

All-Hazards Disaster Planning Guide

The official guide for Manatee County

Are you ready?



***YOUR NEW HURRICANE
EVACUATION MAP INSIDE***



Hurricane Season is June 1st – November 30th

Now is the time to prepare!

Know your risk! www.tampabayprepares.org

If a disaster struck, would you be ready?

Would your family be ready? Would your business be ready?

This guide offers important tips to prepare for a disaster and highlights the extra details to consider for groups of all ages, including people with medical needs and our pets. Follow the checklists in this guide to help in protecting your loved ones, your home, and your business.

Visit our **#ManateeReady** page for the latest updates on any current emergency situations, including access to our Resident Information Tool, Sandbag Location Map, Evacuation Level Map, and so much more. Receive local updates to your phone. Text **ManateeReady** (one word) to **888-777**.

Helping you stay ready year-round,

- **MANATEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**



Your Disaster Plan

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

KNOW YOUR RISK

Learn what disasters might affect your area. Are you in a **Hurricane Evacuation Level** (*see [inside map](#)*) or **FEMA Flood Zone**? They are different! Prepare yourself for emergencies by taking first aid and CPR courses (redcross.org).

PICK TWO MEETING PLACES

The first should be just 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.

ARE YOU COVERED? INSURANCE TIPS

1. Know your flood risk.* Standard homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from floods, including storm surge from a hurricane.**
2. Purchase a policy. Remember, there is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance to go into effect. Do not wait until a storm is threatening to purchase a policy.
3. Insure your property for its reconstruction cost, not its real estate value.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

Ask someone out 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.) Include contact information in your phones and make physical emergency contact cards.

BUSINESS OWNERS

If you own a business, develop and follow your Business Continuity Plan. For more information on how to create a Business Continuity Plan, visit disastersafety.org and ready.gov.

4. Get covered for the costs of building code upgrades.
5. Set aside funds to pay your hurricane deductible.
6. Inventory and take a video survey of your property and possessions to accurately price coverage and speed up the claims process. If you rent, you need insurance to protect your belongings.

* Hurricane Evacuation Levels and FEMA Flood Zones (floodsmart.gov)

** Educational resources are available from the Insurance Information Institute (iii.org).

Disaster Safety Tips



FLOODING

1. Determine your flood-risk and purchase flood insurance.
2. If flooding threatens, get to higher ground. Stay away from flood-prone areas, including low spots and ditches. Take dry clothing, a flashlight, and a portable radio with you.
3. **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.** Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream or drive in water. The depth is not always obvious. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet.
4. Do not allow children to play in or near high water, storm drains, or ditches. Flood waters may be contaminated with oil, gasoline, or raw sewage.
5. Do not sweep or blow yard leaves, pine needles, grass clippings, or soil into the street or stormwater system. Doing so clogs pipes and prevents flood waters from draining.



FIRE SAFETY

1. **PLAN:** The time to plan for a fire emergency is now. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family or coworkers what actions you will need to take as you make your Disaster Plan for your family or business. Contact numbers are extremely important. Test smoke alarms in your home monthly.
2. **EVACUATION PLAN:** Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Unlike evacuating for a hurricane, with fire you may only have a moment's notice. Have at least two escape routes out of your home and out of your neighborhood. Have a plan for evacuating your pets or service animals.
3. **FIRE DRILLS:** Make sure everyone knows at least two escape routes from your home or business and practice regularly.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

IF YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE:

1. Stay calm. Quickly gather what you will need, unless you are told to leave immediately.
2. Move to the place/shelter designated by public officials.
3. Keep car windows/air vents closed. Do not use the air conditioner until you are out of the evacuation area.
4. Do not return to the evacuation area until/unless the all clear has been given by public officials.

IF YOU ARE TOLD TO STAY INDOORS & SHELTER-IN-PLACE:

1. Bring pets indoors.
2. Close all doors and windows. Seal all gaps under doorways and windows with damp towels and duct tape.
3. Turn off heating, cooling, or ventilation systems.
4. Stay inside until local officials say you can leave safely.



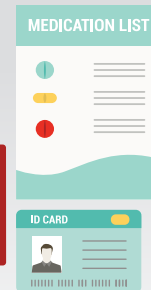
TERRORISM / VIOLENT CRIME

1. **"See Something, Say Something."** Call local law enforcement, then Florida's toll-free hotline **1-855-352-7233 (1-855-FLA-SAFE)** to report any suspicious activity. If it is an emergency, dial **9-1-1!**
2. Your Family Disaster Plan should include emergency contacts and a designated meeting place. Be prepared to respond to official instructions to evacuate the building or area.

KEEP A PAPER TRAIL

Keep important documents in a fireproof safe or box, and store a copy in a secure location away from your home or business.

- Proof of residence/ownership
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Passports
- Social Security cards
- Bank and credit card info.
- Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns
- Stocks and bonds
- Copy of driver's license
- Special medical information
- Insurance policies
- Property inventories or photos of your home and business
- Business tax license
- Business supply/vendor lists



TORNADOES

1. Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio and/or a 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"** - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms.
 - b. **"Tornado Warning"** - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by a weather radar. Take shelter immediately.
4. If a tornado threatens, seek shelter in a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
5. **Mobile homes and RVs are not safe during tornadoes.** Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy building immediately.
6. If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building, NOT a mobile home or portable structure.
7. If you cannot quickly walk to a sturdy building, immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and try to drive to the closest sturdy building. Take pillows/blankets with you.
8. If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. **Now you have the following options as a last resort:**
 - a. Stay in your vehicle with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
 - b. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car, and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.



