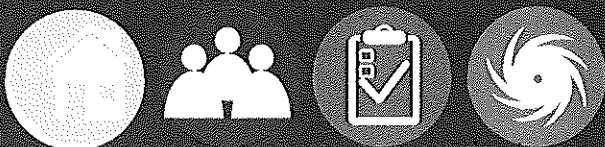


HIGHLANDS COUNTY ALL HAZARDS GUIDE



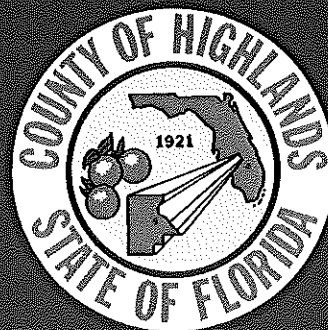
Are you prepared?



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OFFICIAL DISASTER PLANNING GUIDE
FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY

HURRICANE TRACKING MAP INSIDE



Would you be ready if disaster struck?

What about your family? Or your business?

This All Hazards Guide was developed by your county emergency management team and it will help you prepare your family and your property for a variety of potentially significant hazards that you may face here in Highlands County.

This guide is designed to answer many questions you might have when preparing to deal with these natural and man-made disasters. When these hazards occur, the consequences can be devastating if we have not properly prepared ourselves to protect our lives and property. Most of us realize the importance of preparing for the more

significant hazards, such as hurricanes, and many of these preparations are universal for all threats, including a family disaster plan and emergency supply kits.

Take time to create your family or business disaster plan by using this guide and visit floridadisaster.org for more tips and information.

To obtain official information about our county, please visit highlandsfl.gov, and follow us on Facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter and Instagram under Highlands County Board of County Commissioners and Highlands County Fire Rescue.

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YOUR DISASTER PLAN

Prevent panic and confusion by making sure everyone knows where to go and what to do in an emergency, whether at home or at work.

KNOW YOUR RISK

Learn what disasters might affect your area. Prepare yourself for emergencies by taking first aid and CPR courses.

PICK TWO MEETING PLACES

One should be outside your home or business for sudden events such as a fire. The second should be outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot get home or family members get separated.

CHOOSE A CONTACT PERSON

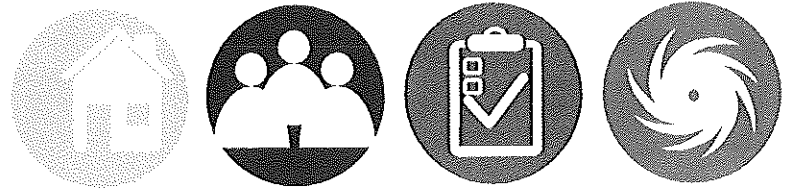
Ask someone outside of the area to coordinate communications in a disaster. Family members should call this person to report their location. Send your contact copies of important papers (ID, insurance, etc.).

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Include contact information in your phones and make emergency contact cards.

THINK ABOUT EVACUATION

If and when you have to evacuate, decide ahead of time where you would go and how you will get there. Ask friends or family if you could stay with them. Highlands County DOES NOT have designated evacuation zones. If Highlands County issues an evacuation order in the event of a disaster, these orders will NOT refer to designated evacuation zones (as notated on the map on Page 11) but instead will refer to geographic boundaries or landmarks.



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GENERATION PREPARED CHECKLIST

- ☐ Know what disasters are most likely in my area
- ☐ Create an evacuation plan (from home, work and school)
- ☐ Create a disaster plan
- ☐ Put together a disaster supply kit
- ☐ Create a communication plan
- ☐ Practice your evacuation plan and review meeting/rally points
- ☐ Know how to shut off water, power and gas in an emergency
- ☐ Take a hands-only CPR course
- ☐ Take a Stop the Bleed course
- ☐ Take a fire extinguisher course
- ☐ Attend a preparedness seminar or presentation
- ☐ Talk to family, friends and co-workers about being prepared

PANDEMICS

A pandemic is a disease outbreak that spans several countries and affects a large number of people.

Pandemics are most often caused by viruses, like Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which can easily spread from person to person.

A new virus, like COVID-19, can emerge from anywhere and quickly spread around the world. It is hard to predict when or where the next new pandemic will emerge.

It is important to remember that emergencies and disasters like hurricanes and wildfires won't stop for a pandemic like COVID-19. Be prepared to keep your family safe and healthy from all hazards during a pandemic.

The World Health Organization pandemic phases listed below provide a framework to aid in pandemic preparedness and response planning.

PHASE 1

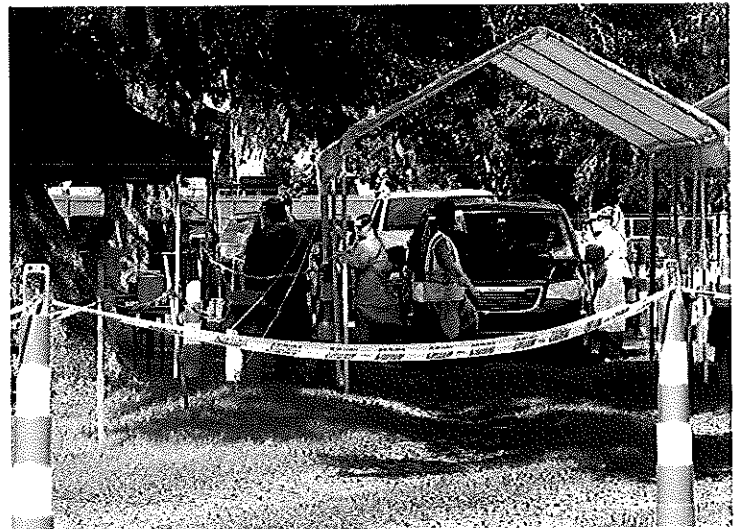
In nature, influenza viruses circulate continuously among animals, especially birds. In Phase 1 no viruses circulating among animals have been reported to cause infections in humans.

PHASE 2

An animal influenza virus circulating among domesticated or wild animals is known to have caused infection in humans and is therefore considered a potential pandemic threat.

PHASE 3

An animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.



PHASE 4

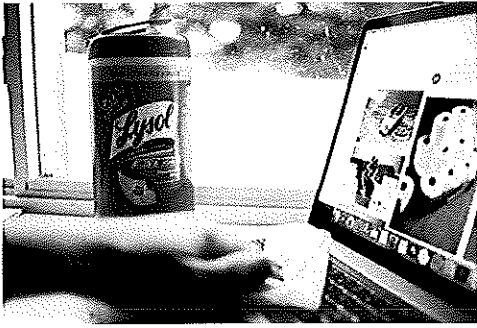
Human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks" is verified in this phase, indicating a significant increase in risk of a pandemic but does not necessarily mean that a pandemic is a forgone conclusion.

PHASE 5

This phase is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. The declaration of Phase 5 is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.

PHASE 6

Phase 6, the pandemic phase, is characterized by community level outbreaks in at least one other country in a different WHO region in addition to the criteria defined in Phase 5. Designation of this phase will indicate that a global pandemic is under way.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR A PANDEMIC

Learn how diseases spread to help protect yourself and others. Viruses can be spread from person to person, from a non-living object to a person and by people who are infected but don't have any symptoms.

Prepare for the possibility of schools, workplaces and community centers being closed. Investigate and prepare for virtual coordination for school, work and social activities.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days or weeks. Supplies may include cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, prescriptions and bottled water. Buy supplies slowly to ensure everyone can buy what they need.

Create an emergency plan so you will know what to do and what you will need in case an outbreak happens. Consider how a pandemic may affect your plans for other emergencies. Pay attention to local guidance for evacuations and shelters.

Review your health insurance policies to understand what they cover, including telemedicine options.

Create password-protected digital copies of important documents and store in a safe place. Watch out for scams and fraud.

STAY SAFE DURING A PANDEMIC

Follow the latest guidelines from the CDC. Refer to your local and state public health departments for vaccine and testing updates.

Take actions to prevent the spread of disease. Cover coughs and sneezes. Wear a mask in public. Stay home when sick (except to get medical care). Clean and disinfect high-touch objects and

surfaces. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Stay six feet away from people who are not part of your household.

If you believe you've been exposed to the disease, contact your doctor, follow the quarantine instructions from medical providers and monitor your symptoms. If you're experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 and shelter in place with a mask, if possible, until help arrives.

Share accurate information about the disease with friends, family and people on social media. Sharing bad information about the disease or treatments for the disease may have serious health outcomes. Remember that stigma hurts everyone and can cause discrimination against people, places or nations.

Know that it's normal to feel anxious or stressed. Engage virtually with your community through video and phone calls. Take care of your body and talk to someone if you are feeling upset.

STAY SAFE AFTER A PANDEMIC

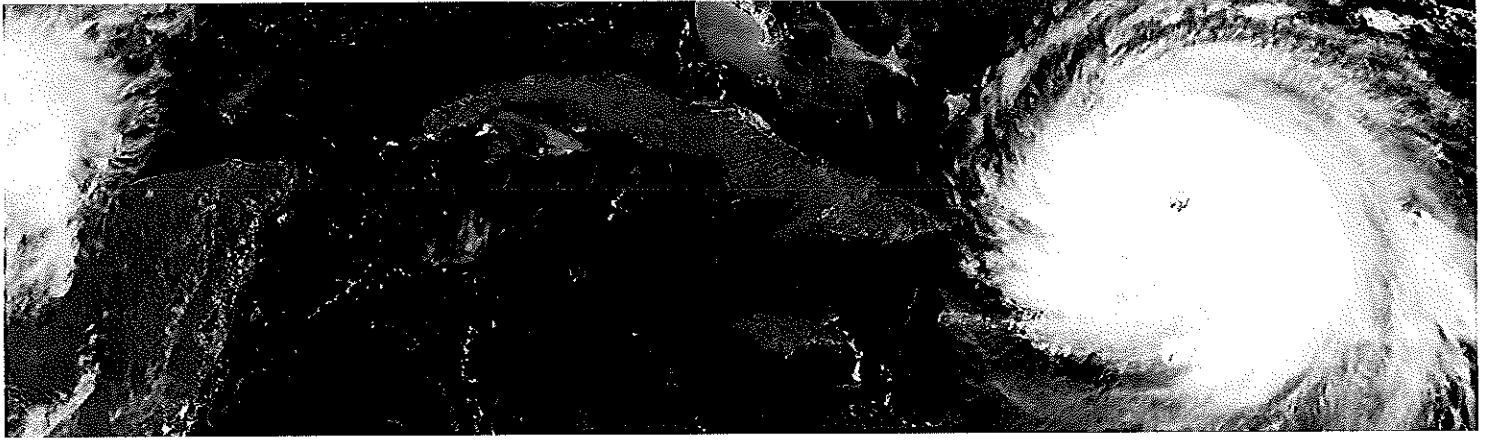
Continue taking protective actions, like:

- Stay home when sick, except to get medical care
- Follow the guidance of your health care provider
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Practice good hygiene

Be sure to evaluate your family emergency plan and make timely updates.

