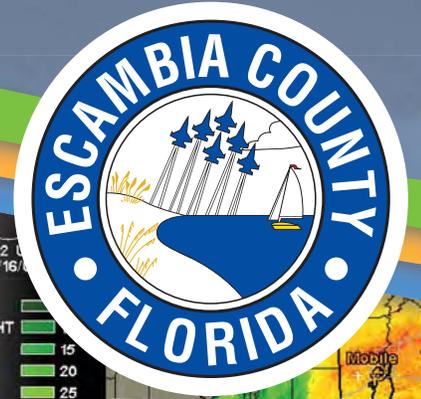


Escambia County Division of Emergency Management

BeReadyEscambia



If roadways are flooded...
**TURN AROUND
DON'T DROWN!**



Disaster Guide



For More Information Contact
Escambia County Office of Emergency Management at
850-471-6400 or www.BeReadyEscambia.com



This publication is brought to you by
Escambia County Office of Emergency Management
6575 "W" Street, Pensacola, FL 32505 • (850) 471-6400 • BeReadyEscambia.com

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Staying Informed

For the most up-to-date information monitor local media outlets

Web

BeReadyEscambia.com



@bereadyescambia
@myescambia



Tropical Storm and Hurricane

About Hurricanes

A hurricane is an intense tropical weather disturbance that occurs in the ocean when sustained winds reach 74 miles per hour 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.

Commonly, hurricanes move throughout a large and elevated pressure system called a Bermuda High, which is characteristic for the mid-Atlantic region of the United States; however some hurricanes can be difficult to forecast due to its unpredictable path.

Since 1953 hurricanes have been given names to keep track of storms occurring at the same time. In 1979, male names were added to the register, which is comprised of six annual lists that are rotated every six years. If a tropical storm or hurricane causes notable death or destruction, the name will no longer be used for future storms.

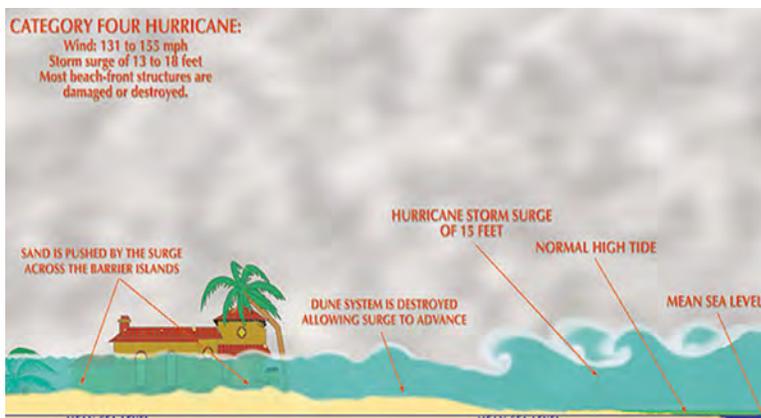
Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, beyond the predicted tide levels. This rise in water level can cause extreme flooding in coastal areas particularly when storm surge coincides with normal high tide, resulting in storm tides reaching up to 20 feet or more. It is important to understand the risks of a hurricane storm surge and heed the warnings and evacuation orders given by local emergency management officials.

The Power of Water

While storm surge is water that is pushed onto shore by a hurricane, it is rarely seen as a “wall of water.” More commonly, storm surge is experienced as a rapid rise in the water level – as fast as several feet in just a few minutes. A cubic yard of sea water weighs in at more than 1,700 pounds – almost a ton – and is propelled by the forward speed of the hurricane (typically 10 to 15 mph). Standing in storm surge as shallow as six inches can be challenging, and a one-foot deep storm surge exerts enough power to sweep a car off the road. Compounding the destructive power of the rushing water is the large amount of floating debris that typically accompanies the surge. Trees, pieces of buildings, and other debris float on top of the storm surge and act as battering rams against anything unfortunate enough to stand in the way.

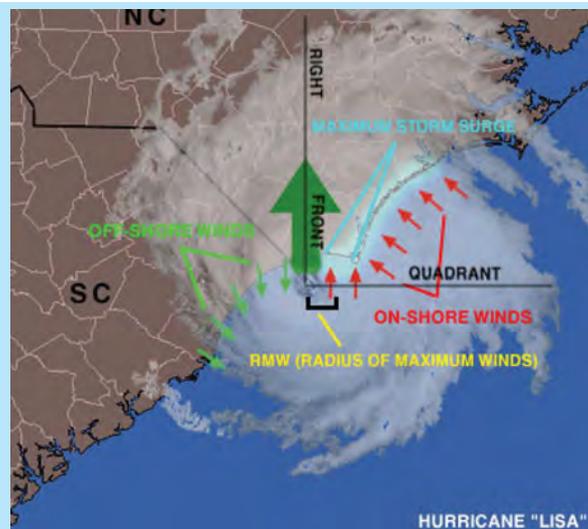
While storm surge is commonly considered the most dangerous part of a hurricane, inland flooding also poses a major threat. Inland flooding has been responsible for more than half of hurricane related deaths. From 1970 to 1999, one quarter of inland flooding deaths claimed lives by drowning inside vehicles as just two feet of water can drift a vehicle.

Hurricanes are capable of producing as much as 5 to 10 inches of rain, and in some cases, more than 20 inches of rain. In these situations, storm drains cannot handle the amount of water and can quickly become clogged with debris, causing rapid and dangerous rise in water levels.



Right-Front Quadrant of a Hurricane

Knowing which angle the hurricane storm surge is approaching is very important. Damage to a particular region can vary based on which side of the hurricane hits the area. The Right-Front Quadrant (RFQ) of a hurricane is the strongest side of the storm and will deliver the highest storm surge. For example, a hurricane that strikes the coast straight on will do the most damage as it relates to storm surge.



Before a Storm

Each year prior to hurricane season, your family should review your existing hurricane 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 a minimum of 72 hours.

In the event the storm is a threat to your surrounding area, listen to local media for information and instructions. Additionally, please note the following information to prepare for an emergency:

- Inform out of town family and friends of your emergency plans and stay in contact
- Fuel your vehicles prior to evacuating as fuel pumps rely on electricity
- Have a supply of cash – ATM machines and banks may not operate immediately following a storm
- Install storm shutters or cover windows with plywood and secure all doors
- Bring all outdoor objects indoors, such as lawn furniture, toys and gardening equipment
- Freeze water in plastic bottles to place in refrigerators and freezers to help keep cold
- Adjust refrigerators and freezers to the coldest settings
- Unplug small appliances that you will not use
- Turn off propane tanks
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water and check for slow leaks

During a Storm

Should you remain home during a hurricane, please note the following precautions:

- 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 for protection
- When the eye of the storm passes, remain indoors despite calmer conditions outdoors. Winds will soon rapidly increase to hurricane force in the opposite direction

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

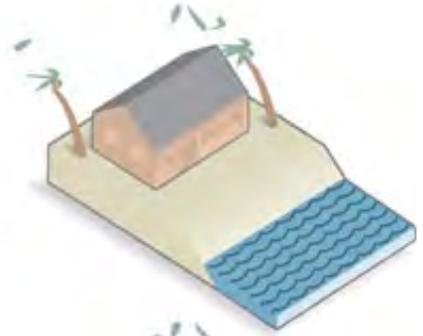
When you return to your home:

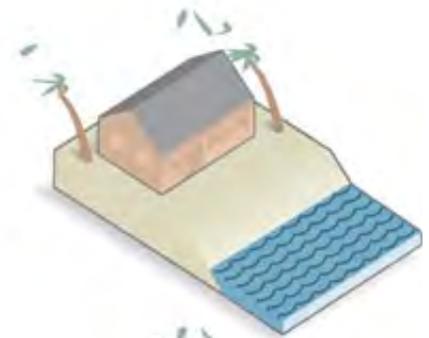
- Enter with extreme caution and beware of home damages and fallen objects
- Remove shutters or plywood, open windows and doors to ventilate and dry the home
- Check gas, water and electrical lines for damage but do not attempt to repair
- Have a professional assess the water line to clear for contamination – do not drink the water or prepare food until the water line is evaluated
- Avoid using candles or other open flames – emergency personnel may be unable to respond due to blocked roadways should there be an urgent situation
- Use battery-operated lighting, such as flashlights or glow sticks
- Only use telephones to report emergencies, including cellular phones
- Never connect portable generators to your home
- Your local electric company will be able to assist you to determine when power will be restored in your area

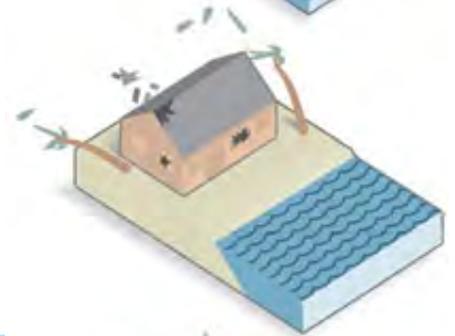
Hurricane's Force

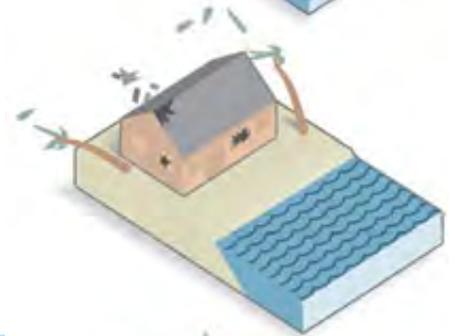
The Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale is a rating system used to give an estimate of potential property damage and flooding expected along a coast from a hurricane landfall.

