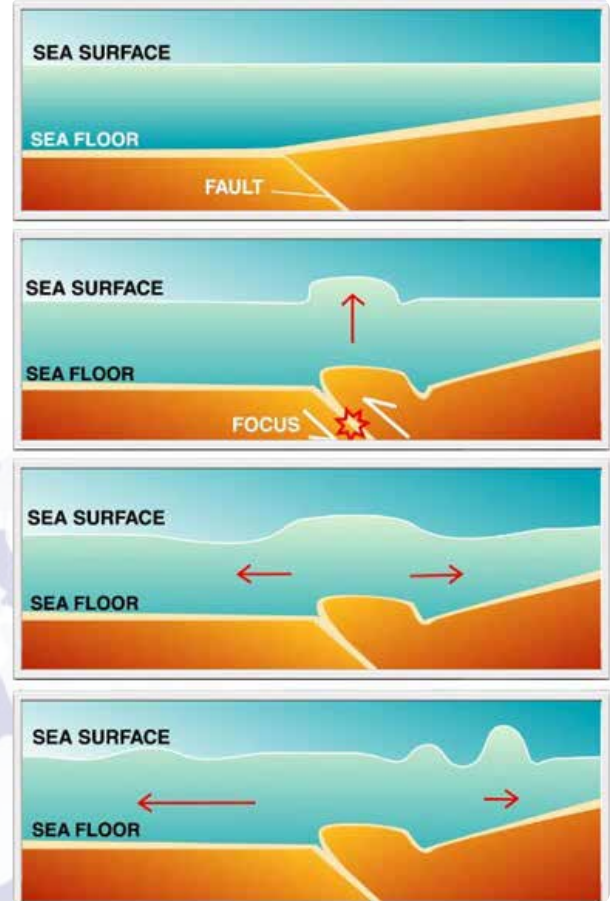
- Boundary between Caribbean, North American, and South American tectonic plates.
- Since 1848, eight tsunamis have originated here, causing over 2,500 deaths.
- 1918 tsunami from a magnitude 7.5 earthquake killed 116 in Puerto Rico.

### Cumbre Vieja Volcano in the Canary Islands

- Potential for undersea landslide creating and Atlantic Ocean-wide tsunami (or tele-tsunami).
- Azores-Gibraltar Fracture Zone.
- Potential for earthquakes, causing Atlantic tele-tsunamis.
- 1755 earthquake devastated Lisbon, Portugal, and generated the only known Atlantic tele-tsunami.

### Rogue Waves - not tsunamis, but still dangerous

- Little is known about this phenomenon, but likely cause is weather-related.
- 1992 rogue wave swamped 30 miles of shoreline around Daytona Beach, causing 75 injuries.
- 1995 rogue wave occurred from Tampa to Naples.



Tsunamis are most often generated by shallow earthquakes.  
Source: International Tsunami Information Center

## How would I know a tsunami is coming?

- Tsunami Watches, Warnings and Advisories are issued by NOAA's Tsunami Warning centers at [tsunami.noaa.gov/warnings\\_forecasts.html](http://tsunami.noaa.gov/warnings_forecasts.html)
- Information relayed directly to media, officials and public via the Emergency Alert System.
- Messages alerted and broadcast on NOAA weather radios.

## Tsunami Safety

- If you feel an earthquake or observe a sudden outgoing tide, evacuate the beach immediately, beyond the 300-foot danger zone (typically inland of coastal roadways).
- If evacuation of danger zone is not possible, move to the highest floor (at least 15 feet high) of a well-constructed building
- Never go to the beach to watch for a tsunami.
- WHEN YOU CAN SEE THE WAVE, YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO ESCAPE.
- Tsunamis can move faster than a person can run!



# Active Shooter Safety

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms, and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10-15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

## Good practices for coping with an active shooter situation

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.
- CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO!



## INFORMATION YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATOR

- **Location of the active shooter**
- **Number of shooters**
- **Physical description of shooters**
- **Number and type of weapons held by shooters**
- **Number of potential victims at the location**

## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

### **RUN**

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible.

### **HIDE**

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors.
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager.