Work with your community to talk about the lessons you learned from the pandemic. Decide how you can use these experiences to be ready for future pandemics.

HURRICANES



Each year from June 1 through Nov. 30 is hurricane season. We are at risk of being impacted by a hurricane. Unfortunately, previous seasons are not accurate indicators of our present risk. Whether it is forecast to be a "higher than average," "average," or "lower than average" season, activity-wise, our risk is the same. It only takes one hurricane to affect a community!

Wind

Hurricanes are categorized by sustained winds of 74 mph to 157+ mph. Wind-caused damage is to some degree dependent upon the local building codes in effect at the time of construction, and how well and how long they have been enforced.

Tornados

Tornados may form in the rain bands of a hurricane and cause significant damage. Tornados are commonly found in the right front quadrant of the storm. These tornados are not as intense as those in the Midwest tornado belt, but they can inflict tremendous damage with little or no warning.

Storm surge

Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm that moves ashore prior to and during a hurricane-making landfall. As the storm makes landfall, inundation levels (depth of water above ground level) of 2 to 30 feet may occur along the coastal areas and major rivers in Florida. This is enough to inundate most populated areas. The severity of damage depends upon the hurricane's size, forward speed, its direction of movement and intensity. Storm surge has the

potential to cause the greatest loss of life, cripple communications, and cause sewers and storm water basins to back up and contaminate drinking water supplies. Storm surge can leave roads, streets and bridges filled with sand and debris, and in some cases structurally unstable.

Heavy rain

Over the past 30 years, freshwater flooding has caused more drowning deaths than storm surge flooding. Torrential rains associated with slow moving, or stationary, tropical storms and hurricanes on average produce 16 inches of rain within a 24-36-hour period. Heavy rains can create massive health problems and have a disastrous effect on a community's ability to recover quickly.

Anticipate flooding

As a hurricane or tropical storm moves closer to Southwest Florida, your local Emergency Management office will be activated. Emergency Management personnel will remain in frequent contact with the National Hurricane Center and the local National Weather Service office to closely monitor the development and progress of the hurricane or tropical storm.

Your local Emergency Management office will utilize the area media outlets to provide frequent updates on the storm, recommend emergency protective actions, and issue evacuation orders. If you do not evacuate when ordered you will be without fire rescue, law enforcement or emergency medical support until the waters subside.

SAFFIR-SIMPSON WIND SCALE

Category	Sustained	Types of damage due to hurricane winds	Historic storms
1	74-95 mph	<p>Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older (pre-1994 construction) mobile homes could be destroyed, especially if they are not anchored properly. Well-built homes can have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. • Unprotected windows may break if struck by flying debris. • Large branches of trees could snap, and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. • Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few days to several days. 	Hurricane Hermine (2016)
2	96-110 mph	<p>Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant damage to all newer mobile homes. • Well-built houses could experience major roof and siding damage. Failure of aluminum, screened-in enclosures will be common. • Increased chance for uprooted trees and road blockage. • Substantial risk of injury or death to people, pets, and livestock due to flying and falling debris. • Widespread power loss expected. Outages could last several days to weeks. 	Hurricane Ike (2008)
3	111-129 mph	<p>Devastating damage will occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devastating damage to newer mobile homes, while well-built homes and other buildings will experience significant damage. • Many uprooted trees, significant road blockage. • Most commercial signs destroyed. • High risk of injury or death to people, pets, and livestock due to debris. • Electricity and water could be unavailable for days to weeks. 	Hurricane Katrina (2008) Ivan (2004) Jeanne (2004)
4	130-156 mph	<p>Catastrophic damage will occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete destruction to newer mobile homes, catastrophic damage to well-built homes and other buildings. • Residential areas will be isolated by downed trees and power poles. • Nearly all commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. • Steel frame in older industrial buildings can collapse. • Electricity and water could be unavailable for weeks to months. 	Hurricane Charley (2004) Irma (2017)
5	157 mph or higher	<p>Catastrophic damage will occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost complete destruction of all mobile homes will occur, regardless of age or construction. • High percentage of industrial and low-rise apartment buildings will be destroyed. • High percentage of frame homes will be destroyed. • Nearly all trees and power poles will be downed. • Power and water outages can last for months. Affected areas can be uninhabitable for weeks to months. 	Hurricane Andrew (1992) Michael (2018)

SHELTERS

There is a substantial shelter space deficit throughout SW Florida. If you have a safe place to go, plan to use that location instead of a public shelter. But, if you have no safe place to go, shelters will be open.

When Highlands County will be impacted by high winds, local risk shelters may be opened. As these shelters approach capacity, the county will open a second tier of approved shelters.

Traditional shelter locations may change due to COVID-19 and CDC guidelines. It is important to note that not all local risk shelters may be opened.

The public will need to monitor the County website, highlandsfl.gov, the County's social media platforms, and local media outlets for shelter locations should openings be required or if shelters are at capacity.

Please note the following:

- Special Needs shelter – Approved registration is required. Visit highlandsfl.gov for the application or call Emergency Management at 863-402-6800.
- Pet Shelter – Approved registration is required. Forms are available online at bit.ly/hc-petshelterform. For more information, call Emergency Management at 863-402-6800.

WHAT TO BRING TO A SHELTER:

- Drinking water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Food and snacks (at minimum a 3-day supply)
- Lawn chair or bed roll
- Book or electronic entertainment item with headphones
- Prescriptions
- Identification and copies of important documents
- Sanitation items
- Change of clothing

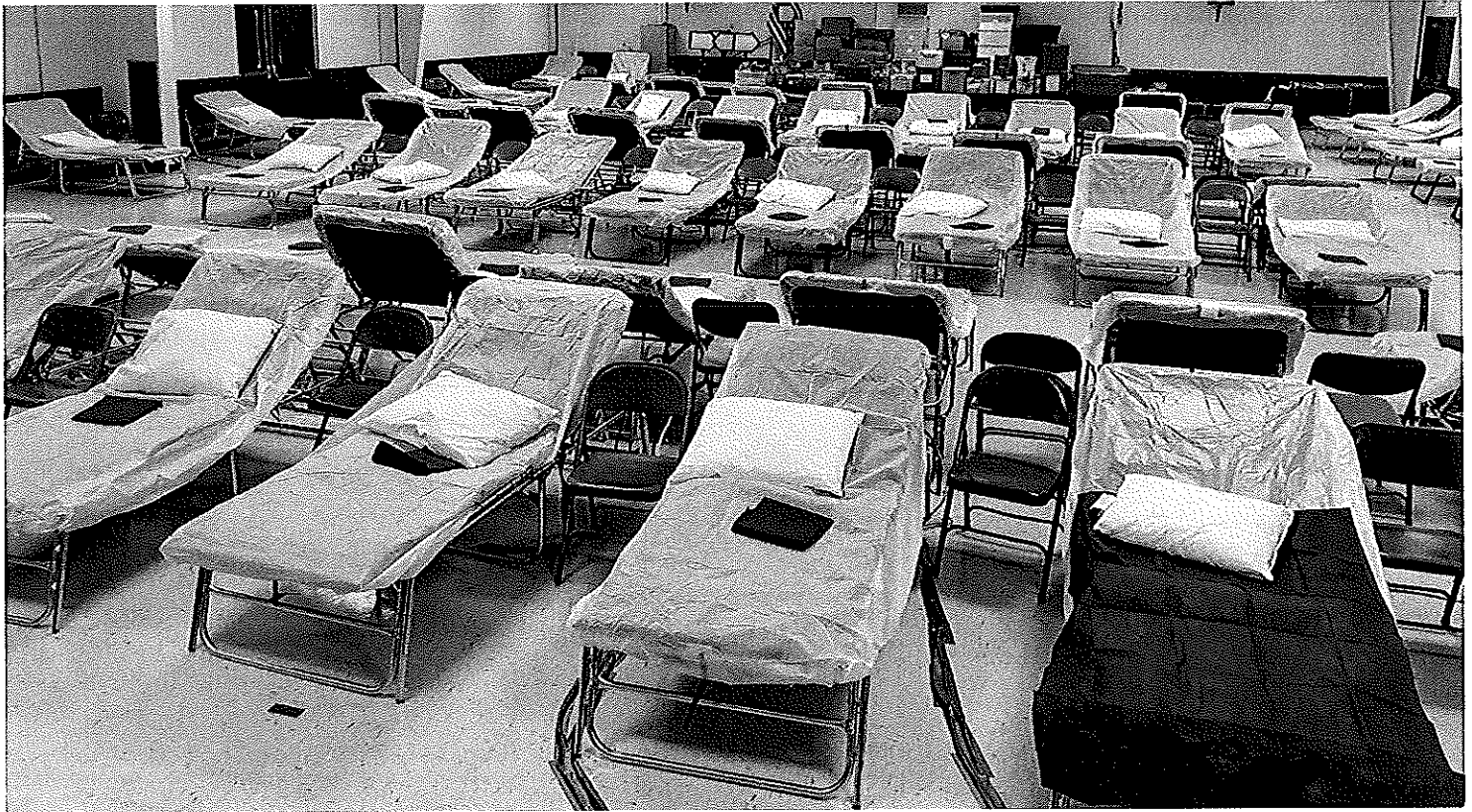
Remember weapons and alcoholic beverages are not permitted. The only animals allowed are registered service animals.



Risk shelters are typically meant to house people for 12-72 hours until the storm or threat passes. Because these centers must open quickly, it may not be possible to provide comfort items to evacuees (such as cots and blankets), until post-storm sheltering is in place.

Things to remember if you go to a shelter:

1. When you arrive, give your name and address to the shelter manager so you can be located, if necessary.
2. If you leave the shelter, check out with the shelter manager.
3. Accountability is important for your safety.
4. Shelters are not able to provide any conveniences or luxuries.
5. Bring your family's disaster survival kit to ensure proper provisions.



PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Some people have medical issues that cannot be accommodated in a regular risk shelter. For those people whose health would quickly and dramatically deteriorate in a risk shelter and have no other safe place to go, Special Needs shelters are available.

You must complete an application to see if your medical issues qualify for a Special Needs shelter. Specific criteria and requirements must be met to be eligible for the Special Needs shelter, which may vary somewhat from county to county.

