



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS

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RESOURCES

Government Toll Free Numbers

Hurricane Contact Information

For all emergencies, dial 911.

For non-emergencies, call 305-4-POLICE (476-5423)

Miami-Dade County Contact Center

Call 311 or 305-468-5900

TTY/TDD call Florida Relay, dial 711

Monday to Friday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays and holidays

Toll-free outside Miami-Dade County:

1-888-311-DADE (3233)



[On Twitter](#)



[On Facebook](#)

[@MiamiDadeCounty](#)

[@MiamiDadeEM](#)

[@MiamiDade311](#)



Email: eoc@miamidade.gov

Emergency and Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP): eeap@miamidade.gov

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS



Florida Power and Light

1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)
711 (hearing impaired)

AT&T

1-888-757-6500
TTY: 1-800-855-2880
611 (repairs)

Poison Control Help Line

1-800-222-1222

Traffic Information

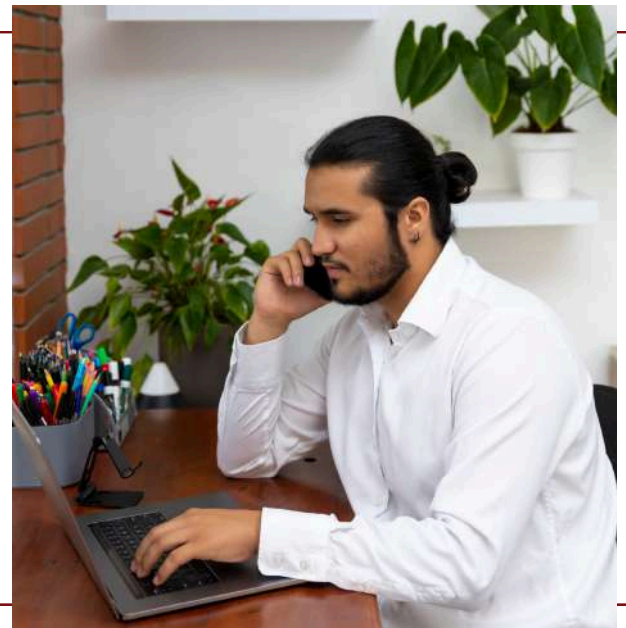
511

Price Gouging Complaints

Florida Office of the Attorney General
1-866-966-7226

Evacuation Orders
Storm Surge Planning Zones
Open Evacuation Centers
Emergency Bus Pick-Up Sites
Hurricane Door Hanger

Once an evacuation is announced, the list of open centers will become available on www.miamidade.gov or by calling 311. Emergency bus pickup sites will be activated to provide transportation to and from the evacuation centers.



HURRICANE CATEGORIES EXPLAINED

How a Hurricane Can Impact Your Roof

As the highest structural component of your South Florida home, the roof takes the brunt of Mother Nature's punch during a hurricane of any category:

- 1 Category – Minimal Hurricane**
Wind Speeds: 74-95 mph
Damage: Damage is primarily directed to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, trees and can cause some damage to poorly constructed structures.
- 2 Category – Moderate Hurricane**
Wind Speeds: 96-110 mph
Damage: May tear off some shingles, tiles, or portions of flashing, damage the gutters, and leave you with a roof leak. It may also cause damage to doors and windows of buildings. Considerable damage can be caused to shrubbery, mobile homes, and poorly constructed structures.
- 3 Category – Extensive Hurricane**
Wind Speeds: 111-130 mph
Damage: This can cause extensive damage to the roof covering and decking from both wind and airborne debris. Such damage includes broken tree limbs and structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Unfortunately, mobile homes and poorly constructed buildings are often destroyed.
- 4 Category – Extreme Hurricane**
Wind Speeds: 131-155 mph
Damage: This can cause severe damage to the roof covering, decking, and gable ends due to both wind and airborne debris, such as broken tree limbs. It can also cause complete roof structure failures on small residences and complete destruction of mobile homes, doors, and windows.
- 5 Category – Catastrophic Hurricane**
Wind Speeds: 155 mph
Damage: This can cause devastating roof damage, where the decking is torn off. It can also cause complete building failures and blow away small utility buildings. It can cause All shrubs, trees, and signs to be blown down while causing complete destruction of mobile homes and extensive window damage.