### **FIGHT**

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter.

## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Raise hands and spread fingers.
- Keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety.
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating.

## Department of Homeland Security Resources

DHS has developed an independent study course entitled Active Shooter: What You Can Do. This course was developed to provide the public with guidance on how to prepare for and respond to active shooter crisis situations. The free course is available online through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute at [www.training.fema.gov](http://www.training.fema.gov) (course number IS-907).

Upon completion of Active Shooter: What You Can Do, employees and managers will be able to:

- Describe the actions to take when confronted with an active shooter and to assist law enforcement officials when responding.
- Recognize potential workplace violence indicators.
- Describe actions to take to prevent and prepare for potential active shooter incidents.
- Describe how to manage the consequences of an active shooter incident.

Additional training for law enforcement is also available at FEMA Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response at [www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Course/PER-275](http://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Course/PER-275).



# Hurricane Evacuation Zones

Hurricanes are a fact of life in Florida. Florida has the greatest probability of any state in the nation to experience the landfall of a major, category 3 or higher, hurricane. When it comes to hurricanes, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes produce storm surges, tornadoes, high winds and flooding. Several factors are considered when looking at evacuations, including the size of the storm, but one size does not fit all. Hurricane Ivan was considered a large hurricane while Hurricane Dennis was relatively smaller, but both were category 3 storms. The speed of the hurricane also plays a role. Ike was a slow category 2 storm when it made landfall in Texas, but due to its mass and slow speed, it created a category 4 storm surge. Finally, the wind speed of the hurricane will be considered since this also affects the amount of water being displaced.

Escambia County uses A - E to identify evacuation zones. Please see the map on the next page of this guide. A is the area of lowest elevation, which includes our coastal area. The letters and zones then progress as you move inland to higher elevations. Each zone will be evacuated depending on the hurricane's track and projected storm surge. Storm surge, high winds and accessibility should all be considered when you determine if your home is safe to stay in during a hurricane.



## When Evacuating

- ✓ Evacuate quickly and in daylight if possible.
- ✓ Tell someone outside the warning area where you are going.
- ✓ Follow the official evacuation routes.
- ✓ Have a back-up plan in case you cannot reach your "safe place."
- ✓ Keep a full tank of gas in your car.
- ✓ Be alert for washed out roads and bridges.
- ✓ Do not drive in flooded areas. Stay away from downed power lines.
- ✓ Consider the needs of children, elderly and pets.
- ✓ Visit [www.floridaevacuates.com](http://www.floridaevacuates.com) for statewide evacuation & shelter information.

## Hurricane Evacuation Zones

# Know Your ZONE



Visit [www.bereadyescambia.com](http://www.bereadyescambia.com) and click on the "Hurricane Evacuation" tab to learn more and to type in your address to see what zone you live in. Staying safe from surge flooding is easy if you follow evacuation orders and don't wait until it is too late!

## If You Choose to Stay Home

- If you choose to stay home during a hurricane, ask yourself :
- ✓ Do you have hurricane shutters? Is the garage door braced?
  - ✓ Has a professional braced the roof gable ends?
  - ✓ Is your home a manufactured or mobile home? Is your home in an evacuation zone? It is not safe to stay in either.
  - ✓ Does the home have a safe room big enough for all occupants?
  - ✓ Do you have a disaster plan for all occupants including pets?
  - ✓ Do your vehicles have a full tank of gas?
  - ✓ Does your disaster kit have one week's worth of non-perishable food supplies and water for each person/pet?
  - ✓ Do you have a battery operated radio with extra batteries?
  - ✓ Is your cell phone handy and charged? Do you have a car charger for it if power is lost?
  - ✓ Do you have tarps and plastic sheeting available for emergency repairs?

