



Hurricane Guide 2020

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Board of County Commissioners

2020

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Thank you for picking up this booklet on Hurricane safety. By doing so, you have already made an investment in your safety during one of the most serious of Mother Nature's threats to our area: Hurricanes.

You will find a great majority of these pages are dedicated to preparation long before a storm is in our area - or in the Gulf. This reality stems from the fact the most you can do takes place way before a storm is even a threat. Many young people were in scouting organizations, where the motto was 'be prepared.' The same holds true today: the more you do before the storm season arrives, the better off you will be to protect yourself and your family.

Make the time one Saturday or Sunday a year to go to your local hardware, grocery and home goods store to prepare. Stock up on the items you will need (many years, Florida's governor will declare a tax-free holiday on the goods necessary to defend against a hurricane or other natural disaster) and rest in the peace of mind you will have for the entire storm season.

County Administrator John Hofstad

When a storm system does



threaten The Gulf, remember not to panic - you have the answer key to the problems you might face right in your hands (or on your screen as the case may be!) Don't be afraid to refer to this guide, or to your neighbors and city or county officials. We all want to help make this process as safe, manageable and easy as possible. We are Floridians, we will get through this together.

In the aftermath of any storm, caused by a hurricane or otherwise, your county government will be out clearing the streets, helping to restore any services affected and checking on you. Like Mr. Rodgers always said, "when you see scary things in the news, look for the helpers." During these times, they will be wearing Sheriff's Green, Okaloosa Helmets and fluorescent vests. Let us know what we can do to help you. It's what we are here for in emergencies.

If there is something you can think of or an experience you have to share which would improve this booklet, email our County Public Information Officer at csaul@myokaloosa.com. He will be happy to take your questions, comments and concerns.

Once again, thank you for taking an active role in the protection of your own life and the lives of your family members and neighbors.

John Hofstad
Okaloosa County Administrator

The Okaloosa County Division of Emergency Management helps the county prepare for and respond to all man-made or natural disasters, such as hurricanes. These are the people who prepare year-round for hurricanes and tropical storms with training, development and emergency response to make sure our county is safe when mother nature bears down on us.

The Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center is located on the campus of Northwest Florida State College. The building is the ark where emergency personnel can ride out a category-5 hurricane and be best positioned to get right into action and begin the recovery process once the storm leaves the area. The facility is designed to house local, regional, state and federal response agencies and coordinate recovery efforts so precious resources are used efficiently.

How Can I Receive Information From Officials?



The county has information available to help you and your family before, during and after a storm.

Okaloosa County's Emergency Operations

Center is located on the campus of North-

west Florida State College.

Log on to <http://myokaloosa.com/ps/emergency-management>. You can also go to the Alert Okaloosa website.

Okaloosa County 2020 Hurricane Guide

Local, national and international media will work with the Public Information Officer at the Emergency Operations Center. The media will learn the latest from the PIO and spread along their conduits of information to you. In an emergency situation, stay tuned to local radio, television and social media outlets for the latest. Watch our social media such as our Twitter, Facebook and official county correspondence through email and our website.

NOAA weather radio also broadcasts continuous weather reports from the National Weather Offices in Tallahassee and Mobile.



**Public Safety
Director:
Patrick Maddox**



**Emergency
Management
Chief:
Mike Schwartz**



**EM
Coordinator:
Ken Wolfe**



Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category 1

74-95 MPH Winds



Some Damage

Category 2

96-110 MPH Winds



Damage is Common

Category 3

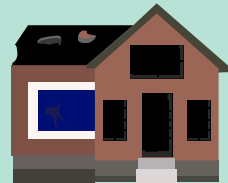
111-129 MPH Winds



Significant Damage

Category 4

130-156 MPH Winds




Serious Damage

Category 5

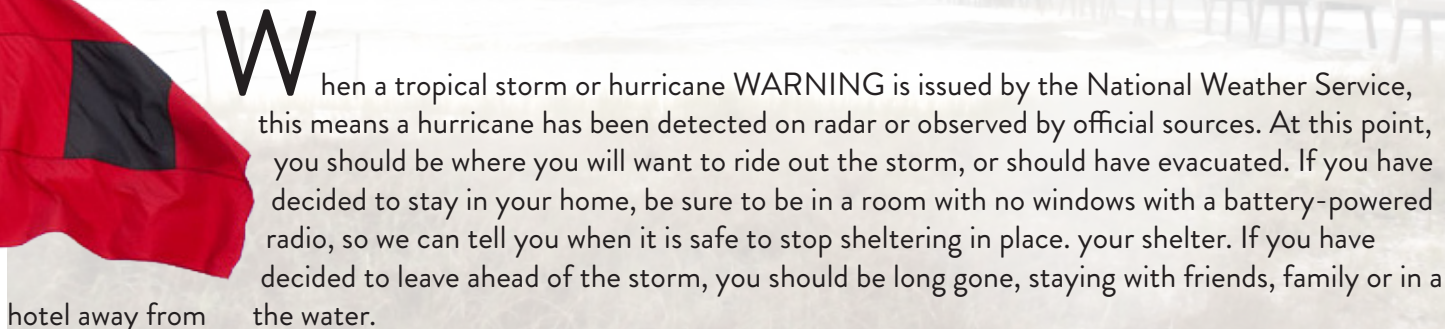
157+ MPH Winds



Widespread Destruction



A hurricane WATCH advises people should be on the lookout for the possibility of severe weather, negative effects from tropical events, other severe weather or flash flooding. When you see Okaloosa County is under a tropical storm or hurricane watch, you should begin to put your family action plan into place. Pull out your hurricane kit, fill sandbags and make the appropriate decisions. This may be the best time to decide whether or not to evacuate if you are in a vulnerable structure such as a mobile home or any structure without a foundation, or if you live near a flood plain.



When a tropical storm or hurricane WARNING is issued by the National Weather Service, this means a hurricane has been detected on radar or observed by official sources. At this point, you should be where you will want to ride out the storm, or should have evacuated. If you have decided to stay in your home, be sure to be in a room with no windows with a battery-powered radio, so we can tell you when it is safe to stop sheltering in place. your shelter. If you have decided to leave ahead of the storm, you should be long gone, staying with friends, family or in a hotel away from the water.

Preperation before a storm enters the gulf is the best option. Waiting until a warning is issued will only give

Important Phone Numbers

	Citizen's Information Line 850.609.7000 or 311
	Board of County Commissioners 850.651.7515
	Animal Control 850.243.1525
	Law Enforcement (Non-Emergency) 850.651.7400
	Attorney General (Fraud/Gouging Line) 866.966.7226
	Building Inspection/Permits/Code 850.651.7180
	Fl. Dept. of Transportation 850.981.3000
	Dept. of Children and Families 850.595.8200
	Fl. Dept. of Health 850.833.9240
	Dept. of Environmental Protection 850.245.2118

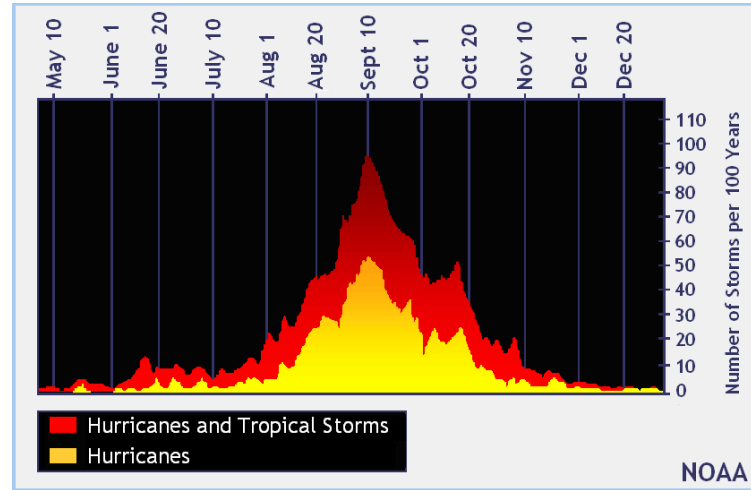


Before a storm is on the horizon

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, September traditionally has had the most number of hurricanes in the Atlantic over the last 100 years.

