ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON:
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

HURRICANE GUIDE

Plan. Prepare. Protect.

ANNE M. GANNON
CONSTITUTIONAL TAX COLLECTOR
Serving Palm Beach County
Serving *you.*
www.pbctax.com

Dear Palm Beach County Neighbors:

Another hurricane season is here. Some of us are still recovering after Hurricane Irma lashed our County in September, causing widespread damage. Until last year, we were fortunate to have enjoyed a decade being spared a direct hit.

Storm preparation is critical if families are to stay safe and our properties protected. Because we live on the coast we are most at risk for extreme winds, flooding from rain and storm surge during a hurricane. In addition, science suggests climate change is fueling stronger hurricanes. South Florida is already experiencing the impact of rising sea levels due to our warming world.

It is critically important to prepare for the possibility of these intense storms. The better we prepare, the safer our families, neighbors and communities. In this guide, you'll find information you need such as key phone numbers, a timeline for storm preparations and a list of items to have in your supply kit. Every household needs several days' stock of water, food, clothing, medicine and other supplies. Use our guide as a tool to organize your home, family and determine if you will need to evacuate and access a shelter.

If you would like additional guides to share with neighbors, community groups or houses of worship please contact my office at 561-355-4510 or ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com. We'll be happy to send them out.

Sincerely,

Anne

Anne M. Gannon - Constitutional Tax Collector

www.pbctax.com

@taxpbc

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Public Safety	561-712-6400
TDD (Hearing Impaired)	561-712-6343
Community Helpline	211
Animal Care & Control	561-233-1200
American Red Cross	561-833-7711
Code Enforcement	561-233-5500
Consumer Assistance Hotline	800-435-7352
Constitutional Tax Collector	561-355-2264
Engineering & Public Works	561-684-4000
FEMA	800-621-3362
Fire Rescue – Non-Emergency	561-712-6550
FPL Power Outage	561-697-8000
Health Department	561-840-4500
Palm Tran	561-841-4200
Parks & Recreation	561-966-6600
Price Gouging	866-966-7226
Roads, Drainage & Traffic	561-684-4018
Salvation Army	561-686-3530
Sheriff (PBSO) – Non Emergency	561-688-3000
Solid Waste Authority	561-640-4000
Traffic Signal Repair	561-683-6885
United Way	561-375-6600
Water Utilities	561-493-6000

Definitions

HURRICANE WATCH — **HURRICANE CONDITIONS** (sustained winds of at least 74mph) are **POSSIBLE** in the area within 36 hours.

HURRICANE WARNING — **HURRICANE-FORCE CONDITIONS** (sustained winds of at least 74mph) are **EXPECTED** in your area in 24 hours or less.

CATEGORY 1 — **MINIMAL (74-95 MPH WINDS)**

Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, foliage and unanchored homes; no real damage to other structures; some damage to poorly constructed signs. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.

CATEGORY 2 — **MODERATE (96-110 MPH WINDS)**

Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage; some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. No major damage to buildings. Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water two to four hours before arrival of hurricane center. Considerable damage to piers; marinas flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings. Evacuation of some shoreline residences and low-lying areas required.

CATEGORY 3 — **EXTENSIVE (111-130 MPH WINDS)**

Foliage torn from trees; large trees blown down. Many constructed signs blown down. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some wind and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed. Serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast destroyed; larger structures near coast damaged by battering waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Flat terrain five feet or less above sea level flooded inland eight miles or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of shoreline possibly required.

CATEGORY 4 — **EXTREME (131-155 MPH WINDS)**

Shrubs and trees blown down; all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors. Complete failures of roofs on many small residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Flat terrain 10 or less above sea level flooded inland as far as six miles. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering by waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Major erosion of beaches. Massive evacuation of all residences within 500 yards of shore possibly required, and single-story residences within two miles of shore.

CATEGORY 5 — **CATASTROPHIC (155+ MPH WINDS)**

Shrubs and trees blown down; massive damage to roofs of buildings; all signs down. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors. Some complete building failures. Small buildings overturned or blown away. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 500 yards of shore. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within five to 10 miles of shore possibly required.

Family Plans

MAKE A PLAN FOR EVERY OUTCOME YOU MAY ENCOUNTER AND REVIEW WITH YOUR FAMILY.

PLAN 1: Relocate outside the area.