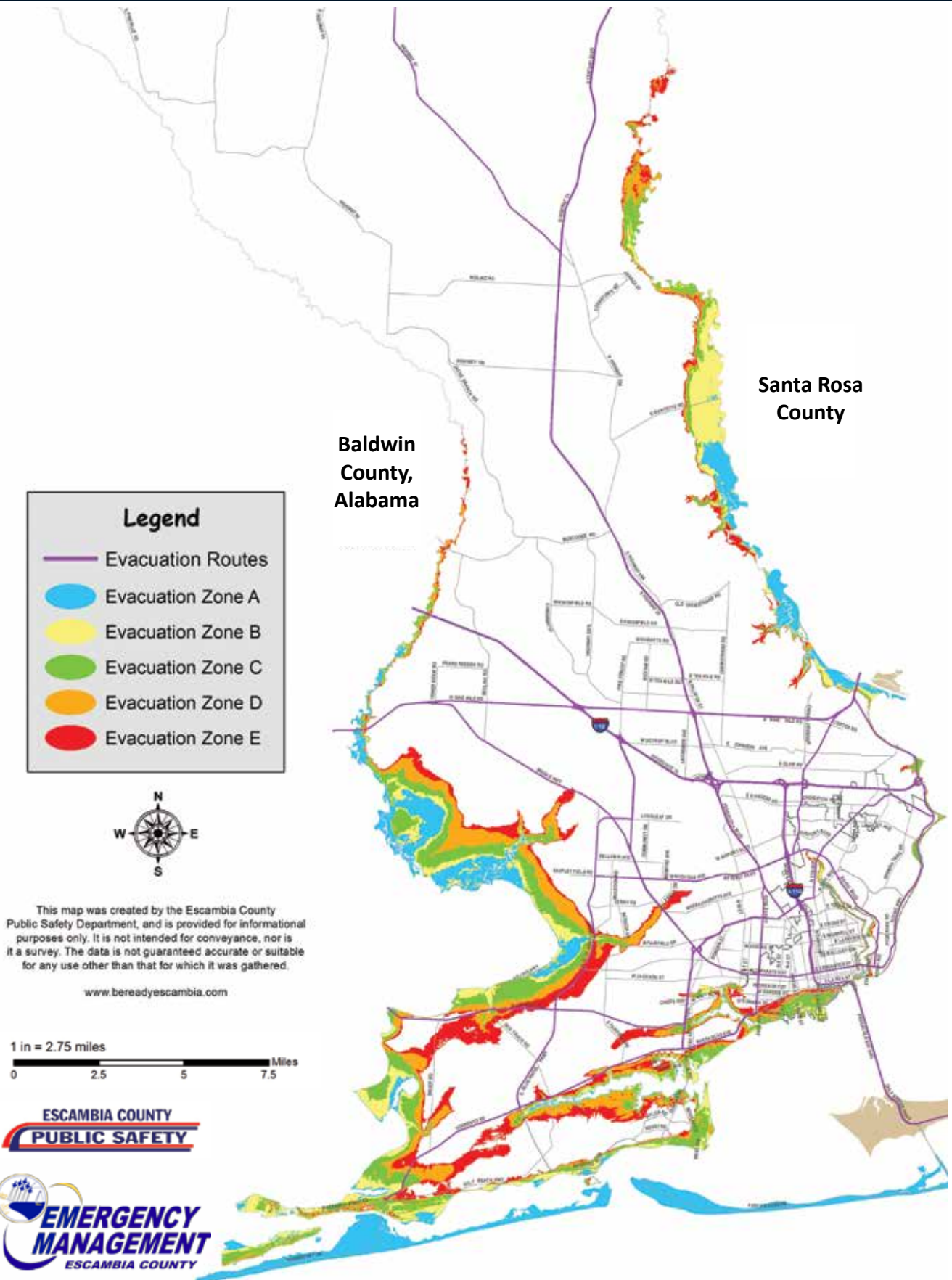
## IF YOU IGNORE AN EVACUATION ORDER

Visitors and residents should understand that you will be jeopardizing your life and those of your family members. There might be a time period during the storm or incident that you will be on your own.

Emergency and rescue personnel will not be able to respond to a call for assistance until after the danger of the storm has passed. After the storm, emergency and rescue personnel may not be able to immediately respond to your area because of damage, road debris and downed trees.