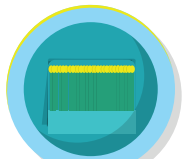
It is advised you watch all storms carefully, but statistically, storms which form off Cape Verde in Africa have a lower chance to reach our area than storms which form later and farther west.

Wind arrival data, which was unofficial in 2017, is now be a part of the National Weather Service battery of information to give to the public.



FIRST AID KIT

Before the Storm



Matches



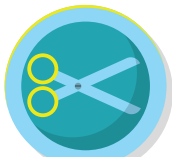
Tweezers and
Needles



Pain Relief



Thermometer



Scissors



Sanitizer



Bandages

A comprehensive list of items for a first aid kit can be found in the back of this booklet

CAR KIT

Before the Storm

Jumper Cables

Flashlight

Car Flares or Reflectors

Fire Extinguisher

FoodBar
Food that is food and is food

Non-perishable
Food + Water

Hand Sanitizer

Hurricane Kit for Your Car:

Have these items in your car during hurricane season.

A comprehensive list of items for a first aid kit can be found in the back of this booklet

EMERGENCY NEEDS KIT

Before the Storm



A comprehensive list of items for a first aid kit can be found in the back of this booklet

HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

Homeowners

Homeowners need to have their home insurance purchased before the beginning of the storm season in June. Additionally, they need to seriously consider flood insurance, no matter where they live in Okaloosa County. Make sure you have an adequate supply of sandbags, plywood or other hurricane preparation supplies or are able to get them if a storm threatens the area. Talk to your Homeowners association about any policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety and security of homeowners. Decide which room in your home will serve as a shelter room and keep it clear of clutter so it can be easily accessed in an emergency. Make a list of all outdoor furniture and make sure it is inside before the storm hits.

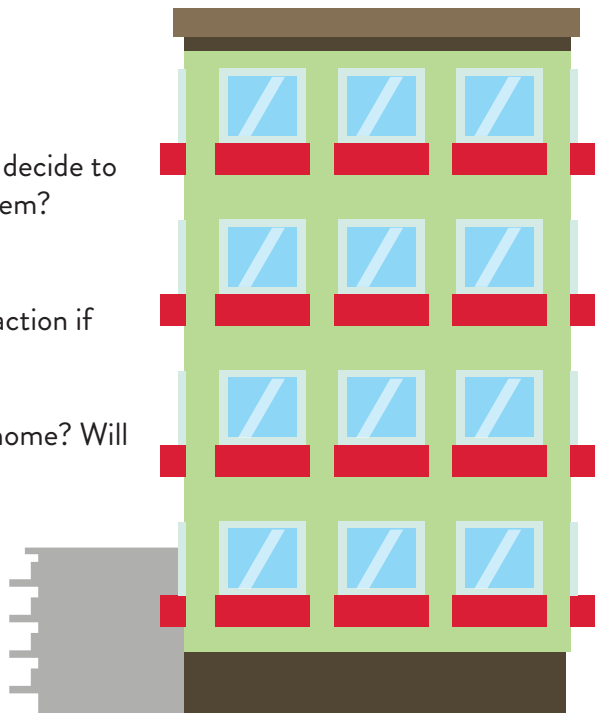


Before the Storm

Renters

Renters also need to make sure they are ready if disaster strikes:

- Have a plan: who will you stay with if you leave your home? If you decide to leave or stay, who will you tell? How often will you check in with them?
- Build a hurricane kit. (instructions are included in this booklet.)
Know if you live in an evacuation or a flood zone. Be ready to take action if you are told to leave the area.
- Talk to your landlord. What steps are they taking to protect your home? Will they supply protective supplies (shutters, plywood, et al?)
- Renter's personal property isn't covered by a landlord's property insurance. you need to look into personal renter's insurance. Plans typically cost as little as \$10-\$20 a month



PLANNING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

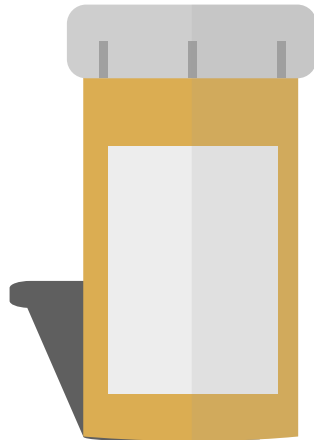
When hurricanes hit, people with special or medical needs have additional concerns. Take the following steps if you or someone you love has special or medical needs.

Have **at least** a three-day supply of necessary medical supplies.

For medical equipment which requires electricity, inquire with your medical supply company and ask about a backup power source such as a battery or a generator.

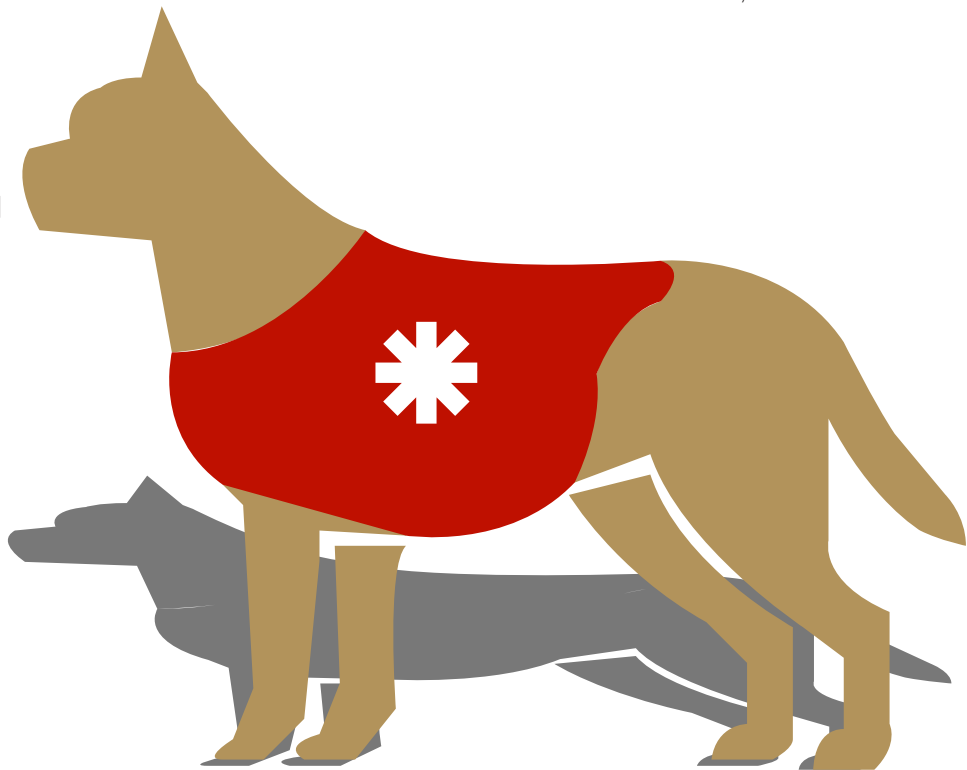
If you use oxygen, have an emergency supply which will last you 72 hours. Make sure the tanks are securely braced. Make copies of medical records and store them in an easily accessible, dry place.