DISEASE OUTBREAK

1. Prevention is key. Get your flu shot and other vaccinations.
2. Wash hands often and thoroughly.
3. Stay home when you are ill. Employers and schools should encourage this policy.

Are you #ManateeReady?

- [facebook.com/manateecountyemergencymanagement](https://www.facebook.com/manateecountyemergencymanagement)
- Twitter @MCGPPublicSafety & @ManateeGov
- Instagram @manateecountyemergencymgmt

Bracing for the Storm

Storms can be unpredictable. As the storm approaches, stay tuned for the latest weather updates on local radio and TV stations, NOAA Weather Radio, and your county's official social media.



MOBILE HOMES & RVs

Mobile home and RV residents must evacuate for any hurricane evacuation order given in the county, regardless of location within the county. **NEVER stay inside a mobile home or RV to ride out the storm.** Evacuate to a friend's or relative's home, hotel, motel, or nearby designated shelter/evacuation center. Anchor mobile homes or RVs with tie downs, and inspect tie downs annually.

AT-HOME HEALTHCARE & HOMEBOUND PATIENTS

Tell your home health agency and oxygen company where you will be during a hurricane. Ask them about their plans to provide care. If you are homebound, but not under the care of a home health agency, contact your physician to determine your best plan of action.

If you require respirators or other electric-dependent medical equipment, **you should make medical arrangements with your physician and register with your power company.**

SPECIAL NEEDS EVACUATIONS

If you evacuate, remember to take medications, written instructions regarding your care, special equipment, and bedding with you.

If you will need assistance in an evacuation or need to go to a special needs/medically dependent shelter/evacuation center, **please register with your county's emergency management agency now.**

Special needs/medically dependent shelters/evacuation centers do not provide hands-on medical care, only medical monitoring. You should bring one caregiver with you.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS

People with disabilities or in poor health (either mentally or physically), or those who are without the support of family or friends, should plan ahead for an emergency. They may need special assistance from family members, friends, neighbors, or social service agencies. **Please ask for help if you need it and volunteer to help those who do.** If an older adult lives in a nursing home, assisted living facility (ALF), or residential facility, the administrator should be contacted to learn about the facility's disaster plan.

Older adults who are also caregivers may require outside assistance. Excessive stress and anxiety can contribute to increased episodes of illness, particularly for persons with heart disease and other illnesses.

THE ABCS OF SEVERE WEATHER

To withstand the forces of wind associated with severe weather remember your ABCs:

- **A** NCHOR ROOF
- **B** RACE ENTRY & GARAGE DOORS
- **C** OVER WINDOWS
- **S** AFE ROOM

DO NOT stay in a room which does not have shielded windows/glass doors. Find an interior room — a bathroom, hallway, or closet — which will help buffer you from the storm's winds and any flying debris. Safe rooms can also be site-built or manufactured, and can be installed in new or existing homes. Make sure all family members know where the safe room is and be sure to take your disaster supplies with you.

Disaster Supplies

Stock up now (or a little at a time) and store where you can get to them quickly.

STORE UNTIL NEEDED:

- First aid kit including bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, aspirin and aspirin-free pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, and important phone numbers
- Flashlights and batteries for each family member
- Portable radio and batteries
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunscreen
- Whistle and/or distress flag
- Plastic tarp, window screening, tools, and nails
- Non-electric can opener
- Instant tire sealer
- Fire extinguisher (small canister, ABC type)
- Water purification kit (tablets, chlorine (odorless) and iodine)
- Clean-up supplies (mop, buckets, towels, disinfectant)
- Garbage can or bucket with tight-fitting lid and cat litter (emergency toilet)
- Toilet paper, paper towels, and pre-moistened towelettes or baby wipes

Keep Pets Safe

Do not leave your pet, and do not use a pet as an excuse not to evacuate!

- Nearly 80% of pets displaced by a storm are never reunited with their owners. If you are ordered to evacuate, take your **Pet Disaster Supplies** with you to a safe location. Many shelters/evacuation centers may allow pets; however, as a pet owner, **you must plan ahead.**
- Make sure your pets have had all of their shots within the past 12 months. Pet-friendly shelters/evacuation centers and boarding facilities will require **proof of vaccinations.**
- Research your options for evacuating with pets. Call your local SPCA, Animal Control, or Humane Society for more information. If you plan to go to a hotel or motel, visit petswelcome.com.
- After the storm has passed, **be careful allowing pets outdoors.** Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Downed power lines, other animals, and insects brought in with high water could present dangers to pets.

PET DISASTER SUPPLIES

- Proper ID collar & rabies tag/license
- Microchipping your pet is strongly recommended
- Vaccination paperwork
- Leash
- Carrier or crate large enough for your pet to move around and contain a litter box if needed.
- Newspapers, cat litter, scoop, and plastic trash bags for handling waste
- Non-electric can opener
- Ample food supply (at least 2 weeks)
- Ample water supply (at least 2 weeks)
- Water/food bowls
- Indoor pee pads
- Necessary medications
- Specific care instruction
- Photo of you with your pet
- A comfort item such as a favorite toy or blanket
- Proper ID on all belongings (including emergency contact information if you evacuate)

REPLENISH FOR FRESHNESS:

- Up-to-date list of family medicines and dosages, along with doctor and pharmacy phone numbers, and a 2-week supply of prescription medicines.
- Enough non-perishable foods to feed your family and pets for 3-7 days. Special dietary foods or baby food and formula, if needed. Replenish every 6 months.
- 1 gallon of drinking water per person, per day, plus water for cooking and washing (minimum 7 days). Stock up on a few cases of bottled waters at your home and/or workplace in the event that there is a "boil water" order.
- Infant items (medicine, sterile water, diapers, ready-made formula, bottles), if needed.
- Extra batteries (camera, flashlight, radio, portable TV, lamp)

ITEMS FOR BEFORE & AFTER A STORM:

- Emergency charger for cell phones and other devices (consider a solar powered alternative)
- An old-fashioned corded telephone that does not require electricity (i.e. not a cordless phone or cell phone)
- Cash (with no power, banks may be closed; checks and credit cards may not be accepted, and ATMs may not be operational)
- Charcoal, matches, and grill (do not use indoors)
- Ice chest/cooler and ice
- Generator fuel

IF YOU EVACUATE, ALSO TAKE:

- Hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- Extra clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, hearing aids (and batteries)
- Important papers and irreplaceable keepsakes (driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies, property inventories, photographs, etc.)
- Pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, or air mattresses
- Folding chairs, lawn chairs, or cots

EVACUATION ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

- Baby food jars- combination of vegetables, fruits, cereals, & meats
- Formula (powered and/or ready-made)
- Oral electrolyte solution, such as Pedialyte
- Cereal (child age-specific)
- Favorite healthy snacks
- Juice boxes
- Baby feeding spoons
- Baby bottles
- Nipples for baby bottles
- Toddler potty seat
- Diapers / pull-ups
- Diaper wipes
- Diaper rash ointment
- Disposable changing pads
- Infant bathing basin, wash cloths and towels
- Infant hat and booties
- Lightweight blankets
- Portable crib
- Small toys that do not make noise such as books, cards, puzzles, handheld games with extra batteries

BUILDING OR REMODELING?

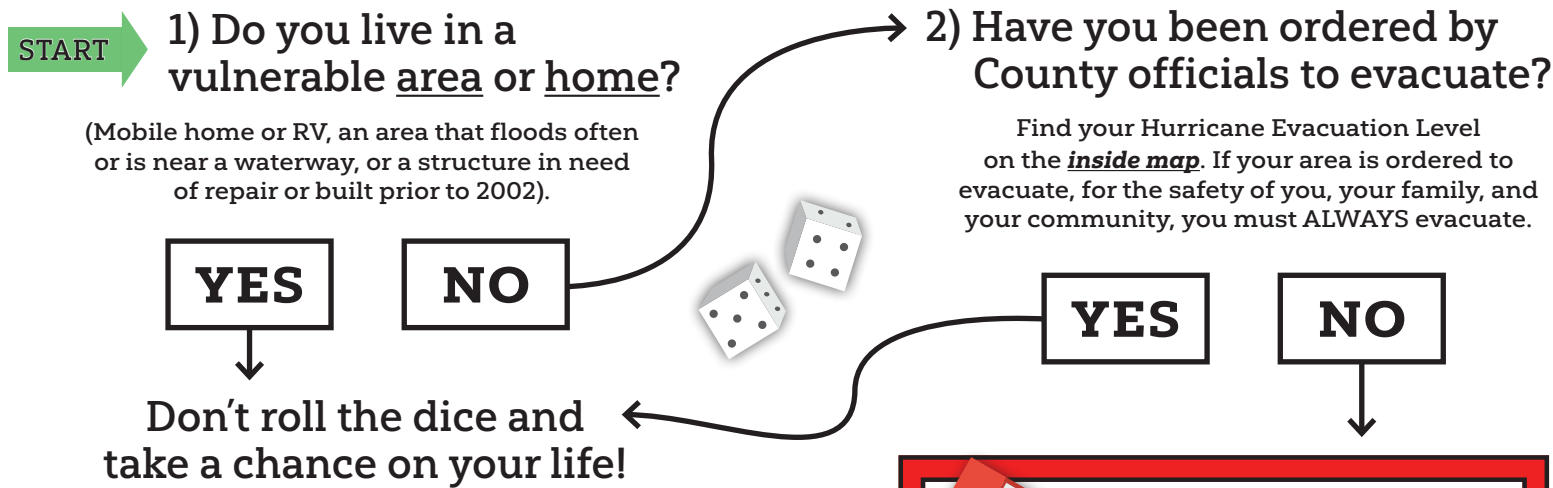
There are ways to retrofit your home to minimize flood risks, including elevation, flood barriers, dry and wet flood proofing. Ask your insurance agent if there are any discounts for performing mitigation measures to your home or business. Tips for how to make your home safer:

- flash.org (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes)
- Call FLASH toll-free at **877-221-SAFE (7233)**
- mysafeflorida.org
- floodsmart.gov

For more disaster planning information, contact your local emergency management agency (see *inside map* for contact numbers), your local chapter of the **American Red Cross**, or go online to: tampabayprepares.org, floridadisaster.org, or ready.gov.

If a storm is approaching, there are two paths to consider.

EVACUATE OR STAY? WHICH PATH SHOULD YOU TAKE?