- You must have a caregiver with you during your

stay at the Special Needs shelter. During an emergency we have very limited staff working in the shelters, so your caregiver is critically important for your health and safety.

- As at any other shelter, you must bring your emergency supplies with you.
 - In any emergency situation you should have a plan for where you will go if you cannot return to your home because of damage.
 - Registration is required.
- Visit highlandsfl.gov for the application or call Highlands County Emergency Management at 863-402-6800.

10 questions to ask if your family member resides in an assisted-living facility, or nursing home:

1. Does the facility have a currently approved Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan? If yes, may I see a copy of the approval letter? If no, ask them why, as it is required.
2. Do you maintain a minimum 72-hour supply of food, water, medications, etc. for each resident?
3. Do you have an emergency generator? If yes, to what does it supply power during a blackout?
4. Under what circumstances would my family member be evacuated?
5. Can my family member be released to me for evacuation?
6. Who will notify me of the impending evacuation of my family member?
7. Whom should I call to receive current information on my family member?
8. What facilities might my family member be evacuated to? Where are they located?
9. Who will notify me that my family member is returning to this facility?
10. If my family member evacuates with me, who do I contact to determine when the facility is open and operating?

PROTECTING YOUR PETS

In a hurricane, pets are subject to the same hazards as we are and have many of the same needs.

The best plan is to identify a safer location that allows pets (a friend's home or pet-friendly hotel). That way, you can keep your pets with you when you evacuate.

Here are some tips:

- Check the internet to help locate hotels that accept pets.
- You should also have a supply kit for your pets. Include non-perishable food, water and medications.
- Keep a sturdy cage or carrier to comfortably hold your pet and/or a collar and leash.
- Make sure all vaccinations are up-to-date and keep a copy of the records.
- Keep several good photos to help identify your pet should you become separated.
- Place identification on your pet's collar or consider using a microchip to identify your pet.

Pet shelter information

Highlands County Emergency Management has established a temporary pet shelter, which will be available to Highlands County residents only.

As with any other county shelter, the pet shelter should be used as a last resort. Space at the pet shelter is limited.

If the pet shelter is opened due to a storm, those with approved registration will be contacted. A maximum of two pet owners may stay at the shelter. Additional family members will be referred to a nearby human shelter.

Pets will be housed in a separate area from people and pet owners will be given a schedule to attend to their animal's needs.

Dogs and cats must be microchipped, currently vaccinated against rabies and wearing a current license tag. Pet owners must provide their animal's food (enough for at least five days), water, medications, litter (with litter pan) or absorbent urine pads, treats, bedding, toys, leash, and size-appropriate pet carrier, etc.

Pet owners will be required to provide their own food and water, sleeping bags, bedding, and personal toiletries. This shelter has limited



space and residents should bring only essential necessities.

Items not allowed in the pet shelter include furniture, weapons, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.

Once the storm has passed and roads are deemed safe for travel, the shelter will be immediately closed so Animal Control personnel, who will be staffing the pet shelter, may return to Animal Control to attend to animals at that facility.

If a person's home is unsafe, options are available. Arrangements may be made with the Emergency Operations Center and Animal Control to house their animal while they report to an open human shelter and until they can find alternate shelter.

For the safety of county staff and other animals, Highlands County reserves the right to refuse aggressive animals. No animals classified as dangerous or potentially dangerous or registered guard dogs will be accepted.

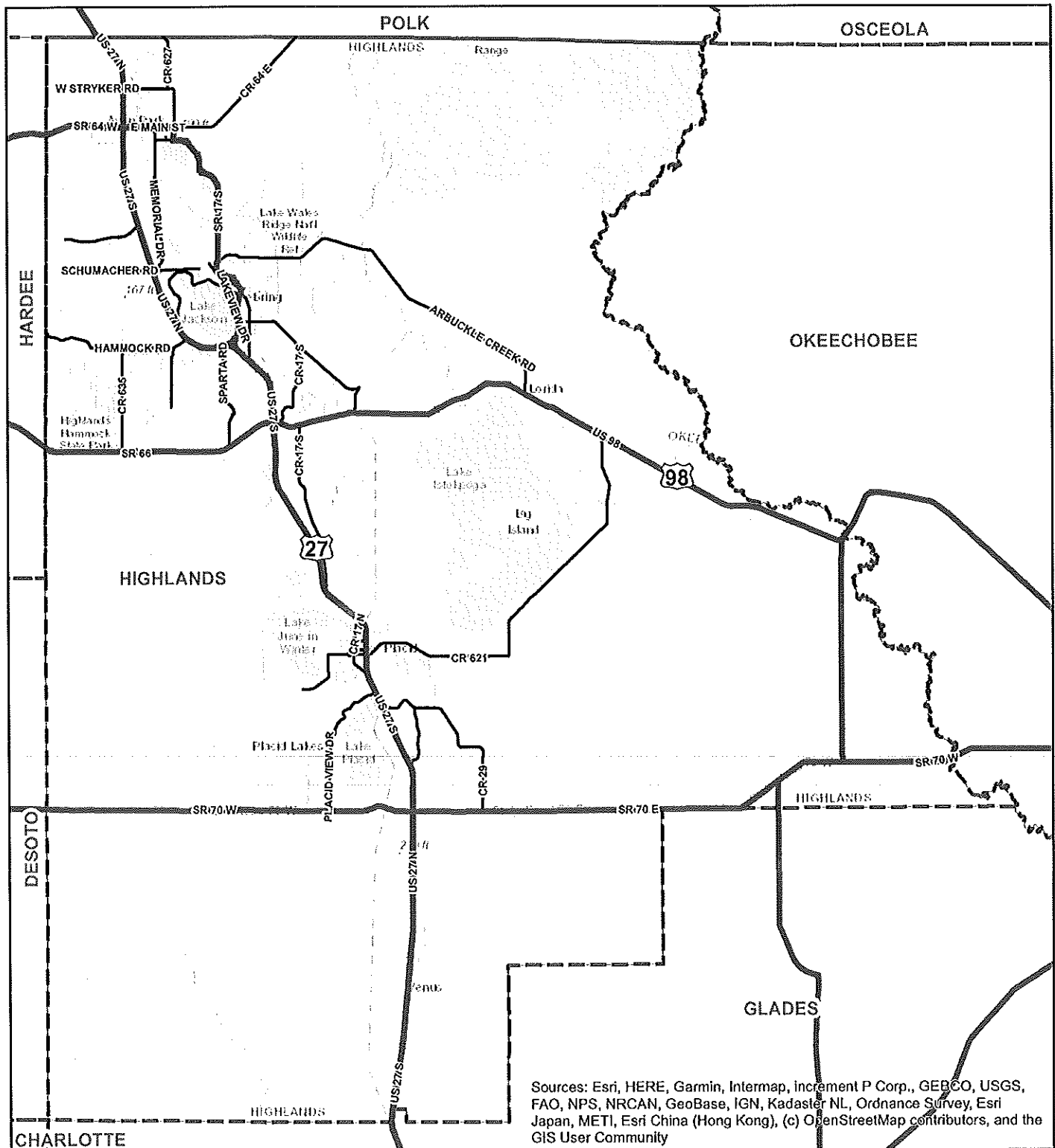
Livestock, reptiles, birds or pocket pets will not be accepted at the pet shelter.

To register, fill out a Pet Shelter Registration Form and email it to PetShelter@highlandsfl.gov. Forms are available online at <http://bit.ly/hc-petshelterform>. For more information, call 863-402-6800.

Pet owners who are pre-registered with the Emergency Management Special Needs shelter may pre-register their pets to stay at the pet shelter.

Monitor local media as well as local government communication outlets for updates.

Evacuation Routes Highlands County



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Created by: GIS Dept

Date: 5/12/2021

Disclaimer: Map is intended for reference only.

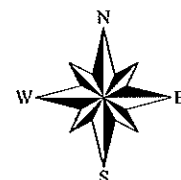
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Evacuation Routes

Major Roads

County Boundary



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergencies.....	911
Citizens Information Line	863-402-6800
Public Safety (Fire Rescue, Emergency Management)	863-402-7600
Sheriff's Office	863-402-7200
Public Information Office	863-402-6833
Avon Park Fire Department	863-453-6557
Lake Placid Police Department	863-699-3757
Sebring Fire Department	863-471-5105
Sebring Police Department	863-471-5107
Florida Department of Health	863-386-6040
Animal Services.....	863-655-6475

Utilities

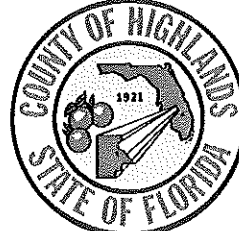
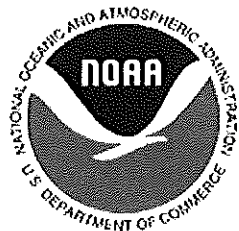
Avon Park Utilities	863-382-5901
Lake Placid Utilities	863-441-2075
Sebring Utilities	863-471-0166
Duke Energy	1-800-700-8744
Florida Power & Light Company	1-888-488-7703
Glades Electric	863-946-6200
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824
Comcast	1-800-266-2278; 863-385-2578
Century Link	1-800-261-1691

Waste services

Highlands County	863-655-0005
Avon Park	863-452-4433
Lake Placid	863-699-3747
Sebring	863-471-5115

Government

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners	863-402-6500
City of Avon Park	863-452-4400
City of Sebring	863-471-5100
Town of Lake Placid	863-699-3747
Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Special Improvement District	863-382-2196
Spring Lake Special Improvement District	863-655-0615



STORM PREPARATION & AFTERMATH

INSURANCE

Most property owners have homeowner's insurance coverage insuring them from catastrophic loss. However, a homeowner's policy does not protect you from loss in flooding or rising water.

To insure your home from flood (rising water), you must have a separate flood insurance policy. Our county qualifies and participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. We qualify by making building requirements stringent and in accordance with the Florida Building Code and local flood damage prevention ordinances.

If you don't have a flood insurance policy, check with your insurance agent for a price quote on your home and your personal property. Don't wait until the hurricane warning has been issued. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance becomes effective, unless you are purchasing a new home with a mortgage. Additional information may be obtained from your county Emergency Management office.

The Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) recommends every homeowner should have an insurance check up with their agent before hurricane season starts to cover the following:

Do I need flood insurance; check on windstorm coverage; do I need more coverage; what does my policy cover and exclude?

If you rent, DFS recommends you purchase renter's insurance to cover your contents in the home or apartment.