PROTECT & PREPARE

CAR & MOTORCYCLES

As a homeowner in Miami, Florida, protecting your vehicles during a hurricane is crucial to minimize damage and ensure your safety. Here are some expert steps you can take to safeguard your vehicles:



Secure Covered Parking: If possible, park your vehicles in a garage or carport. Covered parking provides the first line of defense against wind, debris, and potential flooding during a hurricane.



Elevate Vehicles: If you don't have access to covered parking, consider elevating your vehicles. Parking on higher ground, such as a driveway slope or raised platform, can reduce the risk of flooding and water damage.



Anchor Outdoor Items: If you must park your vehicles outdoors, anchor them securely. Use heavy-duty straps or chains to secure vehicles to fixed structures like sturdy posts or trees. This helps prevent them from being displaced by strong winds.



Trim Trees and Branches: Trim back any overhanging branches or trees near where you park your vehicles. This reduces the risk of branches falling and causing damage during high winds.



Use Car Covers: Invest in high-quality, durable car covers designed to withstand harsh weather conditions. Securely fasten the covers to your vehicles to protect them from wind-blown debris, rain, and hail.



Remove Loose Items: Clear your driveway and parking area of any loose items that could become projectiles during high winds. Store outdoor furniture, garden tools, and other objects in a secure location to prevent them from causing damage to your vehicles.



Check Insurance Coverage: Review your auto insurance policy to ensure you have adequate coverage for hurricane-related damage. Consider adding comprehensive coverage if you don't already have it, as this typically covers damage from wind, flooding, and falling objects.



Emergency Supplies: Keep a hurricane preparedness kit in your vehicle, including essential items such as water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, first aid supplies, and a charged mobile phone. In the event of an evacuation, you'll have necessary supplies readily available.

By taking these proactive measures, you can help protect your vehicles from hurricane-related damage and minimize the potential financial and logistical challenges associated with repairs or replacements.





HOME

The key to minimizing your risk against property damage is hurricane preparedness. Here are some tips you can take to protect your property:

- Ensure functionality of all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, particularly crucial for generator usage.
- Safeguard vulnerable areas where wind infiltration is possible.
- Retrieve cash from the bank and replenish fuel reserves for vehicles, generators, and other gas-powered equipment.
- Prepare battery-operated light sources for immediate use.
- Shield electronic devices with surge protectors and waterproof coverings.
- In the event of a power outage, maintain clear pathways in high-traffic areas due to reduced indoor lighting.
- Secure outdoor furniture and unanchored items susceptible to wind displacement.
- Address any broken or deteriorated fences promptly.
- Stabilize loose rain gutters and downspouts, clearing any obstructions or debris.
- Conduct a thorough inspection of the roof for loose tiles, shingles, or debris accumulation.
- Confirm adequate coverage with homeowners, flood, and wind insurance policies.
- Create makeshift bedding from existing blankets and comforters.
- In case of evacuation, deactivate the main circuit breaker before leaving the premises.



BOAT

Ensure proper securing of your boat well in advance of an approaching storm is of utmost importance. Here are some tips for Miami Dade Boat owners:

- Utilize double lines at marinas or consider dry-dock storage options.
- Never attempt to remain on your boat during a hurricane.
- Marinas typically close once sustained winds reach 39 mph. Biscayne National Park evacuates all boats to the Everglades and closes operations at least 24 hours before the anticipated arrival of a tropical storm or hurricane.
- Review your marina contract for specific hurricane policies and procedures. Compile all essential documentation, including insurance policies, recent photographs of your vessel, lease agreements with the marina or storage facility, and contact information for relevant authorities.
- Research indicates that boats stored on land generally fare better during hurricanes compared to those left in the water. Trailer boats should be removed from the water and securely stored at least 48 hours before the expected landfall of a hurricane.
- Select a predetermined safe area to moor your boat. Purchase necessary hurricane supplies such as additional mooring lines, crew anchors, fenders, chafing gear, and anchors.
- After securing anchoring or mooring arrangements, remove all movable equipment from the boat, including canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, cushions, Biminis, and roller furling sails.
- As evacuations commence on barrier islands, Intracoastal Waterway bridges may open infrequently to allow marine traffic until lockdown. Local law enforcement agencies will issue advisories regarding bridge closures, which typically occur at least eight hours before anticipated winds of 39 mph.
- Owners who unlawfully tie up their vessels in the Miami River, obstructing federal navigable waterway access, may face fines and have their vessels removed.



INTERIOR

Protecting your home's interior during a hurricane requires careful planning and proactive measures. Here are some suggestions:



Secure Valuables: Prioritize the protection of valuable and irreplaceable items such as artwork, family heirlooms, and important documents. Consider relocating these items to a secure location within your home away from windows and doors, or even better, to an off-site storage facility if feasible.



Use Protective Coverings: Invest in sturdy protective coverings such as hurricane shutters or impact-resistant windows to safeguard your home's interior from flying debris and high winds. Ensure that windows and doors are properly sealed and reinforced to prevent water intrusion.



Secure Hanging Artwork: Remove any artwork or wall decorations that are not securely fastened and could potentially become hazardous during a storm. Use sturdy hooks, anchors, or hanging hardware to secure artwork to walls and prevent them from falling or being damaged.



Create a Safe Room: Designate an interior room on the lowest level of your home as a safe room where you can seek shelter during the storm. Ideally, this room should be windowless and centrally located within the house to provide maximum protection from wind and debris.



Protect Flooring and Furniture: Cover flooring and furniture with tarps or plastic sheeting to prevent water damage in the event of roof leaks or flooding. Move furniture away from windows and doors to minimize the risk of damage from broken glass or water intrusion.



Backup Important Data: Ensure that important digital files, documents, and photographs are backed up securely to an off-site location or cloud storage service. This will protect them from potential damage or loss in the event of flooding or power outages.



Inspect and Maintain Roof: Regularly inspect your roof for any signs of damage or weakness, and promptly repair or replace any missing shingles, tiles, or flashing. A well-maintained roof is essential for protecting your home's interior from water intrusion during a hurricane.



Emergency Preparedness Kit: Assemble an emergency preparedness kit that includes essential supplies such as flashlights, batteries, first aid supplies, non-perishable food, water, and important medications. Store the kit in a readily accessible location within your home.



Stay Informed: Monitor weather forecasts and updates from local authorities to stay informed about potential threats and evacuation orders. Have a plan in place for evacuating your home safely if necessary, and know the location of nearby shelters or evacuation routes.

By taking these proactive measures to protect your home's interior, you can minimize the risk of damage and ensure the safety and well-being of your family during a hurricane.





FOOD

Food Preparation and Management During Hurricane Preparedness:



Stock Up on Non-Perishable Food Items: Prior to the onset of hurricane season, it's essential to stock up on non-perishable food items that have a long shelf life and require minimal preparation. Examples include canned goods (such as beans, vegetables, and fruits), dry pasta, rice, crackers, peanut butter, nuts, dried fruits, granola bars, and shelf-stable milk or plant-based alternatives.



Plan for Nutritional Needs: When selecting non-perishable food items, consider their nutritional value to ensure a balanced diet during an emergency situation. Aim to include a variety of food groups, such as protein-rich foods, carbohydrates, fruits, vegetables, and healthy fats, to meet dietary needs and maintain energy levels.



