An aerial photograph of a hurricane's eye and surrounding clouds over the ocean. The colors range from deep blue to light blue and white. A faint outline of the state of Florida is visible in the upper right and lower right corners of the image.

**Escambia County, FL**

# **Disaster Guide**

[MyEscambia.com/beready](https://www.MyEscambia.com/beready)







**Escambia  
County, FL  
Disaster  
Guide**

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myescambia.com/KnowYourZone

One of the most important hurricane preparation steps you can take is to know your evacuation zone - either A, B, C, D, E or none. Look it up at [MyEscambia.com/KnowYourZone](http://MyEscambia.com/KnowYourZone).

It is very important that you look up your evacuation zone EACH YEAR to find out **IF and WHEN** you should evacuate, even if you have looked it up in the past, as zones can change. Most importantly, do not rely on previous storm experience. Just because you weathered the last storm, does not mean you will weather this one.

See page 12 for more information.







# Important Phone Numbers

## Local Government

Board of County Commissioners	
District 1	595-4910
District 2	595-4920
District 3	595-4930
District 4	595-4940
District 5	595-4950
County Administrator	595-4900
Animal Control	595-0097
Animal Shelter	595-3075
Building Inspections / Permits	595-3550
Code Compliance	595-1820
Extension Service	475-5230
Emergency Management	471-6400
Engineering	595-3451
Environmental	595-3623
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline	(844) 640-0008
Housing Information	458-0466
Parks / Recreation	475-5220
Planning / Zoning	595-3475
Purchasing	595-4980
Public Works (Roads and Bridges)	494-5860
Recycling	937-2160
Solid Waste Department	937-2160
Clerk of Court	595-4310
Property Appraiser	434-2735
City of Pensacola	435-1603
Town of Century	256-3208
Tax Collector	438-6500
Escambia County School District	432-6121
Supervisor of Elections	595-3900

## State Government

Attorney General (price gouging)	(866) 966-7226
Dept. of Children and Families	595-8200
Dept. of Environmental Protection	245-2118
Dept. of Labor (fraud, waste, abuse)	(800) 347-3756
FL Dept. of Transportation	(866) 374-3368
FL Forest Service (burn permits)	957-5701
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
FL Dept. of Health in Escambia County	595-6500
West FL Regional Planning Council	332-7976
Traffic Information (automated)	511

## Federal Government

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

## Law Enforcement

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

## Utilities

AT&T	(888) 757-6500
Central Water Works (Century)	256-3849
Central Water Works Sunshine State One Call (call before you dig)	811
ECUA	476-0480
Escambia River Electric Co-op outages	(877) 688-3732
Farm Hill Utilities (Cantonment)	968-2573
Gonzalez Utilities	968-5434
Florida Power and Light outages	(800) 468-8243
Molino Utilities	587-5538
Pensacola Energy	435-1800
Peoples Water	455-8552
Town of Century (water/natural gas)	256-3208

## Garbage Collection

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

## Disasters

Citizen Information Line	471-6600
United Way of Northwest Florida	211





## Newspapers/Online News

Inweekly.....	<a href="http://inweekly.net">inweekly.net</a>
Island Times .....	<a href="http://myislandtimes.com">myislandtimes.com</a>
NorthEscambia.com .....	<a href="http://northescambia.com">northescambia.com</a>
Pensacola News Journal .....	<a href="http://pnj.com">pnj.com</a>
Periódico La Costa Latina .....	<a href="http://latinomediainc.com">latinomediainc.com</a>
The Pulse .....	<a href="http://thepulsepensacola.com">thepulsepensacola.com</a>
Rick's Blog.....	<a href="http://ricksblog.biz">ricksblog.biz</a>

## Radio

WUWF 88.1 FM.....	<a href="http://wuwf.org">wuwf.org</a>
WNRP 1620 AM / 92.3 FM .....	<a href="http://newsradio923.com">newsradio923.com</a>
WMEZ 94.1 FM .....	<a href="http://softrock941.com">softrock941.com</a>
WYCT 98.7 FM.....	<a href="http://catcountry987.com">catcountry987.com</a>
WJTQ 100.7 FM .....	<a href="http://pensacolasjet.com">pensacolasjet.com</a>
WTKX 101.5 FM.....	<a href="http://tk101.iheart.com">tk101.iheart.com</a>
WXBM 102.7 FM.....	<a href="http://wxbm.com">wxbm.com</a>
WRRX 106.1 FM .....	<a href="http://mymagic106.com">mymagic106.com</a>
WRNE 980 AM / 106.9 FM .....	<a href="http://wrne980.com">wrne980.com</a>
WRGV 107.3 FM.....	<a href="http://thebeatgulfcoast.iheart.com">thebeatgulfcoast.iheart.com</a>
WPNN 790 AM / 103.7 FM .....	<a href="http://talk103fm.com">talk103fm.com</a>
WCOA 1370 AM .....	<a href="http://wcoapensacola.com">wcoapensacola.com</a>

## TV

WEAR ABC 3.....	<a href="http://weartv.com">weartv.com</a>
WKRK CBS 5.....	<a href="http://wkrk.com">wkrk.com</a>
BLAB TV 6.....	<a href="http://blabtv.com">blabtv.com</a>
WALA Fox 10.....	<a href="http://fox10tv.com">fox10tv.com</a>
WPMI NBC 15.....	<a href="http://local15tv.com">local15tv.com</a>
WFGX 35.....	<a href="http://wfgxtv.com">wfgxtv.com</a>

## STAY INFORMED

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

[MyEscambia.com/beready](http://MyEscambia.com/beready)



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

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



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

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

[Facebook.com/EscCountyFireRescue](https://Facebook.com/EscCountyFireRescue)

[Facebook.com/EscCounty](https://Facebook.com/EscCounty)

## WATCH US ON ECTV

Channel 4/1004 on Cox, channel 98 for Spectrum and Mediacom (Pensacola Beach) subscribers and channel 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. Or watch anytime at

[MyEscambia.com/ectv](http://MyEscambia.com/ectv)



[YouTube.com/EscambiaCountyTV98](https://YouTube.com/EscambiaCountyTV98)



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

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



## Emergency Communications and 911

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

### Q: What happens during a 911 call?

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

### Q: When do you call 911?

**A:** To save a life, report a fire, report a crime in progress and anytime you believe there is an emergency.

## 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

CALL 911 FOR:



SYMPTOMS OF HEART ATTACK OR STROKE



DIFFICULTY BREATHING OR CHOKING



DIFFICULTY SPEAKING, WALKING OR SEEING



AN ALLERGIC REACTION



CONFUSION, DIZZINESS OR DISORIENTATION



SUDDEN, SEVERE PAIN

DO NOT call 911 for:

 Info about COVID-19  
 A ride to the doctor's office  
 COVID-19 testing  
 Mild symptoms

For more information, visit: [MyEscambia.com/covid19](https://www.MyEscambia.com/covid19)  



## HELP US HELP YOU

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

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

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

Please do NOT call 911 to report traffic congestion, to inquire about government services, to report electricity or other utility disruptions or to find an address or other general information.







## Have Multiple Ways to Receive Warnings

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



**Local radio, TV and newspapers**  
See page 3 for a listing



**Reputable internet and social media sites like:**  
[MyEscambia.com/beready](http://MyEscambia.com/beready)  
[Facebook.com/BeReadyEC](https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyEC)  
[Twitter @BeReadyEscambia](https://twitter.com/BeReadyEscambia)



**Wireless Emergency Alerts and other weather apps**



**Friends and Family**



**Alert Escambia**



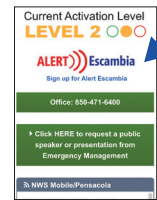
**NOAA Weather Radios**

## ALERT Escambia

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

### SIGN UP:

Visit [MyEscambia.com/beready](http://MyEscambia.com/beready) and click on the Alert Escambia icon for the sign-up link.

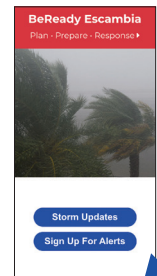


You will be able to select your preferred method of communication when signing up for the alerts.

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

### SIGN UP:

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



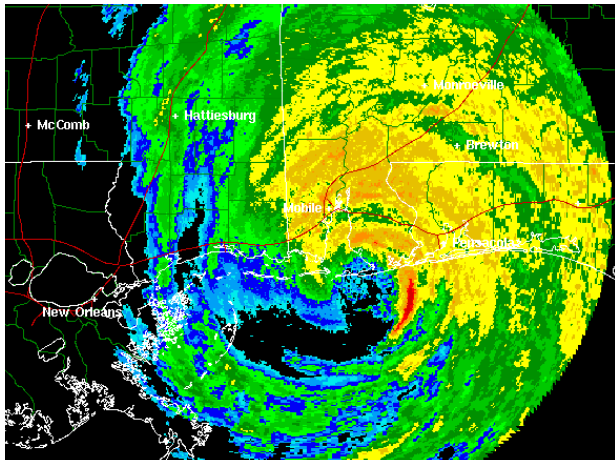
## ESCAMBIA COUNTY STORM CENTER

During hurricanes and other disasters, the Escambia County Storm Center at [MyEscambia.com/stormcenter](http://MyEscambia.com/stormcenter) is your one-stop resource for the latest county information, including weather advisories, road closures, Emergency Operations Center activation level, Citizen Information Line (471-6600) and more.