Store extra batteries for hearing aids, implants, TTY and light phone signaler.



Always have a three-day supply of medication on hand. In some emergencies you might need to have enough for at least a week. Store your medicine in one location in their original containers.

Service animals may become confused, frightened, or disoriented during a storm. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed.



PET PLANNING

If you are evacuating, Your pets should evacuate with you, should you decide to leave. Pet abandonment is illegal. Pets should not be left in empty houses, or be allowed to roam free. Animals left behind could die of starvation, get eaten by predators, or eat or drink contaminated food or water.

The first few days after a disaster, it's recommended that you put a leash on your pets when they are out of doors until they are once again familiar with the area. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become disoriented and get lost.

Furthermore, your pets' behavior may change after a disaster. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive.

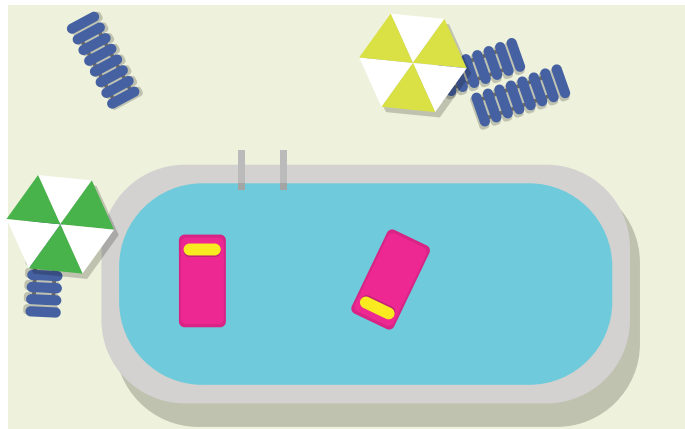
Watch your animals closely, especially when outdoors, as predators may move into your area seeking a new habitat. Finally, keep an eye out for downed power lines. You may know they are dangerous, but your pet does not.



While your pool should be low on the list of your concerns when a storm is on its way, there are several things you can do to protect it - if you have time.

Do not lower the water level of the pool. Allow the pool to overflow in this situation. This helps keep the pool from being forced out of the ground due to a high water table.

NEVER completely drain your pool - heavy rains can cause a pool to pop out. Turn off all electrical power to the swimming pool when a storm is incoming. If your pump is open to the sky, remove the motor and seal it in a waterproof plastic bag to preserve it.





Remove loose items from the pool area to prevent them from become missile-like debris. Items which are left out can damage the pool or your home. Add extra chlorine to the pool to prevent contamination - **WHILE THIS WATER WILL NOT BE DRINKABLE** - it can be used to clean clothes and flush toilets in an emergency. If you have a screened in pool area, remove panels of the screen above the chair rail in order to allow the wind to blow through.

Storm Preperation

Know if you are in an evacuation zone.

Our website (direct link in the QR Code) can tell you what evacuation zone you live in, or continue reading this guide. All Mobile Home Residents are encouraged to evacuate for all storms. Decide BEFORE Hurricane season where you would go in the event of a tropical threat. If you are going to leave, do so as early as you are able. When you leave, dont go hundreds of miles away. stay as close as you can, without being in danger from the storm.

Buy a NOAA weather radio, have a car charger for your phone and keep your gas tank at least half-full during the summer months.

Make sure your street address number is clearly marked on your home, so first responders know where to go.

Review your insurance policies every May.



Learn More!



Have an evacuation location selected before storm season. Let friends and family know where you are going in the event you decide to evacuate.

Hurricanes are the number one reason for mass evacuations on the Gulf Coast. When evacuation orders are given, residents and visitors must adhere to evacuation guidelines and leave the evacuation zone.

A mandatory evacuation means residents in a specific zone must evacuate the area of danger. It is unwise to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order. Subsequently, access to areas under a mandatory evacuation order may be restricted for a period of time after the effects of the hurricane have subsided. Shelters will open in conjunction with Mandatory Evacuation orders. It is important to note that not every shelter will open during an evacuation order. Check with Public Safety if you are unsure about which shelter has opened during an emergency. They are opened based on expected evacuating population. Traffic control measures are instituted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office when mandatory evacuation orders are issued.

During a recommended evacuation, residents and visitors are encouraged to seek refuge, ideally with family or friends who do not live inside the evacuation zone.

Should I Evacuate?

You need to determine what your responsibility is when it comes to evacuating as soon as possible. Remember, bridges are closed by the Florida Department of Transportation once sustained wind speeds pass 40 MPH. If you are evacuating a short distance, the county's main shelter is in Crestview at Davidson Middle School. The shelter has its advantages, including avoiding traffic as others in the area flee the oncoming path of the storm. Remember, leaving

does not guarantee the storm will not shift track. It will also be a shorter trek home after the storm if you stay locally.

Ask yourself these questions:

Before you decide what you are going to do as the tropical depression, storm or hurricane approaches the Gulf Coast, make sure you are making the

correct decision for your family and your circumstances.

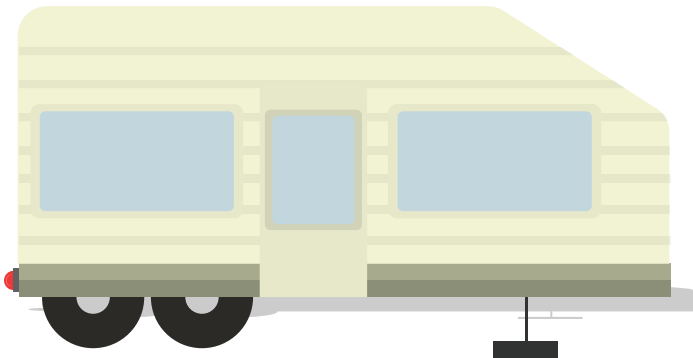
One of Okaloosa County's Shelters, Davidson Middle School, is located in the northern part of Crestview.



Do you live in a mobile or manufactured home? - if yes, then you should ALWAYS evacuate.

Do you need to go to the pet-friendly shelter? -

Okaloosa County's pet-friendly shelters are Antioch Elementary School, Davidson Middle School and Northwest Florida State College's Raider Arena. REMEMBER: pet friendly, does NOT mean you will be able to keep your pet with you. Other evacuees may have allergies, which means pets and people will have to be separated for the health and well-being of others. The Panhandle Animal Welfare Society will check in your animal, and take it to the pet shelter area where they will care for it until you check out of the shelter. No exotic pets are allowed in the shelter.



If someone has a certified service animal, the animal will be allowed to stay with the owner. Owners will need to bring the service animal's paperwork, their shot records and their

If you live in a home without a foundation - you need to evacuate. Between 1985-2017, 39% of all deaths from tornadoes (which are commonly spawned by hurricanes) were from people who stayed in mobile homes.

service vest with them to the shelter for verification.

Do you require transportation to a shelter? - Citizens with special needs need to sign up on the Okaloosa County Special Needs Registry and indicate they may need assistance making it to a storm shelter. Prior to any storm making landfall, they or their caregiver must call County Dial-a-Ride at 850.833.9168 and schedule a pick up place and time.

If you decide to stay in your home, plan ahead to have a safe place to shelter. Know where the nearest shelter is and have a plan to get there should the storm warrant your evacuation.



Learn More!

If you do decide to evacuate do so

More information is available from floridaevacuates.com

Another Look at Davidson Middle School.



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quickly and in daylight if at all possible. Tell someone outside of the warning area where you are going. If you can't get through on a voice call, try texting. Follow official evacuation routes.