You may want to visit myfloridacfo.com to

download a Homeowners' Insurance toolkit to help you make informed decisions when it comes to disasters.

Before the storm:

- Check your policy for flood and windstorm coverage.
- Know what your current policy does and does not cover.
- Have all of your insurance documents ready and keep in a safe place.
- Update your list of personal belongings.

After the storm:

- Take pictures and report damage to your insurance agent or company immediately.
- Make and document emergency repairs.
- Make copies of anything that is given to the adjuster or sent to the insurance company.
- Take precautions if the damages require you to leave your home.
- Secure your property. Remove valuable items. Lock windows and doors.
- Contact your insurance agent and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

Looting

Looting has occurred in many communities after a hurricane. Criminals may take advantage of the opportunity to enter evacuated homes and businesses. Local law enforcement agencies and, if necessary, the National Guard will do everything possible to minimize looting.



PREPARING YOUR BOAT

Precautions for boat owners

The key to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe weather is planning, preparation, and timely action. The following precautions and checklists are meant as guidelines only. Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, local boating environment, the severe weather conditions likely to occur in that region, and the characteristics of safe havens and/or plans for protection. Listen to Emergency Management for specific evacuations related to boats.

Do not stay aboard.

Winds during any hurricane can exceed 100 mph, and tornados are often associated with these storms. First and foremost, protect human life.

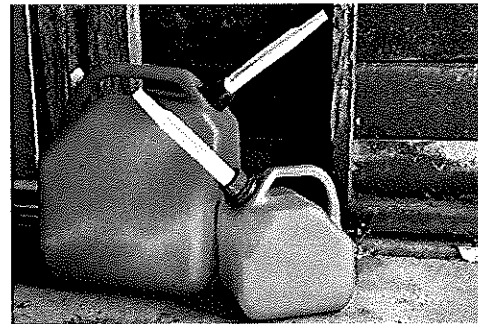
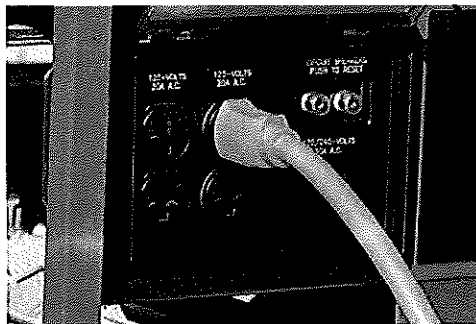
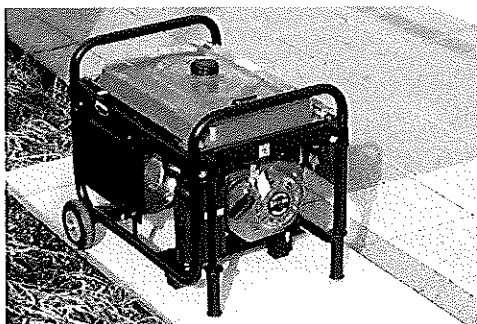
Things to do:

1. Prior to hurricane season, develop a detailed plan of action to secure your vessel in the marina. If permitted, remove your boat from the threatened area, or take your boat to a previously identified hurricane refuge. Practice your plan to ensure that it works.
2. Arrange for a friend to carry out your plans if you are out of town during hurricane season.
3. Check your lease or storage rental agreement with the marina or storage area. Know your responsibilities and liabilities as well as those of the marina.
4. Consolidate all records, including insurance

policies, a recent photo of your vessel, boat lease agreement with the marina or storage area, and telephone numbers of appropriate authorities (harbor master, Coast Guard, insurance agent, etc.) and keep them in your possession.

5. Maintain an inventory of both the items removed and those left on board. Items of value should be marked so that they can be readily identified, if dispersed by the storm.

6. When a hurricane is approaching, and after you have made anchoring or mooring provisions, remove all movable equipment such as canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, cushions, Biminis and roller furling sails. Lash down everything you cannot remove such as tillers, wheels, booms, etc. Make sure the electrical system is cut off unless you plan to leave the boat in the water and remove the battery to eliminate the risk of fire or other damage.



GENERATOR USE, SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

When the power goes off, many residents turn to emergency generators to power refrigerators, freezers, lights, fans and other appliances.

If you use a generator, extreme caution is required. While convenient and useful, generators can create hazards for homeowners and electric utility workers. Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operating instructions.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poison gas. It is a component of the exhaust from the generator engine. The symptoms of exposure are subtle, but deadly. Never run your generator inside your home or garage or in any other enclosed space. Inexpensive CO detectors, like smoke alarms, are readily available and recommended as an added safety precaution.

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, never use a generator indoors or in attached garages. Only

operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes to the home.

To avoid electrocution, plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy duty, outdoor rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. This will overload and damage the generator and possibly create a fire hazard.

If a generator is connected to the house wiring, the home must have a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician. A transfer switch connects your house to the generator and disconnects it from the utility power. This prevents back feeding, or energizing circuits outside your home. Back feeding most commonly occurs when a generator is connected directly to the electric panel or circuit in a home. Feeding power back into the utility system during an outage will energize the transformer serving the house and could pose a serious threat to crews working to restore power in

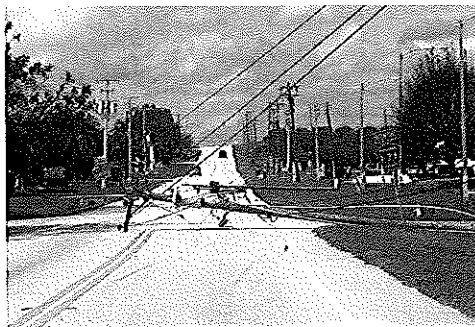
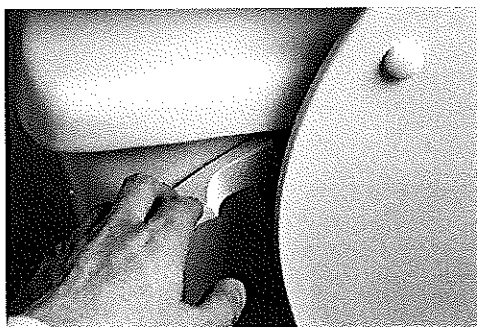
the area who may not know they are working with an energized line.

Do not store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running. Gasoline (and other flammable liquids) should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass, safety containers. They should not be stored in a garage if a fuel-burning appliance is in the garage. The vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and

be ignited by pilot lights or electric arcs caused by turning on the lights.

Avoid spilling fuel on hot components. Put out all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline.

Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator. Never attempt to refuel a portable generator while it is running.



UTILITY TIPS

Water

Locate the emergency water shut-off valve for your residence and remove any shrubbery or obstructions. Test the water shut-off valve to be sure that it is operational. If the shut-off valve is not operational, have it repaired or replaced.

Turn the emergency water shut-off valve to the off position if you are leaving your residence prior to a storm. This will help minimize damage to the interior of your home should a pipe burst inside.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations on turning off your hot water heater and unplug it. Some hot water heaters may be damaged if the water supply is turned off for an extended period.

Locate your sewer clean-out lid and remove any shrubbery or obstructions in case the clean-out needs to be accessed.

Due to power outages, water treatment plants will be operating under limited conditions. Water pressures will be reduced! Because of reduced pressures and the limited operations of lift stations, **WATER CONSERVATION IS A MUST!**

Just because power has been restored to your home, does not mean that power has been

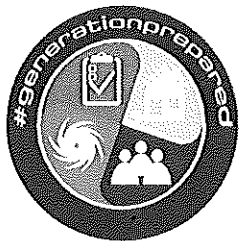
restored to all lift stations or water and wastewater treatment plants. Follow these tips:

- Turn off all sprinklers.
- Remember to reset your irrigation timer once power has been restored.
- Abstain from running dishwashers and clothes washers.
- Limit the amount of water used during a shower or the amount to fill the bathtub.
- Limit the amount of toilet flushing.
- Abstain from any other outdoor use of water that is not necessary.

Electricity

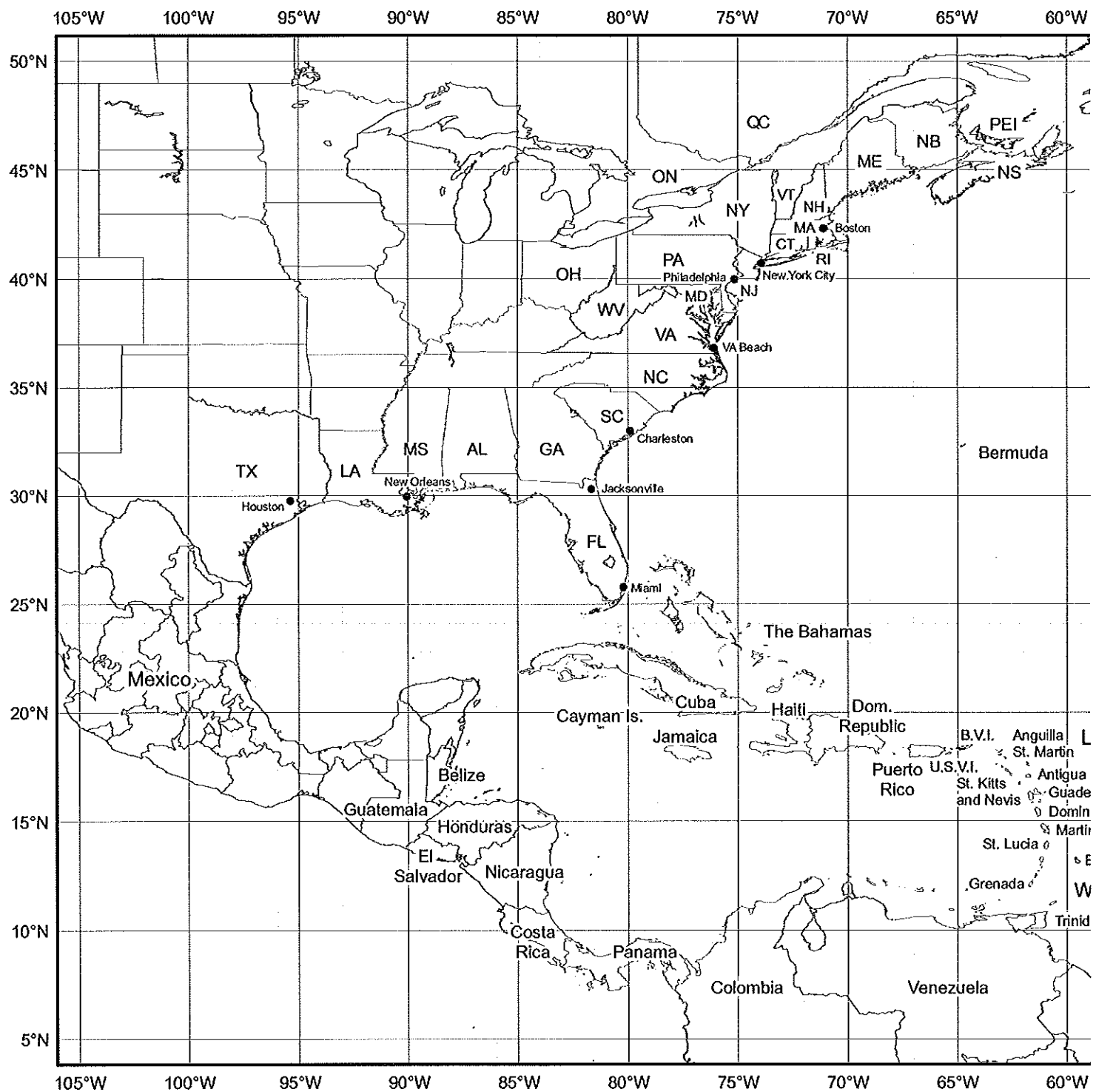
A strong storm or hurricane can cause significant damage, resulting in widespread power outages. Restoration efforts must be prioritized, starting with facilities that provide the most critical services:

- Damaged power plants and power lines from the plants, since these must be fixed before service can be restored anywhere.
- Organizations that provide critical infrastructure functions to the community, such as hospitals, police, and fire stations.
- Major power lines that serve large numbers of customers.
- Smaller power lines such as service to a single street.
- Individual homes or businesses still without power.



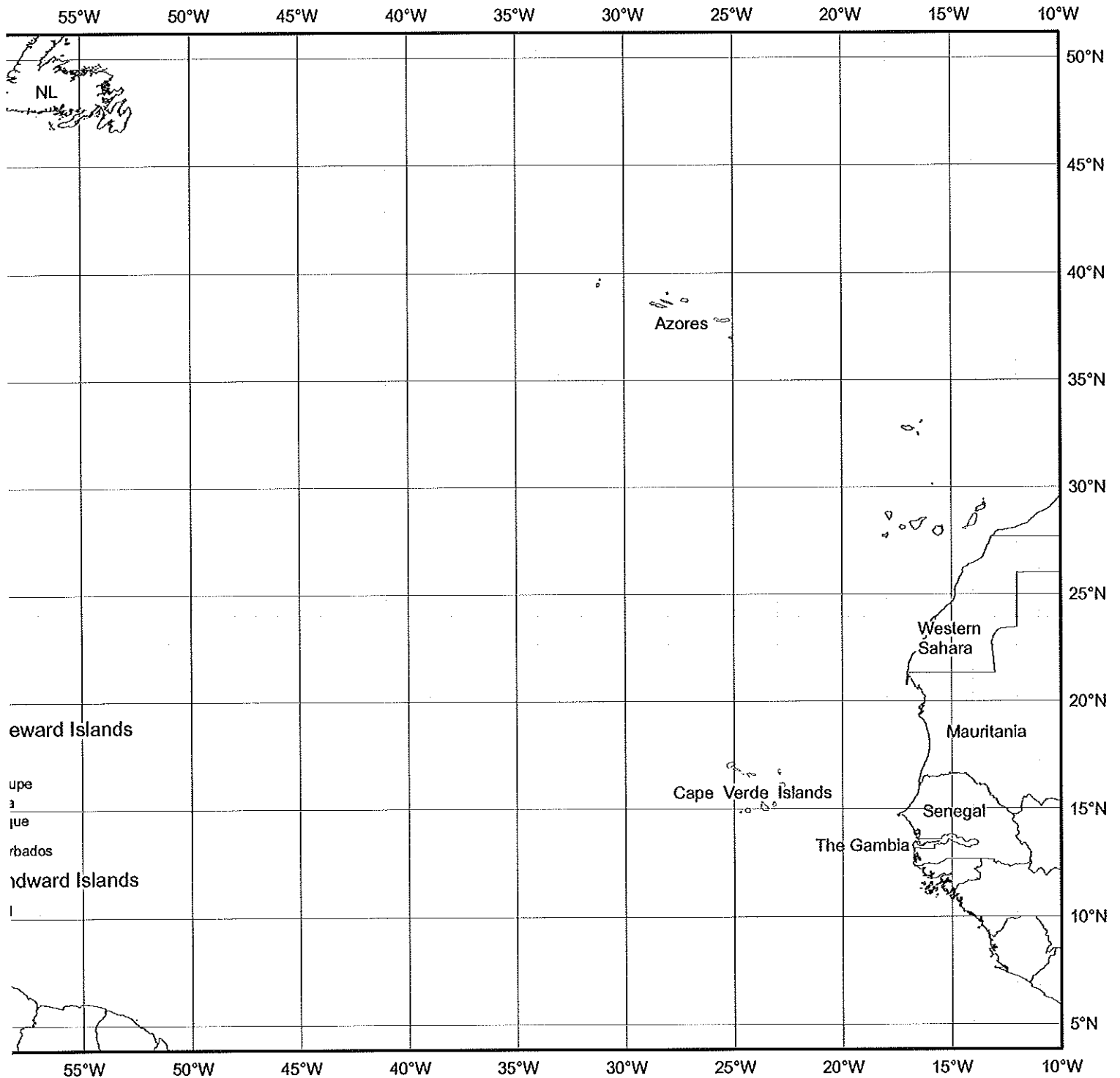
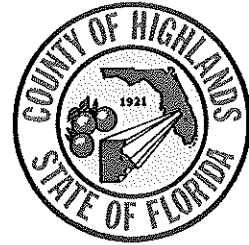
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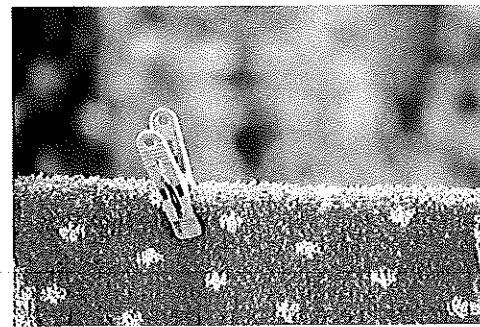
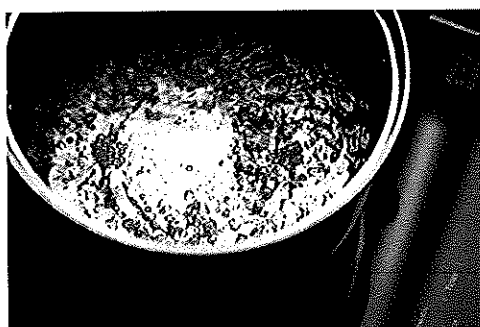
cane Tracking Chart

enter, Miami, Florida



Keeping safe during a power outage
When a power outage occurs, safety is an important concern. Here are some basic tips that will keep you, your family and your employees safe while the power is out:

- Assume all cables and wires are energized and stay away.
 - Keep away from flooded and debris-laden areas because they may be hiding downed power lines.
 - Run your portable generator outside your house or building and connect appliances or equipment directly to it.
 - If you leave your home, turn off appliances that may have been on when the power went out, or turn off your main breaker.
 - Avoid driving in damaged areas. You might interfere with rescue or restoration efforts, as well as jeopardize your own safety.
 - Help keep telephone lines clear for emergency calls. Only call to report downed power lines, or if your neighbors' power has been restored
- and you are without electricity. Don't trim trees or remove debris located near downed power lines. If you must remove debris from your home, don't pile it under or near electrical lines or equipment.
 - Any damage to your home's electric system must be repaired by a licensed electrician and inspected by a designated agency before power can be restored.
 - Check your weather-head (located on the roof where your service connects to the pole) and your meter box to make sure they are not damaged.
 - If you suspect there is water in the walls or ceiling, stay away from electrical outlets and contact a licensed electrician to repair the damage.
 - If you need to live in temporary quarters on your property, a licensed electrician can install a temporary service pole. After the pole is inspected by a designated agency, your electric utility can provide power.



PICKING UP THE PIECES

After a natural disaster, damaged water pipes can cause pressure to drop, possibly letting in contaminated ground water and bacterial contamination becomes a concern.

Water precautions:

- Disinfect tap water you use for anything, including for your pets.
- Boil it for at least 10 minutes or use chemicals: eight drops of chlorine bleach (without scent or other additives) or tincture of iodine per gallon. Let water sit at least 10 minutes before drinking.
- If you wash dishes in tap water, rinse them in extra-chlorinated water by using about 15 drops of chlorine.
- Showering or bathing in tap water is fine. If you cut yourself shaving, apply a disinfectant such as alcohol or antibiotic cream.

Food safety rules:

- Don't trust your sense of smell.
- Throw away perishables.
- Wipe the interior of any food container with baking soda and water.
- Fill your freezer with plastic jugs of water. A full freezer stays cold longer. Keep the freezer door closed as much as possible. Foods will stay frozen longer. Meats and solid items stay frozen longer than baked goods. Refreezing partially thawed food is risky. Generally, if the foods still contain ice crystals, they're OK to re-freeze although their quality may suffer.
- Dry ice keeps food frozen for about 1-4 days.
- Without air conditioning, food waste will start to smell rapidly. Use small plastic garbage bags; tie or seal and place in a larger bag or can outdoors.

Clothing and furniture preservation:

- Take down wet draperies and spread to dry.
- Take furniture outside to dry, but don't put in the sun. Put under a covered patio or tarp.
- Elevate wet upholstered furniture if it is resting on carpet.

After the storm

After major storms our lives can change drastically. These disasters affect everyone to some extent. Relief supplies, and other aid, will be arriving as quickly as possible, but it may take several days. Try to remain calm, patient and understanding. Your attitude affects you and everyone around you. Remember that the longest and hardest part of dealing with a hurricane is the recovery.

Things to remember:

- There may be residual flooding and roads may be blocked for days or weeks, making damaged areas inaccessible. You may not be allowed back to your home for days, or possibly weeks.
- Emergency workers want your return home to be as safe as possible and need time to clear safe access and secure hazards.
- Listen to local media for re-entry information and do not go into unsafe areas.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges. Do not go sightseeing.
- If you evacuated out of the area, consider staying away for a few extra days.

Before you return, consider the following:

- Power will be out for an undetermined period.
- Telephone service will be out or limited. This includes 911 calling.
- Municipal water supplies may be unsafe to drink without boiling or chemical treatment. Treat all water as unsafe until you are notified that it is safe.
- Sewer lift stations will not work, meaning toilets will not flush and sinks will not drain, and they may backup into your home or property.