## ABOUT HURRICANES

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



Hurricane Ivan, 2004. Category 5.

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

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

Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous and require preventative measures.

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

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

## WATCH VS. WARNING

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

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

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

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

- National Weather Service

## 5

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HURRICANE HAZARD RISKS

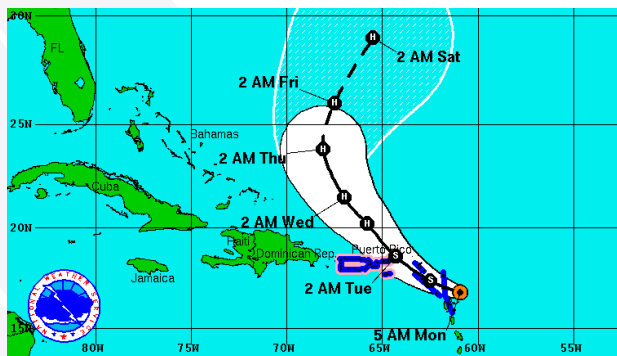
- 1 Storm surge is water pushed ashore by the winds of a tropical cyclone. It has caused more fatalities than any other hurricane hazard.
- 2 Winds from a hurricane are 74 mph or greater and can cause massive damage to buildings and structures in its path.
- 3 Inland flooding is the most frequent cause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

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



Florida Gulf Coast residents should track every Atlantic hurricane or tropical storm. When a storm forms, you will hear weather forecasters talk about the “forecast cone.” The cone represents the probable track of the center of a storm. A “5-day cone” and “3-day cone” are created to show the forecast path of the center of the storm with as much as a 198-mile “cone of uncertainty.” The storm could track anywhere within the cone so everyone in the cone area needs to begin storm preparations.

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



## Actions to Take Before the Cone

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

## 5-Day Cone Actions

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- If you or a family member is elderly, handicapped or has special care needs, be sure you know about special needs shelters (see page 21).
- Take photos of your property from all angles. It may not look the same after the storm passes.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- Check for, fix or remove loose items on your structures and homes.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and down spouts.
- If you live in an evacuation zone, know where you will go and how you will get there.

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

## 3-Day Cone Actions

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

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

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

## Hurricane Watch Actions

- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash. Secure papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools.
- Shutter your windows.
- Prepare boats.
- Help neighbors with their preparations.
- If your plans are to evacuate out of the local area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need for your “go bag”.

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

## Hurricane Warning Actions

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







# Make a Disaster Plan

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

## BEFORE A STORM

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

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



Pack an emergency supply kit.



Inform out-of-town family and friends of your emergency plans, and stay in contact.



Review your hurricane strategy each year with family members, including evacuation plans.



Fuel your vehicles prior to evacuating, as fuel pumps rely on electricity.



Have a supply of cash. ATMs and banks may not operate immediately following a storm.



Know your evacuation zone and familiarize yourself with routes.



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.

## MORE PRE-STORM TIPS

- Freeze water in plastic bottles to place in refrigerators and freezers to help keep cold.
- Adjust refrigerators and freezers to the coldest settings.
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water and check for leaks.
- Unplug small appliances that you will not use and turn off propane tanks.
- See Pages 16-17 for additional safety tips
- Visit: [Weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan](https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan) for additional information and resources.

## DURING A STORM

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

## AFTER A STORM

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

## WHEN YOU RETURN HOME

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



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

## Home



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

## Work



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

## Car



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

## WATERPROOF CONTAINER CHECKLIST

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

## TOOLS, FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

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

## FIRST AID KIT CHECKLIST

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

## WATER CHECKLIST

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





# Disaster Supplies Shopping List

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

## WEEK 1

### FOOD (per person)

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

## WEEK 2

### PROTECTING PROPERTY

- 2 boxes large plastic zip bags
- plastic wrap
- 2 rolls aluminum foil
- plastic containers with lids

## WEEK 3

### HEALTH AND 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 4

### CLEANING AND SUPPLIES

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

## WEEK 5

### MEDICAL NEEDS

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

## 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 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

## 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 9

### SMART SUPPLIES

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

## 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 11

### EVERYDAY SAFETY

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







## IF YOU IGNORE AN EVACUATION ORDER

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

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



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

Escambia County uses A - E to identify evacuation zones. Please see the map on page 13 of this guide. A is the area of lowest elevation, which includes our coastal area. The letters and zones then progress as you move inland to higher elevations. Each zone will be evacuated depending on the hurricane's track and projected storm surge. Storm surge, high winds and accessibility should all be considered when you determine if your home is safe to stay in during a hurricane.

## WHEN EVACUATING

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

## IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY HOME

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



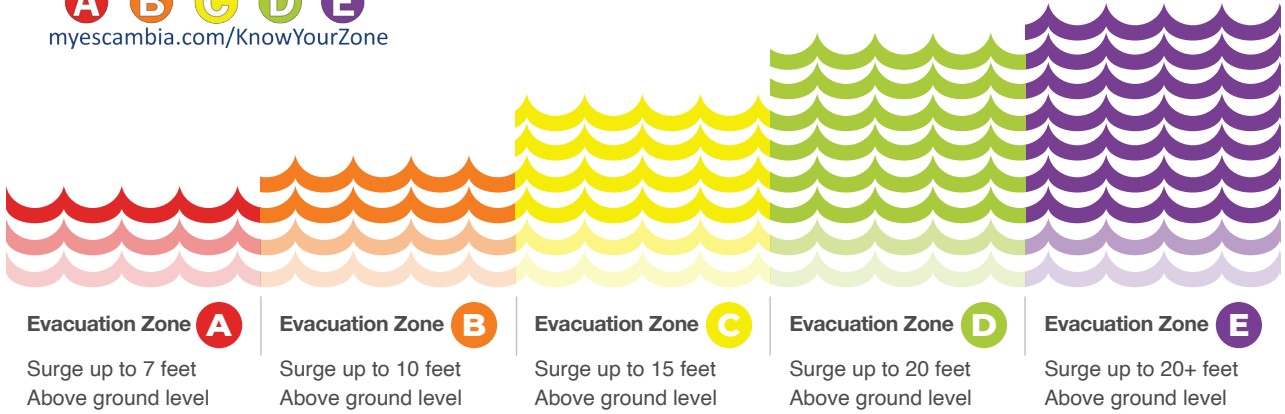
**A B C D E**  
[myescambia.com/KnowYourZone](http://myescambia.com/KnowYourZone)

**Staying safe from surge flooding is easy if you follow evacuation orders and do not wait until it is too late!**





**A B C D E**  
myscambia.com/KnowYourZone

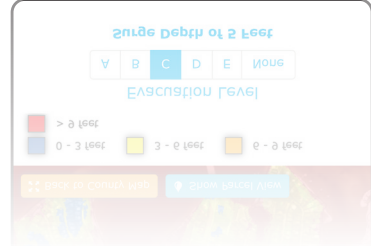
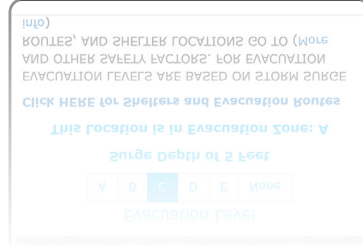
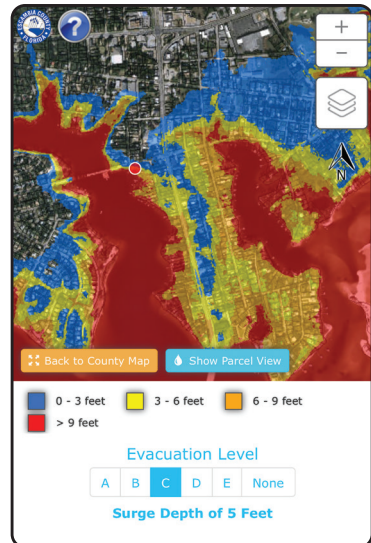
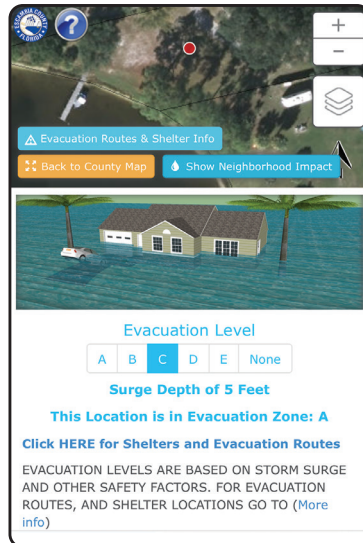


## Storm Surge and You

One of the most important hurricane preparation steps you can take is to know your evacuation zone – either A, B, C, D, E or none. Look it up at [MyEscambia.com/KnowYourZone](http://MyEscambia.com/KnowYourZone).