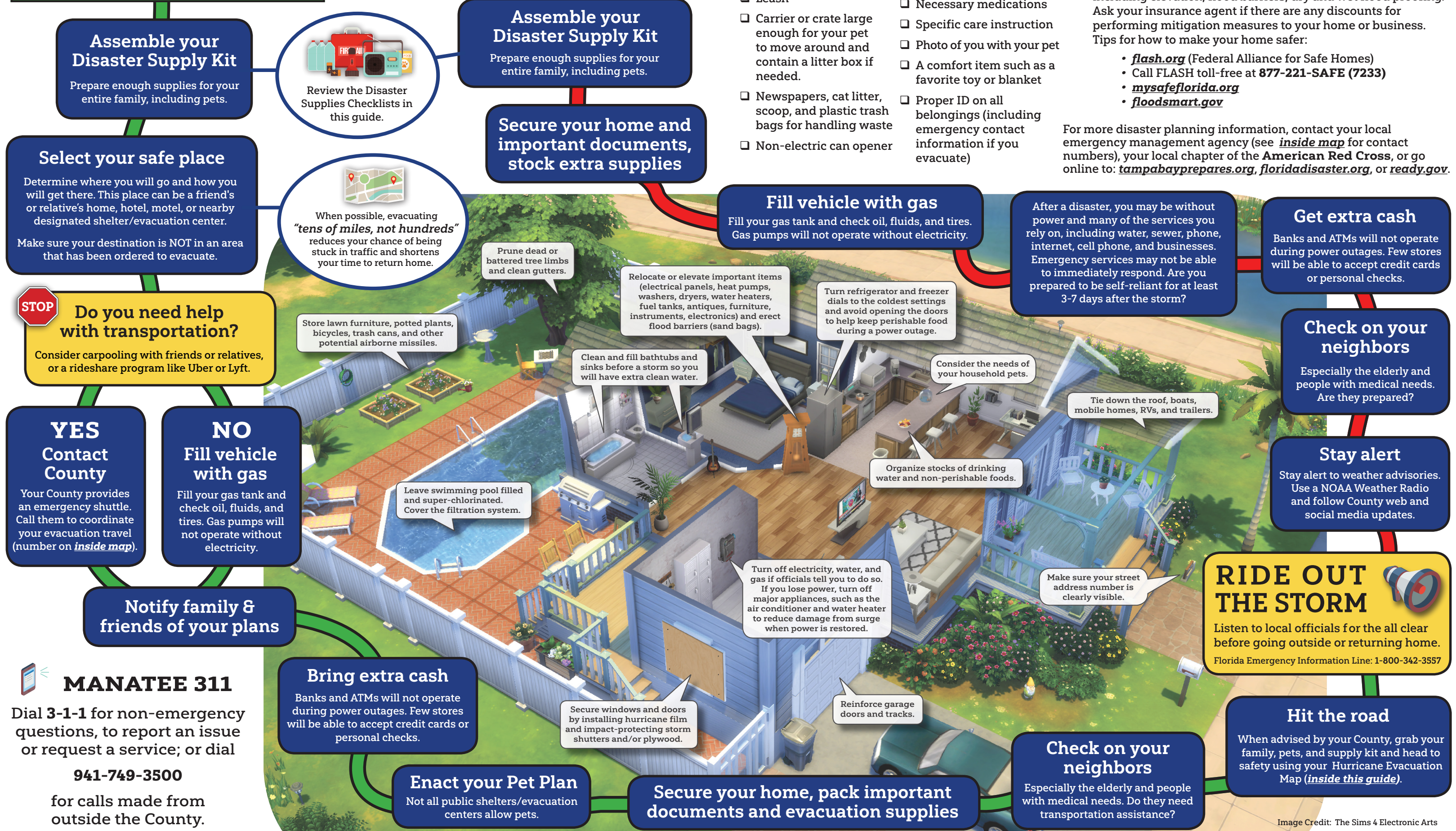


EVACUATE!

Do not panic. Move at a steady pace and leave enough time to get to where you will weather the storm. DO NOT take chances by staying in an unsafe location or waiting until it is too late!

STAY HOME!

Sheltering in place is a practical option if you live in a safe area and structure. Offer your home as a shelter to relatives or friends in harm's way.



What to Expect After a Storm



After a disaster, you may be without power and many of the services you rely on, including water, sewer, phone, cell phone, businesses, etc. Immediate response may not be possible, so you must prepare to be self-reliant for at least 3-7 days after the storm.



RE-ENTRY AFTER THE STORM

1. **BE PATIENT.** You will not be able to return to your home or business until search and rescue operations are complete and safety hazards, such as downed power lines, are cleared. It may take time for emergency crews to reach your neighborhood.
2. **Residents:** Have valid ID with your current address.
3. **Businesses:** Have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/rental, County business tax license, and names of individuals authorized to be given access on a business letterhead.
4. **Avoid driving, especially through water.** Roads may have debris which can puncture your tires! Until power is restored, traffic signals may be inoperable for an extended period of time. Treat any intersection where traffic signals are out as a 4-way stop.
5. Once you arrive back, walk around your home or business from the outside first to **survey damage and enter with caution.**
6. **Be extremely cautious with fire.** Do not light a match without first making sure that there is not a gas leak.
7. If you suspect a gas leak, **leave immediately and call 9-1-1.** Contact your natural gas provider from a safe location.
8. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home or business.
9. If your home or business has been flooded, have a qualified licensed electrician inspect the electrical system and appliances before turning the power back on.
10. Let your out-of-town contact know you are safe and uninjured.