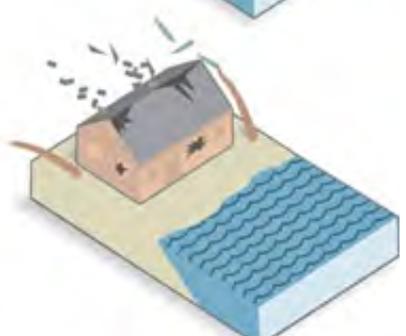
Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
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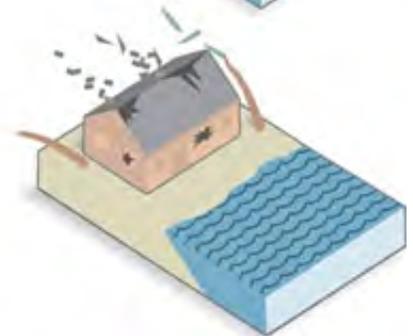
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.	
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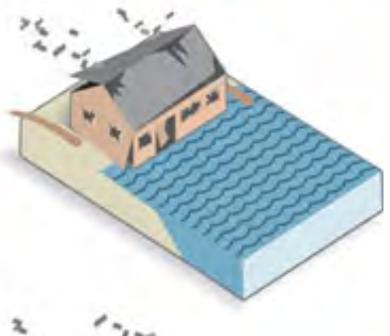


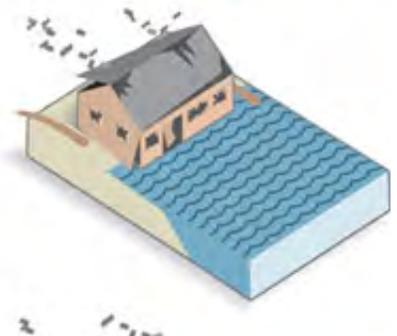
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.	
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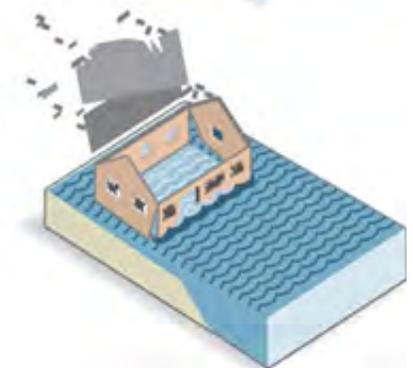
3	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.	
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4	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.	
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5	157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.	
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Hurricane Ivan 2004



Disaster Supplies and 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.

WEEK 1 - FOOD (per person)

- 3 gallons water
- Sandwich bread
- 3 boxes quick energy snacks
- 2 cans ready-to-eat soup
- 1 box each crackers
- 1 box cereal
- 3 cans fruit
- 3 cans vegetables
- 3 cans tuna/meat
- Manual can opener
- 1 jar each jelly
- 1 jar peanut butter
- Six-pack juice or sport drink
- Six-pack sport drink
- Instant coffee/tea/powered 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 pairs 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





Tools and Other Supplies

You should have a basic tool kit with items you feel are necessary to make temporary repairs after the storm. Basics include: plastic sheeting, paper plates and plastic utensils, flashlights and a battery operated radio with plenty of spare batteries (or better yet a hand-crank radio), non-electric can opener, fire extinguisher, tent, matches, aluminum foil, plastic storage containers, plastic garbage bags and a small shovel. A corded phone (cordless phones require electricity) will help if you have phone lines but no power.

Water

Water should be stored in plastic containers. Store one gallon of water per person per day and plan on at least five days of need. Save your empty two-liter bottles during hurricane season to fill with water before a storm may hit. Fill bathtubs and sinks with water for sanitation use. Check them for leaks before the storm and if water is draining out, place plastic wrap over the drain. Washing machines can also be filled with water to use for washing hands. The most recommended water purification technique is boiling. Boil water for one full minute at a rolling boil then let it cool. If you are more than one mile above sea level, boil for three minutes.

Food

Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, cooking or preparation. Think about what kind of food you would take camping those are the types of foods that you need on hand after a storm. Many good foods come in ready-to-eat, non-refrigerated packaging. Small packages are a good choice because you will not have refrigeration for leftovers. Make sure you have a good stock of Sterno, a full tank of propane for your grill, or plenty of charcoal. Never use propane or charcoal indoors.

Special Items

Always remember to help family members with special needs. For children, you should have plenty of necessary baby formula, diapers, bottles and medications. Adults with medications such as insulin or other prescription drugs should have their prescriptions filled before the storm. Do not forget any denture needs and eyeglasses or contacts. You may also consider asking your veterinarian about a mild sedative for your pets if they are anxious during storms. You should also have some form of entertainment for everyone, including books for adults. Keep important family documents safe and in a waterproof container. Items for consideration to keep safe are wills, insurance policies, bank account numbers, credit cards, your address book and a household inventory complete with serial numbers and pictures or video.

First Aid Kit

It is a good idea to have two first aid kits; one for your home and the other for your car. Your kit should include things like bandages, scissors, tweezers, soap, latex gloves, lubricant, assorted size safety pins and any non-prescription drugs deemed necessary. Stock plenty of mosquito repellent and "bug bite sticks" for relieving the itch of insect bites and stings.

Clothing and Bedding

Clothing and bedding items should be protected by covering them with plastic drop cloths, placing them in waterproof boxes, plastic bags or other suitable containers. Be sure to have work boots and gloves, rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, lots of towels, hats and sunglasses readily available.

Selecting a Safe Room

Identifying a safe place to take shelter during severe weather is an important part of your plan of action to "be ready." Select an interior room, hallway or bathroom on the lowest level of your structure away from windows. Padding the area with mattresses or having a solid piece of furniture under which you can seek shelter is a good idea. Be sure to keep your disaster kit with you in your safe room, and close all interior doors and brace exterior doors if possible.

TO DO LIST BEFORE THE SEASON

- ___ Make a family plan. Who does what and where will your family ride out the storm? Let out of town family and friends know your plan.
- ___ Locate your water and electrical shutoffs.
- ___ Know the disaster plans for your childrens' school or daycare.
- ___ Trim trees and store loose objects.
- ___ Install/test your smoke and CO2 detectors.
- ___ Video the contents of your home and store the tape with an out of town friend or family member.
- ___ Photocopy important papers and store copies separately and safely.
- ___ Make plans to board your pet if you plan to go to a shelter.

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
- ___ Bank account numbers
- ___ Mortgage information
- ___ Utility bills (for proof of residency and to turn off utilities that bill regardless of service)
- ___ Credit card account numbers
- ___ Inventory of household goods
- ___ 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



Shelters

Shelters

Hurricane evacuation shelters are provided for public use in the event a hurricane evacuation is necessary and residents have no other option for refuge. Buildings used for evacuation shelters are generally public schools staffed by Red Cross volunteers. However, often churches will provide shelter as well.

Be prepared to stay in the shelter for several days. Alcohol and weapons are not permitted. Pets are only allowed in Pet Shelters. For a complete list of shelters, call (850) 471-6400 or visit BeReadyEscambia.com.

Should you choose an alternate plan, it is recommended that arrangements be made with a friend or relative who lives in a well constructed home out of the evacuation area that is properly protected to withstand hurricane force winds.

Things to Take to a Public Shelter

If you go to a public shelter, you will need to take the following items:

- 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 and 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

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 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 will not require the level of skilled medical care provided at institutional facilities.

How can I register for the Special Needs Shelter?

You must pre-register with the Public Safety Department, (850) 471-6400. Find out if you qualify as soon as possible. Once it has been determined the shelter will open, spaces will fill quickly. The Special Needs Shelter does not accept reservations.

Escambia County Emergency Management maintains a list of persons with special needs requiring shelter during a disaster. A copy of the registration form can be obtained from your local physician, home health agency or BeReadyEscambia.com. Once completed, return the registration by mail to:

Escambia County Public Safety, Special Needs Registry
6575 North "W" St., Pensacola, FL 32505

All registration forms will be forwarded to the Escambia County Health Department where the applications will be screened for eligibility. Registrants will be notified by mail regarding admittance into the special needs shelter. If additional information is required for individual determinations, an Escambia County Health Department nurse will contact you directly. Your information must be updated each year for eligibility.

Licensed health care facilities, such as nursing homes and adult living facilities, are required to have their own safety plans in place for the wellbeing of its clients and staff. Clients of such facilities are not permitted at the Special Needs Shelter.

Those cared for by home healthcare companies are advised to identify what the company disaster plans are and how services will continue in the event of an emergency.

Dialysis is not provided at the Special Needs Shelter. Please coordinate with your healthcare provider regarding the options available to meet your needs.

The Special Needs Shelter does not routinely admit pediatric (children) special needs clients. The facility and the staff are not equipped nor have the specialty training to manage pediatric special needs clients.

The Special Needs Shelter will admit mental health clients as necessary. Each mental health client will be required to have a caregiver 24 hours a day for as long as the client remains in the shelter or for the duration the shelter operations remain open.

Only service animals are permitted in the Special Needs Shelter.

Shelter Conduct

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.