When you return:

- Inspect your home for damage. Check for water and sewer line damage. Check the electrical system. Turn off the main breaker until you are sure the system is safe. Check for natural gas and/or bottled gas leaks. Do not enter or stay in



a structure if you smell gas.

- Be careful when you go outside and pay attention to where you walk and stand. Avoid any downed wires or standing water. Report downed wires to your utility company or to emergency services.
- Check above you for low hanging objects or loose things that could fall.
- Beware of wild animals that might be dangerous. Fire ants, bees, wasps, snakes, rodents and wild animals will be seeking high ground. They can create health and safety hazards.
- Be careful of domestic animals, even ones you know. They may be frightened or injured and more dangerous than you expect.
- REMEMBER: Insurance companies will send special disaster assistance teams, as will the state and federal government. Still, it may be more than a week before those teams are able to get into operation.
- When help does arrive, some may be in the form of the unscrupulous fortune seekers. Do not sign repair contracts until you have checked out the contractor. Do not pay for any services until the work has been completed.
- Ask for a valid county contractor's license. Is the contractor bonded? Does the price seem fair? Are high-pressure tactics being used? Report the suspicious contractor to authorities to be checked out! If you see unfairly high prices being charged, report it! Local authorities want to help our residents by requiring competence and fairness.

For more information, contact Emergency Management at 863-402-6800.



Photo courtesy Highlands News-Sun

DEBRIS PICK UP:

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A STORM

After a major storm event, local governments in combination with the state and federal government may declare a state of emergency.

Highlands County will work in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to engage with private contractors through contracts that are in place prior to the event.

Highlands County will make several locations available for disposal of debris for these contractors.

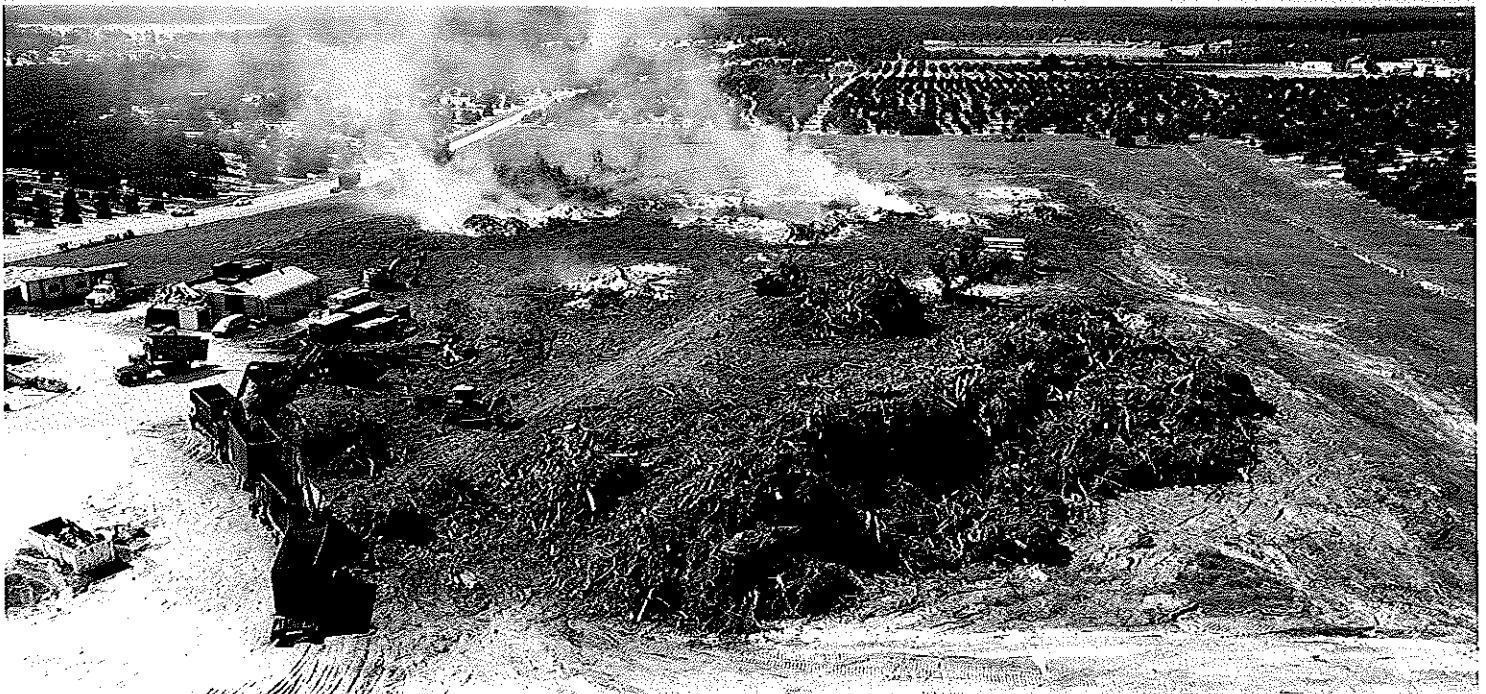
Residents may also haul their debris material to the Highlands County Landfill at 12700 Arbuckle Creek Road in Sebring. This will be the only location where the public may dispose of debris material themselves.

Please see requirements below:

- Public roadways will first be immediately cleared of debris from the travel ways by the maintaining agency for the roadway (FDOT, Highlands County, municipality, etc.) as a priority. Following the initial road clearing effort, residents may start placing debris from qualifying areas in the public right-of-way for collection.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) roadways (such as Highway 27, Highway 98, SR 64, SR 66, SR 70, SR 17) - FDOT will make

one pass through their roadways collecting debris in the right-of-way. Once FDOT crews make their one pass, all future debris from properties adjoining these roadways will have to be taken to the Highlands County Landfill for disposal. This will be the responsibility of the property owner.

- Local road rights-of-way - Highlands County, City of Avon Park, City of Sebring, Town of Lake Placid, Sun 'n Lake Improvement District, Spring Lake Improvement District: Highlands County will enact the private contractor under contract in accordance with FEMA guidelines. Per FEMA requirements, only debris originating from improved residential properties placed in the public right-of-way will be collected. Depending on several factors, maintained rights-of-way may be cleared before crews clear non-County/City-maintained public rights-of-way. Public-maintained roadways are typically identified by a green road name sign with white lettering.
- Private rights-of-way - Private rights-of-way such as those maintained by property owner associations may be considered if allowed by FEMA. The maintaining entity of these roadways will need to contact the Highlands County Engineering Department for requirements to be included in the FEMA Private Property Debris Removal program.



Applications will need to be filed with Highlands County and approval received from FEMA prior to any work occurring by the FEMA contractors. Approval for collection may take as long as 30 days or more. Privately-maintained roadways typically have a white road name sign with green letters.

- Private roadway easements - The FEMA program does not allow collection of debris material from private roadway easements. Property owners with any debris from properties accessed from these easements will be required to arrange to have the debris disposed of properly. These roads also have a white road name sign with green letters.
- Areas that WILL NOT be included in the private property debris removal program include commercial properties, golf courses, agriculture properties, industrial properties, and vacant properties of all zonings.

What will be collected from qualifying areas?
Vegetative debris or inert building material debris. Please see requirements below:

1. The vegetative debris such as trees and branches and inert building materials need to be kept separate from each other.
2. Mixing of materials may result in delays in getting picked up or may result in non-pick up completely.

3. Inert building materials does not include any hazardous waste, furniture, clothing, or other household waste items.
4. Remember when placing material in the right-of-way for collection to keep piles out of the travel lanes, out from under other trees or branches and stay away from obstacles such as fire hydrants, mail boxes, trees, low power lines, and utility poles.
5. It is important that any debris qualifying for collection be placed in the right-of-way as soon as safely possible.
6. The length of the clearing project will vary depending on severity of the damage and the amount of debris to be collected.
7. All material to be collected should be ready for collection within 30 days after the event if possible to avoid being missed.

Non-qualifying items should be properly disposed of at the Highlands County Landfill or set out for normal garbage collection following requirements of your solid waste service provider.

Should an event occur, check the Highlands County website (highlandsfl.gov) or Facebook page for collection deadlines and more information.

For more information, call Emergency Management at 863-402-6800.

TORNADOS

WHAT IS A TORNADO?

A tornado is a violent storm with whirling winds of up to 300 miles per hour. It appears as a funnel shaped cloud, from gray to black in color, which extends to the ground from the base of a thunderstorm.

A tornado spins like a top and may sound like the roaring of an airplane or locomotive. In Florida, summer tornadoes generally move at speeds less than 20 MPH and can move in any direction.

Winter tornadoes tend to move at speeds less than 40 MPH and generally move from the southwest to northeast. Their direction of travel can be erratic and may change suddenly.

These short-lived storms are the most violent of all atmospheric phenomena and the most destructive over a small area.

PROTECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio and/or battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries.
2. Many mobile phones are capable of receiving Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs). These alerts can inform you about life-threatening weather conditions in your immediate area.
3. Know the terms used to describe tornado threats:
 - a. Tornado Watch "Caution, Watch the Sky"
Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms.
 - b. Tornado Warning "Danger, Take Cover"
A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately. The warning will include those cities in the path of the storm. Do not leave shelter until you are sure no further danger exists. Remember, there is no guaranteed safe place during a tornado.
4. If a tornado threatens, secure any loose objects outdoors or move them inside. Survey local structures for the most suitable shelter. Keep watching the sky to the south and southwest. If you see any funnel-shaped clouds, report them immediately to the nearest law enforcement agency and take cover.
5. If you are in a home or condo, seek shelter in a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building. **AVOID WINDOWS.** The worst kind of flying debris is broken glass.
6. Mobile or manufactured homes are not safe during tornados. Abandon the structure and go to the nearest sturdy building immediately. Do not drive your car. Do not get under your mobile home. If no other shelter is available, lie down in a ditch or a ground depression.
7. If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building, **NOT** a mobile home or portable structure.
8. If you are caught in the open with no sturdy shelter available, move away from the tornado's projected path at right angles. Seek shelter in a ditch, ravine, culvert or ground depression. Stay away from trees. Cover your head with your hands.
9. If you are at school, follow the school disaster plan. Stay away from auditoriums, gymnasiums and other areas with wide, free-span roofs. Go into center hallways and stay away from windows.
10. If you are in a motor vehicle, never try to outrun a tornado in your car. Stop your vehicle and get out. Seek shelter elsewhere. Do not get under or next to your vehicle. A ditch or ground depression will help if a tornado shelter is not nearby.



