

Hurricane History

Over the last 50 years, our coastal community has enjoyed many hurricane-free seasons. But in 1960 Hurricane Donna, a strong Category 3 hurricane, swept up the county's coast from Everglades City to Bonita Beach and caused substantial surge flooding along the entire coastline.

At the time Hurricane Donna was the worst storm to strike Collier County in many years, there were about 16,000 people living in the whole county at that time – now we have many times that number.

In 2004, Hurricane Charley made landfall in Southwest Florida near Port Charlotte. The strongest hurricane to hit the area since Hurricane Donna, Charley caused damage to hundreds of buildings in Collier County.

During 2005 season, Hurricane Wilma made landfall just south of Marco Island. The Category 3 storm caused more than \$1.2 billion in property damage in unincorporated Collier County, and destroyed and damaged many homes.

Because hurricanes all have different characteristics, like speed, size and strength, evacuations from the coastal area can be challenging. Traffic congestion can be a major factor when a large area is threatened by a storm, or when there is only a short amount of time available. Persons who live in potential evacuation areas must have a plan which they can implement quickly to avoid being trapped by traffic. Residents should not judge a hurricane based on what happened during the last one.

Throughout the year, the Collier County Emergency Management staff provides hurricane preparedness training to residents and visitors and Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services works diligently to coordinate with the local, state and federal agencies to ensure residents and visitors receive timely emergency preparedness and response information.

This pamphlet provides information for residents and visitors to consider, but keep in mind that it is everyone's responsibility to be aware of the threat posed by hurricanes and to take appropriate actions before the last minute, when it is often too late.

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina took the lives of more than 1,500 persons in the Northern Gulf of Mexico – most of these people were killed because they didn't evacuate prior to the storm surge.



Collier County Emergency Management
8075 Lely Cultural Parkway
Naples, FL 34113
239-252-3600
Emergency Hotline: 239-252-8444

Web Sites

Collier County Emergency Management

www.colliergov.net/em
www.collierem.org

American Red Cross

239-596-6868

www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency

1-800-480-2520

www.fema.gov

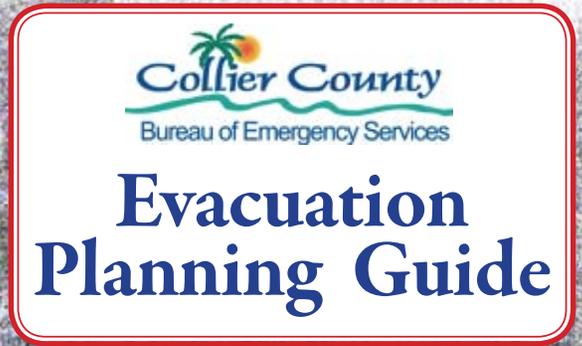
Florida Alliance for Safe Homes

www.flash.org

Florida Division of Emergency Management

For your free family/business disaster plan visit:

www.floridadisaster.org





HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane Season June 1 – November 30

Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch: indicates that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area within 36 hours. During a watch you should prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation.

Hurricane Tropical Storm Warning: indicates that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area within 24 hours. You should be completing your preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by local officials.

Disaster Supply Kit

Food - at least enough for 3-5 days

Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3-5 days

Blankets/Pillows

Cash

Clothing - seasonal/rain gear/sturdy shoes

First Aid Kit (Medicines/Prescription Drugs)

Flashlight/Batteries

Keys - extra set of home, car keys, etc.

Radio - Battery operated

Special Items - for babies and the elderly

Toiletries (Hygiene items/Moisture wipes)

Toys (Books and Games)

Tools - keep a set with you during the storm

Vehicle fuel tanks filled

Important Documents (in a waterproof container) - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.

Pet care items

— proper identification/immunization records/medications

— ample supply of food and water

— a carrier or cage

— muzzle and leash

Staying

- Develop a family disaster plan
- Stay alert to weather and storm advisories
WATCH and WARNING - Know the difference
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio
- Keep a Disaster Supply Kit ready
- Have enough food, water, and ice for at least 3-5 days
- Protect valuable documents
- Make your home more disaster resistant
Install shutters, or board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside

Get cash to have on hand
Following a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed

Fill your car with gasoline

Have a pet plan

Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society (DAS) for information on preparing your pets for an emergency

Do not use candles or open flames as a light source

Work with your neighbors

Check on elderly or those with special needs

As the storm hits, gather your family in a safe room (An interior room with no windows)

Following the storm, watch out for downed power lines and unsafe situations

Listen to your local officials!

Evacuating

Map-out your route

Use travel routes specified by local authorities
DO NOT get on the road without a place to go

Fill your car with gasoline

Evacuate if told to do so

DO NOT get stranded. **EVACUATE EARLY**

Enact your pet plan

Before a storm threatens, contact Domestic Animal Services at 252-7387 for information on preparing your pets for an emergency. To register online: www.collierpets.com

Bring your disaster supply kit including important documents

Secure your home before leaving

Install your shutters, board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors

Get some cash to have on hand

Following a hurricane banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed

Notify family and friends of your plans (tell them how to reach you)

When evacuating:

If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county. Next try a motel or hotel and as a last resort go to a shelter (remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not accept pets)

People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with the Special Needs coordinator at (239) 252-3600.

Check to make sure it's safe to return to your home before you return

(www.colliergov.net/em)