Criteria for Special Needs Shelter client may include, but is not limited to:

- A person with a stable medical condition requiring periodic observation, assessment, and maintenance (i.e. glucose readings, vital signs, urinary catheter) by a nurse
- A person requiring periodic wound care assistance (i.e. dressing changes)
- A person with limitations that require nursing assistance with activities of daily living
- A person requiring and needing nursing assistance with oral, subcutaneous or topical medication
- A person requiring minimal assistance with ambulation, position change and transfer (i.e. able to move more than 100 feet with or without an assistive device)
- A person requiring oxygen that can be manually supplied
- A person medically dependent on uninterrupted electricity for therapies, including but not limited to, oxygen, nebulizer and feeding tubes. Ventilator dependent persons and those with multiple special needs requiring a higher level of care should seek assistance from a skilled medical facility
- A person with mental or cognitive limitations requiring assistance who is accompanied by an appropriate full time caregiver for the duration of their stay in the shelter
- A person whose weight does not exceed the safety weight restrictions of provided cots (300 lbs)
- A person who can be safely transferred and does not require special lifting or transferring equipment.
- A person requiring a stretcher to be transported may need to be referred to a higher skilled medical facility

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
- Hyperalimentation
- 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

Should you have specific medical questions as they pertain to the shelter to best accommodate your needs, please call the Escambia County Health Department, (850) 595-6500.

What are the Special Needs Shelter accommodations?

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

- Shower facilities
- One blanket
- One pillow
- Meals up to three times per day (particular dietary needs are not available)
- Electrical outlets are available for medical equipment only
- 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 Health Department, Escambia County EMS, or the Escambia School District will not be responsible for any lost personal equipment or belongings. Personal belongings or equipment brought to the shelter should be marked with your name
- Caregivers will receive a cot only after all special needs individuals receive one

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 news broadcasts for further information.

How do I get to the shelter?

Should you qualify for the Special Needs Shelter, the Escambia County Transit Authority (ECAT) will 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, (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.

Sheltering with Pets

Pet owners should have a disaster plan that includes care for their pets.

Public, pet-friendly shelters are a much-needed resource, but should not be your first choice if you have other options. Check with your pet-friendly relatives or friends who live outside the evacuation area. If that is not an option, try to locate pet-friendly lodging a safe distance away. Friends, family and hotels that allow pets are much more comfortable for you and your animals than pet-friendly public shelters.

Escambia County has identified a pet-friendly shelter for dogs and cats only. Visit BeReadyEscambia.com for the location of the shelter. The pet-friendly shelter should be a choice of last resort. Pet owners should identify other locations to shelter their pets before disaster.

There is limited space at the pet-friendly shelter and pre-registration is required. Once the pet-friendly shelter is open, space is available on a first come first serve basis only. Pet owners will be required to shelter in the Red Cross shelter adjacent to where the pet-friendly shelter is located so they will be available to care for their pets as required. The people and pet-friendly shelters are separate facilities, but the buildings are adjacent to each other.

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 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 became 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.

Please note, pet-friendly shelters provide pet owners in need of public shelter the opportunity to evacuate and shelter their pets within the same location. Rules vary by shelter, however pet-friendly shelters cannot house stray 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 population and/or special needs shelters.

Pets Eligible for Admittance in the Pet Shelter

Pet shelter eligibility will be limited to household dogs and cats only. This will include only those pets that are traditionally kept in the home for pleasure and not for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers and be housed in temporary facilities. Animals and pets not allowed include reptiles (including turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals, livestock, rabbits, rodents, exotic animals and animals kept for racing purposes.

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration is required for those people and pets who anticipate they will be evacuating with their pet to the pet shelter. The registrations forms can be downloaded from BeReadyEscambia.com. Once completed, you may fax (850) 595-3081 or mail the registration forms to:

Escambia County Animal Shelter
Attn: Pet Shelter Registration
200 West 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.

A pet must be registered with the county at the time of entry and must produce all the information required on the registration form to allow the pet into the facility. Cats and dogs will be separated as much as possible to minimize the stress of the animals.

Care of Pets

Care of pets will be the responsibility of the pet owners. This will include feeding (food and water), walking/exercise, cleanup, etc. Shelter staff will not be responsible for pet care, except for reporting issues and problems with pets due to stress, health care, or other troublesome patterns that raise concern for the life safety of a pet. All the responsibilities are identified in the registration form.

Pet owners are responsible for the administration of any medications at the appropriate times for proper health care of their pets.

A list of supplies required by the pet owner is also identified in the registration forms and will include all food, water, dietary and clean-up items.

Should a medical emergency or need arise with a sheltered pet, staff will attempt to contact the pet owner either by cell phone or through the Red Cross representative at the adjacent public shelter for the pet owner to come and take care of their pet. Should the pet owner not be located, an on-call veterinarian may be consulted and actions taken in the best interest of the pet, either at the discretion of the consulting veterinarian and/or pet shelter staff. Any costs incurred for treatment of the pet will be the responsibility of the pet owner.



Prepare a disaster kit for your pet(s) to include:

Secure pet carriers for cats and small dogs and sturdy leashes/harnesses for larger dogs and appropriate-sized crates or cages for other type pets such as reptiles, birds, etc. If you are the least bit concerned about your animal's behavior in stressful situations, include a muzzle.

In a waterproof container, include a two week supply of your pet's medications, a color photo of the pet in the event you are separated and all licenses and medical records, including proof of current vaccinations.

Your vet may offer a laminated card with proof of current vaccinations that can be used at lodging facilities for travel and evacuations. If your pet is not accustomed to large crowds and other animals, consider asking your veterinarian for a mild sedative for your pet.

Be certain each of your animals have name tags, rabies tags, etc., securely fastened to their collars and attach information about your temporary location to the back of your pet's ID tag.

- Dogs must have proof of Rabies, Distemper and Bordatella Vaccinations
- Cats must have proof of Rabies Vaccination and FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici, Panleukopenia).
- A two week supply of familiar food and water for each of your pets
- Bowls and a manual can opener if necessary
- Cat litter pan, extra litter, litter scooper and plastic bags
- Doggie pee-pee pads, paper towels and spray cleaner for accidents
- Portable pet beds, a familiar blanket and lots of toys

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.

Arrange for a place to shelter your animals. Plan ahead and work within your community to establish safe shelters for farm animals. Potential facilities include fairgrounds, other farms, racetracks, humane societies, convention centers and any other safe and appropriate facilities you can find. Survey your community and potential host communities along your planned evacuation route. Become familiar with at least two possible evacuation routes well in advance and secure safe transportation.

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

Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places including the barn office or tack room, the trailer and barn entrances 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, color photographs for identification, emergency telephone numbers and veterinary documents such as medical history, Coggins tests and history of allergic reactions.

James C. Robinson Escambia County Equestrian Center located at 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 whether to confine large animals to an available 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.

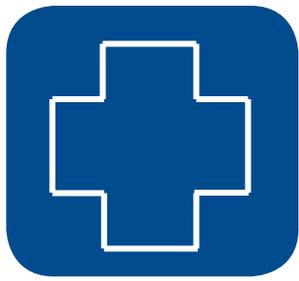
If your pasture area meets the following criteria, your large animals may be safer in the pasture than being evacuated:

- 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

Horses and Livestock Disaster Websites

Emergency Equine Shelter and Evacuation Information:
<http://www.sshc.org>

South Carolina Equine Emergency Evacuation Sites:
<http://agriculture.sc.gov/>



Safety

Generator Safety Portable Electric Generator Safety Tips

When operating a portable generator at your home, the following information will be beneficial to ensure your safety:

- Do not connect a generator directly to the wiring of your home. The safest way to connect a generator to existing wiring in your home is to have a transfer switch professionally installed which allows power to be transferred between utility power lines and the generator.
- Never connect a portable electric generator into a household outlet. Doing so can energize “dead” power lines and pose a threat to utility workers and those around you. Connect individual appliances directly to the receptacle outlet of the generator, or connect the appliances to the generator with the appropriate heavy duty, outdoor power cord to avoid overloading the generator.
- Do not run cords under rugs where heat might build up or cord damage may go unnoticed.
- Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator allows. Doing so can be dangerous and cause damage to the appliances and equipment.
- Never use a generator indoors, inside an attached garage or an enclosed porch. A portable generator emits carbon monoxide, which is a hazardous, odorless and potentially deadly gas. Generators should be placed in a well ventilated and dry area away from intakes to the home, and protected from precipitation. Investing in a carbon monoxide detector is an easy way to make certain your home is safe from toxins.
- Do not store fuel indoors or refuel a generator while it is in use. Gasoline (and other flammable liquids) should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled in non-glass safety containers. Always have an approved fire extinguisher located near the generator.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting off the generator. Use caution near the generator as the machine will be hot from use. Keep children away from portable electric generators at all times.

Electricity and Gas Safety Tips

- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.
- When using a “wet-dry vacuum cleaner,” be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions to avoid electric shock.
- Do not allow the power cord connections to become wet. Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on the three-prong plug and use a GFCI to prevent electrocution.
- Never remove or bypass the ground pin on a three-pronged plug in order to insert it into a non-grounded outlet.
- Should gas appliances be exposed to water, a professional should be notified to inspect and clean the appliance prior to use. Water can damage gas controls so that safety features are blocked, even if the gas controls appear to operate properly.
- If you suspect a gas leak, keep away from fire, do not use electric appliances, tamper with light switches or use a telephone to prevent sparks. Turn off the main valve, open windows and leave the premises immediately after notifying the gas company. Never store flammable materials near any gas appliance or equipment.
- Have an accessible fire extinguisher and a properly functioning smoke detector in your home and check its battery frequently.
- Never utilize gasoline around ignition sources such as cigarettes, matches, lighters, water heaters, or electric sparks. Gasoline vapors can travel and be ignited by pilot light or other ignition sources. Keep gasoline powered generators away from combustible materials.
- Discard all circuit breakers and fuses that have been exposed to water.

What size generator does my home need?

To determine the generator size needed to supply the electrical demand in your home, refer to the table below:

Remember 1 kw = 1000 watts, 2 kw = 2000 watts etc. The formula for finding wattage is: volts x amps = watts.