Should something not go to plan, have a plan b.

Keep your gas tank as full as possible.

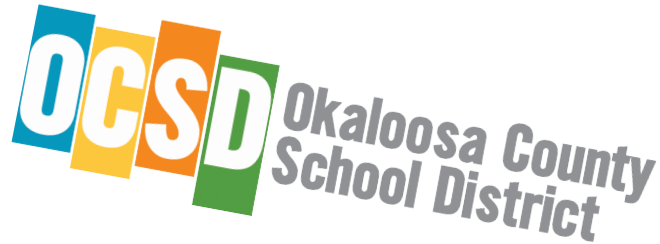
Stay on constant alert for washed out roads or bridges.

Never drive through standing water, especially at night. It only takes six inches of standing water to sweep a car away. While driving, avoid downed power lines.

When in doubt, log on to <https://www.floridadisaster.org/evacuation-orders/> for the latest information from the state.

Okaloosa County Transit (EC Rider) will provide transportation to evacuation services in a hurricane situation.





In conjunction with the Okaloosa County School District, Okaloosa County will open up shelters around the county. Evacuation shelters are provided for public use in the event of a hurricane or tropical storm. Shelter openings will be announced through social media, the traditional media and on our website: myokaloosa.com.

Shelter openings will vary depending on the hurricane. If you are unable to find the information via our social media, media reports or are unable to connect to the internet, call 850.609.7000 or 311 on most phones.

If you decide to stay

Find a reinforced part of your home, such as an interior room with no windows like a closet or bathroom which you can seek shelter in. Listen to local radio and television stations for instructions from the county and for the latest weather updates. Consider offering your home as a place to stay for friends or family members who live in vulnerable coastal areas or mobile homes. Get cash, banks may not be open, and ATMs will not work without electricity.

Above: The Okaloosa County School District Logo. The district partners with Okaloosa County to shelter people from storms.

know where you will go, in case of a an evacuation order.

Flood Zones v. Evacuation Zones

Flood zones are areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for use in the National Flood Insurance Program. These maps show homeowners what their risk is for flooding.

Evacuation zones are based on storm surge estimates supplied by the National Hurricane Center. Okaloosa County uses a colored system to alert people to their evacuation zones. A home could be outside of an evacuation zone but still in a flood zone and vice versa. Knowing your evacuation zone and if you are in a flood zone can save you time and hassle in the future. If you decide to stay despite an evacuation order, you need to know there is a good chance you will be on your own for several days and no one will be able to help you or your family, no matter how desperate your situation is. **YOUR LIFE IS IN YOUR OWN HANDS.** First responders **WILL NOT** leave their stations during the passing of a storm. Furthermore, after the immediate aftermath of the storm, the vast majority of first responders will be at work clearing debris from the roads so they can travel to emergencies. This will almost certainly cause delays in response time.

Know your zone! scan the QR Code to Learn More!



PREVENTING DAMAGE

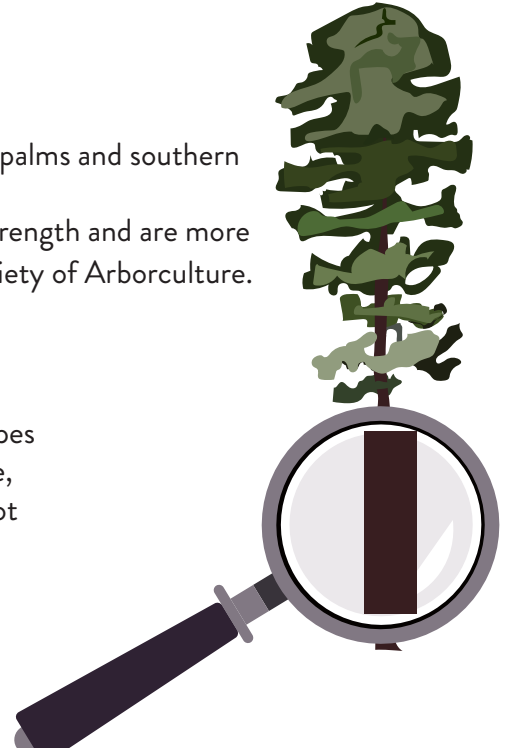
Storm
Prep

Tree Damage

Inspect your trees annually. look for cracks in the trunks or major limbs. Know what kinds of trees you have on your property. Sand and live oaks, sabal palms and southern magnolias do well against the forces of mother nature. Dont cut your branches back to the stubs. The trees will grow back with less strength and are more likely to become projectiles during a storm, according to the International Society of Arborculture.

Flood Damage

The best thing you can do to avoid damage to your home is elevate it. Most types of homes can be elevated above floodwaters. Ideally, if you are building a home, it should be elevated above the level at which a so-called '100 year flood' could not reach it.



Wind Damage



Roofs - ensure your roof covering and the sheathing it attaches to will resist high winds.

Gables - Brace the end of the wall of a gable roof properly to resist high winds.

Garage doors - because of their size and the way they are built, they're easily damaged in a storm. some doors can be re-enforced with aftermarket kits.

Exterior Doors and Windows - the exterior walls,

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

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

Patio doors - sliding glass doors are more vulnerable to wind damage - so make

sure to install shutters or impact-resistant patio doors.

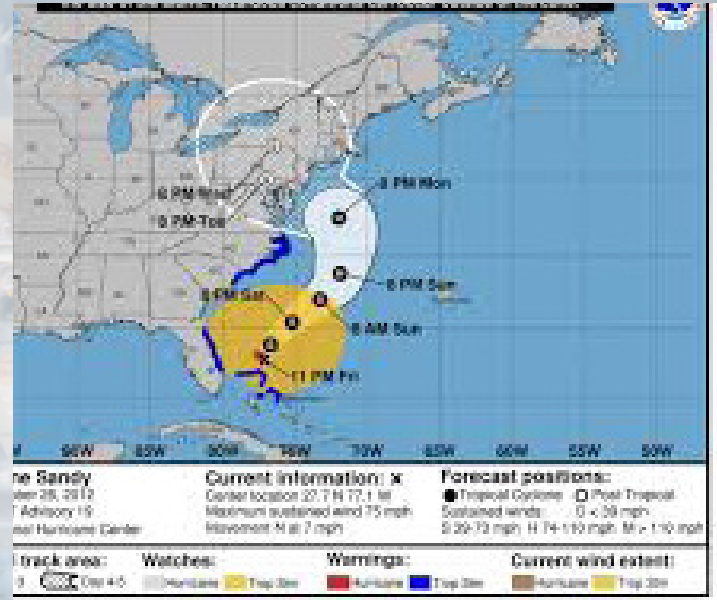


BEFORE YOU ARE IN THE 'CONE OF UNCERTAINTY'

Residents of the Florida Gulf Coast

should keep an eye on every storm which forms during hurricane season. When a storm forms, weather forecasters will start talking about something called the “forecast cone” or “Cone of uncertainty.” This cone, measured out to three or five days gives the most likely projected path of the storm in order to help emergency managers and citizens figure out what their next step needs to be. Because the storm’s landfall is

An example of the so-called ‘Cone of Uncertainty.’ This model predicts the CENTER of the storm. effects of the storm can be felt outside of the cone.





Above: NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Mission Statement:

"To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. Dedicated to the understanding and stewardship of the environment."

still imprecise, all people who live in the cone should begin preparations as if the storm was coming to their doorstep.