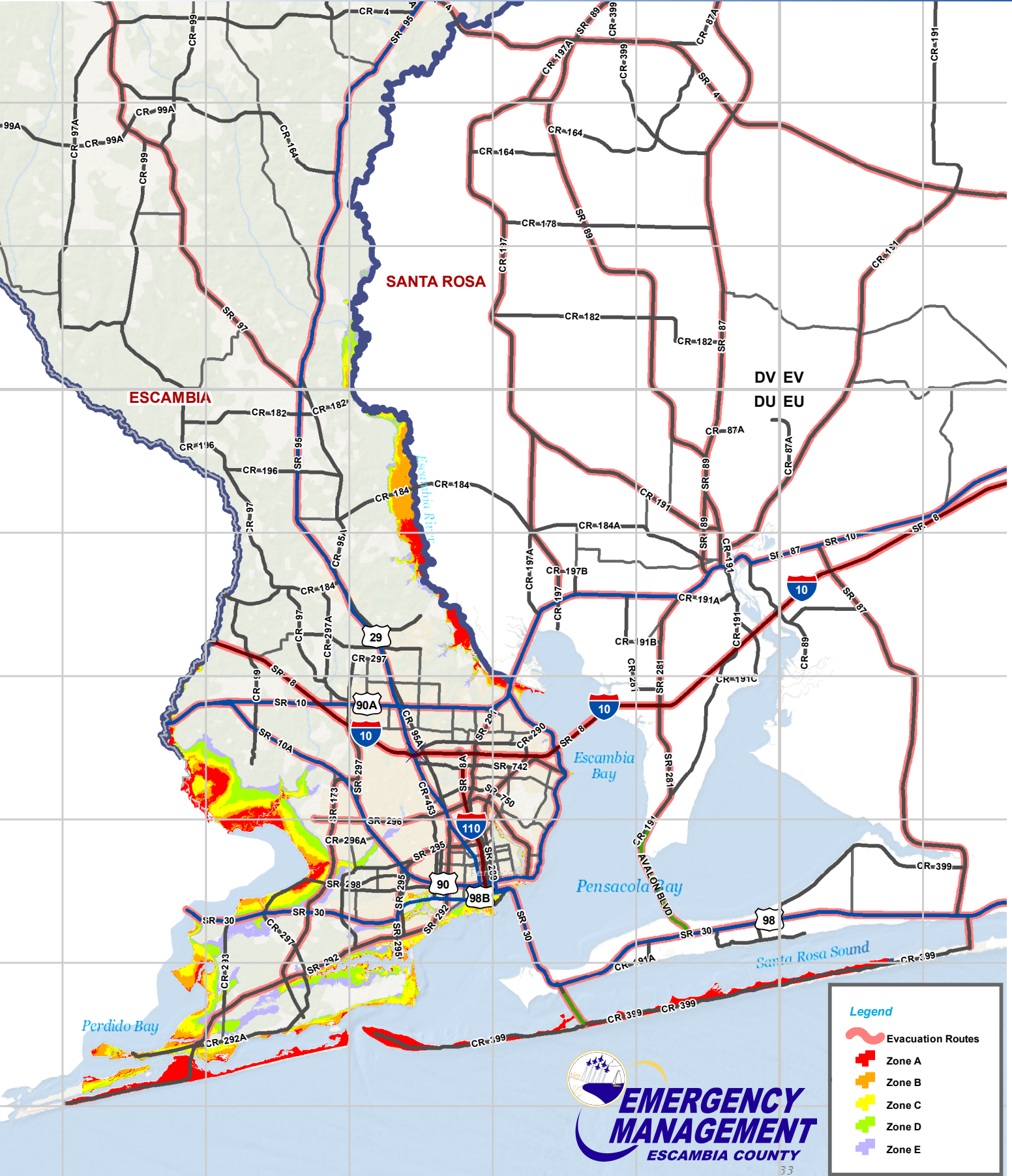
It is very important that you look up your evacuation zone EACH YEAR to find out **IF and WHEN** you should evacuate, even if you have looked it up in the past, as zones can change. Most importantly, do not rely on previous storm experience. Just because you weathered the last storm, does not mean you will weather this one.

Every storm is different, even if it is the same category. Categories only measure **wind speed** and **not storm surge**, so it does not tell the whole story. While wind can be very destructive, storm surge is often the killer – think **“run from water, hide from wind.”** A category 1 storm can have much more deadly storm surge than a category 3, it just depends on that particular system.





# Evacuation Routes and Zone Map





# Preparing for Power Outages

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

## GETTING READY

- If you use life-sustaining electrical equipment, pre-register with the special needs shelter (see page 21).
- Consider purchasing a small generator or know where to rent one if you use life-sustaining equipment that requires electrical power.
- Post the telephone number of the new construction, repairs and power outage listing of your local utility.
- If you own an electric garage door opener, learn how to open it without power.
- Prepare a power outage kit. For short outages, consider having glow light sticks, flashlights, battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a wind-up clock on hand.
- Make sure you have an alternate heat source and a supply of fuel.
- Have a corded phone available (cordless phones do not work without power).
- When installing large home generators, follow the manufacturer's instructions and have it inspected by the utility company and the county inspection and code compliance department.
- Unplug computers and other voltage sensitive equipment to protect them against possible surges (even if you have surge protectors) when power is restored.

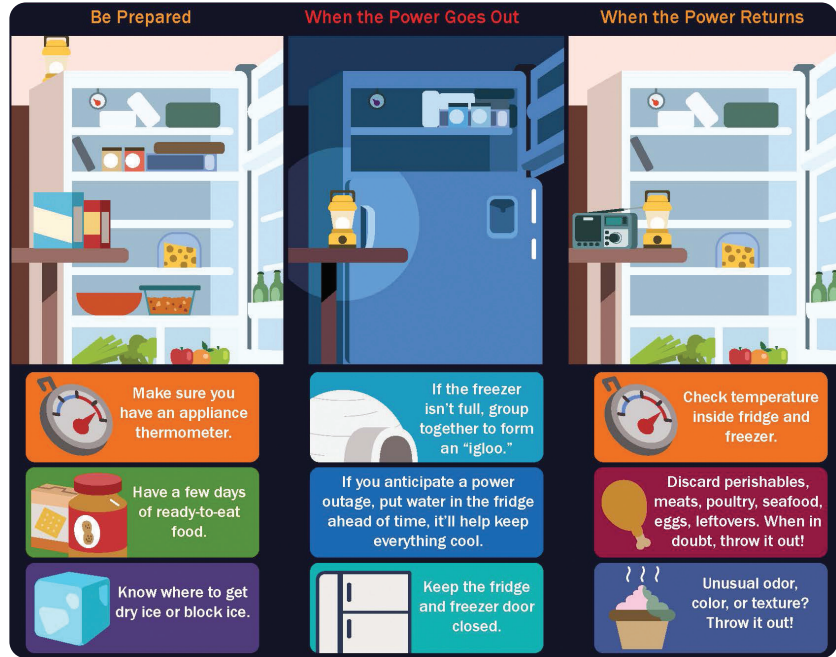
**Please do not call 911 to report power outages. Power outages should be reported to:**



Florida Power and Light at  
1-800-4-OUTAGE  
(1-800-468-8243)  
or [fpl.com](http://fpl.com)



Escambia River Electric  
Cooperative, Inc. at  
1-877-OUT-EREC  
(1-877-688-3732)  
or [erec.com](http://erec.com)  
(click on the outage map icon)



## WHEN THE OUTAGE COULD BE LENGTHY

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



## ITEMS YOU WILL NEED TO OPERATE A GENERATOR



### 1 CO DETECTOR

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



### 2 GAS CANS

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

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



### 3 FUEL STABILIZERS AND LUBRICANTS

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



### 4 EXTENSION CORDS

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

## Generator Safety Tips

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

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

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







# Safety – Preventing Damage

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

[fema.gov/mitigation-fact-sheets](https://fema.gov/mitigation-fact-sheets)

[FloridaDisaster.org/mitigation](https://FloridaDisaster.org/mitigation)

[MyEscambia.com/localmitigationstrategy](https://MyEscambia.com/localmitigationstrategy)



## PREVENTING WIND DAMAGE

If you are replacing your roof, take steps to ensure the new roof covering and the sheathing it attaches to will resist high winds.

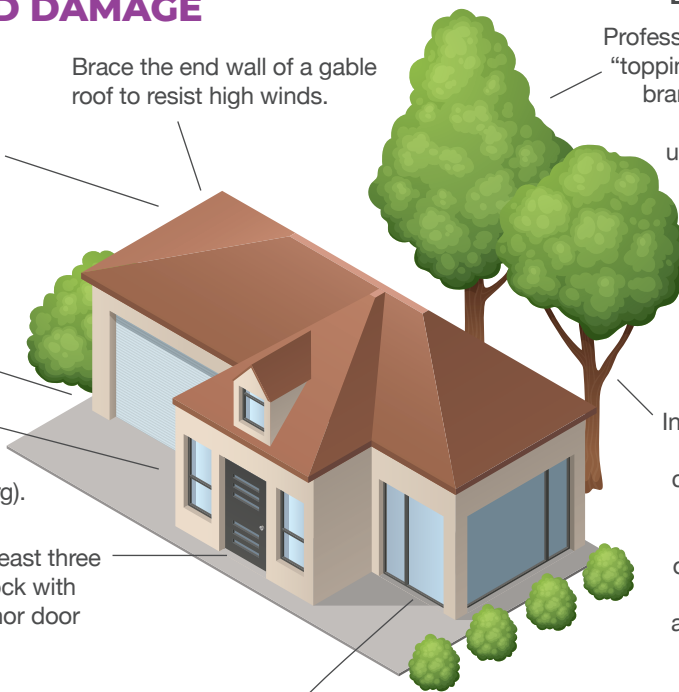
Brace the end wall of a gable roof to resist high winds.