Example: an appliance nameplate states 3 amps at 120 volts. 3 amps x 120 volts = 360 watts.

Electric motors present a special problem. They require up to three times their rated wattage to start. Example: an electric motor name plate states 5 amps at 120 volts, 5 amps x 120 volts = 600 watts. Multiply this by 3. This will show the starting watts needed. 600 watts x 3 = 1800 watts to start. Some motor nameplates will show starting watts higher in some case 9 times higher, check the nameplate. Always use starting watts, not running watts, when figuring electrical load.

Chain Saw Safety Tips

Prior to using a chain saw, become familiar with the operator's manual and obtain training from a person with experience.

- Medications, alcohol, and similar influencing factors can cause you to be a hazard to yourself and others when working with chain saws.
- Outfit yourself with protective clothing and equipment. Safety goggles, hearing protection, steel toed shoes, hard hat, gloves and close-fitting clothing are all advisable when operating a chain saw.
- Use the appropriate size chain saw based upon the type of work you will be performing.
- Use a properly sharpened blade to ensure the saw will function properly and provide a smooth and safe cut.

Transport and Storage of the Chain Saw

- The chain saw should be transported in a level position with the gas cap facing upward. Tipping will cause spillage of gasoline, which can be hazardous.
- Do not carry the saw in the passenger area of a vehicle. The saw should be transported inside a sturdy case or use a chain guard on the saw.
- Storage of the chain saw requires draining the fuel system. In a safe, ventilated area, pour the fuel from the fuel tank into an appropriate container. After emptying the tank, run the engine at idle until the engine stops. Remove the chain and store it in a container of oil to prevent rust. Refer to the owner's manual for additional instructions on proper storage preparations. Keep in a dry place and out of the reach of children.

Limbing the Tree

- Make certain the fallen tree is stable and will not move as you work by examining the situation at every limb to be removed.
- Cut on the opposite side of the tree trunk whenever possible to keep the trunk between you and the saw. Never stand on the downhill side when removing limbs as the tree trunk may roll as limbs are removed.
- When cutting large limbs and the trunk of the tree into convenient lengths (bucking), be sure the trunk is supported along its entire length and will not roll. Block or wedge the trunk in place, if needed. Cut downward from the top of the trunk (overbuck) about one-third of the diameter and then roll it over to make final cuts.
- Wedges can be used to keep the cut open if the log cannot be rolled over. Cut downward one-third of the way and then finish by cutting upward from the underside to meet the first cut.
- As limbs become smaller in the cutting process, a saw buck will be handy and will hold the small logs or limbs at a more comfortable height and prevent them from rolling as they are cut.

Starting and Operating Techniques

- Always use both hands when starting a chain saw, one to hold the saw and the other to pull the starter rope. Some chain saws can also be held down with a foot while starting.
- Grip the top handle of the saw firmly and pull the starter rope quickly. Always start it on the ground on a stable surface. Refer to the owner's manual for additional starting information.

Key Safety Tips

Always stand to one side of the limb you are to cut, never straddle it.

Be mindful of where the chain will go should it break and never position yourself or others in line with the chain.

Keep the chain out of the dirt, as debris will fly and the teeth will be dulled.

Felling the Tree

- Examine the tree – which way does it lean and how is it weighted? Clear the area of people, vehicles, branches and debris.
- If an electric power line is in the vicinity of the tree, do not attempt to work on the tree and call the power supplier to complete the job.
- Once you determine the direction of the fall, always plan an escape route to a safe location from where you are working. Your path of retreat should be along a line approximately 45 degrees from the direction of fall of the tree.
- Plan the cuts carefully. Smaller trees (up to a 6 inch diameter) may be cut clear through with one pass. Larger trees may require a series of cuts.
- Never use an axe as the wedge or driver – the head of the axe may shatter causing injury. If cutting must be continued, insert the chain saw into the cut very carefully due to the dangerous circumstances.





Tornado

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.

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/.

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.

What causes tornadoes?

Thunderstorms develop in warm, moist air most often in advance of eastward-moving cold fronts. These thunderstorms often produce large hail, strong winds and tornadoes. Occasionally, large outbreaks of tornadoes occur along strong frontal systems that form in the central states and move east. Several states may be affected by numerous severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Tornadoes occasionally accompany tropical storms and hurricanes that move over land. They are most common to the right and ahead of the path of the storm center as it comes ashore. Before thunderstorms develop, a change in wind direction and an increase in wind speed with increasing height creates an invisible, horizontal spinning effect in the lower atmosphere. Rising air within the thunderstorm updraft tilts the rotating air from horizontal to vertical.



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 blown off or parts of a roof peeled off, damage to gutters and/or siding, branches broken off trees, shallow rooted trees toppled.
EF-1	86-110 mph	'Moderate' damage: more significant roof damage, windows broken, exterior doors damaged or lost, mobile homes overturned or badly damaged.
EF-2	111-135 mph	'Considerable' damage: roofs torn off well constructed homes, homes shifted off their foundation, mobile homes completely destroyed, large trees snapped or uprooted, cars can be tossed.
EF-3	136-165 mph	'Severe' damage: entire stories of well constructed homes destroyed, significant damage done to large buildings, homes with weak foundations can be blown away, trees begin to lose their bark.
EF-4	166-200 mph	'Extreme' damage: well constructed homes are leveled, cars are thrown significant distances, top story exterior walls of masonry buildings would likely collapse.
EF-5	>200 mph	'Massive' damage: well constructed homes are swept away, steel-reinforced concrete structures are critically damaged, high-rise buildings sustain severe structural damage, trees are usually completely debarked, stripped of branches and snapped.

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.





Helpful Insurance Claims Tips

Filing Insurance Claims Storm Damage Insurance Checklist

The following tips provided by the Florida Insurance Council may be helpful when settling an insurance claim following a disaster.

- 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 fill out 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, which have been exposed to water unless a technician has approved it is safe.

Preparing for the Insurance Adjuster's Visit

- The more information you have about your possessions, the faster your claim can be settled. You should already have a complete inventory of the items in your home that includes a description of the item, model and serial numbers (if applicable) and its original cost.
- Make a list of damaged items and take photographs of the damage for records of each item, including old 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. In some cases, 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.

Before a disaster occurs, acquire an "insurance checkup" to decipher what is and is not covered under your current policy as soon as possible to ensure your property is appropriately insured. Keep in mind that homeowners' insurance policies usually do not cover flood damage but they do cover other kinds of water damage. For example, they would generally pay for damage from rain coming through a hole in the roof or a broken window as long as the hole was caused by a hurricane or other disaster covered by the policy. In most cases you need a separate flood insurance policy to cover flood damage from any rising water.

Do not be in a hurry to settle your claim. Although you may want to have your damage claim settled as quickly as possible, it is sometimes advisable to wait until all damage is discovered. Damages which have been overlooked in an early estimate may become apparent later. If you are dissatisfied with the settlement offer, talk things over with your agent and adjuster. Unresolved disputes or dissatisfaction with your insurance company should be reported to the Florida Insurance Commissioner's Office.



Evacuations

Evacuations

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently across the U.S. and almost every year, people along coastlines evacuate as hurricanes approach. In addition, hundreds of times a year, transportation and industrial accidents release harmful substances, forcing many people to leave their homes.

In some circumstances, local officials decide that the hazards are serious and require mandatory evacuations. In others, evacuations are advised or households decide to evacuate to avoid situations they believe are potentially dangerous. When community evacuations become necessary local officials provide information to the public through the media. In some circumstances, other warning methods, text alerts, emails or telephone calls are used.

The amount of time you have to leave will depend on the hazard. If the event is a weather condition, such as a hurricane, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead, is essential.

Plan how you will assemble your family and supplies and anticipate where you will go for different situation. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency and know the evacuations routes to get to those destinations. Notify a friend or family member of your evacuation plans, including destinations and contact information.

Hurricane Evacuation Zones Map

What are hurricane evacuation zones? Hurricane evacuation zones are zones used to notify residents that they need to evacuate pending the arrival of a hurricane or tropical storm. Depending on your proximity to the coast, you may or may not be located in a hurricane evacuation zone. The closer you are to the coast, the more likely it is that you will be located in a hurricane evacuation zone.

Our Interactive map is located at **BeReadyEscambia.com**. If you have questions about the evacuation zones, you may call 850-471-6400.

Evacuation Routes

These are the recommended evacuation routes where traffic may be controlled and should be used if you are not familiar with other routes. It is recommended that you plan your evacuation ahead of time, and choose other routes if you are familiar with the area. Hurricane evacuation routes become very congested in the later hours of an evacuation and you should expect delays in travel.

Evacuation Guidelines

There may be conditions under which you will decide to get away or there may be situations when you are ordered to leave. Follow these guidelines for evacuation:

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood. Decide on these locations before a disaster.
- If you have a car, keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas. Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Monitor local media for evacuation instructions.