POST-STORM SAFETY

1. Keep grills and generators outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a frequent killer.
2. Avoid candles. Use battery-operated flashlights and lamps instead.
3. Stay tuned to your local media for up-to-date emergency information.
4. Avoid driving. If you drive, treat any intersection with inoperable traffic signals as a four-way stop.
5. Always supervise children.
6. **DO NOT WADE IN FLOOD WATERS.**
7. Be aware of snakes, insects, alligators, or animals driven to higher ground by floods.
8. Avoid downed or dangling power lines. Be especially careful when clearing fallen trees.
9. Be extremely careful with a chainsaw and follow all safety precautions.
10. Call professionals to remove large, uprooted trees, etc.
11. **Always use proper safety equipment** such as heavy gloves, safety goggles, heavy boots, long-sleeve shirts, and long pants. Tie back long hair. Wear a hat and sunscreen.
12. Drink plenty of fluids, rest and ask for help when you need it.
13. Do not burn trash.



GENERATORS - TAKE PRECAUTIONS & STORE FUEL SAFELY!

1. Generators can provide power to your home or business in case of a power outage or shortage.
2. Determine the appliance or equipment you want to use.
3. Determine if a portable or stationary generator is required.
4. Stationary (whole house) generators run off gas utility lines or an LP tank and supply electrical power to pre-selected circuits. They **MUST** be professionally installed by a licensed electrician.
5. Determine if you will need multiple outlets or multiple types of outlets on your generator.
6. Store fuel safely outside in labeled approved storage containers.
7. **NEVER connect a portable generator to building wiring.** There is an extreme danger of generator back-feed for the general public (downed wires etc.) and utility workers. Plug appliances, etc., directly into the generator.
8. Place generator outdoors and away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide (CO) to come indoors. **Exhaust fumes are deadly.**
9. Before refueling your generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Do not forget to check the oil every time you add gas. Keep generators dry. Conserve fuel by limiting use of appliances.