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

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

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

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



### Do Not Top Your Trees

Professional arborists say that “topping,” the cutting of main branches back to stubs, is extremely harmful and unhealthy for your trees.

Stubs will often grow back many weakly attached branches that are higher and are more likely to break when a storm strikes.

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

- *International Society of Arboriculture*

## PREVENTING FLOOD DAMAGE

One way to protect your home from flood damage is to elevate. Most types of homes, including wood frame, brick veneer, slab-on-grade, crawl space or homes with basements can be elevated above floodwaters. This is a reliable flood proofing method and requires little human intervention to prepare for a flood. Elevation requirements vary with local codes and ordinances but the new first floor elevation should be at or above the 100-year-flood level. You may wish to exceed the code requirements. Some buildings may be elevated high enough for the new

lower level to serve as a garage. All elevated homes need new stairs and porches built to the new height. Elevating a home requires the services of plumbers, electricians, house movers and contractors. The new foundation will be in the floodwaters; therefore, it is important that it be structurally designed to withstand lateral (sideways) forces like fast-flowing currents and the impact of waterborne debris. A structural engineer can help you design your new foundation and obtain a permit from your building department.







## TURNING OFF UTILITIES

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

### Turning Off Natural Gas

- There are different gas shut-off procedures for different gas meter configurations. It is important to contact your local gas company for guidance on preparation and response regarding gas appliances and gas service to your home.
- Be sure not to actually turn off the gas when practicing the proper gas shut-off procedure.
- If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

**CAUTION:** If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

### Turning Off Water

- You will need to protect the water sources already in your home from contamination if you hear reports of broken water or sewage lines, or if local officials advise you of a problem.
- To close the incoming water source, locate the incoming valve and turn it to the closed position. To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your home at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the home.
- To use the water in your hot water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is off, and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning off the water intake valve at the tank and turning on the hot water faucet. Refill the tank before turning the gas or electricity back on. If the gas is turned off, a professional will be needed to turn it back on.

### Turning Off Electricity

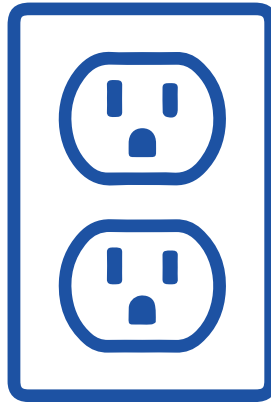
- Locate your electricity circuit box.
- Flip the breaker fully to the off position.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY:** Always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.

## STEPS FOR RENTERS

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

- Have a plan and a disaster kit (see page 9).
- Know if you live in an evacuation or flood zone (see pages 12-13). Be ready to take action if evacuation orders are given for your area.
- Talk with your landlord - what steps will they take to protect your home? Are there shutters, pre-cut plywood or other window protection available? If not, make plans to shelter in a protected structure.



- The renter's personal property is not covered by the landlord's homeowners insurance. Personal property insurance and flood insurance for renters are a low cost way to protect yourself. Be sure to make a list of your belongings in case you ever need to make an insurance claim.

## PREPARING YOUR POOL

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





# Sheltering with Pets

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

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

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

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

## INTAKE PROCESS

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

## WHAT TO BRING FOR YOUR PET

- Medications
- Proof of vaccinations
- Food
- Bedding
- Crate/pet carrier
- Collar with ID tag
- Leash
- Familiar items like toys

**All pets without proof of vaccinations will be vaccinated on site.**

## SERVICE ANIMALS

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

## PREPARING TO EVACUATE WITH YOUR PET(S)

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

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

**How to Prepare Before a Disaster**

- Not all shelters will accept pets, plan in advance for shelter options that will work for both you and your pets.
- Develop a buddy system with neighbors or friends to make sure that someone is available to care for your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Assemble an emergency kit for your pet.

**What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:**

- Food and water (3 days) bowls, manual can opener
- Medicines, medical records, and first aid kit
- Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash (include backups)
- Crate or pet carrier
- A picture of you and your pet together
- Important documents: registration & vaccination
- Familiar items: favorite toys, treats, and bedding
- Plastic bags/litter for cleaning up after your pet

**What to Do During a Disaster**

- Bring your pet inside immediately.
- Separate dogs and cats. Anxiety may affect their behavior.
- Feed them moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.
- Have extra newspapers, for sanitary reasons.

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





## 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.

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

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

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

**James C. Robinson Escambia County Equestrian Center, 7750 Mobile Highway in Pensacola**, may accept equine animals during an evacuation as a result of hurricanes, based on the severity of the approaching storm. All care of the equine animals will be at the responsibility of the animal owners. No feeding or care services will be provided by the county or pet shelter managers.

### SHELTERING IN PLACE

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

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

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



### PREPARING THE FARM

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

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

### DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

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

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

#### Useful Websites:

[sshc.org](http://sshc.org) – Emergency equine shelter/evacuation info  
[FreshFromFlorida.com](http://FreshFromFlorida.com) – FL Dept. of Agriculture Animal Sheltering







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

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

## SHELTER CONDUCT

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

## THINGS TO TAKE TO A PUBLIC SHELTER

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

- ✓ A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- ✓ Toiletries and personal items
- ✓ Blankets or sleeping bags and pillows
- ✓ Identification and any important papers
- ✓ Games, toys or books for children
- ✓ Books for adults
- ✓ Special items for infants or elderly family members
- ✓ Any special dietary needs 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

## ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION TO A PUBLIC SHELTER

If someone needs round-trip transportation assistance to a special needs, general public or pet friendly hurricane shelter, these services are available through ECAT when evacuations are ordered and hurricane shelters are opened. ECAT does not provide a pre-registration service. When you are ready for pick up you can call ECAT at (850) 595-3228 to get on their route schedule. Please communicate any ADA, medical or special transportation needs when you call ECAT.



# Shelters are a Last Resort

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

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GOING TO AN EVACUATION SHELTER

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



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

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

## REGISTERING FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

Register at [snr.floridadisaster.org](http://snr.floridadisaster.org). If you do not have internet access, you may call (850) 471-6400 for an application to be mailed to you. Your home health agency or local physician will also have access to the registration forms. Mail completed forms to:

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

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

For more information about special needs shelters in Escambia County, visit [SNR.FLHealthResponse.com](http://SNR.FLHealthResponse.com).

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
- Hyperalimenation
- 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

### Q: When does the special needs shelter open?

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

### Q: How do I get to the shelter?

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

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

**A:** 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.

### Q: What are the special needs shelter accommodations?

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

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

## QUESTIONS

For medical questions about which shelter will best accommodate your needs, call the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County at (850) 595-6500 ext. 2200.







# Cleaning Up Safely

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

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

**IF YOU NEED HELP AFTER A STORM, TRY CRISISCLEANUP.ORG.**

### Please separate storm debris into these categories:

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

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



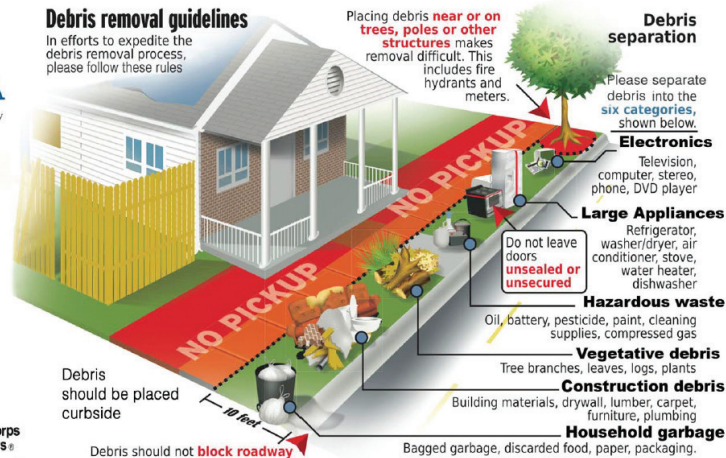
## CHAINSAW SAFETY

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



### Debris removal guidelines

In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these rules





## PURIFYING WATER

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

### Boiling

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

### Using Bleach

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

**CAUTION:** Do not use more chlorine bleach than recommended. Excessive amounts can be poisonous!

## WELL WATER

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

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

## FLOODING AND SEPTIC TANKS

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

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







# Damage Assessments

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

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

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

## ABOUT DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

Information, such as aerial surveys, door-to-door evaluations in the affected areas and initial damage reports from various partners.