SEVERE WEATHER

THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING

It doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike. Almost all lightning will occur within 10 miles of its parent thunderstorm, but it CAN strike much farther than that. Lightning detection equipment has confirmed bolts striking almost 50 miles away.

Thunderstorms can produce several types of hazardous weather including large hail, damaging winds, flash floods, and tornados.

Lightning is the number one cause of weather related fatalities in Florida, averaging 10 fatalities and 40 injuries a year. Approximately half of the deaths and injuries occur during outdoor recreational activities, and about 40% of those occur on the water.

Where to go

The safest location during a thunderstorm is inside a large enclosed structure. If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity more efficiently than a human body. If no buildings are available, then an enclosed metal vehicle such as an automobile, van or school bus makes a decent alternative.

Where NOT to go

Not all types of buildings or vehicles are safe during thunderstorms. Buildings are NOT SAFE (even if they are "grounded") if they have exposed openings. These include beach shacks, metal sheds, picnic shelters/pavilions, carports, and baseball dugouts. Porches are dangerous as well. Convertible vehicles offer no safety from lightning, even if the top is "up." Other vehicles that are NOT SAFE during lightning storms are those that have open cabs, such as golf carts, tractors, and construction equipment. Remember, it is not the rubber tires of a vehicle that protect you from lightning. The metal shell of a vehicle gives the electricity from the lightning a path to flow around you.

What to do

Once inside a sturdy building, stay away from electrical appliances and plumbing fixtures. You may want to unplug valuable electrical equipment so they will not be damaged. As an added safety



measure, go to an interior room. If you are inside a vehicle, roll the windows up, and avoid contact with any conducting paths leading to the outside of the vehicle such as radios, CB's, and the ignition or you could be badly burned if lightning strikes.

What NOT to do

Lightning can travel great distances through power lines, especially in rural areas. Do not use electrical appliances, including corded telephones and desktop computers, unless it is an emergency. Cordless phones, cell phones, laptop and tablet computers are safe to use. Stay away from the windows and do not take a shower or use the bathtub.

WHAT DO I DO IF I AM ON A BOAT IN THE OPEN WATER DURING A THUNDERSTORM?

Thunderstorms over the coastal waters in Florida are generally unpredictable. Even with the best weather reports, boaters can still be caught in open waters when a thunderstorm develops. With or without a lightning protection system, it is critical to take additional precautions to protect yourself:

- Stay in the center of the cabin, if so designed. If there is no cabin, stay low in the boat. Do not be a stand-up lightning rod!
- Keep arms and legs in the boat. Do not dangle them over the side.
- Stop fishing, water skiing, scuba diving, swimming or other water activities when there is lightning or even when weather conditions look threatening. Lightning can strike well ahead of a storm.
- Disconnect and do not use or touch the major

electronic equipment, including the radio, throughout the duration of the storm.

- Lower, remove or tie down the radio antenna and other protruding rods or poles.
- To the degree possible, avoid contacting two components connected to the system at the same time.
- At least one person on board should be competent in CPR and first aid. Many individuals struck by lightning can be saved with prompt first aid.

HEAT EMERGENCIES

Heat emergencies are easily preventable by taking precautions in hot weather. If the problem isn't addressed, three types of heat emergencies may occur – **heat cramps** (caused by loss of salt from heavy sweating) can lead to **heat exhaustion** (caused by dehydration), which can progress to **heatstroke** (shock).

Heatstroke, the most serious of the three, can cause shock, brain damage, organ failure, and even death.

The early symptoms of a heat emergency include: profuse sweating, fatigue, thirst, and muscle cramps.

Later symptoms of heat exhaustion include: headache, dizziness and lightheadedness, weakness, nausea and vomiting, cool moist skin, and dark urine.

The symptoms of heatstroke include: fever,

irrational behavior, confusion, dry, hot and red skin, rapid shallow breathing and pulse, seizures and unconsciousness.

Remove the victim from the heat and have him/her lie down. Apply cool compresses, elevate the feet, drink fluids and use a fan to blow cool air. Get medical help if needed.

Call 911 if:

- The person loses consciousness at anytime.
- There is any other change in the person's alertness (for example, confusion or seizures).
- Fever (temp above 104°F)
- The person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and finger-nails and decreased alertness).
- Other symptoms of heat stroke are present (like rapid pulse or rapid breathing).
- The person's condition does not improve, or worsens despite treatment.

Prevention:

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in hot weather
- Rest frequently and seek shade when possible.
- Avoid exercise or strenuous physical activity outside during hot or humid weather.
- Drink plenty of fluids every day. Drink more fluids before, during, and after physical activity.
- Be especially careful to avoid overheating if you are taking drugs that impair heat regulation, or if you are overweight or elderly.

FLOODS

Because of the low land elevations and the high-water tables over much of our area, flooding is likely to occur in some areas during summer showers and thunderstorms. A storm with a considerable amount of rain in a short period of time will cause flooding in low-lying areas throughout the county even though the canal network and drainage ditches will alleviate some flooding.

What protective measures do I need to take?

Protective measures are broken down into four stages: Preparatory Stage, Flood Warning, During the Flood; After the Flood.

Preparatory stage:

1. Keep a stock of food that requires no cooking.
2. Keep a first aid kit available.
3. Keep your vehicle fueled.
4. Consider purchasing flood insurance for your home and belongings.
5. Turn to radio or television or NOAA Weather Radio for flood warnings.
6. Obey warnings from emergency officials; evacuate when notice is issued.
7. Know your evacuation zone and route to a safe place.
8. Know what supplies to take with you.
9. Shut off electricity and water to your home

before leaving.

10. Be cautious and avoid flood prone areas when evacuating.

Take steps to reduce property loss:

1. Move furniture to upper floors or higher locations.
2. Sandbags can help slow down flood waters from reaching your possessions.
3. Retrofitting, such as building flood walls or elevating a structure is a way of minimizing loss due to flooding.
4. Know what your current insurance policy does and does not cover. Coverage may be subject to change with certain improvements to your home and require adherence to certain regulations.

Flood warning stage:

1. Store drinking water in sterile, covered containers.
2. Move valuable objects higher. Place them on shelves, tables and countertops.
3. Turn off electricity.

During the flood stage:

1. Stay on higher ground.
2. Do not drive on a flooded road.
3. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
4. Don't attempt to wade across a flowing stream that is above your knees.
5. Don't allow children to play in standing water. It



may be contaminated with chemicals or sewage.

After the flood stage:

1. Do not eat fresh food that has come into contact with floodwater.
2. Drink only bottled or previously stored water.
3. Stay away from disaster areas. You may hamper rescue recovery operations.
4. Do not handle live electrical equipment.
5. Report downed power lines to the local law enforcement authorities.
6. Keep tuned to the local newspaper, radio and television stations as well as your local government communication outlets for instructions on how to obtain medical care and emergency assistance like water, food, clothing, shelter and updated weather reports and conditions.

STORMREADY

StormReady is a voluntary program created by the National Weather Service to help communities prepare and protect residents from hazardous weather. StormReady is a nationwide program focused on helping community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs. Currently there are 3,057 StormReady sites nationally. StormReady communities are better prepared for hazardous weather conditions through planning, education and awareness.

To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and

emergency operations center

- Have more than one method of receiving severe weather forecasts and warnings, and alerting the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote public readiness through community seminars
- Develop a hazardous weather plan, to include training severe weather spotters (SKYWARN) and training exercises.

For more details, visit weather.gov/stormready

WILDFIRE SAFETY



Before:

- Keep the surfaces beneath decks, sheds, propane tank, vehicles and boats free of debris, leaves and flammable vegetation. Maintain a 30-foot "safe zone" around your home, with no dry vegetation or flammable items.
- Select building materials, plants, and yard decorations that are resistant to fire.
- Clean out gutters and downspouts of debris and leaves. Make sure you have a non-flammable roof covering and assembly.
- Have two ways out of your neighborhood just in case one way is blocked.

During:

- Listen to local radio and television stations for wildfire information.
- Evacuate immediately if instructed or if the wildfire is close.
- Close all home openings to limit exposure to smoke and dust.
- Move outside furniture and plants indoors.

After:

- Do not return until officials declare the area safe.
- Use caution when entering burned areas, as hot spots may still exist and can flare up without warning.
- Wet debris down to minimize breathing in dust.
- Do not drink water that you think may be contaminated.
- Discard food that has been exposed to smoke or dust.

For more wildfire tips, call your local Florida Forest Service office at 863-462-5160 or visit FreshFromFlorida.com/Wildfire

HOME FIRE SAFETY

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

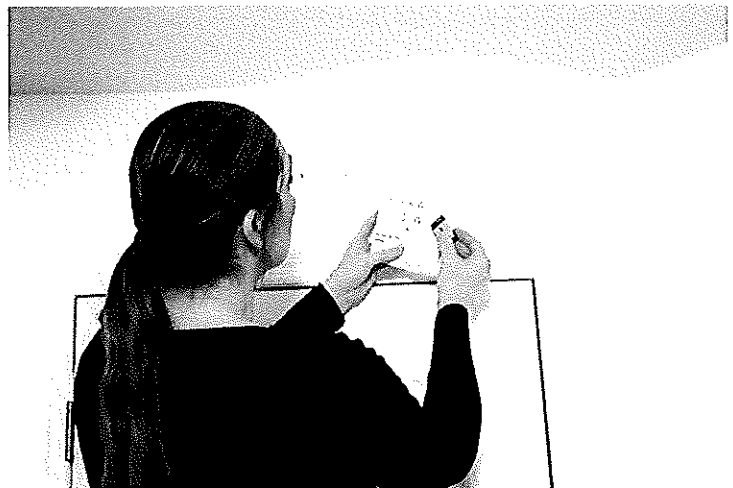
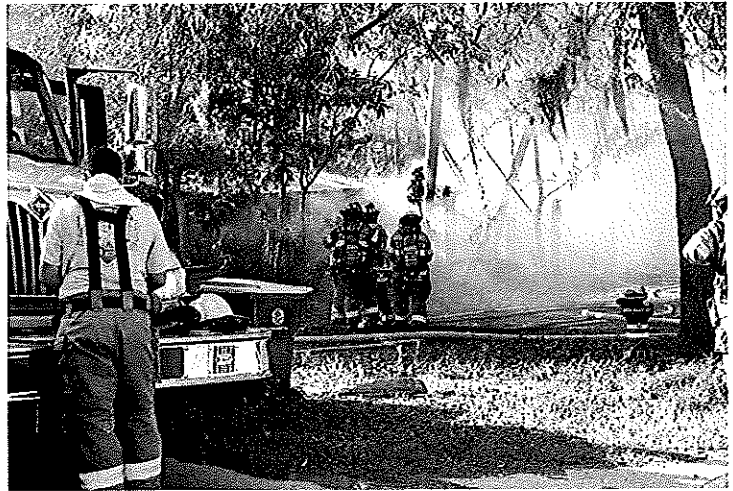
- ☐ Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home, in every bedroom and sleeping area.
- ☐ Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors every month.
- ☐ Check batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors every six months and replace when needed.
- ☐ Replace smoke detectors every 10 years.
- ☐ Keep at least one fire extinguisher in your home.
- ☐ Keep flammable items at least three feet away from the stove, space heaters, and fireplaces.
- ☐ Turn off stove if you are going to leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time.
- ☐ NEVER smoke in bed.
- ☐ Unplug small kitchen appliances when not in use.
- ☐ Make sure matches and lighters are out of reach of children.