CLEAN-UP & REPAIRS

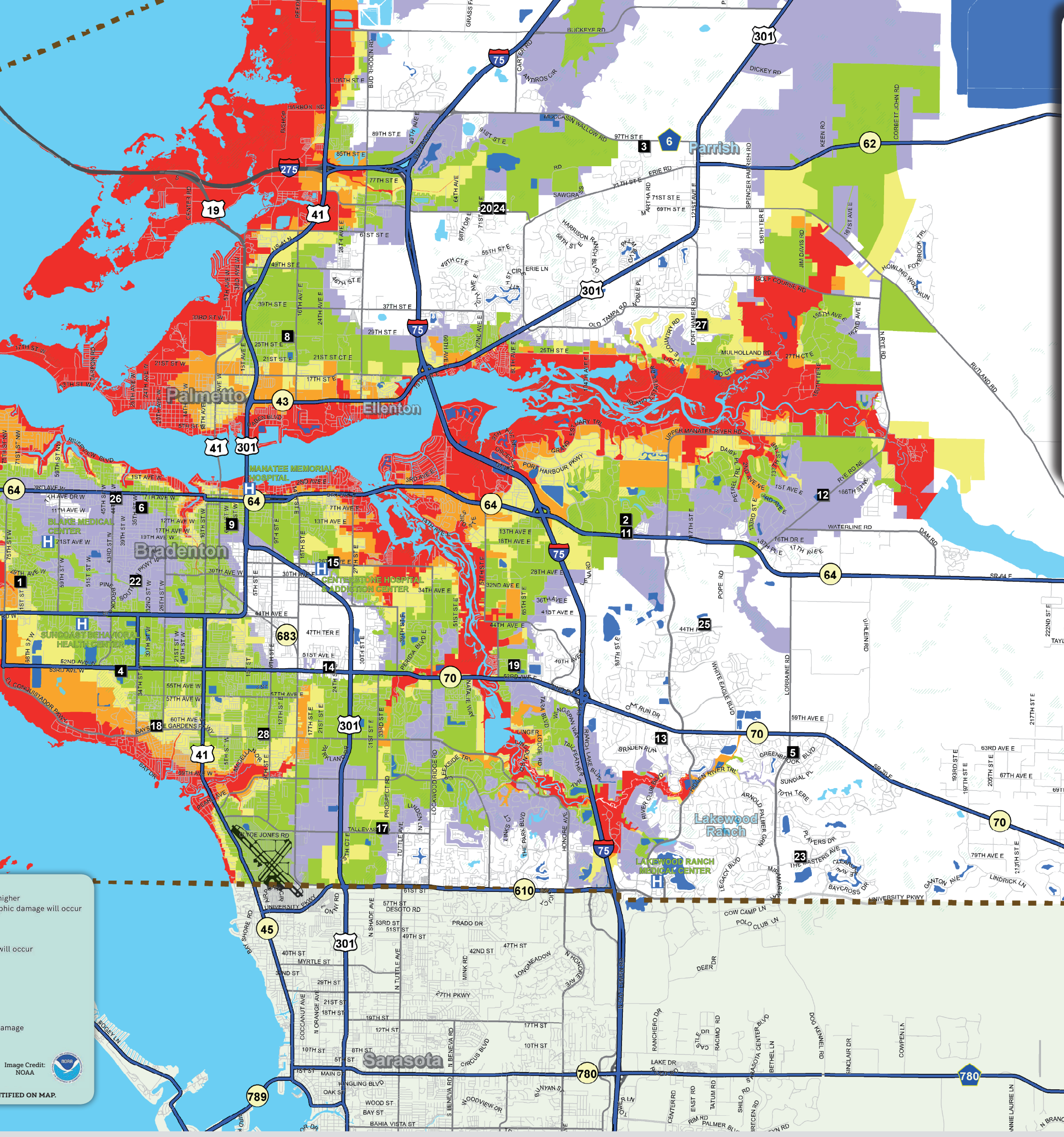
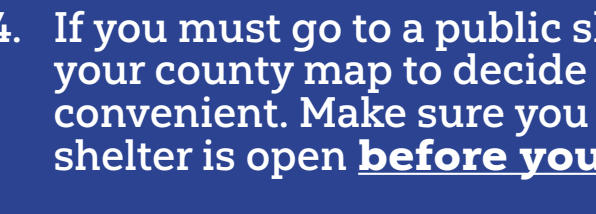
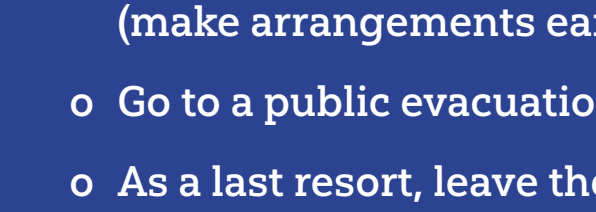
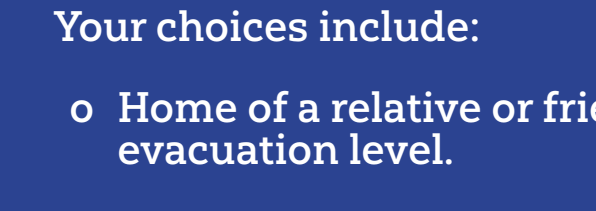
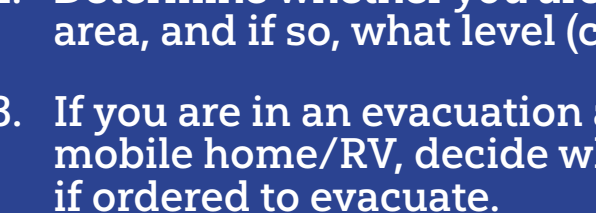
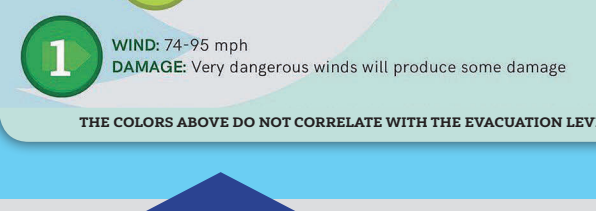
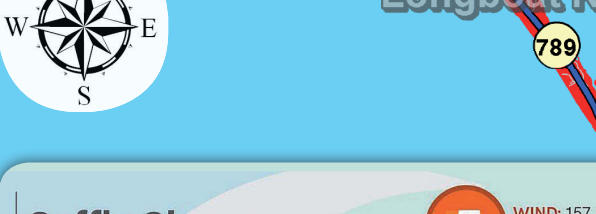
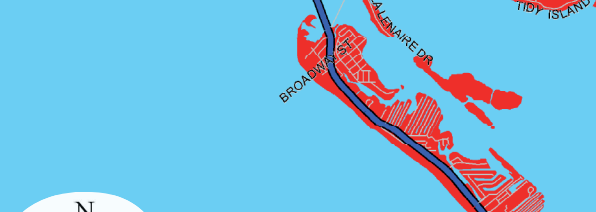
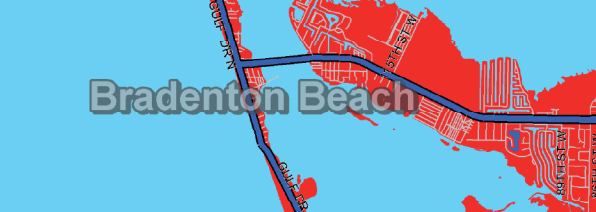
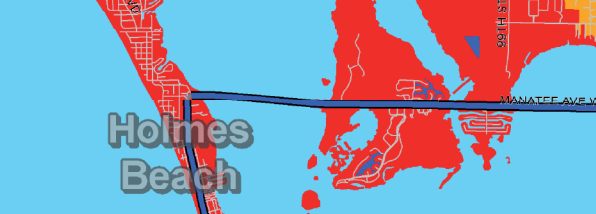
1. Know what your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy covers and what you will need to submit a claim. Take photographs of all damage before repairs and keep all receipts.
2. Make temporary repairs to correct safety hazards and minimize further damage.
3. Contact your local building department for information on required building permits. Permits are always required for any kind of demolition or permanent repairs, reconstruction, roofing, or filling.



BEWARE OF CONTRACTOR FRAUD

1. Hire only licensed contractors. Be cautious of anyone coming to your home uninvited and offering to do home repairs.
2. Obtain a written estimate or contract. Insist on start/completion dates and payment terms in the contract. Do not pay in full before work begins and do not pay the final balance until the work is completed to your satisfaction. **NEVER pay with cash.** Do not pull the permits for the contractor. This may be an indication they are not properly licensed.
3. If you suspect a contractor of potential fraud, contact the State of Florida Consumer Fraud hotline at **1-866-966-7226.**

Manatee County EVACUATION LEVELS & SHELTERS



County Evacuation Guidelines

Potential Storm Surge Heights (in feet)