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





# Filing Insurance Claims

## STORM DAMAGE INSURANCE CHECKLIST



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

Source: Florida Insurance Council

## PREPARING FOR THE INSURANCE ADJUSTER'S VISIT

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

## DO YOU SUSPECT INSURANCE FRAUD?

To report suspected insurance fraud, call the Florida Department of Financial Services Fraud Hotline at 1-800-378-0445, or visit [FraudFreeFlorida.com](http://FraudFreeFlorida.com).



## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE

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

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





## Do You Really Know How Deep The Water Is?

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

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



### FLOOD SAFETY

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



*6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.*



*12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.*



*18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.*

### WATCH VS. WARNING

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

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

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

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

- National Weather Service





## GENERAL FLOOD INFORMATION

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

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

## FLOOD INSURANCE

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

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

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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

- Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches, streams, creeks or rivers. Dumping is a violation of Escambia County Ordinance 42-154. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate, plug channels, creeks and streams. A blocked channel cannot carry rain or flood water.
- If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Escambia County maintenance can assist to remove major blockages such as fallen trees.

- If you see dumping or debris in the ditches, please contact Escambia County Public Works Department, (850) 937-2130, or in the City of Pensacola, (850) 435-1755.
- Always check with the building inspections division before you build, alter, re-grade or fill on your property. A permit may be needed to ensure projects do not cause problems on other properties. Escambia County Building Inspections Division, (850) 595-3550.
- If you see building or construction without a county permit sign posted, contact the building inspections division, (850) 595-3550.

## PROPERTY PROTECTION

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



2020 flood damage - Hurricane Sally

## LOCAL SERVICES

For assistance with flood zone determination or an elevation certificate:

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

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





## Tips

### FOR PARENTS AND POOL OWNERS

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

#### Practice Supervision

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

#### Install Barriers

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

#### Avoid Entrapments

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

#### Know Life-Saving Skills

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

## Securing Your Boat

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

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





## BEACH SAFETY

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

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



**Water Closed to Public**  
**Agua Cerrada al Publico**



**High Hazard**  
High Surf and / or Strong Currents  
**Peligro Alto,**  
Resaca Alta y / o Corrientes Fuertes



**Medium Hazard**  
Moderate Surf and / or Currents  
**Peligro Medio,**  
Resaca Moderada y / o Corrientes Fuertes



**Low Hazard**  
Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution  
**Peligro Bajo,**  
Condiciones Calmas, Tenga Cuidado



**Dangerous Marine Life**  
**Vida Marina Peligrosa**

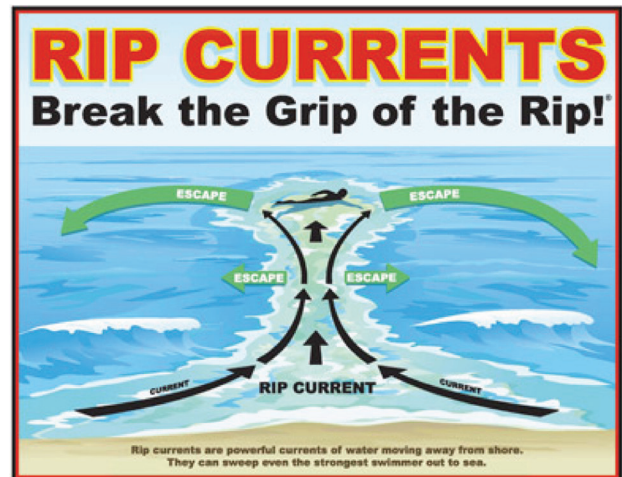
## RIP CURRENTS

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

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

## RIP CURRENT TIPS

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



## 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:

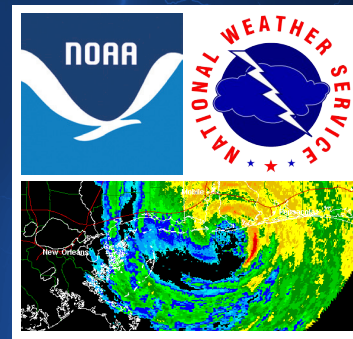
[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)  
[www.usla.org](http://www.usla.org)





## STAY INFORMED WITH WEATHER APPS

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



## Nature's Most Violent Storms

**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. 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.**

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.

## 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 [weather.gov/nwr](http://weather.gov/nwr).

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

## THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE (EF SCALE)

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

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

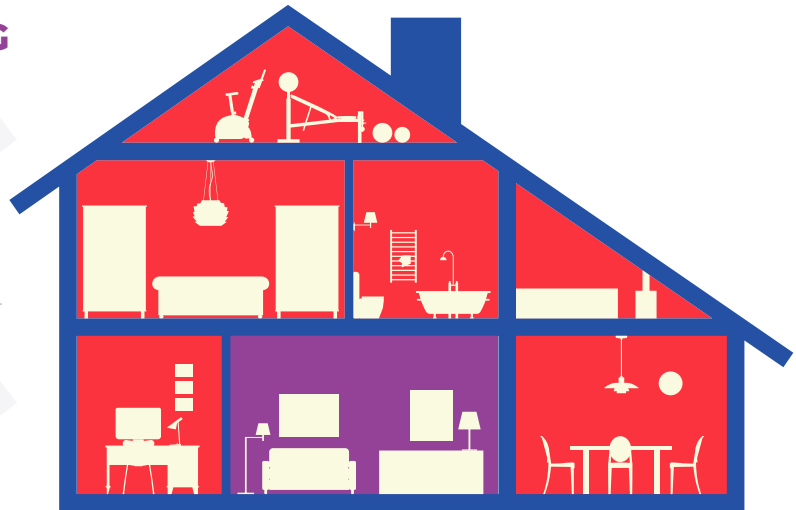
## TAKING SHELTER DURING A TORNADO

### Not Safe

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

### Safest

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



## KNOW THE TERMS

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

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





## BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

### WHAT:

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



Children

### WHO:



Older adults

More males than females are affected



Outside workers



People with disabilities

### WHERE:



Houses with little to no AC



Construction worksites



Cars

### HOW to AVOID:



Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages



Stay cool in an air conditioned area



Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes

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

Outside Temperature 80°



Time Elapsed: 20 minutes



Time Elapsed: 40 minutes



Time Elapsed: 60 minutes

### HEAT ALERTS: Know the difference.

#### HEAT OUTLOOK

Minor

Excessive heat event in 3 to 7 days

#### HEAT WATCHES

Excessive heat event in 12 to 48 hours

#### HEAT WARNING/ADVISORY

Major

Excessive heat event in next 36 hours

### DID YOU KNOW?

Those living in **urban areas** may be at a greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas.

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

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

During 1999–2009, an average of **658** people died each year from heat in the United States.

**\$30 BILLION** estimated total cost of the 2012 US drought and heatwave.

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



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

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

### KNOW THE SIGNS

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

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

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

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

### DURING A HEAT EMERGENCY

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

### DO NOT FORGET YOUR PETS!

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



## EXTREME COLD WEATHER TIPS

- Stay indoors and use safe heating sources.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials.
- Check on elderly or disabled family, friends or neighbors.
- Leave faucets dripping slightly to avoid freezing.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- Before winter, have your home heating checked out.
- Store a supply of wood for fireplaces/wood-burning stoves.
- Insulate walls and attics and weather-stripping doors and windows or covering them with plastic.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case pipes burst).
- Check vehicle maintenance/antifreeze levels to avoid freezing.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

## PET SAFETY

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



## PLANTS

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

### AVOID \*SPOT\* TREAT

#### FROSTBITE & HYPOTHERMIA

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

#### AVOID

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

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

- A SCARF OR KNIT MASK THAT COVERS FACE & MOUTH
- A HAT
- A WATER-RESISTANT COAT
- MITTENS OR GLOVES
- SEVERAL LAYERS OF LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING
- WATER-RESISTANT BOOTS

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

**Know who is at high risk:**

- Older adults without proper food, clothing, or heating
- People who stay outdoors for long periods (homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.)
- People who drink alcohol in excess or use illicit drugs
- Babies sleeping in cold rooms

#### SPOT

##### FROSTBITE

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

**Signs & Symptoms**

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

**Other signs include:**

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

##### HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia often begins with cold temperatures, but can occur at mild temperatures (above 40°F) if a person is wet (from rain, snow or cold water) and becomes chilled.

**Signs & Symptoms**

**Adults:**

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

**Infants:**

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

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

#### TREAT

If a person is experiencing hypothermia or frostbite...

- SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- GET THEM INTO A WARM ROOM OR SHELTER
- REMOVE ANY WET CLOTHING
- WARM THEM UNDER DRY LAYERS OF BLANKETS AND CLOTHING
- PLACE AREAS AFFECTED BY FROSTBITE IN WARM-TO-TOUCH WATER

#### FROSTBITE CAUTION

Since skin may be numb, victims of frostbite can harm themselves further. Use caution when treating frostbite and:

- UNLESS NECESSARY, DO NOT WALK ON FEET OR TOES WITH FROSTBITE
- DO NOT USE A FIREPLACE, HEAT LAMP, RADIATOR, OR STOVE FOR WARMING
- DO NOT USE A HEATING PAD OR ELECTRIC BLANKET FOR WARMING
- DO NOT RUB OR MASSAGE AREAS WITH FROSTBITE

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

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







## Thunderstorms and Lightning

Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills 20 or more people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured, according to NOAA's National Weather Service.