In the event of a fire:

- Get low to the ground and crawl to an exit. (Door or window)
- Check door handles with the back of your hand. If handle is hot look for an alternate escape route.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit route, hang a sheet or towel outside your window to let fire departments know where you are.
- Once you are out, stay out and go to your designated meeting place.
- Call 911
- NEVER go back inside for possessions, pets or even other people who may be still in the building.

After a fire:

- Stay out of fire-damaged homes until fire authorities give clearance to do so.
- Seek medical treatment for any injured persons or animals.
- Let friends and family know you are safe and how to contact you.
- Discard any consumable items in your home that were exposed to smoke or dust.



Training

Training and presentation opportunities are available by calling Highlands County Public Safety at 863-402-7600.

Opportunities include but are not limited to:

Fire safety
Preparedness
Hands-only CPR
Stop the Bleed
Fire extinguisher training

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

CHEMICAL

The word reminds us of the latest news story about an accident or environmental damage from improper storage, use or disposal of chemicals. However, many aspects of modern life are made possible or improved by responsible use and handling of chemicals.

Around the house

When we think of hazardous chemicals, we tend to think of manufacturing plants, train cars or trucks. While this is valid, we should also consider our own kitchen cabinets, garage, pool and other places in our home where potentially harmful chemicals are a part of our everyday life. We become so familiar with them that we may have forgotten that they can injure or even kill us.

No matter how comfortable you are with a product, here are some important safety reminders:

- ALWAYS follow label directions
- Never mix chemicals
- Use only for approved purposes and in approved concentrations
- Store and dispose of safely, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Keep away from children
- Never store in containers that look like food or drink
- Understand first aid directions
- Keep the number of your local poison control center handy

If you suspect someone has been exposed to a chemical, consult your physician or call the Florida Poison Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

If injuries are serious or the victim has trouble breathing, call 911!

TRANSPORTATION

Everyday hazardous materials are transported safely by highway, rail, air and sea. Because of the design, construction and safety features of chemical transportation containers, significant releases are rare. However, there are occasional accidents.



In an accident you can be affected either at home or on the highway. If you are at home, you will be notified through the media or local public safety agencies. Follow instructions quickly and carefully. You may be ordered to evacuate or to "shelter in place" depending on the chemicals involved. If ordered to evacuate do so immediately.

Shelter in place means to stay inside where you are. If you are directed to shelter in place, close all windows and doors and turn off the air conditioner. Use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal around doors, windows and other openings. If this is not available, damp towels or blankets can be used. The goal is to prevent outside air from entering your home. Do not go outside or open doors or windows until local authorities tell you it is safe. Once the all clear is given, you should ventilate your home by opening doors and windows to purge any possible contaminants.

If you see or are involved in a traffic accident, take special care to avoid hazardous chemicals. Do not walk or drive through a vapor cloud or spill. Pay attention to any placards – diamond shaped panels with numbers and/or symbols on them. Provide the placard number to authorities. Small quantities of hazardous material may not have a placard.

The most important step to protect yourself and others is to avoid or reduce exposure to the chemical. If able, evacuate. Move crosswind to safety and keep other people from entering the area.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

It is possible that a transportation accident could involve a radioactive substance. These materials are packed in limited quantities in very strong, well-marked containers. If you see a marked package or suspect radioactive material may be present, move away from the area and advise emergency responders. Do not attempt to move it yourself.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Florida has three nuclear power plants: Crystal River, north of Tampa; St. Lucie, north of Palm Beach; and Turkey Point, south of Miami.

Even under worst-case conditions, an accidental release at any of these plants should not spread dangerous radioactivity over southwest Florida. However, we might receive evacuees from other counties. They pose no health risk. However, agricultural products from those areas would not be permitted to enter our food supply.



BIOHAZARD MATERIAL

Another hazardous material that may be seen in transit is biohazard material. Healthcare facilities generate and dispose of this material, which may at first glance appear to be ordinary garbage.

Biohazard material could expose you to disease-causing agents. As with other hazardous materials, you can usually avoid exposure by not contacting or handling the material or container. Call the authorities and explain the situation.

ACTS OF TERRORISM

What is terrorism?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation defines terrorism as "the unlawful use of force against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in the furtherance of political or social objectives."

Terrorist acts are intended to:

- Cause mass casualties and panic
- Produce a loss of critical resources
- Disrupt vital services and the economy

The most likely targets are:

- Public assembly areas
- Public and government buildings
- Mass transit
- Places of high economic impact
- Telecommunications facilities

- Historic or symbolic places
- Amusement parks
- Special events
- Large structures and bridges

Visiting these places is part of our way of life. You should not avoid them but have a heightened sense of awareness when you visit them.

How can I prepare?

Learn shelter-in-place procedures and prepare a sheltering kit. Shelter-in-place procedures are used for chemical or biological attacks (or even a hazardous spill).

Procedures for sheltering in place include:

- Identify a safe room in the home with as few doors and windows possible. Bring/store your disaster supply kit in the safe room.
- Shutting off the ventilation system and latching

all doors and windows to reduce airflow from the outside.

- Use precut plastic sheeting to cover openings where air can enter the room, including doors, windows, vents, and electrical outlets.
- Tape plastic sheeting around all doors and windows using duct tape to ensure a good seal.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio for the all clear. Chemicals used in an attack will be carried on the wind and will dissipate over time.

If there is an explosion:

- Take cover if heavy debris is falling. Leave the building as quickly as possible.
- NEVER take an elevator if there is a fire or if you question the structural integrity of the building.

- Use fire escapes and assist individuals with physical disabilities to evacuate.

When you travel:

- If you are traveling to a foreign country, check the U.S. Department of State web page at <http://travel.state.gov/> for any travel advisories or procedure changes. Always keep your identification papers in a secure place.
- Check with the airlines in advance for any special safety procedures in place.
- Cooperate with officials who are responsible for security inspections.

As always...

See something, say something!

ACTIVE SHOOTER

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Customers and clients are likely to follow the lead of employees and managers during an active shooter situation.

RUN:

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

HIDE:

- Hide in an area out of the active shooter's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors

FIGHT:

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

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

When law enforcement arrives on the scene

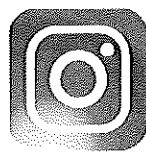
1. How you should react when law enforcement arrives:

- Remain calm, and follow verbal instructions from law enforcement
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers, such as attempting to hold on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

2. Information you should provide to law enforcement or 911 operator:

- Location of the victims and the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter(s)
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s)
- Number of potential victims at the location

OFFICIAL INFORMATION SOURCES



WHERE CAN I GET RELIABLE INFORMATION?

The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners and its Emergency Management and Fire Rescue departments have two official Facebook pages, found by searching for Highlands County Board of County Commissioners and Highlands County Fire Rescue.

The County also has a Twitter account with the handle @HighlandsFLBCC; an Instagram account, @HighlandsFLBCC; and a Nextdoor account, Highlands County Board of County Commissioners. Fire Rescue has a Twitter account with the handle @highlandsFL_FR.

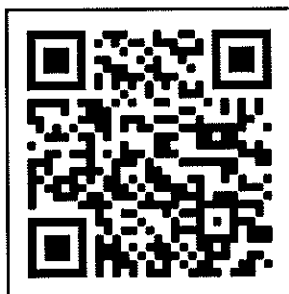
Preparedness and emergency information will be directly provided via Facebook, the County website (highlandsfl.gov) and the County's Everbridge application – Alert Highlands.

We will also provide news releases to all local media, including print, radio and television interviews.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH ALERT HIGHLANDS?

Local officials will provide important storm information through this platform, and you may opt to receive text and/or email notifications.

To register, visit bit.ly/alerthighlands or use the QR code below.



Which radio and television stations and newspapers cover our area?

RADIO

NOAA station: WXK83A Frequency 162.5000

WWTK AM 730

WITS AM 1340

WJCM AM 1050

WWLL FM 105.7

WWOJ FM 99.1

WZSP FM 105.3 (Spanish)

WRUM FM 100.3 (Spanish)

WRSO FM 97.9 (Spanish)

TELEVISION

Comcast Channel 6

Fort Myers WINK Channel 11

WHRT Channel 7

Tampa WTVT Channel 13

WFLA Channel 8

Tampa WFTS Channel 28

Orlando WFTV Channel 9

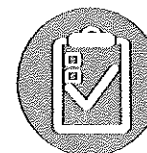
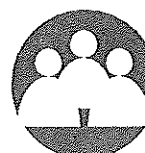
Tampa WTOG Channel 44

WFTS Channel 10

WTTA Great 38 (Spanish and English)

NEWSPAPER

Highlands News-Sun - highlandsnewssun.com



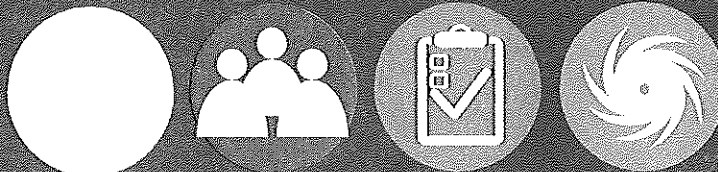
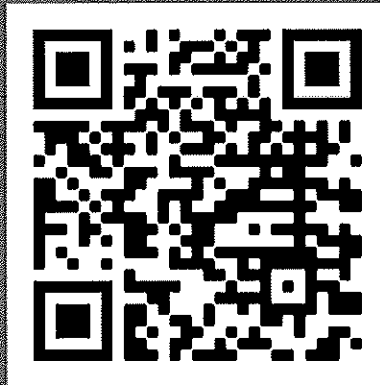
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**For more information, visit the Highlands County
Emergency Management website**

<http://bit.ly/HC-EM>



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