Have a plan. Know how you are going to take care of elderly or children you are responsible for. Additionally, have a plan for your pets. Make and store an emergency supply kit. Understand 'watch' and 'warning' terms. Make sure you know your evacuation zone and have a NOAA weather radio. Trim trees and shrubs around your home and document your possessions for insurance purposes. Make sure your property is securable. If possible, purchase storm shutters to put over the windows of your home. If storm shutters aren't an option, fit and cut marine plywood over your homes windows. Brace double entry garage doors. Purchase extra gas tanks if possible to keep emergency supplies of gasoline. Use the gasoline in the tanks at the end of the storm season every December. Gas goes bad after about a year; you will need to replenish your supply accordingly. Refill your prescriptions, especially if they are something you cannot live without. Finally, test your generator on the first of June every year. Better to know it doesn't work and have to buy a new one, than to have a broken one during a storm.

- 36 Hours out: Emergency Management will begin to issue warnings**
- Stay tuned to local news, have your battery-powered radio ready**
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so by authorities**
- Turn off electricity if your home is prone to flooding**
- Put refrigerator at coldest setting**
- Turn off appliances if you lose power to avoid a power surge later**
- If evacuations are ordered, check to see if you are included**

TO-DO

*When a Warning
is issued*

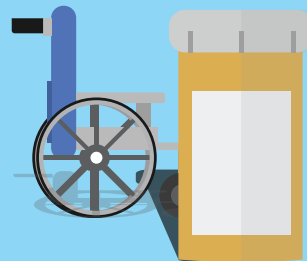
FIVE DAYS AHEAD OF THE STORM



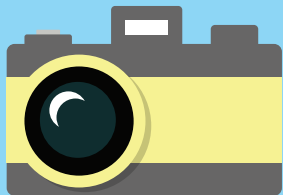
Review and Update Plan



Get Hurricane Kit Ready



Special Needs Plan



Take Photos of your House



Clear Out Your Yard



Know Your Evac Zone

Three Days Before the Storm is Supposed to Hit

The Three Day Cone is much more accurate

Double check your hurricane kit.

Make any last-minute necessary purchases

Gather supplies for the elderly, children and pets

Shutter your windows

Finish prep two days before the storm hits

Continue to watch forecasts for track changes

If you live in a mobile or trailer home, evacuate

- Fill containers and tubs with water
- Secure Papers, Valuables
- Prepare a 'Go Bag' for Evac or Shelter
- Full Tank of Gas
- Get Cash
- Refill All Meds
- Storm Prep Boats
- Secure home for evacuation

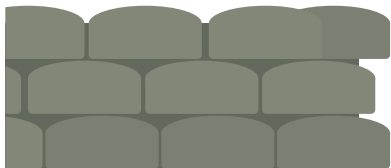


Closing the Beaches

It is the beach safety division's responsibility to keep the shores of the Emerald Coast safe for locals and visitors alike year round. This includes crisis situations like Hurricanes and Tropical Storms. Beach Safety Division Chief Rich Huffnagle will close down the beaches by flying a double red flag once the storm is close enough to our shores to generate rip currents and dangerous waves. When double red flags are flying, the beaches are closed to swimmers for their own protection and the safety of the lifeguards.

Placing Sand Bags

If flooding is imminent, Okaloosa County will distribute sandbags at their north and south end Public Works Yards on Ferdon Boulevard in Crestview and Hollywood Boulevard in Fort Walton Beach. Fill sandbags with heavy-bodied or sandy soil, not fine sand or gravel. Using



Left: Sand bags can be a crucial part of your home's defense against floodwaters

Right: As the storm nears Okaloosa County's shores, the Beach Safety Division will close the beaches of Okaloosa Island. Destin Beach Safety, a division of the City of Destin makes a separate decision about Destin Beaches.



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sandbags, which are properly filled, and placed may divert water around instead of through buildings, but they don't flood-proof your house.

Only fill a sand bag 2/3 of the way to the top and tie it securely. This makes the bag more malleable and more effective in preventing the flow of water. Polypropylene bags are the preferred bag to use, but burlap will work.

First place a waterproof canvas down and place sandbags in an overlapping pattern when deploying them. Place the first layer of bags lengthwise and lap the bags so the filled portion of one bag lies on the unfilled portion of the next. Place the second layer perpendicular to the first and limit placement to two layers unless a building is used as a backing. Finally, remember to place the sandbags with the folded top of the bag in the upstream or uphill position to prevent the bags from opening when water runs by them.

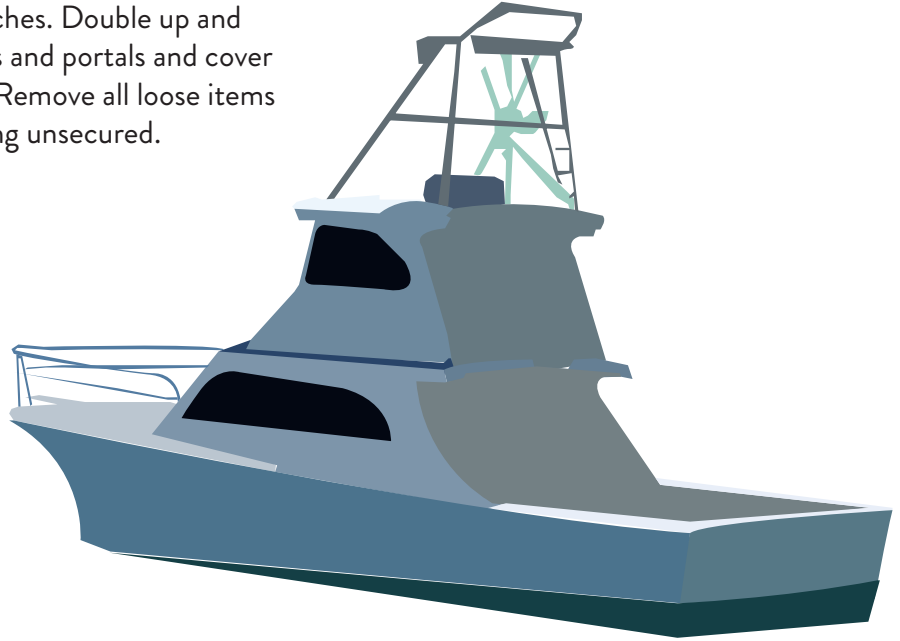
Remember, sandbags will NOT seal out water and they deteriorate as they repeatedly get exposed to wind and water. In order to increase their lives, add one part cement to ten parts sand as a mixture and pour it into the bag

Securing Your Boat

Each boat owner needs to prepare their own specific plan for the type of boat they have as a storm threatens. Never stay on your boat during a hurricane or tropical storm. Seek advice from local marinas. They can advise you on the

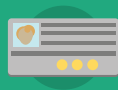
best way to protect your boat through a storm in a specific area.

Remove small boats from the water and move them to a secure location. If your boat is too large to be removed from the water, move it to a protected harbor before the storm approaches. Double up and secure mooring lines and secure all hatches and portals and cover windscreens. Take down masts, if possible. Remove all loose items from decks and mooring area. Leave nothing unsecured.



