

HURRICANE

PREPARATION AND RECOVERY GUIDE

2009



Storm surges were last minute and abrupt during Wilma in 2005. Above, Dr's Arm is massively flooded. Below, after the water recedes, revealing stripped land, beat up trees and a canal. Read inside for preparation and post storm information for this years hurricane season tips. Photos courtesy of Michele Adams.



News-Barometer

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Forecasters predict normal season for 2009

NOAA forecasters say a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season is most likely this year. However, as with any season, the need to prepare for the possibility of a storm striking near you is essential.

"Today, more than 35 million Americans live in regions most threatened by Atlantic hurricanes," Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. "Timely and accurate warnings of severe weather help save lives and property. Public awareness and public preparedness are the best defenses against a hurricane."

In its initial outlook for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30, NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center calls for a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 25 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a below-normal season. Global weather patterns are imposing a greater uncertainty in the 2009 hurricane season outlook than in recent years. Forecasters say there is a 70 percent chance of having nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5).

"This outlook is a guide to the overall expected seasonal activity. However, the outlook is not just about the numbers, it's also about taking action," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "Prepare for each and every season regardless of the seasonal outlook. Even a near- or below-normal season can produce landfalling hurricanes, and it only takes one landfalling storm to make it a

bad season."

Shaping this seasonal outlook is the possibility of competing climate factors. Supporting more activity this season are conditions associated with the ongoing high-activity era that began in 1995, which include enhanced rainfall over West Africa, warmer Atlantic waters and reduced wind shear. But activity could be reduced if El Nino develops in the equatorial Eastern Pacific this summer or if ocean temperatures in the eastern tropical Atlantic remain cooler than normal.

NOAA's seasonal hurricane outlook does not project where and when any of these storms may hit. Landfall is dictated by weather patterns in place at the time the storm approaches. For each storm, NOAA's National Hurricane Center forecasts how these weather patterns affect the storm track, intensity and landfall potential.

"NOAA strives to produce the best possible forecasts to help emergency officials and residents better prepare for an approaching storm," said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "I'm pleased to have the Administration's sup-

port for an additional \$13 million in next year's budget request to continue the trend of improving hurricane track and intensity forecasts."

Tropical systems acquire a name – the first for 2009 will be Ana – upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 mph. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 mph, and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 mph. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two becoming major hurricanes.

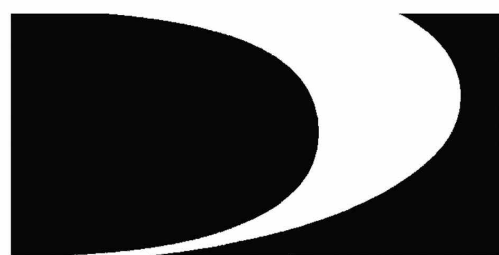
NOAA scientists will continue to monitor evolving conditions in the tropics and will issue an updated hurricane outlook in early August, just prior to what is historically the peak period for hurricane activity.



NOAA administrator Jane Lubchenco and Rear Admiral Philip M. Kenul, director, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

Photo courtesy of NOAA

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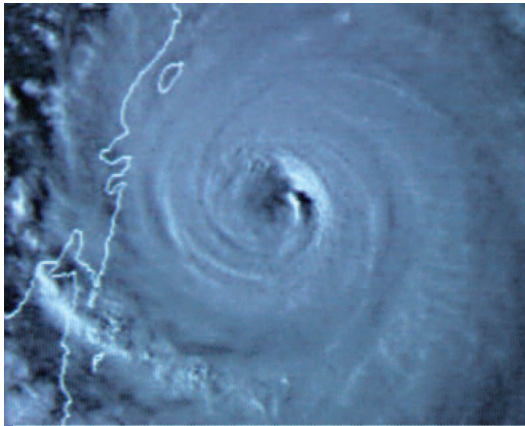
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Odette
Peter
Rose
Sam
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Victor
Wanda



How to Prepare for a Hurricane Don't Get Caught Without Water!

Store at least 1 gallon of water per person per day in sterilized sealable containers for drinking and cooking. Save enough water for 3-7 days.

Fill bathtub with water for non-potable, non-drinking purposes.