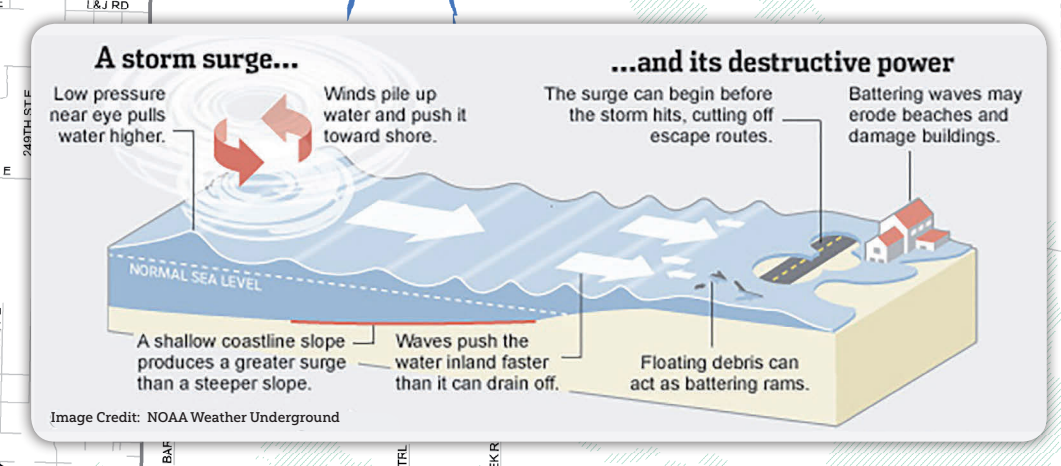
Evacuation Level	Surge Height	Evacuation Requirements
A	Up to 11'	Evacuate red areas and all mobile home/RV residents
B	Up to 15'	Evacuate red and orange areas and all mobile home/RV residents
C	Up to 18'	Evacuate red, orange, and yellow areas and all mobile home/RV residents
D	Up to 28'	Evacuate red, orange, yellow, and green areas and all mobile home/RV residents
E	Up to 34'	Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green, and purple areas and all mobile home/RV residents

Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones

Evacuation Routes

My Evacuation Level is (fill below): _____

Residents in mobile homes, RVs, and manufactured homes **MUST EVACUATE** no matter where they are located in the county.



Hurricane Watch: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified area. The hurricane watch is typically issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Hurricane Warning: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area. The hurricane warning is typically issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Tropical Storm Watch: An announcement that sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are possible within the specified area within 48 hours in association with a tropical storm.

Tropical Storm Warning: An announcement that sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph are expected somewhere within the specified area within 36 hours in association with a tropical storm.

Flood Watch: An announcement that indicates current or developing conditions that are favorable for flooding. A watch is typically issued within several hours to days ahead of the onset of possible flooding.

Flood Warning: An announcement to inform the public of flooding that poses a serious threat to life and/or property. A Flood Warning may be issued hours to days in advance of the onset of flooding based on forecast conditions.

Flash Flood: Flooding caused by rapidly rising water level in streams, creeks, rivers, or in urban areas, usually as a result of intense rainfall over a relatively small area or for moderate to intense rainfall over highly saturated or impervious land surfaces.

Tornado Watch: An alert issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. During the watch, people should review tornado safety rules and be prepared to move a place of safety if threatening weather approaches.

Tornado Warning: An alert issued when a tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by spotters; therefore, people in the affected area should seek safe shelter immediately.

Surge Watch: An announcement that there is the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, in association with an ongoing or potential tropical cyclones, or coastal storm.

Surge Warning: An announcement that there is a danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with an ongoing or potential tropical cyclones or coastal storm.

Hurricane Local Statement: A public release prepared by local National Weather Service offices in or near a threatened area giving specific details for its county/parish warning area.

Potentially Dangerous Situation: Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) wording is used in rare situations when long-lived, strong and violent tornadoes are possible.

Source: National Hurricane Center (nhc.noaa.gov)

Space in a Public Shelter

Evacuation shelters are opened for the single purpose of protecting life. We open them based on the ability of that facility to withstand the forecasted wind effects and storm surge.

Evacuation shelters do not have generators and offer no services other than a very basic food provision, water, and a limited amount of floor space per person. It is a public environment where there are large numbers of people in close proximity to each other. There are no cots, pillows or blankets provided. Evacuees must bring their own bedding and supplies.



Are you #ManateeReady?

Facebook.com/
[manateecountyemergencymanagement](https://www.facebook.com/manateecountyemergencymanagement)

Twitter.com
[@MCGPPublicSafety](https://twitter.com/MCGPPublicSafety) & [@ManateeGov](https://twitter.com/ManateeGov)

Instagram.com
[@manateecountyemergencygmt](https://www.instagram.com/manateecountyemergencygmt)

Using Your County Map

- Locate where you live and work on the map.
- Determine whether you are in an evacuation area, and if so, what level (color).
- If you are in an evacuation area, or live in a mobile home/RV, decide where you will go if ordered to evacuate.
 - Your choices include:
 - Home of a relative or friend outside the evacuation level.
 - Hotel/motel outside the evacuation level (make arrangements early).
 - Go to a public evacuation shelter.
 - As a last resort, leave the area entirely.
- If you must go to a public shelter, use your county map to decide which one is convenient. Make sure you verify that the shelter is open **before you go**.