GOING TO THE HURRICANE SHELTER

Items to bring to the evacuation shelter



Clothes

Toiletries

Identification

Entertainment

Insurance Cards

Rain Gear

Sleeping Bag

Prescriptions

Special Dietary Needs

Dont bring these items



Weapons

Alcohol

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

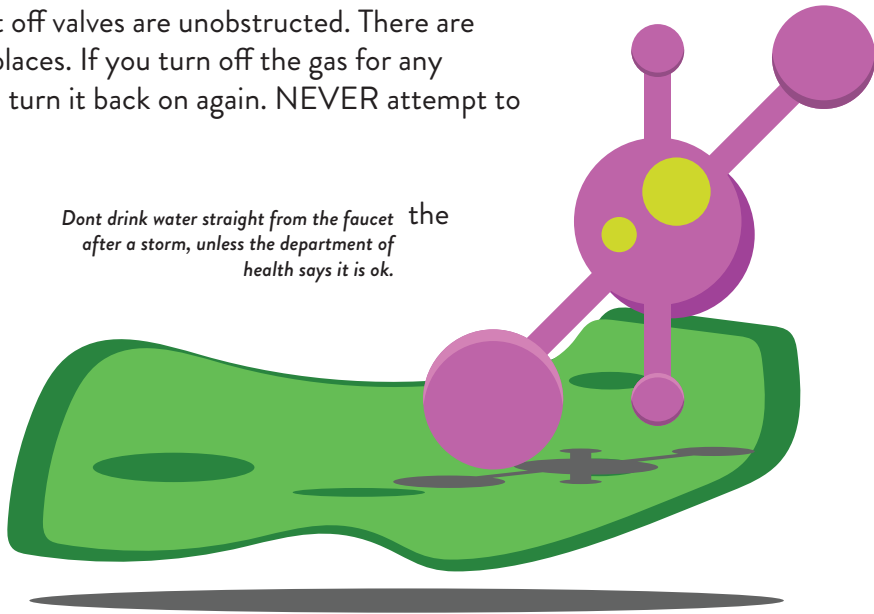
Learn to shut off utilities

After a disaster, your utilities may be disrupted or disconnected. You may need to turn off your gas water or other utilities without aid from a professional. Make sure all adults in the home know how to turn off utilities to the house. In addition, make sure the shut off valves are unobstructed. There are different procedures for turning off gas in different places. If you turn off the gas for any reason, you should only allow a qualified professional turn it back on again. **NEVER** attempt to turn the gas on again by yourself.

If you hear reports of contamination from OKALOOSA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, you may want to shut off your water after a hurricane to prevent sickness. To close the incoming water source, locate the incoming valve and turn it to the closed position.

To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your home at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from

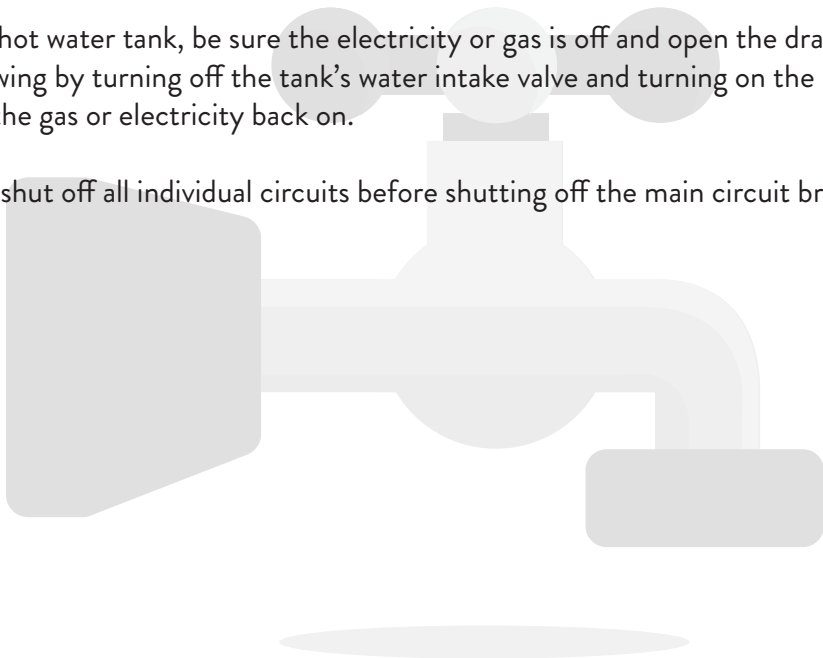
*Don't drink water straight from the faucet the
after a storm, unless the department of
health says it is ok.*



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the lowest faucet in the home.

To use the water in your hot water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is off and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning off the tank's water intake valve and turning on the hot water faucet. Refill the tank before turning the gas or electricity back on.

For safety's sake, always shut off all individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.



During the Storm

During the Storm

During the storm, the first thing you will need to do is remain calm. It will take several hours for the storm to pass completely. Remain in an interior room, such as a closet, hallway or a bathroom, of a sturdy building. This room should be a structure away from windows. While you are taking cover, make sure you have a disaster kit nearby.

Close all exterior and interior doors. If the eye of the storm passes, it will be calm for a **SHORT** period of time. **REMAIN INDOORS**. As soon as the eye passes over, winds will increase dramatically from the opposite direction. Mobile and manufactured housing is not a place to ride out the storm. All who live in a mobile home should take shelter with a family member or a friend. Additionally, people who live in these structures should have gone through their yards and collected any and all loose items to prevent projectile damage from the storm.

The 'eye' of the storm (seen in the middle of the model below) is very calm and will give the impression that the storm has passed. it hasnt. stay indoors.

Managing Anxiety

Being able to cope with stress and uncertainty is a wonderful skill to have in everyday life, exponentially more so during a hurricane or tropical storm. It



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is normal to feel apprehension as a storm approaches, and people should expect changes in their physical, emotional or mental state immediately before, during and after a storm makes landfall. Attempt to limit your exposure to graphic news stories by limiting the amount of time you consume the news. Check in regularly, but do not keep the television on or compulsively refresh your social media pages. Get accurate, timely information from reliable sources. As

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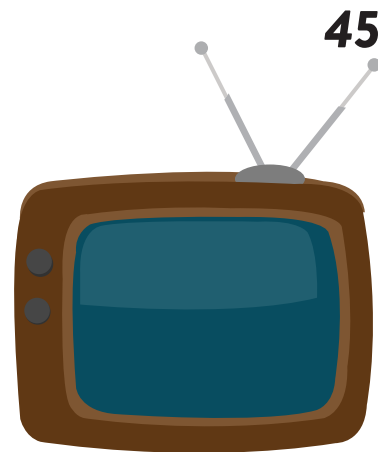
a storm approaches land anywhere in the US, we see an increase in false or misleading sources. Vet the source you are reading or watching. If you haven't heard of the news 'outlet' before, chances are you are not reading something from a reliable source.

Maintain your normal routine as much as possible. Try to sleep eight hours a night and eat regular, balanced meals. Avoid drugs and excessive drinking, you need to be alert and ready to move at all times.

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Stay active physically and mentally. Read a book, do pushups. Call your family members and let them know your status often.

Laugh. Keeping a sense of humor helps reduce the level of stress you are under.



In order to reduce stress, limit the amount of time you spend watching graphic news stories.

Finally, if you are feeling stress, tell someone. Talk the situation out with a family member or trusted friend.

Blackout Conditions

During the Storm

A storm can cause a widespread loss of electrical power throughout a system for an extended period of time. If you use life-sustaining electrical equipment, pre-register with the special needs shelter.

Consider purchasing a small generator or know where to rent one if you use life sustaining equipment that requires electrical power.

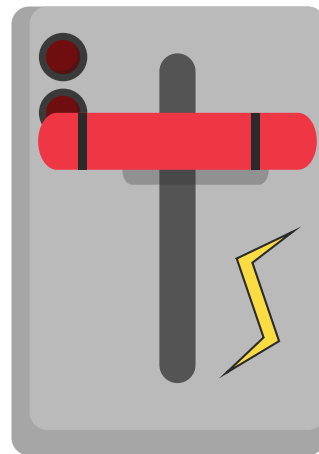
If you own an electric garage door, make sure you know how to open it properly without power.

Prepare a power outage kit. For short outages, consider using glow sticks, flashlights and a battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a wind up clock.

