



Hurricane Disaster Plan Resident's Guide

2023

Hurricane Preparation

Lee County Advisory Report

Dear Residents,

Hurricane season begins on June 1st and will end on November 30th. The coast of Southwest Florida can be threatened any time during this season. The information provided herein will help you prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane emergency. Please take the time to read this information carefully.

Lee County has created an excellent virtual hurricane informational seminar, with general information for residents. [Click Here to view the Lee County Virtual Hurricane Seminar.](#)

The following are some useful definitions:

- a. **Hurricane watch** means a hurricane may threaten an area within 48 hours.
- b. **Hurricane warning** means hurricane force winds are expected to strike the area within 36 hours or less.
- c. **Tropical depression** has winds of less than 39 miles per hour or 34 knots.
- d. **Tropical storm** has winds from 39 to 73 miles per hour or 34 to 63 knots.
- e. **Hurricane** has winds greater than 74 miles per hour or 64 knots.

**In the event of a category 1-5 hurricane,
we urge you to evacuate.**

Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds	Level of Damage
1	74-95	<p><u>Very dangerous winds will produce some damage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor damage to exterior of homes • Topped tree branches, uprooting of smaller trees • Extensive damage to power lines, power outages
2	96-110	<p><u>Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major damage to exterior of homes • Uprooting of small trees and many roads blocked • Guaranteed power outages for long periods of time – days to weeks
3	111-129	<p><u>Devastating damage will occur</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive damage to exterior of homes • Many trees uprooted and many roads blocked • Extremely limited availability of water and electricity
4	130-156	<p><u>Catastrophic damage will occur</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of roof structure and/or some exterior walls • Most trees uprooted and most power lines down • Isolated residential due to debris piles • Power outages lasting for weeks to months
5	157 or higher	<p><u>Catastrophic damage will occur</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high percentage of homes will be destroyed • Fallen trees and power lines isolate residential areas • Power outages lasting for weeks to months • Most areas will be uninhabitable

Useful Hurricane Related Links:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement>

www.leegov.com/publicsafety

Routine Preparation

This list should be sorted in order of priority. A specific person or vendor should be assigned to each task on the list. Please note that the Cypress Woods RV Staff Members will be occupied with securing the common areas. **There will NOT be sufficient time to assist individual LOT Owners in preparing for the storm.**

Resident Routine Preparation

- **Obtain a Local Hurricane Guide:** Most municipalities in Florida produce hurricane preparedness guides that include evacuation plans, shelter locations, important contact numbers, survival kit recommendations, and more.
- **Update Your Contact Information:** Unit owners and residents should make sure that the association has their accurate phone number, address and email address.
- **Hurricane Shutters, Windows, Doors:** Unit owners should consider installing hurricane shutters where applicable.
- **Disabled Resident Assistance:** Any residents that would need assistance in the event of an evacuation should inform the association and also reach out to their city and/ or county to sign up for emergency aide.
- **Photograph Your Home and Valuables:** It is worthwhile for every unit owner or resident to photograph their condominium to capture on film all of the personal property within a unit. After a storm, this can be a helpful way to identify items that are missing.
- **Create a Survival Kit:** Keep a survival kit in your home that you can grab in the event of an evacuation. A survival kit should include, at a minimum, fresh water supply, batteries, canned goods, proper identification, important documentation (e.g., birth certificates, social security cards, insurance policies), proof of ownership of your condominium (possibly necessary to get back onto the condominium property after a severe storm where major damage was sustained), cash, and medications.
- **Learn about FEMA:** Unit owners should familiarize themselves with FEMA's Individuals and Households Program, which provides assistance to people whose property has been damaged or destroyed.

After the Issuance of a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning

Resident "To Do" List

- **Clear Patios & Balconies:** Residents should bring any personal property on lots inside, away from windows and sliding doors.
- **Stay Tuned:** Keep the radio or TV tuned to emergency frequencies, the local news, or the weather channel for regular updates.
- **Establish an Evacuation Plan:** Residents should know their community's evacuation zone, where they will go once an evacuation is required and the location of the nearest shelters (including if the shelter accepts pets – see www.floridapets.net).
- **Charge Your Electronics:** All residents should charge cell phone, camera and laptop batteries and consider purchasing backup batteries.
- **Prepare Your Vehicle:** Residents should fill up their cars with gas and check tire pressure. The

sooner this is done the better, as lines at gas stations tend to get longer as the storm approaches.