Turn off the main water supply to vacant buildings to avoid water loss in the event of damage during the storm. If you have a locked meter box, have a key available. Keys may be purchased at any of the FKAA customer service offices. Instructions for shutting off your meter are online at http://www.fkaa.com/customer_service.htm.

Report water line breaks to the FKAA. Breaks are often distinguished by extremely low water pressure, discoloration of water, or water bubbling up in the street or yard.

In the event a precautionary boil water notice is issued, disinfect your water by one of the following methods:

- ◆ **Bring to a rolling boil for one full minute, OR**
- ◆ **Disinfect by adding 8 drops (about 1/8 tsp) of chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of tap water, shaking, and leaving to stand for 30 minutes before drinking, OR**
- ◆ **Disinfect using purification tablets or iodine.**

Monitor radio stations for emergency broadcasts.

Check the Aqueduct website at www.fkaa.com for updates.

Upper Keys

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Tavernier

Middle Keys

3200 Overseas Hwy
Marathon

Lower Keys

1100 Kennedy Dr
Key West



Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority

www.fkaa.com

305-296-2454

Don't forget about pools

Customers swamp Carol Snider, owner of Swimline Pool Products, with phone calls whenever there is a hurricane on the horizon. She offers these tips from Homer Pool Equipment to help you prepare your pool:

Do not empty the pool; rising water tables could cause it to pop out of the ground. Lower the water level 1 -2 feet, only if the excess water won't be able to run off naturally.

Super chlorinate

Turn off all electrical breakers. Tightly cover equipment (motors, pumps, etc) with plastic wrap. Disconnect and remove equipment if flooding is expected.

Store furniture inside. As a last resort, place it in the pool, realizing that chemicals may damage the furniture and the furniture may damage the pool.

If your pool has a screen enclosure, remove panels on either side to vent the wind. Remove any doors that may be vulnerable to high winds.

After the Storm

Use a pool rake to remove small debris. Do not use pool vacuum equipment and pool pumps, as the excess debris could clog the plumbing.

Be sure electrical equipment is dry and circuit breakers are off before reconnecting electrical equipment. Inspect the wiring, especially ground wires, for proper connections. Follow manufacturer instructions when reactivating the equipment. If electric motors have been exposed to water, have them checked out by a competent professional.

Test the water quality. It may be necessary to re-shock.

Monitor the operating systems through their complete cycle and make sure clocks and timers have been properly reset. Balance the water chemistry and continue to check it carefully. If the pool appears to be leaking, you may have a clogged hydrostatic relief valve.

Do not forget that pools may be an important source of water for fire-fighting and toilet flushing.

Don't forget about pets

In wake of news that this hurricane season will be an average one, the Humane Society of the United States urges all pet owners to make preparations now to care for their pets in any emergency situation.

All families with pets should have an emergency supply kit for each of their pets. A three-day supply of food and water, pet medications, and leashes and harnesses should be packed into a waterproof container. Veterinary records, a current photo and a few small toys should also be included.

Depending on the situation, local authorities will determine the best action for local residents, either by asking citizens to either stay in place, or evacuate to a safe area.

If the situation required you to stay in place:

Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say there is an imminent problem. Keep pets under your direct control so that if you have to evacuate, you will not have to spend time trying to find them.

If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies there in advance, including your pet's crate and supplies. Basements or inside rooms are preferred, depending on the type of emergency.

Have plenty of plastic bags and newspapers as well as containers and cleaning supplies to help deal with pet waste. Puppy training pads are also useful for this purpose.

If evacuation becomes necessary:

If your local government orders an evacuation, take your animals with you and follow these tips:

Don't wait until the last minute to evacuate, especially if you have horses or other large animals or if you have several pets.

Make sure your pets will be welcome, whether at a motel or a friend or relative's house.

For more information, including tips for preparing horses and livestock, visit The HSUS Disaster Center at www.hsus.org/disaster.


Before a Hurricane

Know where you will go if you have to evacuate.
Plan your evacuation route.

Contact the local emergency management office or other disaster preparedness organization, and ask for the community hurricane preparedness plan. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation route and nearby shelters.