Have a cell phone and a way to charge it.

When you install a home generator, follow the manufacturer's instructions and have it inspected by the utility company.

Unplug computers and other voltage-sensitive equipment, as well as appliances to reduce initial demand when power is restored.



If you lose power, unplug anything in an outlet -this will prevent an overload of power when electricity turns back on.



If you decide to evacuate, unplug or turn off your heat-producing appliances, such as stoves, irons or heaters. Stay away from downed power lines and call 911 to report them.

Conserve water, especially if you are on a well system.

Keep doors, windows and curtains closed to retain heat in your home if the outage occurs late in the hurricane season.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed, especially in the summer. IF the doors remain closed, food in a fully loaded freezer can remain edible for two days. Carefully check thawed food for contamination.

Be careful around candles or other flammable light sources.

When using Kerosene heaters, gas lanterns or stoves inside houses, maintain ventilation to avoid a buildup of toxic fumes.

Generator Safety

Before you operate a generator, make sure you follow these steps and have the tools you need to operate it safely.

Have a Carbon Monoxide detector on hand to protect yourself from the dangerous, odorless chemical which is produced by generators.

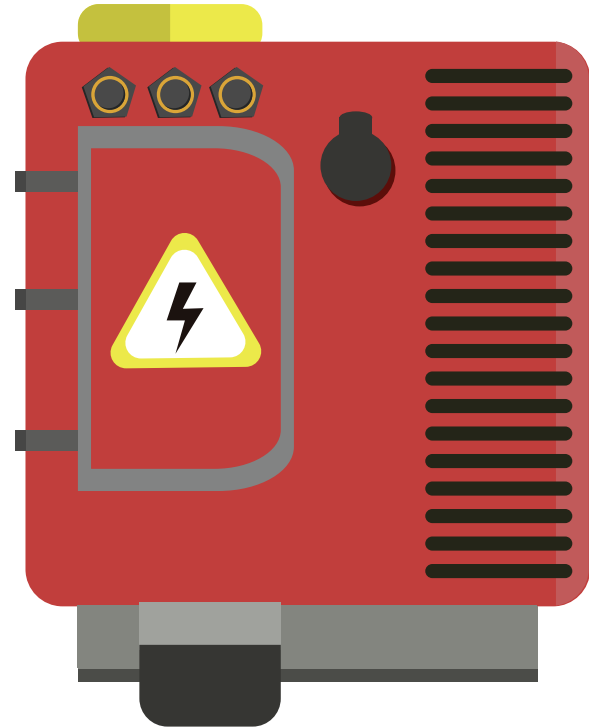
Have extra gas cans on site, so you can continue to operate your generator for as long as necessary. Store the gasoline in a well-ventilated area that is not a utility room. If you don't have a suitable place to store gasoline, build or buy a cabinet to place outside of your home. Check your gas tanks for leaks once a month.

Fuel stabilizer helps give gasoline a longer shelf life.

Always use extension cords to run indoor appliances with a generator. You should never bring a generator inside.

Before refilling a generator's gas tank, turn it off and let it cool.

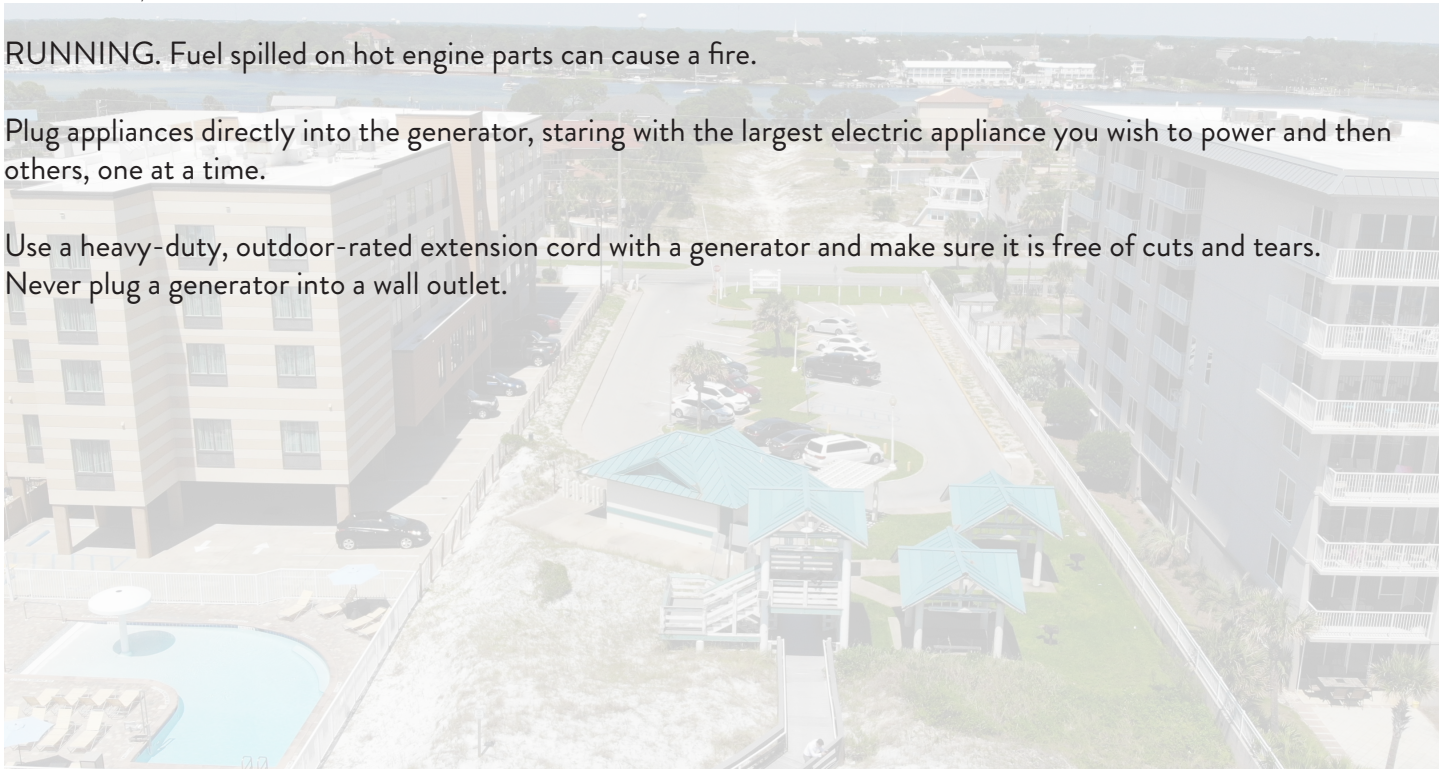
YOU SHOULD NEVER REFILL A GENERATOR WHILE IT IS



RUNNING. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can cause a fire.

Plug appliances directly into the generator, starting with the largest electric appliance you wish to power and then others, one at a time.

Use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord with a generator and make sure it is free of cuts and tears. Never plug a generator into a wall outlet.



After the Storm Passes

In an emergency situation, all employees from public safety, to emergency management and veteran services are mobilized to put our community back together.

After the storm, wait until area is declared safe before going outside.

Only drive if absolutely necessary. Debris could inundate the roadways making it impossible to drive on. Emergency Management crews will work to clear up all roads. Roads could be closed for your protection; meaning detours could be necessary. If you evacuated, only return home when authorities have said it is safe to do so. When you get home, check on your neighbors. If your home is safe, then make any necessary temporary repairs. Take photos of any damage to send to your insurance company. Don't drive into flooded areas and beware of any standing water. Additionally, be on the lookout for any downed power

After the Storm



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lines near water. The lines can electrify the water - and you, a family member or a pet. Look out for insects, snakes or animals which could've been driven to higher ground and may be ornery. Enter your home cautiously - use a flashlight to look around, do not use any sort of open flame. Once you have inspected your home, begin removing shutters or plywood, checking gas, water and electrical lines. Check local media for any boil water notices and throw out any spoiled food.