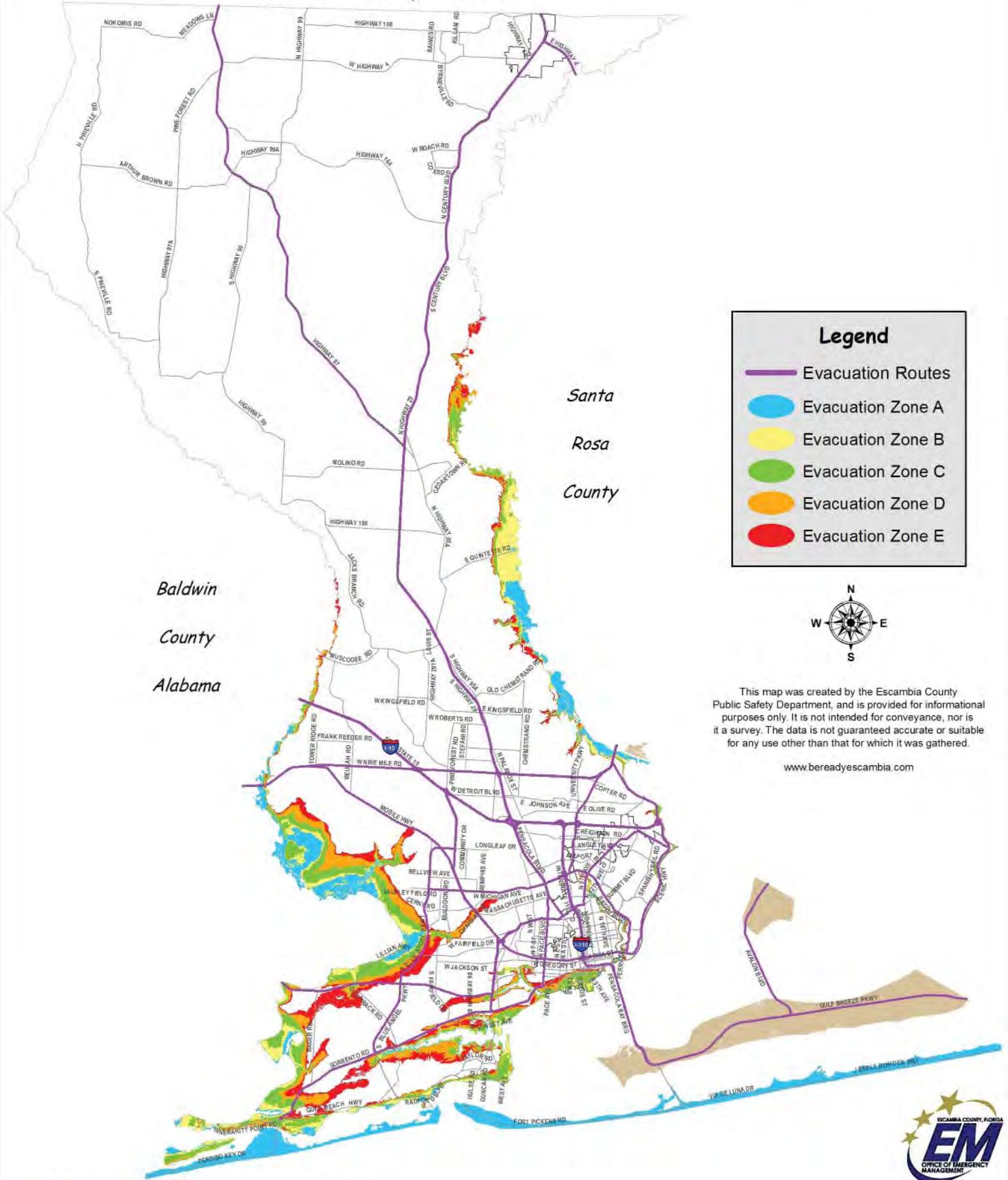
If time allows:

- Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
- Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a cap.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.



Escambia County Florida: Evacuation Routes & Zones

Escambia County Alabama



Legend

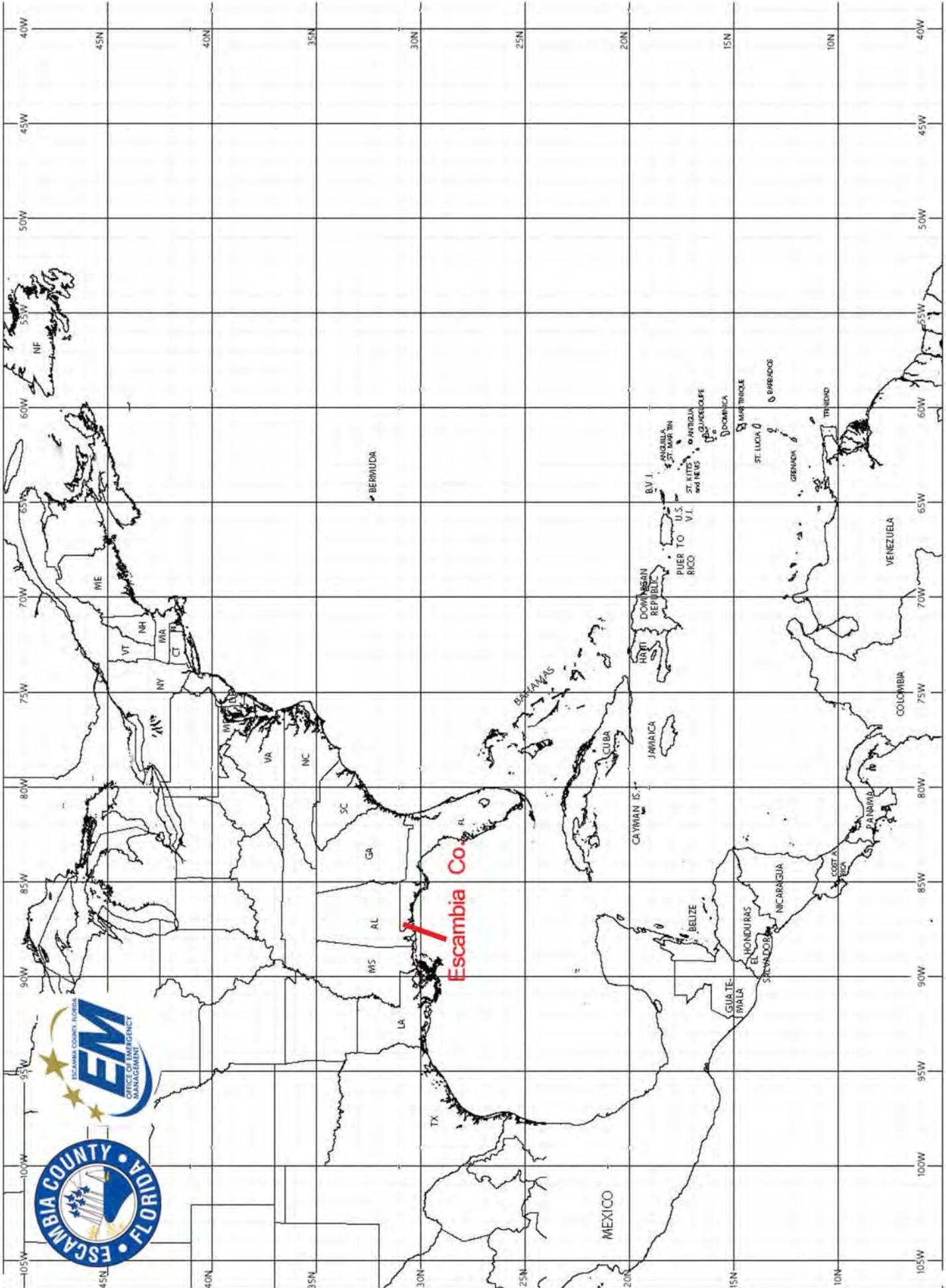
- Evacuation Routes
- Evacuation Zone A
- Evacuation Zone B
- Evacuation Zone C
- Evacuation Zone D
- Evacuation Zone E



This map was created by the Escambia County Public Safety Department, and is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended for conveyance, nor is it a survey. The data is not guaranteed accurate or suitable for any use other than that for which it was gathered.

www.bereadyescambia.com

Escambia County Hurricane Tracking Map





Disaster Plan

Family Plans

In a major disaster, emergency workers may not be able to reach everyone immediately and in some cases it may take multiple days for help to arrive. What would you do if you were without electricity, no gas, no water and no telephone service? Having a plan for your family and their needs will help ensure their safety and comfort during these difficult times. For more information, visit FloridaDisaster.org.

Business Plans

Almost 40 percent of small businesses that close due to a event never reopen. What would you do if your business was damaged or destroyed in a disaster? Where would you go to continue providing your customers with your business services? Would you be prepared and have the correct resources, databases, contact information and other necessary items to adapt to these changes? Having a disaster plan that identifies these important items will help ensure your business is prepared to survive during unexpected and difficult times. For more information, visit FloridaDisaster.org.

Family Disaster Plan Cards

What will your family do in case of an emergency? Meet with your family and make a plan. Copy, complete and distribute the cards below to each family member to keep in a wallet or bag they use daily:

Important Information	Important Information
Family members names, gender and date of birth: _____ _____	Pet name(s), type of pet: _____ _____
Local meeting place: _____	Veterinarian/Kennel name & phone number: _____ _____
Out of town contact: _____ _____	Homeowners/rental insurance name, phone number and policy number: _____ _____
Doctor(s) name and phone number: _____ _____	Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies
Pharmacist and phone number: _____ _____	
Medical Insurance name, phone number and policy number: _____ _____	



Thunder & Lightning

Severe Thunderstorms

Florida has more thunderstorms than any other area of the United States. Thunderstorms affect relatively small areas when compared to hurricanes, however 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.

Straight-line winds, which are produced by the downward momentum in the downdraft region of a thunderstorm, are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage. Some of these winds can exceed 100 mph. A downburst is a small area of rapidly descending air beneath a thunderstorm. When these occur, many times clouds are pulled toward the ground with the wind and give a tornado-like appearance.

Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the U.S., only about 10 percent are classified as severe. The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4-inch diameter, wind 58 + mph or tornadoes.

What causes thunder?