HURRICANE FINANCIAL CHECKLIST

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Credit Cards

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Emergency Cash and Checkbook

In the event of a power failure, electronic means of payment like credit, debit or ATM cards may not be available. Be sure to have cash and your checkbook on hand for purchases.
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Secure Important Documents

Make copies of your insurance papers, Social Security cards, birth certificates and other important documents to keep on hand. Originals can be stored in a First State Bank safe deposit box.
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Electronic Banking

Online Banking, Direct Deposit and BillPay ensure that payroll and other important banking transactions are made automatically. Online Banking allows you to access your accounts 24/7 even if you have to evacuate. First State Bank offers FREE electronic banking services.
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Home Equity Line of Credit


A Home Equity Line of Credit can provide peace of mind knowing that money is on hand to prepare and, if necessary, recover quickly from a hurricane. The First State Bank Hurricane HELOC can help you to harden your home, purchase generators or make repairs after a storm.

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Category gives a hint about storm damage

Tropical Storm

Winds 39-73 mph

Category 1 Hurricane — winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt)

No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.

- Examples: Irene 1999 and Allison 1995

Category 2 Hurricane — winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt)

Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.

- Examples: Bonnie 1998, Georges(FL & LA) 1998 and Gloria 1985

Category 3 Hurricane — winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt)

Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

- Examples: Keith 2000, Fran 1996, Opal 1995, Alicia 1983 and Betsy 1965

Category 4 Hurricane — winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt)

More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

- Examples: Hugo 1989 and Donna 1960

Category 5 Hurricane — winds 156 mph and up (135+ kt)

Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.

- Examples: Andrew(FL) 1992, Camille 1969 and Labor Day 1935

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Old Wooden Bridge Fish Lodge on Big Pine during Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Photo courtesy of Michelle Adams

Storm surge secondary damage source

Storm surge is simply water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. In addition, wind driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides. Because much of the United States' densely populated Atlantic and Gulf Coast coastlines lie less than 10 feet above mean sea level, the danger from

storm tides is tremendous.

The level of surge in a particular area is also determined by the slope of the continental shelf. A shallow slope off the coast (right, top picture) will allow a greater surge to inundate coastal communities. Communities with a steeper continental shelf (right, bottom picture) will not see as much surge inundation, although large breaking waves can still present major problems. Storm tides, waves, and currents in confined harbors severely damage ships, marinas, and pleasure boats.

See Surge page 6

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The Grotto in Key West is said by many to have sacred properties that protect visitors from the ravages of Mother Nature here.

Phot courtesy of Michelle Adams

Surge

One tool used to evaluate the threat from storm surge is the SLOSH model. Emergency managers use this data from SLOSH to determine which areas must be evacuated for storm surge. The links below provide some altered photos that show how the intensity of the storm (as given by the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale) affects the possibility of flooding from storm surge at two locations. Storm surge also affects rivers and inland lakes, potentially increasing the area that must be evacuated. You can see some of these effects by looking at simulated storm surge pictures for Brunswick, GA, New Orleans, LA, Brooklyn, NY, Wrightsville Beach, NC and Manteo, NC.

In general, the more intense the storm, and the closer a community is to the right-front quadrant, the larger the area that must be evacuated. The problem is always the uncertainty about how intense the storm will be when it finally makes landfall. Emergency managers and local officials balance that uncertainty with the human and economic risks to their community. This is why a rule of thumb for emergency managers is to plan for a storm one category higher than what is forecast. This is a reasonable precaution to help minimize the loss of life from hurricanes.

Wave and current action associated with the tide also causes extensive damage. Water weighs approximately 1,700 pounds per cubic yard; extended pounding by frequent waves can demolish any structure not specifically designed to withstand such forces.

Protect your boat pre-storm

- Have a plan and checklist to protect your boat. Damage caused by your boat during a hurricane is your responsibility.

- Keep Fuel and water tanks filled.
- Be sure Batteries are charged and bilge pumps are operational.
- If you plan to trailer your boat to the mainland, you must do so before an evacuation order is issued.

- Owners of large crafts that must remain in the water must secure their vessels in a predetermined anchorage or mooring area (there are very few places in the Keys).

- Keep sufficient tie lines and chafing gear, anchors and anchor line, and any other equipment necessary to secure your boat in the water.