### LIGHTNING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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

Source: NOAA

### SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

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

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

### INDOOR LIGHTNING SAFETY

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

### LIGHTNING SAFETY

Summer is the most dangerous season for lightning. Most lightning fatalities occur in June, July and August.

### OUTDOOR RISK REDUCTION TIPS

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

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

**LIGHTNING SAFETY**  
Summer is the most dangerous season for lightning. Most lightning fatalities occur in June, July and August.

**64%**  
Sixty-four percent of lightning fatalities result from outdoor recreation. A large portion of these are from water activities and sports.

www.weather.gov/lightning



## Myth vs. Fact

**Myth:** If you are caught outside during a thunderstorm, you should crouch down to reduce your risk of being struck.

**Fact:** Crouching does not make you any safer outdoors. Run to a substantial building or hard topped vehicle. If you are too far to run to one of these options, you have no good alternative. You are NOT safe anywhere outdoors.

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

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it is a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit an average of 23 times a year.

**Myth:** If it is not raining or there are not clouds overhead, you are safe from lightning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### IF LIGHTNING STRIKES A PERSON

- ✓ Call 911 for medical assistance immediately.
- ✓ If the person is not responsive and not breathing, BEGIN CPR IMMEDIATELY. Use an Automatic External Defibrillator if available.
- ✓ Check for other injuries - Check for burns in two places. The injured person has received an electric shock and may be burned where struck and where the electricity left their body. Being struck by lightning can also cause nervous system damage, broken bones and loss of hearing or eyesight. People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and cannot shock other people.

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

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

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

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

**Myth:** lightning flashes are 3-4 km apart

**Fact:** Old data said successive flashes were on the order of 3-4 km apart. New data shows half the flashes are about 9 km apart. The National Severe Storms Laboratory report concludes: "It appears the safety rules need to be modified to increase the distance from a previous flash which can be considered to be relatively safe, to at least 10 to 13 km (6 to 8 miles). In the past, 3 to 5 km (2-3 miles) was as used in lightning safety education." Source: Separation Between Successive Lightning Flashes in Different Storms Systems: 1998, Lopez & Holle, from Proceedings 1998 Intl Lightning Detection Conference, Tucson AZ, November 1998.

**Myth:** A high percentage of lightning flashes are forked.

**Fact:** Many cloud-to-ground lightning flashes have forked or multiple attachment points to earth. Tests carried out in the US and Japan verify this finding in at least half of negative flashes and more than 70% of positive flashes. Many lightning detectors cannot acquire accurate information about these multiple ground lightning attachments. Source: Termination of Multiple Stroke Flashes Observed by Electro- Magnetic Field: 1998, Ishii, et al. Proceedings 1998 Intl Lightning Protection Conference, Birmingham UK, Sept. 1998.

**Myth:** Lightning can spread out some 60 feet after striking Earth.

**Fact:** Radial horizontal arcing has been measured at least 20 meters from the point where lightning hits ground. Depending on soils characteristics, safe conditions for people and equipment near lightning termination points (ground rods) may need to be re-evaluated. Source: 1993 Triggered Lightning Test Program: Environments Within 20 meters of the Lightning Channel and Small Are Temporary Protection Concepts: 1993, SAND94-0311, Sandia Natl Lab, Albuquerque NM.







## SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

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

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

## DO YOU HAVE A SMOKE ALARM?

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

## SAFETY TIPS

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

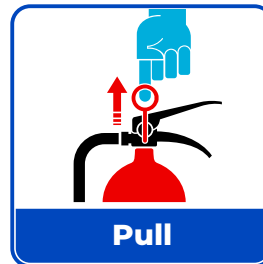
## IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

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

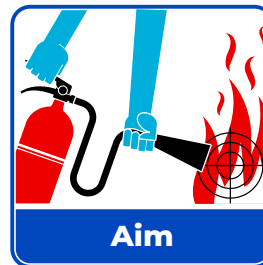
# Fire Extinguishers

WHEN IT IS TIME TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER, JUST REMEMBER

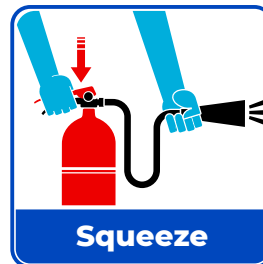
# P.A.S.S.



Pull the pin.



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



Squeeze the operating lever to discharge the fire extinguishing agent.



Starting at the recommended distance, sweep the nozzle or hose from side to side until the fire is out. Move forward or around the area as the fire diminishes. Watch the area in case of re-ignition.

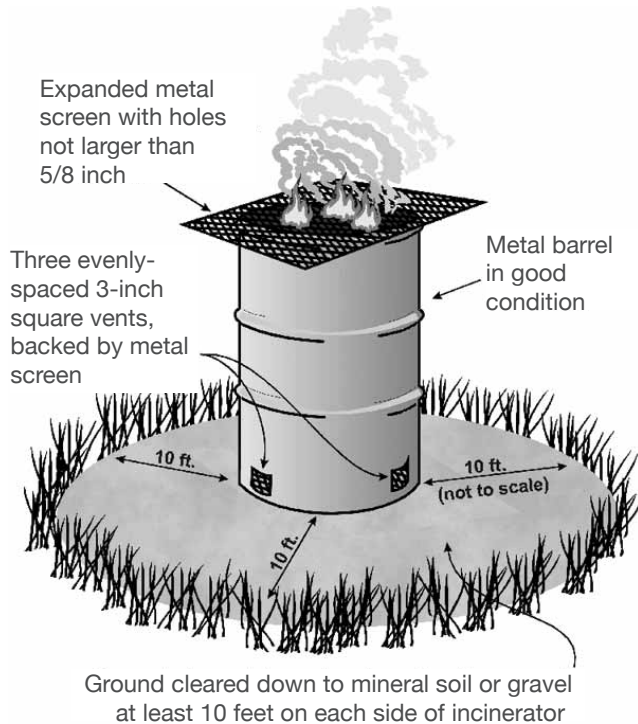
Source: FEMA



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

With proper site preparation and forethought, people can burn vegetative debris with reasonable safety. Taking the time to plan an outdoor burning project, preparing the burn site, and equipping yourself with basic fire suppression tools before lighting the match will dramatically reduce the chance of a burn pile fire getting out of control and becoming a 911 call.

## USING A BURN BARREL



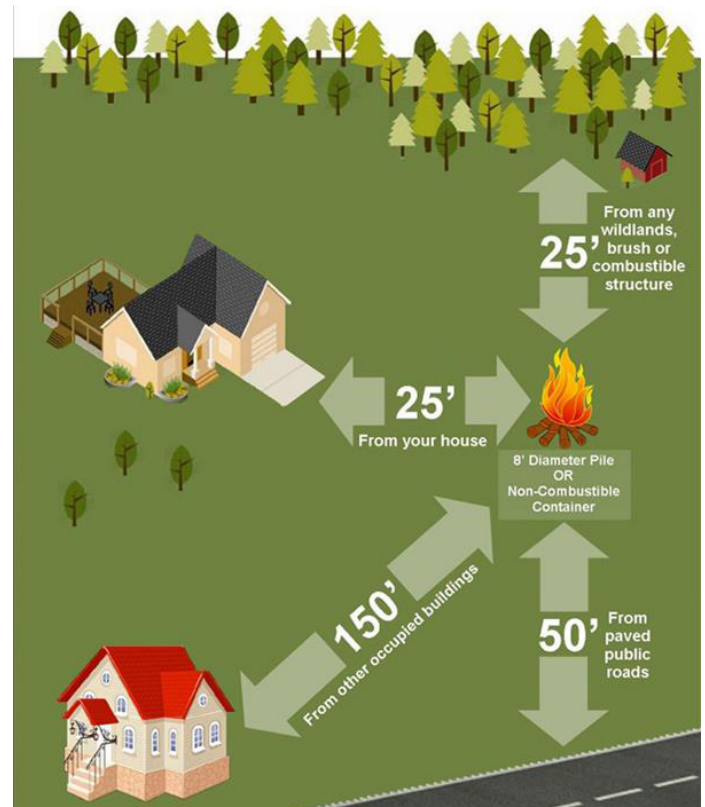
## IS IT REALLY OUT?

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

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

## OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS

- It is illegal to burn household garbage (including paper products), treated lumber, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint and aerosol containers.
- Dry (not green) vegetative debris such as grass clippings, pine straw, leaves, tree limbs and shrub trimmings can be legally burned between 8 a.m. and one hour before sunset if it is in a pile 8 ft. or less in diameter and located:
  - 25 feet from any forested area (grasslands, brush or wildlands).
  - 25 feet from your home or other combustible structure.
  - 50 feet from any paved or public roadway.
  - 150 feet from any occupied dwelling other than your own home.
- Burning material in a pile larger than 8 ft. diameter, or burning any area of land, requires an authorization from the Florida Forest Service at (850) 957-5700, and is subject to additional restrictions.
- City of Pensacola residents are not permitted to burn leaves or grass clippings in the city limits.