An average lightning strike produces currents of 30,000 amperes, but could approach 30 million volts at 100,000 amperes. The rapid rise in current produces temperatures in the lightning channel of more than 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit which causes the air in the channel to expand. The expanding air cools, then contracts. Rapid expansion and contraction of the air around lightning occurs as molecules move back and forth, making sound waves we hear as thunder.

What is lightning?

As thunderstorms develop, interactions of charged particles produce an intense electrical field within a cloud. A large positive charge is usually concentrated in the frozen upper layers of the cloud and a large negative charge, along with a smaller positive area, is found in the lower portions.

As the thunderstorm passes over the ground, the negative charge in the base of the cloud induces a positive charge on the ground below and for several miles around the storm. The ground charge follows the storm like an electrical shadow, growing stronger as the negative cloud charge increases.

The attraction between positive and negative charges make the positive ground current flow up buildings, trees and other elevated objects in an effort to establish a flow of current, but air, a poor conductor of electricity, insulates the cloud and ground charges, preventing a flow of current until a huge electrical charge builds up.

Lightning flashes when the attraction between positive and negative charges become strong enough to overcome the air's high resistance to electrical flow.

What causes lightning?

There are different kinds of lightning: within the clouds, between the clouds, from clouds to clear air, and from cloud to ground.

The lightning that concerns people the most is cloud to ground. These flashes start fires, splinter trees, knock out electrical power and can even kill people. It is estimated that cloud to ground lightning strikes represent only about 20 percent of all lightning strikes.

Cloud to ground lightning occurs when negatively charged electrons shoot downward in a forked pattern, known as a stepped leader. As the stepped leader nears the ground, it draws a positive charge, usually through something high such as a tree or building. As the leader and the streamer come together, a powerful electrical current begins flowing and contact begins the return stroke with an intense wave of positive charges traveling upward about 60,000 miles per second. This is the light that we see and the process can repeat several times along the same path in less than half a second, making lightning flicker.

Lightning safety tips

Watch for signs of an approaching storm. If outside, seek shelter inside a building or a vehicle. Never seek shelter under trees and try to avoid using small sheds. If caught outdoors and no shelter is near, your best protection is to crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from trees as they are high. If you are indoors during a lightning storm, stay there and do not venture outside unless absolutely necessary. Stay away from open doors and windows, fireplaces, stoves, metal pipes, sinks and electrical devices. Do not take a bath or shower during a storm. Turn off and unplug (if possible) TVs, computers and air conditioners, as power surges from lightning may damage them. Avoid using the telephone unless it is an emergency. Get out of boats and away from water.



What makes a thunderstorm?

Every thunderstorm needs moisture to form clouds and rain, relatively warm and unstable air that can rise rapidly and lift in the form of fronts, sea breezes or mountains capable of lifting air to help them form.

The life cycle of a thunderstorm consists of three stages: The developing stage, the mature stage, and the dissipating stage.

Lightning - The Underrated Killer

Lightning kills more people every year than tornadoes and hurricanes combined. Between 1940 and 1989, more than 8,000 people were killed by lightning.

The first strike of lightning from a thunderstorm may be the most dangerous, not in terms of impact, but because of the element of surprise and not knowing it is in the area. Your chances of being struck by lightning are about 1 in 600,000.



General Flood Information

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 the warnings and evacuation orders given by local emergency management officials.

What is a Flood?

Aside from fire, floods are the most widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some kind of flooding, from events such as spring rains, heavy thunderstorms or winter snow thaws. Floods can be slow or fast rising but generally develop over a period of days.

Flood Insurance

Nearly 20,000 Escambia County residents have flood insurance. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) 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 www.fema.gov/hazard/map/flood.

What Can You Do?

Escambia County relies on its residents for your 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 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 that 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.

Flood Safety

- Do not walk through flowing water: Drowning is the leading cause of flood death, as 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 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.

Property Protection

- Wet flood proofing – Make 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 – The most common way to avoid flood damage is 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.

Any alteration to your structure or land may require a permit. Please call the Building Inspections Division at (850) 595-3550 for further information.

Local Services

For assistance with flood zone determination:

- Escambia County: (850) 595-3553
- City of Pensacola: (850) 436-5600
- Santa Rosa Island Authority: (850) 932-2257

For an elevation certificate:

- Escambia County: (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 Escambia County storm surge maps at **BeReadyEscambia.com**





Fire

If you live near wildland areas, there is a threat of wildland fires 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 in these areas can lessen the devastation of a wildland fire. Protecting your home from wildfire is your responsibility. 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.

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.

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.

The water you put into your pool or hot tub and other containers will come in handy. If the power is out, try connecting a hose to the outlet on your water heater.

For several hours after the fire, maintain a "fire watch." Re-check for smoke and sparks throughout the house.



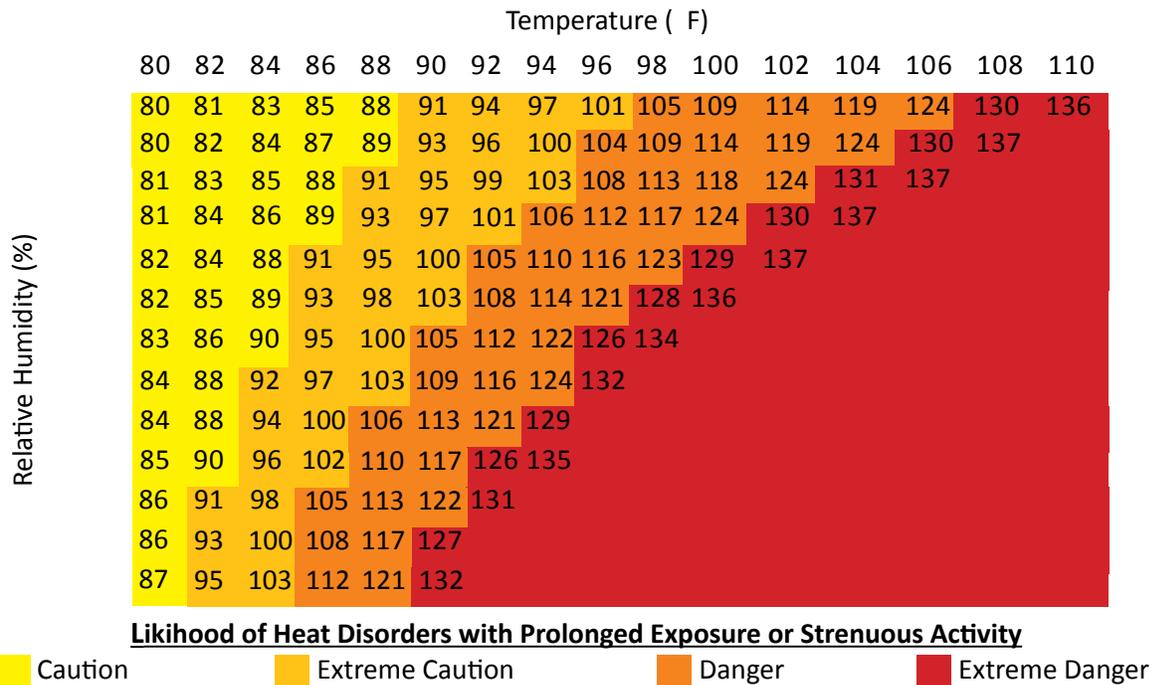


Extreme Heat

NOAA's National Weather Service Heat Index Chart

Residents in Northwest Florida are familiar with extreme heat, but can sometimes become complacent. When our bodies are not able to maintain proper body temperature, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke can occur quickly. If you suspect any of these heat-related conditions, seek immediate medical attention.

The 10 year average for heat-related fatalities is 170 per year. Older adults, young children and those who are sick or overweight are most susceptible to heat-related conditions, but anyone can be affected by extreme heat when the human body is pushed beyond its limits.



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.

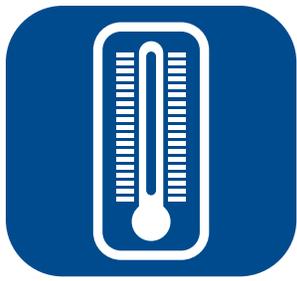
Heat Exhaustion: Typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock. If not treated, the victim's condition 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.
- 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 to do so 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-fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat and take frequent breaks.



Extreme Cold

Remember the “5 Ps” of Cold Weather Preparedness

Protecting People

- Stay indoors, dress warmly and use safe heating sources.
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids and eat high-caloric foods.
- Dress warmly. Wear loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing. Layers can be removed to prevent perspiration and chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Mittens are warmer than gloves because fingers generate warmth when they touch each other.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
- Guard against wind chill - One of the gravest dangers of winter weather is wind chill. The wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also effected by wind chill.



Pets

- Do not leave pets out in the cold!
- Bring all pets indoors and make sure they have a warm blanket to lie on, as well as 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 pets 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 heat from the bulb will help keep them warm. However, do not use light bulbs when bedding with hay.

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. Pruning encourages soft growth, which is susceptible to freezing. Spraying the leaves of plants with liquid seaweed will also toughen them against cold.
- If possible, move smaller plants inside, especially if temperatures dip below 32 degrees. That is the point when tender plants are in danger, and a hard freeze happens when temperatures hit 26 degrees, which can be devastating to crops.