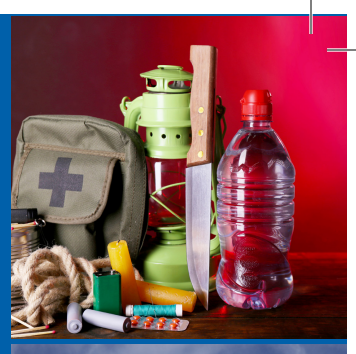
PLAN 2: Stay with local friends or family.

PLAN 3: Stay in your home.

PLAN 4: Go to a shelter.

Important Information

Preparation Before Hurricane Season



3 MONTHS BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

- Begin purchasing supplies for your Family Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Inspect your window protection for rust, missing bolts, damage, etc. Repair immediately.
- Inspect your walls, windows, garage door and roof for conditions that may allow wind damage.
- Use the Surge Area Mapping System (SAMS) on pbcgov.com to see if you are in an evacuation area.
- If you are in an evacuation area, make an evacuation plan for you and your family.
- Do all major cutting/tree removal from December through April.

1 MONTH BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

- Check your utility bills to see who provides your water, gas and electric. Write this information in the space provided for Important Information.
- Contact your city or the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County to determine who picks up your trash and yard debris.
- Complete the assembly of your Family Disaster Supplies Kit. Purchase non-perishable foods and medicines last.
- Check with your doctor and/or pharmacy to determine how best to assure your prescriptions will last through a storm.
- If needed, register for the Special Needs Shelter, 561-712-6400.
- Assess your landscaping to determine if trees need to be trimmed or ornaments removed before a storm.
- Establish a contact number with your employer if you need to report to work immediately following a storm.
- Make arrangements in advance for your pets; contact Animal Care and Control about pet sheltering or ask your vet.

1 WEEK BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

- Review your family plan with your family and establish who will be your out-of-town contact.
- Double-check your shelter information and confirm the location. Write this information in the space provided.
- Visit Pbcgov.com/knowurzone/to find your closest gas station and grocery store with backup power. Write this information in the space provided.

Your Family Hurricane Supply Kit

FOOD AND WATER:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least five days
  Water for drinking, cooking and bathing will be needed; store enough for family members and pets before the storm.
- Dry cereal
- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Canned juice
- Canned meats
- Instant coffee/tea/ powdered drinks
- Jelly/jam
- Energy snacks (granola bars/raisins)
- Bread, muffins, bagels
- Crackers

Perishable items should be changed or replaced every six months.

FIRST-AID SUPPLIES:

- Scissors
- Sun screen
- Thermometer
- Tweezers
- Sanitary hand wipes/liquid
- Safety pins, assorted sizes
- Rolls of gauze or bandages
- Petroleum jelly
- Adhesive bandages
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antibiotic ointment
- First aid manual
- First aid tape
- Rubbing alcohol
- Antiseptic spray
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Insect repellent
- Extra supply of prescription medication

CLEANING AND STORAGE:

- Chlorine bleach
- Liquid dish and hand soap
- Broom, mop and bucket
- Latex gloves
- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Plastic wrap
- Large plastic zip bags
- Aluminum foil
- Matches, lighters
- Plastic storage containers
- Paper plates and plastic utensils

COMMON AND HEAVY TOOLS:

- Battery-operated radio
- Crowbar
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Tarpaulin, for temporary roof repair
- Assorted nails, wood screws
- Pliers, screwdriver, hammer
- Heavy cotton or hemp rope
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife
- Duct & masking tape
- Hatchet/handsaw
- Plywood & fasteners to cover windows
- Disposable dust mask
- Plastic safety goggles
- Fire extinguisher

HELPFUL SUPPLIES AND SPECIAL ITEMS:

- Camping lantern with extra batteries
- Portable camp stove or grill
- Indoor/outdoor grill fuel/charcoal, lighter fluid
- Games/activities for kids/family
- Baby food
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Denture care items
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lens supplies
- Feminine supplies
- 1 gallon of water per pet
- Pet food
- Leash or pet carrier
- Food and water bowls

KEEP IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER:

- Bank account numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Passports, Social Security cards, immunization records
- Vet info
- Recent family/pet photos
- Local and state road maps
- Cash or traveler's checks, change

MY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

My water provider is _____
Phone # _____
(check water bill)
My electric provider is _____
Phone # _____
(check electric bill)
My gas provider is _____
Phone # _____
(check gas bill)
My garbage and debris pick-up
is provided by_____
Phone # _____

My phone provider is _____
Phone # _____
(check phone bill)
My local shelter is _____
Phone # _____
My local grocery store powered
by generator is _____
Phone # _____
My local gas station with emergency power
transfer switches is_____
Phone # _____
My local Home Depot or Lowes powered by
generator is _____
Phone # _____