- If reaching a safe area requires the raising of the Snake Creek or Jewfish Creek bridges, you MUST pass through them BEFORE an

See BOATS page 7

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Mobile home residents are urged to leave area early

Any mobile home, travel trailer or recreational vehicle is highly vulnerable to wind and water damage in a hurricane. You should NEVER stay in these structures during a hurricane.

The Monroe County Code of Ordinances, Section 6-16.1, H103, requires that:

All mobile homes shall be tied down at all times that they are located in Monroe County except

that display models in sales yards shall be required to tie down only from June 1 to December 1 in any calendar year or at any other time an official hurricane watch is declared.

All travel trailers shall be tied down at all times from June 1 to December 1 in any calendar year or at any time an official hurricane watch is declared.

Travel trailers that are not to be

in Monroe County for a period in excess of fifteen (15) days shall be immediately removed from Monroe County if a hurricane watch is declared or ordered to do so by Emergency Management.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property or the operator of a trailer park to ensure the compliance of each trailer with these requirements and for said owner or operator to furnish

all necessary ground anchors.

Monroe County Emergency Management has issued the following mobile home hurricane procedures:

Purpose:

Mobile homes and recreational vehicles are particularly vulnerable to winds of hurricane force. In a hurricane emergency they can pose a dangerous threat to both their occupants and others around

them. Owners or occupants of these facilities should observe the following procedures in the time frames designated.

Actions: Hurricane season (June 1 - December 1)

Winter residents and residents who plan on being gone from the area on a trip or vacation during hurricane season, before leaving should:

Check tie downs (including those on accessory structures, e.g., sheds),

Put up storm shutters

Secure or store all loose articles in yards and around trailers.

Notify the mobile park manager that you will not be in the area during hurricane season.

If residents are aware that a neighbor is leaving and he does not properly secure his property, it is recommended that he is made aware of his obligations to himself and his neighbors. Unsecured property may result in damage to them.

Residents remaining in the area during hurricane season should be aware that all persons living in a Mobile Home, Travel Trailer, RV, or Ground Level Modular Home will be ordered to evacuate their residences whenever a hurricane threatens their area. If a major hurricane (Category 3 or greater) is a threat and probabilities of coastal impact are high enough to require a County evacuation, residents living in these type of structures will be ordered to evacuate during a Hurricane Watch thereby assuring ample time to evacuate to the mainland. For a Category 2 or smaller storm, evacuation orders will be issued when Hurricane Warnings are issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Boats

evacuation order is issued for any portion of the Keys. These bridges will be locked down to facilitate automobile evacuation traffic.

• Monitor NOAA Weather radio.

• NEVER stay aboard your boat in a hurricane.

Additional information for boaters, including how to secure your small boat and trailer is contained in the "Hurricane and Severe Weather Checklist for Boaters". This brochure is available from the Emergency Management and the Monroe County office of the Florida Extension Service.



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Sheltering in place not an option for major storms in Florida Keys

Monroe County may not have enough shelter spaces for Category 1 or 2 hurricanes. This is especially true in the Lower Keys and Key West.

There are no shelters in Monroe County that will be safe in the most deadly hurricanes (Category 3, 4, 5). These shelters will remain close during these most dangerous hurricanes. You must evacuate the mainland.

The purpose of a Shelter is to provide a safe haven from the storm. **DO NOT EXPECT** substantial meals or comfort items. If you want special foods, bedding or entertainment, you **MUST** provide it yourself.

NO MEDICAL CARE will be available at these shel-

ters. If you expect to need medical care, you should make your own arrangements to evacuate to a medical facility on the mainland.

Absolutely no pets, alcohol, or weapons will be permitted in the shelters. The shelter manager is in charge, and all will have a law enforcement officer. All laws will be strictly enforced.

Persons going to Shelters in Monroe County

Since Monroe County shelters **WILL NOT BE OPENED** in Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricanes, you will need to evacuate to the mainland (see below).

Persons Evacuating to Dade County

Monroe County residents seeking public shelter in Dade County should take the FI Turnpike Extension from FI City to Florida International University (F.I.U.) at the US 41/SW 8th St. Exit (MM25X). See map below. This is the officially designated location to provide shelter for Monroe County residents. Do not report to other Dade County shelters as they may not be open. **IMPORTANT:** Bring items with you as shown in "What to bring to a Shelter".