Pipes

Water expands when it freezes and can shatter pipe seals or the pipes themselves, sending water pouring through your house if ice forms. You can avoid thousands of dollars of damage to your home by taking a few simple measures to protect your home:

- Use faucet covers, wrap rags, paper, trash bags or plastic foam around faucets and outdoor pipes.
- Cover any vents around your home's foundation.
- Protect outdoor electrical pumps and bring water hoses indoors.
- Open the cabinets under the sinks in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow heated indoor air to circulate around water pipes.
- Insulate your outdoor water meter box and be sure its lid is secure.
- If you have a swimming pool, either drain the circulation system or keep the pump motor running. Run the pump motor only in a short freeze. Running the motor for long periods could cause damage.
- Let faucets drip, but do not run a big stream of water.
- If you leave town, consider turning off your water at the shut-off valve while faucets are running to drain your pipes. Make sure the faucets are turned off before you turn the shut-off valve back on.
- If you drain your pipes, contact your electric or gas utility for instructions on protecting your water heater.

Practice Fire Safety

- Use extra care with supplemental heating units.
- Make sure that all-combustible materials such as drapes or chairs are at least three feet away from any heating unit.
- Avoid using flammable liquids to start fireplaces and do not leave a fireplace unattended.
- Most importantly, check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working properly.

Safety Tips for Carbon Monoxide

- Install carbon monoxide detectors. Have appliances using combustible fuels installed by a professional and checked at least once a year for proper ventilation.
- Never run your car in the garage with the garage door closed.
- Check your vehicles for exhaust leaks.
- Never use a gas range to heat your home.
- Never burn charcoal in an unventilated area.
- Never adjust your own pilot light.
- Check chimneys and flues for proper ventilation.
- Never use an un-vented combustion heater indoors.
- Avoid smoking indoors.

If Pipes Freeze:

- Turn off the water at the shut-off valve and call a plumber for help.
- Do not use lamps or electrical appliances to thaw frozen pipes. Leaking water from thawing pipes could cause a short and you can be electrocuted.
- If you try to thaw your own pipes, apply heat slowly, and move the heat toward the coldest spot on the pipe. Never concentrate heat in one spot - cracking ice can shatter a pipe.

If You Have a Loss:

- Contact your insurance agent or company promptly. Follow as soon as possible with a written claim to protect your rights.
- Review your coverage. Homeowners and renters policies pay for property repair. In addition, they pay for debris removal and for temporary additional living expenses if you have to move.
- If you can not find your policy, ask your agent or company for a copy.
- Homeowners policies may require you to make temporary repairs to protect your property from further damage. Your policy covers the cost of these repairs. Keep all receipts and damaged property for the adjuster to inspect. If possible, take photos or videos of the damage before making repairs. Do not make permanent repairs. An insurance company may deny a claim if you make permanent repairs before an adjuster inspects the damage.
- Be advised that most homeowners policies do not cover loss caused by freezing pipes while your house is unoccupied unless you have used reasonable care to maintain heat in the building, shut off the water supply, drain plumbing, heating, and air conditioning systems of water.



Biohazard

Mosquitoes

There are various diseases (Malaria, Encephalitis, Dengue Fever and Yellow Fever) that are transmitted by mosquitoes. Living in Florida, we can never truly be mosquito-free, but we can be mosquito smart. There are simple actions we can take to reduce our risk of infection from one of these mosquito-borne diseases.



Protect Yourself

- Remove all potential sources of stagnant water in which mosquitoes might breed.
- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. An effective repellent will contain 35 percent DEET (N, Ndiethyl-meta-toluamide). DEET in high concentrations (greater than 35 percent) provides no additional protection.
- Repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to the hands of children. Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's directions for use, as printed on the product.
- Vitamin B and "ultrasonic" devices are not effective in preventing mosquito bites.

Protect Yourself: Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Is there a human vaccine against encephalitis?**
- A. *No, but several companies are working towards developing a vaccine.*
- Q. What can I do to reduce my risk of becoming infected?**
- A. *Anything to lessen your exposure to mosquitoes will reduce your risk of becoming infected.*

Swine Flu

For information on H1N1 swine flu, visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

You may also wish to download important information at **BeReadyEscambia.com**.

- Preparing for the Flu (including the 2009 H1N1): A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers from the CDC.
- Business and the H1N1 Swine Flu from the Florida Department of Health.

Protect Your Pets

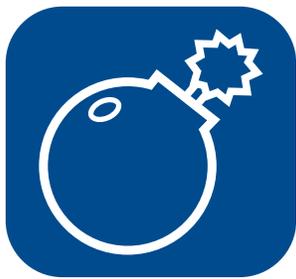
- Remove all potential sources of stagnant water around your home in which mosquitoes might breed.
- Your pets should be kept inside during peak mosquito feeding times (dawn and dusk).
- You are encouraged to contact your veterinarian if you are concerned about the health of your pets.
- Use of mosquito resistant structures such as well maintained insect screening and fans may reduce potential access of mosquitoes 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 their horses, especially those exhibiting neurological signs.

Protect Your Horses: Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Is there an equine vaccine against encephalitis?**
- A. *Vaccines are now available for both Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. Please check with your local veterinarian for more information.*
- Q. What can I do to reduce my horses' risk of becoming infected?**
- A. *Anything to lessen your horses' exposure to mosquitoes will reduce its risk of becoming infected.*

Protect Your Pets Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. How do dogs or cats become infected with West Nile virus?**
- A. *The same way humans become infected - by the bite of infectious mosquitoes.*
- Q. What can I do to reduce my pets' risk of becoming infected?**
- A. *By reducing your pets' exposure to mosquitoes you will reduce its risk of becoming infected.*



Terrorism

The Department of Homeland Security nationwide public awareness campaign — If You See Something, Say Something — is to raise awareness to the indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities.

If you see something suspicious taking place, then report the behavior or activity to local law enforcement, or in the case of emergency call 9-1-1. Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious. For that reason, the public should report only suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack in a public place or someone trying to break into a restricted area) rather than beliefs, thoughts, ideas, expressions, associations, or speech unrelated to terrorism or other criminal activity. Only reports that document behavior reasonably indicative of criminal activity related to terrorism will be shared with federal partners.



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 telephone 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 (EAS) formerly called the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS).
- 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.”

What Is Sheltering in Place?

Many times during a chemical emergency it is safer to stay inside and protect yourself than it would be to attempt to evacuate. Sheltering in place is simply preparing your home to keep the chemical from getting inside. This can be done easily and quickly if you have the proper materials on hand.

When notified of a chemical emergency and instructed to shelter in place, immediately move inside your home or business. Do not forget your pets! Shut and lock all doors and windows and turn off any outside ventilation systems such as air conditioners, heaters and window fans. Take shelter in a previously selected interior room with as few windows and doors as possible. Use the duct tape, plastic sheeting and towels from your supply kit to cover and seal any leaky areas around doors and windows.

If you encounter any problems, make sure you call 911 and then place a wet cloth over your nose and mouth. Do not attempt to evacuate unless officials tell you to and monitor local media for the latest updates. When the “all clear” signal is given by one of the methods described above, ventilate the structure by opening doors and windows. Stay outside to allow the building to air out.

Sheltering Place Kit:

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



Earthquake

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning 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 department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information. Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter for more information on earthquakes.

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.

If 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 so stay indoors.

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

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.

- 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 ceilings or foundations. 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.



Inspecting Utilities In a Damaged Home

- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
- Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

HOW DISASTER STRIKES

Earthquakes occur after centuries of energy builds up within the Earth. Here's a look at the forces behind the destruction.

Tectonic plates

Plates rest on a semi-liquid layer in the Earth, where they move and collide. At times they get stuck, and build up energy along fault lines. Eventually, pressure forces them to move, releasing energy in the form of an earthquake.

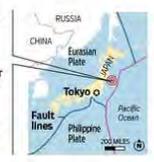
Faults occur where plates meet. Earthquakes occur along these faults.



The "Ring of Fire" is where 90 percent of the world's earthquakes occur.

JAPAN'S QUAKE

The strongest earthquake ever recorded at 8.9 magnitude. A devastating tsunami swept over cities and farmland.



QUAKES OCCUR AT PLATE BOUNDARIES

Transform boundary
Plates move sideways, also called a strike-slip fault. The earthquake in Haiti occurred at this type of fault.

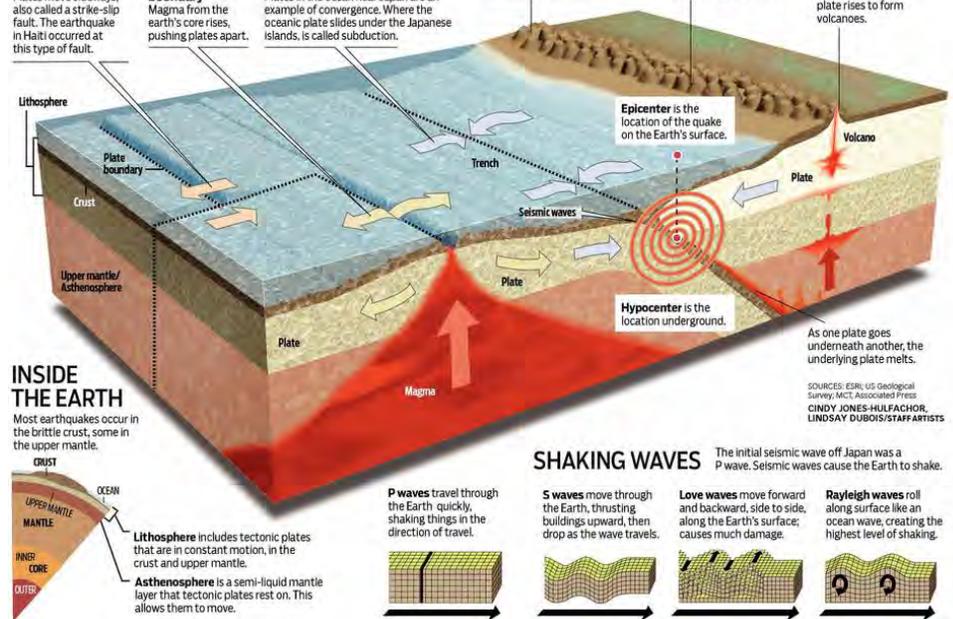
Divergent boundary
Magma from the earth's core rises, pushing plates apart.