# Evacuation Routes & Zones Map



# Family Emergency Plan



Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Fill out these cards and give one to each member of your family to make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION

**Family Emergency Plan** 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_


OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 

< FOLD  
HERE >

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION

**Family Emergency Plan** 


EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION

**Family Emergency Plan** 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 

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ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION

**Family Emergency Plan** 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE:  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

**Ready** 



# Family Emergency Plan



Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. ®

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Out-of-Town Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans that you and your family need to know about.

Work Location One

School Location One

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location Two

School Location Two

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location Three

School Location Three

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Other place you frequent

Other place you frequent

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evacuation Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Information	Name	Telephone Number	Policy Number
Doctor(s):			
Other:			
Pharmacist:			
Medical Insurance:			
Homeowners/Rental Insurance:			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets):			

Dial 911 for Emergencies



# Disaster Supplies Shopping List

If you plan to stay at home during a hurricane, you should have the following items on hand. It is a good idea to get these items at the beginning of hurricane season because as a storm approaches, stores become very busy and stock is depleted quickly. Use the 11-week shopping list to help you gather your supplies.

Visit [www.myescambia.com/beready/disaster-plan](http://www.myescambia.com/beready/disaster-plan) to print this list.

## WEEK 1 - FOOD (per person)

- 3 gallons water
- sandwich bread
- 3 boxes quick energy snacks
- 2 cans ready-to-eat soup
- 1 box crackers
- 1 box cereal
- 3 cans fruit
- 3 cans vegetables
- 3 cans tuna/meat
- manual can opener
- 1 jar jelly
- 1 jar peanut butter
- six-pack juice or sport drink
- instant coffee/tea/drinks
- charcoal or propane gas for grill
- matches
- 1 box granola bar

## WEEK 4 - CLEANING & SUPPLIES

- 2 packages eating utensils, paper cups, paper plates, napkins
- box counter wipes with bleach
- 2 rolls paper towels
- 4 rolls bathroom tissue
- liquid antibacterial dish soap
- 2 pair rubber gloves
- broom, mop and bucket
- unscented liquid bleach
- old towels and rags
- household liquid cleaner
- spray disinfectant cleaner
- bug spray
- fly swatter

## WEEK 8 - SPECIAL ITEMS

- foods for special diets
- extra hearing aid batteries
- items for denture care
- spare eyeglasses or contact lens supplies
- gallon of water per pet
- leash and pet carrier
- pet food and pet medications
- baby food and formula
- diapers and wipes

## WEEK 5 - MEDICAL NEEDS

- anti-diarrhea medicine
- pain relievers
- extra prescription medications
- thermometer

## WEEK 9 - SMART SUPPLIES

- battery powered camping lantern and extra batteries
- glow sticks for night lights
- portable camp stove or grill
- video or camera

## WEEK 2 - PROTECTING PROPERTY

- 2 boxes large plastic zip bags
- plastic wrap
- 2 rolls aluminum foil
- plastic containers with lids
- heavy-duty garbage bags
- waterproof portable plastic container with lid
- plastic sheeting (drop cloths)

## WEEK 10 - HELPFUL SUPPLIES

- board games and puzzles
- books
- corded telephone (not cordless)
- extra batteries for everything
- local and state road maps
- approved gas containers

## WEEK 3 - HEALTH & HYGIENE

- bottle of shampoo
- box baby wipes/hand gel
- tube of toothpaste
- antiseptic
- deodorant/antiperspirant
- tweezers
- assorted adhesive bandages
- gauze and tape
- first aid book
- antibiotic cream
- insect bite cream
- aloe/sunburn relief cream
- ace bandages
- mosquito repellent
- sunscreen

## WEEK 6 - COMMON TOOLS

- battery operated radio
- flashlights and batteries
- assorted safety pins
- scissors
- screwdriver (Flat and Phillip's)
- pliers and vise grips
- hammer
- heavy work gloves
- camping or utility knife
- box disposable dust masks
- plastic safety goggles

## WEEK 11 - EVERYDAY SAFETY

- ABC certified fire extinguisher
- smoke detector with battery
- carbon monoxide detector
- heavy duty extension cords for generator use