Upon entering Dade County, turn your radio to station WIOD (610 AM) or WFLC (97.3F) to receive emergency information.

What to bring to shelters

Food:

If you have the need for special foods (Ensure, etc.) you may bring them with you. High energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, and other snack foods may be a good idea if you get hungry in between meals. If necessary bring special dietary foods--such as diabetic, low salt, liquid diet, baby food and formula. Don't forget a manual can opener.

Clothing and Bedding:

One complete change of clothing including footwear. A sleeping bag, blanket and pillow. Rain gear and sturdy shoes.

Personal Items:

Washcloth, small towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, towelettes, etc.

Medications, First-Aid supplies:

Medications--clearly marked with your name, dosage, type of medication, and prescribing physician. You must be able to take all medications by yourself. Any dressing changes needed.

Important Papers:

Identification and valuable papers (insurance documents, etc.), Name and address of doctors, Name and address of nearest relative not living in area.

Pets:

Special Needs clients who pre-register their pet(s) are able to bring their pet(s) with them to shelter providing that Pet-Friendly sheltering is available at the time, they provide the required supplies (including a cage, food, etc.), and make arrangements in advance of their pick-up. For Pet Registration forms click on the following link: [emer shelter agree.pdf](#)

Miscellaneous:

Bring a cell phone if you have one. It may come in handy. Games, cards, toys, battery powered radios, flashlights (no candles or lanterns), batteries, or other reasonable items you may need are welcome too. Take a bath and eat before you leave home.

Not Allowed: alcoholic beverages, or weapons.

Develop an emergency communication plan

In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.



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The canal and open water became blurred during Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Photo courtesy of Michelle Adams

Leave for that big storm

Who should Evacuate?

Category 3, 4, AND 5 Hurricanes:

By state statute, all persons are required to comply with an evacuation order. In this case, you will be directed to go to the mainland.

FOR ANY HURRICANE:

All persons that live in mobile homes, travel trailers, recreational vehicles (RVs), and boats are required to evacuate.

Without regard to structure type, all persons that live in low-lying areas or directly adjacent to the water will receive a recommendation to evacuate.

All persons that are sick, elderly, or disabled will receive a recommendation to evacuate the mainland.

All women in their third trimester of pregnancy will receive a recommendation to evacuate.

All non-residents and visitors to the Florida Keys.

An evacuation is a slow, frustrating, time consuming experience. Evacuees exercise extreme caution in traffic, because they do not wish to lose their means of transportation. Provisions have been made to close US1 and move remaining evacuees into the safest structures available, as weather conditions deteriorate. You will not be caught on the highway during landfall of any hurricane. Remember these important points, while evacuating:

Be prepared to leave early

Select and confirm your destination before leaving.

Select your primary and alternate evacuation routes prior to leaving.

Take detailed maps of areas around your destination and along your evacuation route.

Monitor local media for important information from Emergency Management.

Fill your Car's fuel tank, first.

Check all fluid levels in your car.

Check your spare tire and tire changing equipment.

Take an adequate supply of food and water.

Have sufficient cash to meet your needs.

Dangerous winds can often precede a hurricane by many hours. All persons evacuating with a large vehicle and those persons planning to tow a trailer or boat are required to leave early. Later in an evacuation, these vehicles will be removed from traffic.

Be safe on your return

If your area is under a curfew, allow travel time to and from your home. Although unusual following a hurricane, crime can also increase. If your area is under martial law, obey all orders by authorities because they will be armed.

During a hurricane and in the cleanup, injuries occur. To avoid injury, use common sense and wear proper clothing, including clothes with long sleeves and long pants, and safety shoes or boots.

When Returning to Your Home After a Hurricane

Find out if the authorities have declared the area safe;

Watch for debris on the road while driving;

Return to your pre-determined assembly point and/or contact your pre-established out-of-area contact person. Make sure all family members have been accounted for and let others know of your status;

Make sure the main electrical switch to your home is off before entering the structure;

Be careful when entering a structure that has been damaged;

See RETURN on page 12

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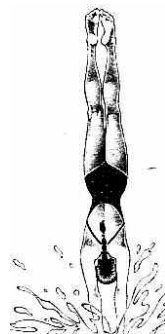
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