## TIPS FOR BURNING YARD WASTE SAFELY

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

- Florida Forest Service







# Wildfires

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

Advance planning and knowing how to protect buildings can lessen the devastation of a wildfire. To reduce the risk, you will 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.
- Close all doors and windows when evacuating your home.





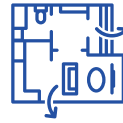


## PREPARING TO LEAVE

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

## WHAT TO DO AFTER A WILDFIRE

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



### Know two ways out of every room

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



### Make a fire escape plan

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



### Think about your needs

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



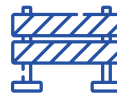
### Prepare for wildfire

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



### During a wildfire

Follow evacuation instructions from your emergency officials.



### After a wildfire

Return home only when emergency officials say it is safe.







# If you See Something, Say Something

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP KEEP  
OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

## NTAS ALERTS ARE ORGANIZED INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

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

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

### Alerts are Available via:

Official DHS NTAS webpage:  
[dhs.gov/alerts](https://dhs.gov/alerts)

Email sign-up: [dhs.gov/alerts](https://dhs.gov/alerts)

Facebook and Twitter by  
searching **NTASAlerts**

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

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

## IF A TERRORISM EVENT OCCURS

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

- American Red Cross

## TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

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

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

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

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

### Good practices for coping with an active shooter situation

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

### How to respond when an active shooter is in your vicinity



- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view.



- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors.
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager.
- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.



- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter.

### How to respond when law enforcement arrives

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

if you  
**SEE** something | **SAY** something™

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** to local authorities.

**Call 855-FLA-SAFE**  
(855-352-7233)



If You See Something Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

### Information you should provide to law enforcement or 911 operator

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

### Department of Homeland Security Resources

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

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



## PANDEMIC BASICS

Although pandemics infrequently occur, planning and preparing for a pandemic is essential to ensure an effective response. An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new influenza A virus that is very different from current and recently circulating human seasonal influenza A viruses. Pandemics happen when new (novel) influenza A viruses emerge, which can infect people easily and spread from person to person in an efficient and sustained way.

### SEASONAL FLU VS. PANDEMIC FLU

	Seasonal Flu	Pandemic Flu
<b>How often does it happen?</b>	Happens annually and usually peaks between December and February.	Rarely happens (three times in the 20th century).
<b>Will most people be immune?</b>	Usually, some immunity from previous exposures and influenza vaccination.	Most people have little to no immunity because they have no prior exposure to the virus or similar viruses.
<b>Who is at risk for complications?</b>	Certain people are at high risk for complications (infants, elderly, pregnant women, extreme obesity and persons with certain chronic medical conditions).	Healthy people also may be at high risk of severe complications.
<b>Where can I get medical care?</b>	Health care providers and hospitals can usually meet public and patient needs.	Health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed. Alternate care sites may be available to meet public and patient needs.
<b>Will a vaccine be available?</b>	The vaccine is available for the annual flu season. Usually, one dose of vaccine is needed for most people.	Although the U.S. government maintains a limited stockpile of pandemic vaccine, the vaccine may not be available in the pandemic's early stages. Two doses of vaccine may be needed.
<b>Will antivirals be available?</b>	Adequate supplies of antivirals are usually available.	Antiviral supply may not be adequate to meet demand.
<b>How many people could get sick and suffer complications?</b>	Rates of medical visits, complications, hospitalizations and death can vary from high to low. CDC estimates that flu-related hospitalizations since 2010 ranged from 140,000 to 710,000, while flu-related deaths are estimated to have ranged from 12,000 to 56,000.	Rates of medical visits, complications, hospitalizations and death can range from moderate to high. The number of deaths could be much higher than seasonal flu (e.g., The estimated U.S. death toll during the 1918 pandemic was approximately 675,000).
<b>What impact will it have on schools and workplaces?</b>	Usually causes minor impact to the general public, some schools may close and sick people are encouraged to stay home. Manageable impact on domestic and world economies.	May cause significant impact on the general public, such as travel restrictions and school or business closings. Potential for severe impact on domestic and world economies.



## BEFORE A PANDEMIC OCCURS: PLAN

Developing a household plan for pandemic flu will help ensure flu readiness. Your plan's details should be based on your household's needs and daily routine, including alternative arrangements for a child, elder and pet care.

1. **Talk with the people who need to be included in your plan.**
2. **Plan ways to care for those at greater risk of severe complications.**
3. **Get to know your neighbors.**
4. **Identify organizations in your community that can offer assistance.**
5. **Create an emergency contact list.**
6. **Practice and teach everyday preventative actions now.**
7. **Plan to have extra supplies of essential items on hand.**
8. **Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate sick household members from those who are unhealthy.**
9. **Be prepared for your child's school or child care facility to be temporarily closed.**
10. **Plan for changes at your workplace.**



## DURING A PANDEMIC: TAKE ACTION

**Did you know that people may be able to spread the flu to others before knowing they are sick as well as while they are sick?**

Knowing when someone is sick with flu is not always easy. Adults may be able to spread flu to other people beginning one day before symptoms occur and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Children can spread flu for longer than seven days. Flu symptoms start one to four days after the virus enters the body. That means you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Some people can be infected with the flu virus, but have no symptoms at all. During this time, they may still spread the virus to others. During a pandemic, you can take action to protect yourself and others by:

- ✓ Staying home when you are sick with flu symptoms.
- ✓ Keeping away from others who are sick.
- ✓ Limiting face-to-face contact with others (as much as possible).

If you or your household members are at high risk for flu complications, please consult with your health care provider for more information. Early action to stop the spread of the flu will help keep you and your household members healthy.

1. **Stay informed about the local flu situation.**
2. **Avoid close contact with others.**
3. **Stay home if you become sick.**
4. **Continue practicing everyday preventative actions.**
5. **Use the separate room and bathroom you prepared for sick household members.**
6. **Stay in touch with others by phone or email.**
7. **Notify your workplace as soon as possible if your schedule changes.**

## IMPORTANT EVERYDAY PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid sharing personal items like food, drinks or lip gloss. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects with regular soap and water or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved products. Always follow product labels when using disinfectants.

*Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention*





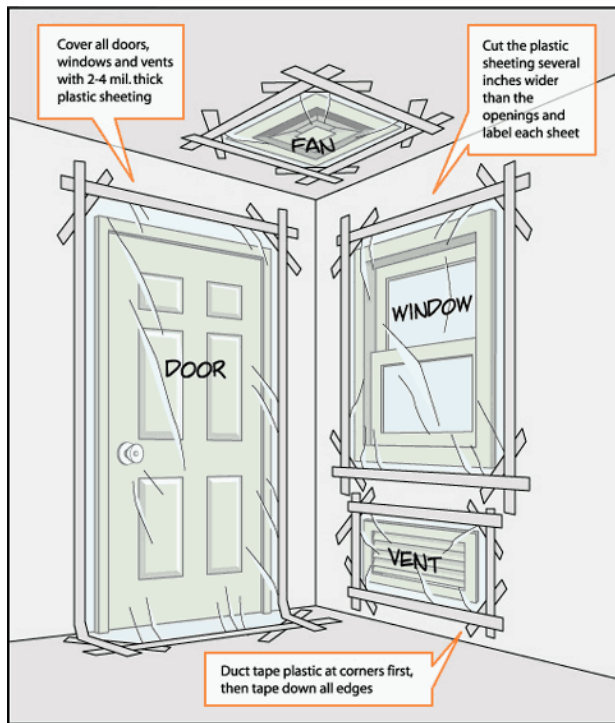


If there were a chemical emergency near your home, would you know what to do? The following information will help you be better prepared.

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

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

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



## SHELTERING IN PLACE KIT:

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

## SHELTERING IN PLACE

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

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

– Ready.gov and the American Red Cross

## WHAT IF I AM IN MY CAR?

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

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





# BE PREPARED FOR A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

Nuclear explosions can cause significant damage and casualties from blast, heat and radiation but you can keep your family safe by knowing what to do and being prepared if it occurs.



**FEMA**

A nuclear weapon is a device that uses a nuclear reaction to create an explosion.

Nuclear devices range from a small portable device carried by an individual to a weapon carried by a missile.

A nuclear explosion may occur with or without a few minutes warning.



**Bright FLASH** can cause temporary blindness for less than a minute.



**BLAST WAVE** can cause death, injury and damage to structures several miles out from the blast.



**RADIATION** can damage cells of the body. Large exposures can cause radiation sickness.



**FIRE AND HEAT** can cause death, burn injuries and damage to structures several miles out.



**ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE (EMP)** can damage electronics several miles out from the detonation and cause temporary disruptions further out.



**FALLOUT** is radioactive, visible dirt and debris raining down that can cause sickness to those who are outside.

Fallout is most dangerous in the first few hours after the detonation when it is giving off the highest levels of radiation. It takes time for fallout to arrive back to ground level, often more than 15 minutes for areas outside of the immediate blast damage zones. This is enough time for you to be able to prevent significant radiation exposure by following these simple steps:

For more information, visit [ready.gov/nuclear-blast](https://ready.gov/nuclear-blast)



## GET INSIDE



Get inside the nearest building to avoid radiation. Brick or concrete are best.