## WEEK 7 - HEAVY TOOLS

- plywood and fasteners to cover windows or some other suitable window protection
- tarps or canvas for temporary roof repair
- hand saw and/or chain saw
- extra fuel
- assorted nails
- wood screws
- hatchet
- crowbar





# Local Media Outlets

## Newspapers/Online News

- InWeekly.....[www.inweekly.net](http://www.inweekly.net)
- NorthEscambia.com.....[www.northescambia.com](http://www.northescambia.com)
- Pensacola News Journal.....[www.pnj.com](http://www.pnj.com)
- Pensacola Voice.....[www.pensacolavoice.com](http://www.pensacolavoice.com)
- The Pulse.....[www.pulsegulfcoast.com](http://www.pulsegulfcoast.com)
- Rick's Blog.....[www.ricksblog.biz](http://www.ricksblog.biz)

## Radio

- WUWF 88.1 FM.....[www.wuwf.org](http://www.wuwf.org)
- WMEZ 94.1 FM.....[www.softrock941.com](http://www.softrock941.com)
- WYCT 98.7 FM .....[www.catcountry987.com](http://www.catcountry987.com)
- WJTQ 100.7 FM.....[www.pensacolasjet.com](http://www.pensacolasjet.com)
- WTKX 101.5 FM.....[tk101.iheart.com](http://tk101.iheart.com)
- WXBM 102.7 FM.....[www.nashpensacola.com](http://www.nashpensacola.com)
- WRRX 106.1 FM.....[www.mymagic106.com](http://www.mymagic106.com)
- WRNE 106.9 FM.....[www.facebook.com/WRNE980](http://www.facebook.com/WRNE980)
- WRGV 107.3 FM.....[1073kissfm.iheart.com](http://1073kissfm.iheart.com)
- WPNN 790 AM.....[www.talk790.com](http://www.talk790.com)
- WRNE 980 AM.....[www.facebook.com/WRNE980](http://www.facebook.com/WRNE980)
- WCOA 1370 AM.....[www.wcoapensacola.com](http://www.wcoapensacola.com)
- WNRP 1620 AM .....[www.newsradio1620.com](http://www.newsradio1620.com)

## TV

- WEAR ABC 3.....[www.weartv.com](http://www.weartv.com)
- WKRG CBS 5.....[www.wkrg.com](http://www.wkrg.com)
- BLAB TV 6.....[www.blabtv.com](http://www.blabtv.com)
- WALA Fox 10.....[www.fox10tv.com](http://www.fox10tv.com)
- WPMI NBC 15 .....[www.local15tv.com](http://www.local15tv.com)
- WFGX 35.....[www.wfgxtv.com](http://www.wfgxtv.com)

### Stay Informed

For the most up-to-date information, monitor local media outlets and Escambia County websites and social media accounts.

[BeReadyEscambia.com](http://BeReadyEscambia.com)



### Watch us on ECTV

Channel 98 for Bright House, Cox Cable and Mediacom (Pensacola Beach) subscribers and channel 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. ECTV is also available on demand at [MyEscambia.com/ectv](http://MyEscambia.com/ectv).

 [@BeReadyEscambia](https://twitter.com/BeReadyEscambia)  
[@MyEscambia](https://twitter.com/MyEscambia)