- **Fill Your Bathtub:** Consider storing drinking water in large containers or in the bathtub, as tap water may not be safe to drink for some time after the storm.
- **Check All Faucets:** Determine that all faucets are in the closed position.
- **Set Freezer & Fridge to Coldest Settings:** Residents should set their freezer and refrigerator to the coolest setting to protect food for as long as possible in the event that electricity is lost. It is prudent to have several days' worth of food on hand that does not require refrigeration.
- **Protect Personal Property:** Residents should consider moving valuable items away from windows and doors. A supply of towels should be kept on hand to address any water entry during the storm.

After an Evacuation Order is Issued

Resident "To Do" List

- **Traffic Check:** Residents should check local evacuation routes to determine which the best option and leave as quickly as possible (traffic becomes heavier the closer the storm becomes).
- **Refrigerator and Freezer Clean Out:** To avoid rotting food if power is lost, refrigerators and freezers should be cleaned out prior to evacuation.
- **Unplug Electronics & Appliances:** Turn off and unplug any computers, printers, routers, coffee makers, and other appliances or electronics. If possible, remove electronics from the floor and place them in the highest available location.
- **Water Shut Off:** Residents should shut off the unit's main water source.
- **Electricity Shut Off:** Residents should turn off the electricity prior to leaving using the breaker panels in their units.

After a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Has Passed

Resident "To Do" List

- **Returning to the Property:** Prior to returning to the property, residents should obtain the "go ahead" from local authorities and the association. Once it is safe to return to the property, the association should inform residents via email or the community's website.
- **Proceed with Caution:** Returning to a damaged property can be dangerous. Local government generally provides guidance on things to consider when returning after a storm in their hurricane guides. The Red Cross also puts out a comprehensive guide on this subject.

Out of Town or on Vacation: If you do not reside on the lot during hurricane season, many of the precautions listed above should be taken prior to leaving the unit for extended periods. Make arrangements for someone to make emergency preparations ahead of time. Implement as many precautions as practical before you leave. Be Prepared!

Suggested Hurricane Preparedness Equipment

Personal Items

- Sleeping bags and/or pillows and blankets
- Lawn chairs/folding chairs
- Hot and cold weather clothing
- Closed toe work shoes (not sandals or flip-flops)
- Raingear
- Personal hygiene (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Equipment
- Medications (Prescription and Over-the-Counter)
- Spare eyeglasses or contacts and cleaning solution
- Hearing aid (and spare batteries)
- Entertainment (cards, books, quiet games, MP3 player, batteries)
- Baby/infant needs (Diapers, Formula, baby Food, Cereal)

Food Service Items

- Drinking water (one gallon per person per day for seven days)
- Non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Juice/soft drinks/instant coffee or tea/dry milk
- Camp stove or Grill (with fuel) for outdoor use only
- Lighter and/or waterproof matches
- Pots, pans, cooking Utensils
- Aluminum foil
- Disposable plates, cups and cutlery
- Plastic wrap, Ziploc bags, garbage bags
- Cooler for ice and food storage

Miscellaneous Items

- Spare keys (home, vehicles, boats)
- Pens, pencils and paper
- Important documents
- Significant keepsakes and cherished photos
- Cash, credit cards and/or travelers checks
- Prepaid telephone card
- Maps and evacuation information

Basic Safety Equipment

- NOAA Weather radio

- First aid kit
- Landline telephone (the type that do not require electricity or batteries)
- Battery powered television, radio and clock (pack extra batteries)
- Flashlights (extra batteries)
- Chemical light sticks (to replace candles)

Basic Tools

- Basic tool kit- Hammer, pliers, screwdriver, ratchet set, wrenches, utility knife, axe, saw
- Specialized tools (for water or gas valves, etc.)
- Plastic tarps (with grommets) or rolls of plastic sheeting
- Assorted screws, nails and other fasteners
- Lubricants, WD-40, grease
- Duct tape, electrical tape, utility rope and zip ties

Sanitation/Clean Up Supplies

- Unscented bleach (for clean-up and to disinfect water)
- Water for cleaning
- Assorted cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants
- Rubber gloves
- Brushes, brooms, and mops
- Towels and rags
- Plastic garbage bags
- Bucket (with tight fitting lid) for emergency toilet (plastic grocery store bags may be used as disposable liners)
- Toilet paper, paper towels, and sanitary supplies
- Wet wipes and waterless hand sanitizer

Pet/Service Animal

- Water (one gallon per day for seven days for each animal)
- Cage or carrier for each animal
- Food, treats
- Toys, comfort items
- Clean up supplies
- Identification, immunization records, photographs.