Convergent boundary
Plates in the ocean near Japan are an example of convergence. Where the oceanic plate slides under the Japanese islands, is called subduction.

When subduction occurs in the ocean, mountains and volcanoes can become islands, which is how Japan was formed.

Mountains form when plates fold into each other with great force at convergent faults.

Magma from a melted subducted plate rises to form volcanoes.



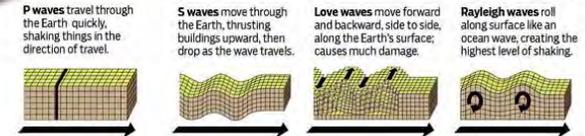
INSIDE THE EARTH

Most earthquakes occur in the brittle crust, some in the upper mantle.

Lithosphere includes tectonic plates that are in constant motion, in the crust and upper mantle.
Asthenosphere is a semi-liquid mantle layer that tectonic plates rest on. This allows them to move.

SHAKING WAVES

The initial seismic wave off Japan was a P wave. Seismic waves cause the Earth to shake.



Pets After an Earthquake

The behavior of pets may change dramatically after an earthquake. Normally quiet and friendly cats and dogs may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard. Pets may not be allowed into shelters for health and space reasons. Prepare an emergency pen for pets in the home that includes a 3-day supply of dry food and a large container of water.

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.

After an Earthquake

Help injured or trapped persons. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help. Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for the latest emergency information. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance — infants, the elderly and people with disabilities. Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe. Use the telephone only for emergency calls. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches or gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals. Open closet and cupboard doors cautiously. Inspect the entire length of chimneys carefully for damage. Unnoticed damage could lead to a fire.

Identify Safe Places:

- Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Against an inside wall.
- Away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- Locate safe places outdoors. In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways.

Have Disaster Supplies on Hand:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes
- Develop an emergency communication plan



Water Safety

Tips for Parents and Pool Owners:

Check the pool first if a child is missing. Provide adult supervision 100 percent of the time. Never leave a child alone in the pool area - not for any reason - not for any length of time. Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.

Most children who drown in backyard pools gain access from the house. If your pool is not fenced off from the house, completely fence the pool. Install self-closing and self-latching gates with child resistant locks at least 1.5 meters (5 feet) above the floor on all doors leading to water. Position latches out of reach of young children and keep all doors and windows leading to the pool area secure to prevent small children from getting to the pool. Effective barriers and locks are necessary preventive measures, but there is no substitute for supervision.

Consider installing a pool alarm and a spa/pool safety cover, but beware of a free-floating spa/pool cover. A child can slip beneath one unnoticed. Check to ensure that spa and pool covers pass minimum safety requirements set by the American Society of Testing Materials. Never have the spa/pool cover partially in place since children may become entrapped underneath.

Remove ladders and steps from aboveground pools. Place tables and chairs well away from the pool fence to prevent children from climbing into the pool area. No objects should be in the aboveground pool area for a child to climb on and into the water. Keep toys away from the pool area because a young child playing with the toys could accidentally fall in the water.

Instruct babysitters about potential hazards to young children in and around swimming pools and the requirement of constant supervision.

Do not consider young children “drown proof” because they have had swimming lessons; young children should always be watched carefully while swimming. Separate the deep and shallow ends with a floating safety line.

Encourage sobriety from your guests when entertaining near the pool.

Have a telephone poolside. Keep emergency numbers at the poolside telephone.

Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). For a list of upcoming classes offered by Escambia County Public Safety visit myescambia.com.

Keep the following safety equipment poolside: non-metal reaching pole, throwing line with buoyant aid and first aid kit. Inspect safety equipment regularly. Preventative devices are only effective if they are in working order.

Do not dive head first into shallow water or water that you are unsure of the depth.

Store all pool chemicals under lock and key.



Tips for Travelers

The Pensacola area offers great beaches and excellent scenic settings for recreation and outdoor gatherings. Here are some suggestions on how to enjoy life in the outdoors without problems. We hope you enjoy your visit to our area and return often to experience our wonderful natural resources.

Beware of the Sun

The rays of the sun can be deceiving, especially when the sun seems mild. The rays are most intense between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., even on overcast or cloudy days! Use sunscreen to keep the skin moist.

Sunburn is evident by painful red skin, blisters, nausea, vomiting or headaches. To minimize discomfort, stay out of the sun, apply cool compresses, take aspirin and consume plenty of fluids.

Heat exhaustion is characterized by excessive perspiration, weakness, pale and clammy skin, cramps, nausea and dizziness. Lie down in a cool room, loosen clothing, apply cool, wet compresses and drink plenty of fluids.

Heat stroke, also called sun stroke, is more serious than heat exhaustion. Symptoms include rapid pulse, 104° to 106° temperature and hot, red dry skin. If you suspect heat stroke, you should sponge the entire body with cold towels or rubbing alcohol and seek medical attention immediately.



Never Swim Alone!

Each year, lives are destroyed by drownings or near drownings. Most cases usually occur during the summer and involve tourists unfamiliar with local surf conditions.

Don't become a statistic. Take time now to review facts about swimming when you visit our area. Never swim alone, regardless of the water's depth. People drown in shallow water just as quickly as they drown in deep waters. Depths and distances are deceiving. Knowing the water and what to expect before you go swimming may save your life. You may be an expert in a swimming pool, yet find yourself drowning in the surf when confronted with rip currents, sand bars and deep holes. Hidden deep spots in the surf are hazardous, especially for children. Waves can dig wide holes in the bottom near shore and you may step into one while wading in very shallow water. Or you may see swimmers standing in waist-deep water far from shore. What you do not see is how deep the water is between the beach and the sand bar a person is standing on.

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 and rip currents can be killers.

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.

The greatest safety precaution that can be taken is to recognize the danger of rip currents and always remember to swim at beaches with lifeguards. The USLA have calculated the chance that a person will drown while attending a beach protected by USLA affiliated lifeguards at 1 in 18 million. If caught in a rip current at an unguarded beach, how you respond could make the difference between life and death.

A daily rip current outlook is included in the Surf Zone Forecast, which is issued by many National Weather Service offices. A three-tiered structure of low, moderate and/or high is used to describe the rip current risk. This outlook is communicated to lifeguards, emergency management, media and the general public.

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.
- Please note: 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.



Animal Safety Tips

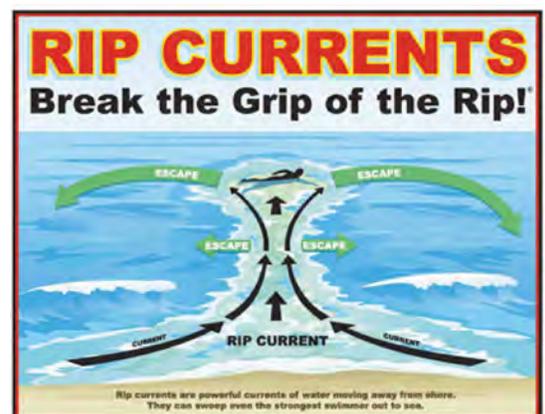
Jellyfish stings usually are mild but can be painful. Meat tenderizer or a paste made of tenderizer and ammonia also will neutralize the toxins. Apply very warm water and hydrocortisone. Watch for signs of shock: difficulty in breathing, cold, clammy, sweaty skin, fainting or nausea. If these symptoms develop, seek medical attention immediately.

The Portuguese Man-o-War is distinguished by a beautiful, bright blue color. It appears as a harmless "blue bubble" lying on the beach, but it is a member of the jellyfish family and contains a very poisonous toxin. Avoid stepping on the man-o-war or trying to puncture its sac.

Catfish can be dangerous, whether you hook one while fishing or find one along the shoreline. Catfish spines are poisonous. You will need a tetanus shot if a catfish spine punctures your skin. Once your skin has been punctured be prepared for acute pain, swelling and nausea. Without treatment you may go into shock.

Snakes are not uncommon on the Gulf Coast. If you are bitten by a snake, seek medical help immediately.

Biting flies and "no see-ums" are pesky natives of this area. They are more of an annoyance than a serious problem. A good insect repellent will keep most bugs away. If an insect causes a reaction, use an ice pack to reduce swelling. However, should red streaks start to appear, consult a physician.



IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:

www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov

www.usla.org





Important Phone Numbers

Local Government

Board of County Commissioners	595-4902
Animal Control	595-0097
Animal Shelter	595-3075
Building Inspections / Permits	595-3550
Code Compliance	595-1820
Extension Service	475-5230
ECUA	476-0480
Emergency Management	471-6400
Environmental	595-3623
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
City of Century	256-6161
Tax Collector	438-6500
Escambia County School District	432-6121
Supervisor of Elections	595-3900
Information Referral	211

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 Division of Forestry (burn permits)	488-6480
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	9-1-1
Sheriff's Office	436-9630
Florida Highway Patrol	484-5000
Pensacola Police Department	435-1900

Utilities

AT&T	(888) 757-6500
Escambia River Electric	
Co-op outages	(877) 687-3732
Gulf Power outages	(800) 487-6937
ESP Gas	474-5307

Escambia County Web Site:

BeReadyEscambia.com

myescambia.com

I Want You

to be Hurricane Prepared Today!



The First 72 are on you!



Stock canned food and bottled water



Fill gas containers



Arrange for pet care



Prepare your home

BeReadyEscambia.com

Department of Public Safety