Hurricane Threat

- The color coded areas on the map are vulnerable to storm surge. Storm surge is produced by water being pushed towards the shore by the force of the winds moving around the storm.
 - Storm surge creates a path of destruction, wiping out structures as it rapidly surges inland and then recedes. This is a life threatening situation for anyone who ignores evacuation orders and stays in vulnerable areas.
 - Hurricanes are categorized on a scale of 1 to 5, depending on wind strength and destructive power. The evacuation levels are color coded to designate the level of storm surge likely to occur.
 - If you live in an area ordered to evacuate, gather your family/pets and emergency supplies, secure your home, and leave the evacuated area. Failure to obey an evacuation order is a violation of state and local laws.
- NOTE: All persons living in mobile homes/RVs must evacuate for all evacuation orders, regardless of where you are located in the county, due to threat of tornado or high velocity winds.

Shelter-in-Place

Local authorities will give evacuation orders for areas with significant risk of damage resulting from a high wind or storm surge event. Evacuating unnecessarily can cause overcrowded shelters and traffic jams.

If you live in a sound structure outside of the evacuation area (especially if built since 2002 and it is not located in a flood prone area), sheltering in place is a practical option to consider. If you do not live in a mobile home or RV, you can choose to remain in your home.

Your shelter-in-place location should contain enough non-perishable food, blankets, communication equipment (such as radios), alternate power sources, first aid supplies, necessary medications, and any required durable medical equipment (e.g., hearing aid batteries, catheters) to allow self-sustainment in that location for a minimum of 72 hours.

For a detailed list of supplies recommended for home emergency supply kits, consult ready.gov.

Hotel or Motel Evacuation

If you plan to evacuate to a hotel or motel, you will need to check for availability and make your reservation well in advance.

Some hotels/motels have standing reservation hurricane programs and some relax their pet restrictions in an emergency. Again, make sure your destination is not in an evacuation area.

Leaving Coastal Areas

If you are leaving the area, remember to take supplies with you. Move inland away from the storm surge and inland flooding; however, it is recommended that residents evacuate "tens of miles, not hundreds" if possible.

Roads will be heavily congested. You run the risk of being caught on the highway without a safe refuge or running into the storm if it takes a different track.

Follow **Manatee County's social media** for the latest updates during a disaster event. Receive updates on your phone. Text **ManateeReady** (one word) to **888-777**.

Find your closest shelter on the map.

#	Shelter Name	Address
18	Bayshore Elementary School	6120 26th Street West, Bradenton
19	Braden River High School	6545 State Road 70 East, Bradenton
13	Braden River Middle School	6215 River Club Blvd., Bradenton
24	Buffalo Creek Middle School	7320 69th Street East, Palmetto
28	Daughtrey Elementary School	515 63rd Ave. East, Bradenton
2	Freedom Elementary School	9515 State Road 64 East, Bradenton
25	Gullet Elementary School	12125 44th Ave. East, Bradenton
11	Haile Middle School	9501 State Road 64 East, Bradenton
3	Harvey Elementary School	8610 115th Ave. East, Parrish
15	Johnson-Wakeland School of IB	2121 26th Ave. East, Bradenton
17	Kinnan Elementary School	3415 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
4	Lee Middle School	4000 53rd Avenue West, Bradenton
6	Manatee High School	902 33rd Street Court West, Bradenton
5	McNeal Elementary School	6325 Lorraine Road, Bradenton
26	Miller Elementary School	601 43rd Street West, Bradenton
20	Mills Elementary School	7200 69th Street East, Palmetto
7	Myakka City Elementary School	37205 Manatee Ave., Myakka City
14	Oneco Elementary School	5214 22nd Street Court East, Bradenton
22	Prine Elementary School	3801 Southern Parkway, Bradenton
9	Rodgers Garden Elementary School	515 13th Ave West, Bradenton
1	Seabreeze Elementary School	3601 71st Street West, Bradenton
8	Tillman Elementary School	1415 29th Street East, Palmetto
27	Williams Elementary School	3404 Fort Hamer Road, Parrish
23	Willis Elementary School	14705 The Masters Avenue, Bradenton
12	Witt Elementary School	200 Rye Road, Bradenton

Pet-Friendly Shelter

Shelter openings vary with each emergency. Shelter openings will differ by size and intensity of a disaster. **Do not go to the shelter until local officials announce that the shelter is open.**

Stay tuned to local media and the County website for a listing of shelters, to include the Pet-Friendly Shelters, which will be opened for an event.

TELEVISION

BAY NEWS 9	WFTS CH. 28
WFLA CH. 8	WWWSB CH. 40
WTSP CH. 10	WBSV CH. 62
WTVT CH. 13	

RADIO

WFLA 970 AM
WWPR 1490 AM
WJIS 88.1 FM
WXJQ 106.5 FM

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

MANATEE 3-1-1 (Calls made from inside the County)	3-1-1
CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTER	941-749-3500
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	941-749-3500
SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER REGISTRY	941-749-3500 x1667
ANIMAL SERVICES	941-742-5933
FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT	800-468-8243
PEACE RIVER ELECTRIC	800-282-3824
SOLID WASTE	941-792-8811
HIGHWAY PATROL	941-751-7647
SHERIFF'S OFFICE	941-747-3011
AMERICAN RED CROSS	941-792-8686
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	941-714-7829
SALVATION ARMY	941-748-5110
UNITED WAY	941-748-1313
SUNCOAST 2-1-1	2-1-1
Call 2-1-1 for a free and confidential service that helps people find the local resources needed.	Text your ZIP code to 898-211 for more resources
NOAA WEATHER RADIO	FIPS Code 012081
TDD MESSAGES	941-742-5802
Visit mymanatee.org for the latest disaster information.	
DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 FOR DISASTER INFORMATION	