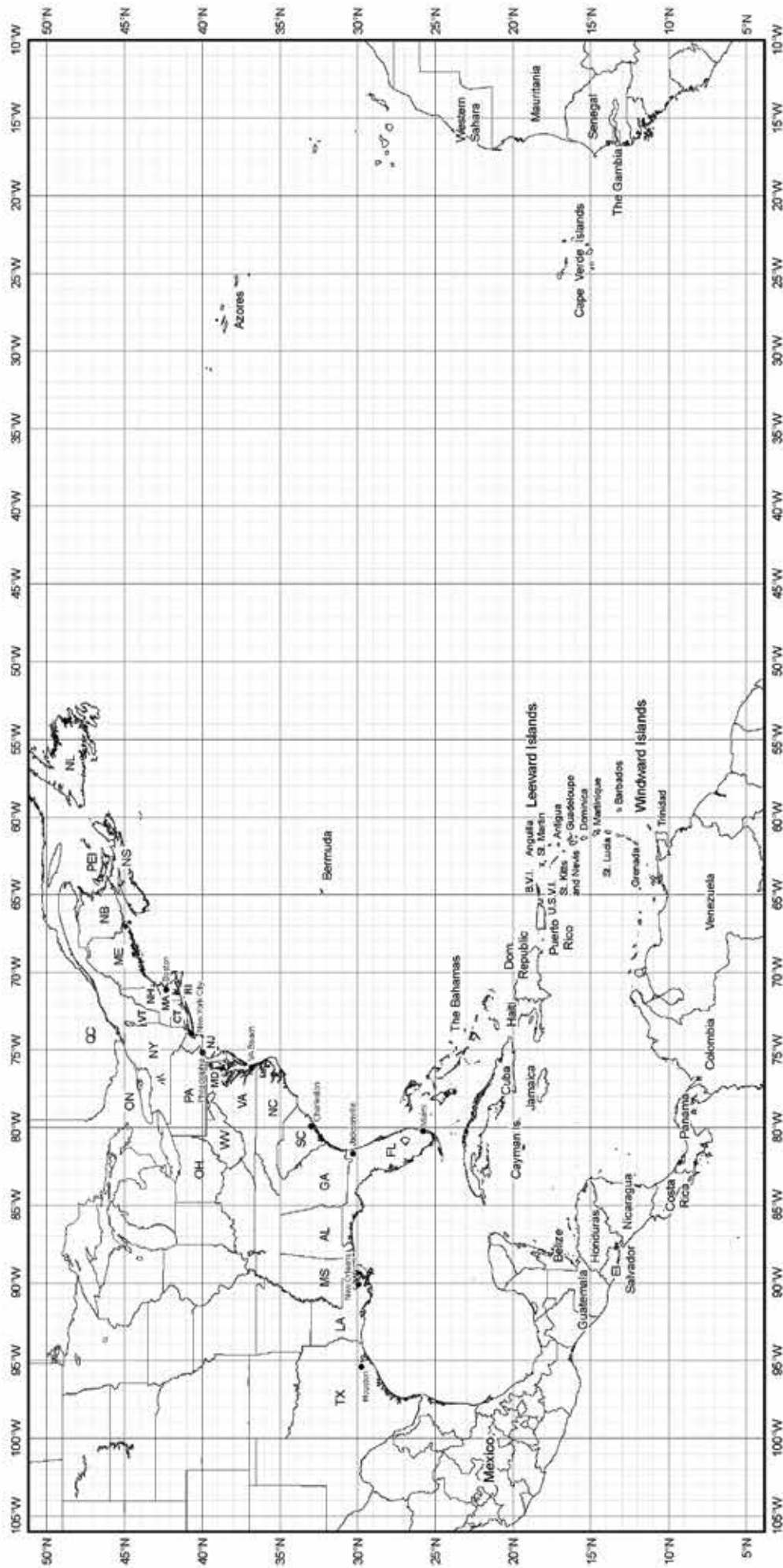
[Facebook.com/BeReadyEC](https://Facebook.com/BeReadyEC)  
[Facebook.com/PensacolaBeachLifeguards](https://Facebook.com/PensacolaBeachLifeguards)





# Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart

## National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida





A satellite image of Hurricane Ivan, showing a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over the Gulf of Mexico. The eye is a small, clear circular area in the center of the storm. The surrounding clouds are thick and white, with a distinct spiral pattern. The background shows the dark blue of the ocean and some landmasses in the distance.

## Hurricane Ivan Facts

- Made landfall with sustained winds of near 120 mph.
- Made landfall just west of Gulf Shores, Alabama on September 16, 2004.
- Brought storm surge heights of 10-15 feet along the Gulf Coast.
- Caused an estimated \$14.2 billion in damage in the United States, the third largest total on record.
- Brought a death toll of 92 total: 25 in the U.S., 39 in Grenada, 17 in Jamaica, four in the Dominican Republic, three in Venezuela, two in the Cayman Islands and one each in Tobago and Barbados.

*Source: National Hurricane Center*

**Hurricane Ivan**  
**September 2004**