County Employees with man the Points of Distribution in Okaloosa County and train on a yearly basis to perform duties as assigned in hurricanes.

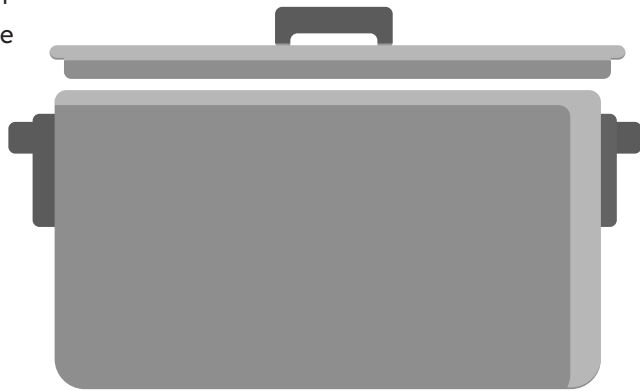
PODs

After a hurricane or tropical storm, the county, state or federal government may choose to open points-of distribution, or PODs. This service will be run by county employees who are responding in the immediate aftermath of a storm in Okaloosa County. These access zones are where you will be able to pick up food and water to help you recover from the storm. These facilities will only be opened if another commercial facility, like a grocery store, is not available to the public immediately after a weather event. The number and locations of PODs will therefore vary from situation to situation.



Purifying Water

There are two primary ways to make water drinkable: boiling and adding bleach. If water is unsafe because of contamination from flooding, boiling is the best method. Fill a pot with water after straining it through a coffee filter or cheesecloth to remove dirt and other particles. Bring the water to a rolling boil and boil for three minutes. Pour the water into a disinfected drinking container after it has cooled. Store in the refrigerator, if possible. If you are unable to boil water, the next-best method is to use an appropriate amount of bleach to clean the water. Strain water through a coffee filter or cheesecloth to remove larger particles. Use gallon-sized containers to calculate the correct chlorine bleach solution. Pour a mixture of 1/8 teaspoon or 16 drops of pure, unscented, household chlorine bleach into a gallon-size, purified drinking water container. Let this stand at least 30 minutes before drinking the water. If the water is still cloudy after 30 minutes, add an additional 1/8 teaspoon or 16 drops of chlorine bleach to the gallon sized container and let the water stand another 30 minutes. Remember: an excessive amount of bleach is poisonous.

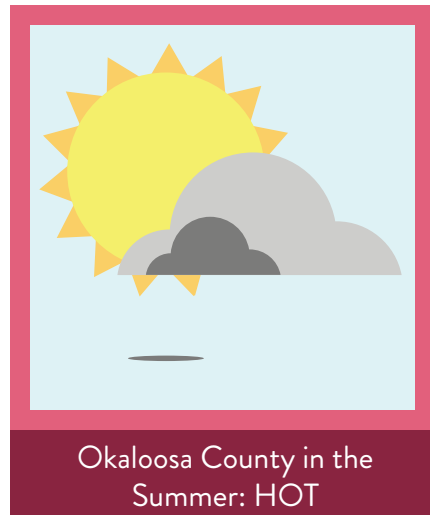


Extreme Heat

Many of the hurricanes which threaten our county take place during the hotter months. Since power outages are common during these events, the threat of heat-related illnesses is quite high. Avoiding heat-related sicknesses requires heavy preparation - before extreme hot weather, install window-mounted air conditioners ahead of time and insulate them if necessary. Check air conditioning ducts for proper insulation. Install temporary window reflectors, like aluminum foil covered cardboard to reflect heat and cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings or louvers. Outdoor awnings can reduce the heat that enters the home by up to 80%. Finally, install storm-rated windows in your home.

During hot weather, stay indoors as much as possible and limit sun exposure. Stay on the lowest level on your home if air conditioning isn't available. Spend the warmest part of the day at a public place with power and dress in lightweight, light colored clothing.

If you must go outside, wear sunscreen and re-apply hourly. Be sure to apply to dry skin. Wear a hat and sunglasses. Never leave a pet or child in an unattended vehicle.



Eat light, balanced and healthy meals in addition to drinking large amounts of water.

Finally, remember to check in on elderly or disabled family friends and neighbors.

Clean up

Call professional arborists for large uprooted trees.

Use proper safety gear, such as heavy gloves, boots, and safety goggles and long sleeved shirts and pants.

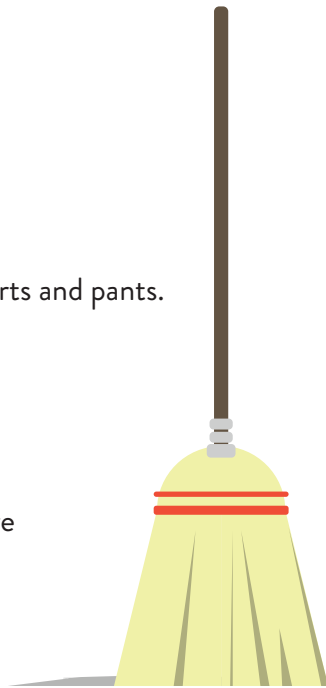
Wear a hat and use sunscreen. Drink plenty of water and rest often.

Lift with your legs, not with your back.

DO NOT burn trash or yard debris. Low water pressure and blocked roads may keep the fire department from reaching you if any controlled burns get out of control.

If you can't ID something, don't touch it.

Be wary of downed power lines.



Final Words

Preparation is the key to surviving a tropical event on the Gulf Coast. It means getting preparations done before the storm season, making common sense decisions, obeying lawful orders and knowing the dangers associated with storms.

Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners Employees are here to help you prepare. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, call the main office at 850.689.5030.

We are here for you and want to help.

Connect with us:



- plasters in a variety of different sizes and shapes
- small, medium and large sterile gauze dressings
- at least 2 sterile eye dressings
- triangular bandages
- crêpe rolled bandages
- safety pins
- disposable sterile gloves
- tweezers
- scissors
- alcohol-free cleansing wipes

- sticky tape
- thermometer (preferably digital)
- skin rash cream, such as hydrocortisone or calendula
- cream or spray to relieve insect bites and stings
- antiseptic cream
- painkillers such as paracetamol (or infant paracetamol for children),
- aspirin (not to be given to children under 16), or ibuprofen
- cough medicine
- antihistamine cream or tablets

- distilled water for cleaning wounds
- eye wash and eye bath

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- Cash (\$20-30 in small bills and include some change)
- Diapers/Wipes if you have kids
- Emergency blankets/hand warmers (or an old spare comforter)
- Jumper cables
- Car shovel/pick
- Pocket knife
- First aid kit
- Radio
- Package of batteries (for flashlight and radio)
- Toilet paper roll
- Spare clothes/walking shoes for small children
- Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Flashlights
- Pet food and supplies if you have pets
- Medications
- Backup phone chargers
- Sanitation – Think moist towelettes, garbage bags and diapers.
- Consider paper goods such as plates and cups as well as plastic utensils.

- Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home).
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home).
- Flashlight.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible).
- Extra batteries.
- First aid kit.

- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items.
- Multi-purpose tool, like a Swiss Army knife.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies).
- Cell phone with charger.
- Family and emergency contact

information.

- Extra cash (ATMs might be inoperable).
- Extra fuel for generator and car.



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