Lee County Public Shelters

(Please note* This is a general list, and all shelters listed may not be open for every storm. Click the link below for an updated list of open shelters during each storm.)**

<https://www.lee.gov/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/shelters/publicshelters>

Bonita Springs YMCA
27200 Kent Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

East Lee County High School
715 Thomas Sherwin Ave.
Lehigh Acres, FL 33974

Estero Recreation Center
9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.
Estero, FL 33928

Florida Gulf Coast University Alico Arena
10501 FGCU Blvd S
Fort Myers, FL 33965

Hertz Arena
11000 Everblades Parkway
Estero, FL 33928

Harns Marsh Elementary
1800 Unice Avenue North
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Harns Marsh Middle School
1820 Unice Avenue N.
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Island Coast High School
2125 DeNavarra Pkwy.
Cape Coral, FL 33909

Mirror Lakes Elementary School
525 Charwood Avenue South
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

N. Fort Myers Academy of the Arts
1856 Arts Way
North Fort Myers, FL 33917

North Fort Myers Recreation Center
2000 N. Recreation Park Way
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Oak Hammock Middle School
5321 Tice Street
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Varsity Lakes Middle School
801 Gunnery Road North
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Dear Residents:

We have prepared a hurricane preparation guide for the community. For your convenience, the packet is attached to this email, available at www.cypresswoodsrv.net, or you may pick up a copy at the Welcome Center. Please take your time to read the items below, along with the attached guide.

Please note that many of the lot preparation precautions outlined below should be taken when leaving for the summer, as our normal summer storms always have the potential for significant damage.

On June 24, 2021, a regular afternoon storm (no severe weather or tornado watches or warnings were issued) blew a dozen chairs several feet off the pool deck into the bushes near the tennis courts and knocked over several trash cans and deck chairs. While no other damage was found from this storm, the potential for extremely localized and severe damage is always there.



STORM SHELTERS:

The Town Center will remain open for use, but please be aware that it is **NOT** a Hurricane Shelter. In the event of a direct hit from a hurricane, you should seek shelter at a proper location. (List in attached guide, or available on the Lee County Hurricane Guide found [here](#) – the virtual Hurricane seminar is very helpful for those who have not experienced a hurricane)

FRONT GATE:

This disaster plan should be used as a guide. For more information please visit www.leeoc.com
Prepared by: FirstService Residential



The front entry and exit gates will be locked OPEN ahead of a storm. Please be sure to lock your RVs, sheds, and vehicles at all times before, during, and after the storm.

POOLS:

Pool furniture, equipment, grills, trash cans, etc. will be secured BEFORE a storm arrives, while it is safe to do so. In the event the weather stays nice enough to use the pools after chairs have been secured, you may use any pool chairs and tables you would like, but please be sure to put them back inside of the building or on the appropriate stack, as these may become projectiles if left individually on the pool deck.

LIFT STATIONS:

Our lift stations in Cypress Woods are NOT equipped to run off of an emergency generator. The City's Public Works department encourages homeowners to follow responsible water conservation practices in the event of a major storm/hurricane event power outage:

- ✓ Please limit toilet flushing
- ✓ If you need to take a shower, make it brief
- ✓ Limit the amount of water used to take a bath
- ✓ Do not run the dishwasher or your clothes washing machine

If you have stored water in your bathtub for emergency use . . . it would be advised to not release the water immediately after any serious weather event until its know if all of the Lift Stations are in operation. This will burden the system needlessly and perhaps contribute to a sewage back up.

HURRICANE SHUTTERS:

If you have hurricane shutters, please make sure they are in good working order. Annual preventive maintenance is recommended which you can get done by your installer, at your expense. It is the responsibility of the unit owner to make sure they are properly anchored to the building to prevent damage to the property.

FURNITURE AND ITEMS LEFT ON YOUR LOT:

All items, such as HOSES, PATIO FURNITURE OR OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS, stored on your lot must be removed and stored inside your unit, not in common areas or in your landscape, once the authorities announce a hurricane "Watch". Failure to remove these items will result in an automatic \$100.00 fine AND a \$150.00 removal fee, if time allows, for the Association staff to remove the items.

HURRICANE WARNING

If the new indicates we are in hurricane "Warning"; you may need to make arrangements to leave the building. Services will no longer be available, which includes emergency services, from the county.

INFORMATION FOR OWNERS OUT OF THE AREA:

Be sure to register for the FirstService SMS (text message) alert system, as regular email and phone communication may not be available during or after a storm.

INSURANCE:

Once we are in hurricane season, it is difficult (if not impossible) to purchase homeowners' insurance so plan accordingly.

Thank you,

Terri Memory, LCAM
Community Association Manager
Cypress Woods RV Resort HOA, Inc.