Remove contaminated clothing and wipe off or wash unprotected skin if you were outside after the fallout arrived.



Go to the basement or middle of the building. Stay away from the outer walls and roof.



## STAY INSIDE



Stay inside for 24 hours unless local authorities provide other instructions.



Family should stay where they are inside. Reunite later to avoid exposure to dangerous radiation.



Keep your pets inside.



## STAY TUNED



Tune into any media available for official information such as when it is safe to exit and where you should go.



Battery operated and hand crank radios will function after a nuclear detonation.



Cell phone, text messaging, television and internet services may be disrupted or unavailable.





## Pesticides In Your Home

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

### Did you know that these common household products are pesticides?

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

### The basic steps in reducing pesticide risks are:

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

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

Call 911. If the person does not have these symptoms, contact your local Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222. Have the product container with you when you call for assistance. Remember to act fast!

## PROTECT YOURSELF

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

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

## PROTECT YOUR PETS

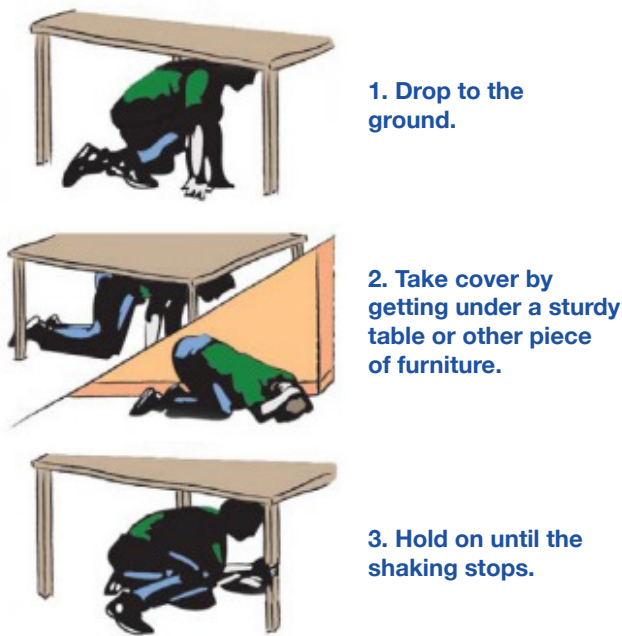
- Remove all sources of stagnant water around your home where mosquitoes might breed.
- Your pets should be kept inside during peak mosquito feeding times (dawn and dusk).
- Contact your veterinarian if you are concerned about your pets' health.
- Use of mosquito resistant structures such as well-maintained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







REMEMBER DROP, COVER, HOLD AT THE FIRST SIGN OF SHAKING:



1. Drop to the ground.

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

3. Hold on until the shaking stops.

## 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.

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

## BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

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

## PRECAUTIONS IN YOUR HOME

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

## DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- 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.
- 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.

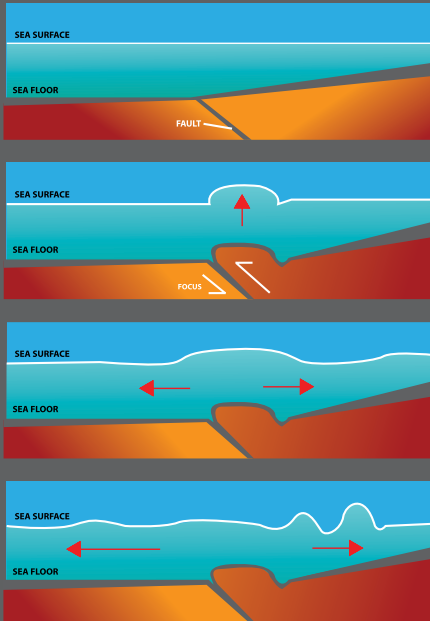


# Tsunami Science

Tsunamis are a series of ocean waves caused by a sudden disturbance of the ocean floor – such as an earthquake or underwater landslide - that displaces a large mass of water. Tsunamis may also be caused by meteors and other extra-terrestrial objects which may impact the surface of the ocean.

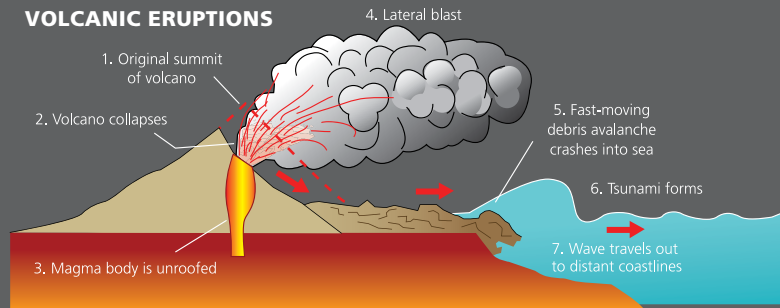
## Main Causes

### EARTHQUAKES



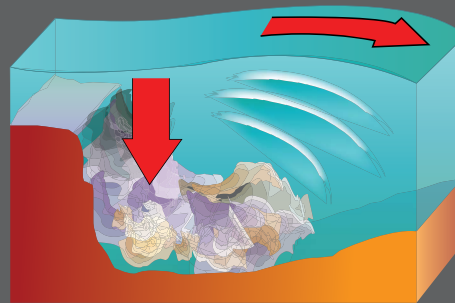
Large earthquakes occurring beneath the seafloor or close to the shore can generate tsunamis as illustrated in the above diagram.

### VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS



As illustrated in the diagram above, volcanic eruptions occurring on land can cause tsunamis. Underwater volcanic eruptions can emit large volumes of volcanic material which displace the ocean and generate tsunami waves in the immediate area.

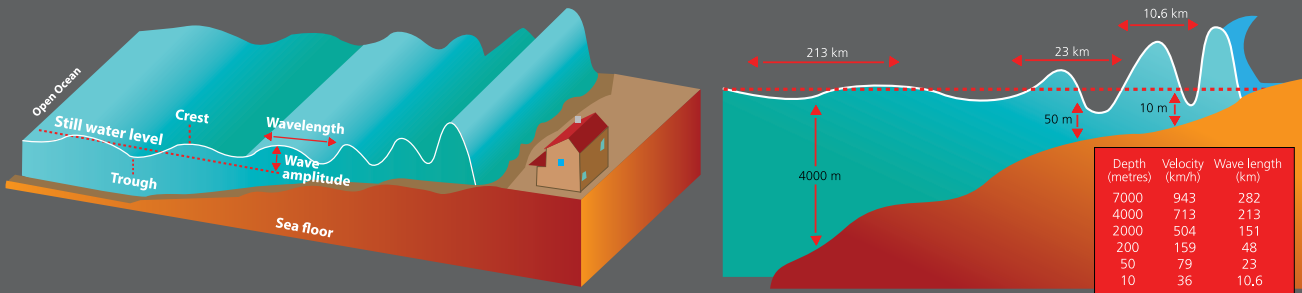
### LANDSLIDES



As illustrated in the diagram, underwater landslides can cause tsunamis when material loosened by the landslide moves violently, pushing the water in front of it. Landslides occurring on coastal land can force material into the sea, and disturb the water and also cause tsunamis.

## Characteristics

Tsunamis slow down but grow in height as they come ashore.



Tsunami waves possess varying characteristics. Tsunami waves can reach as high as 10 metres or more and may strike with devastating force.

The waves travel at jet airliner speeds in deep ocean but slow down and grow in height as they come ashore.

## WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

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

## WHAT COULD CAUSE A FLORIDA TSUNAMI?

### The Puerto Rico Trench

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

### Cumbre Vieja Volcano in the Canary Islands

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

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

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

## HOW WOULD I KNOW A TSUNAMI IS COMING?

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

## U.S. TSUNAMI PRODUCT DEFINITIONS:

### ADVISORY:

A potential tsunami which may produce strong currents or waves exists. Significant widespread inundation is not expected.

### WATCH:

A potentially dangerous distant seismic event has occurred which may later impact the watch area with tsunami. Be ready to take action if a warning is issued.

### WARNING:

A potential tsunami with significant widespread inundation is imminent or expected. Widespread, dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours after the arrival of the initial wave.

## INFORMATION STATEMENTS:

An earthquake has occurred or a tsunami warning, watch or advisory has been issued for another section of the ocean. In most cases, information statements are issued to indicate there is no threat of a destructive tsunami in your area.

## TSUNAMI SAFETY

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







# Family Emergency Plan



Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. ©



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Work Location One

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

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

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

### School Location One

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

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

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

### Work Location Two

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

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

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

### School Location Two

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

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

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

### Work Location Three

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

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

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

### School Location Three

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

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

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

### Other place you frequent

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

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

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

### Other place you frequent

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

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

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

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

Dial 911 for Emergencies

# Family Emergency Plan



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

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:

## Family Emergency Plan

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

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

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


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

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

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ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:


## Family Emergency Plan

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

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

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

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

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:

## Family Emergency Plan

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

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

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

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

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ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:


## Family Emergency Plan

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

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

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

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

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES





# Escambia County, FL Disaster Guide

[MyEscambia.com/beready](http://MyEscambia.com/beready)