Consider Dietary Restrictions and Preferences: Take into account any dietary restrictions or preferences within your household when planning emergency food supplies. If members of your household have specific dietary requirements (e.g., gluten-free, vegetarian, or vegan), ensure you have suitable food options available to accommodate their needs.



Store Water and Hydration Supplies: In addition to food, it's crucial to stockpile an ample supply of clean drinking water for each member of your household. Plan for at least one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation purposes. Additionally, consider including electrolyte-replenishing drinks or powdered drink mixes to maintain hydration levels, especially in hot and humid conditions.



Rotate Food Supplies Regularly: To maintain freshness and ensure the availability of consumable food items during emergencies, establish a rotation system for your emergency food supplies. Periodically check expiration dates and replace any expired or spoiled items with fresh supplies. Rotate older food items into your regular meal planning to minimize waste.



Emergency Cooking Methods: In the event of a power outage, traditional cooking methods may not be feasible. Consider alternative cooking methods such as camping stoves, portable grills, or outdoor fire pits (if safe to use) for preparing meals. Alternatively, opt for ready-to-eat or easily prepared foods that require minimal cooking or heating, such as canned goods, pre-packaged meals, and snack items.



Emergency Meal Planning: Develop a meal plan for emergency situations that outlines specific meals and snacks using your available non-perishable food items. Aim for balanced meals that provide adequate nutrition and energy to sustain your household during the duration of the emergency. Include easy-to-prepare meal options that require minimal cooking time and resources.



Food Safety Practices: Practice food safety measures to prevent foodborne illnesses, even during emergencies. Store perishable food items, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and meats, in coolers with ice packs or frozen gel packs to maintain safe temperatures. Avoid consuming perishable foods that have been left unrefrigerated for extended periods or have come into contact with floodwaters or contaminated surfaces.

By proactively planning and managing your food supplies during hurricane preparedness, you can ensure the health, safety, and well-being of your household members in the face of emergencies.





DISPOSAL

- Dispose of household and yard waste prior to the onset of a storm to minimize potential hazards
- If you are a Miami-Dade County waste collection service recipient, arrange for a bulky waste pickup online or by calling 311 before the threat of a storm. Residents can also utilize any of the 13 neighborhood trash and recycling centers to dispose of tree cuttings and other household refuse.
- Residents across the County can transport hazardous home chemicals such as oil-based paints, pesticides, and pool chemicals to one of two designated home chemical collection centers.
- To prevent street flooding, landscapers and residents are advised against blowing grass clippings onto sidewalks, streets, or storm drains. Instead, bag them or blow them back onto the lawn to serve as natural mulch.
- Secure your trash and recycling carts in a garage, utility shed, or covered patio to prevent them from becoming hazardous projectiles during high winds.
- Avoid initiating any tree pruning or cleanup activities or placing trash on curbsides during tropical storm or hurricane watches or warnings.
- If you do not receive waste collection services from Miami-Dade County, contact your city authorities for information on waste removal services.





COMMUNITY

MIAMI DADE PROGRAMS

[Residential Shuttering Program](#) - The Residential Shuttering Program can help qualified elderly and disabled individuals living in Miami-Dade County with the installation of their hurricane shutters.
[Pet-friendly evacuation centers](#)

[The Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program \(EEAP\)](#) provides free evacuation assistance to eligible residents living in Miami-Dade County who need specialized transportation and/or sheltering or who would like to receive a wellness call after a disaster.

GET INVOLVED

[The Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

[Join The Miami-Dade Citizen Corps Council](#) where you can receive the training, skills, and team environment to help you prepare your community for a disaster.

CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS



Neighborhood apps such as Nextdoor provide valuable platforms for local communities to connect, communicate, and collaborate on various topics, including disaster preparedness and response. Downloading and utilizing a neighborhood app can enhance communication, facilitate resource-sharing, and strengthen community resilience during hurricane season.



Download and Sign Up: Download the Nextdoor app or a similar neighborhood-based platform from your smartphone's app store. Sign up using your residential address to join your local neighborhood network.



Explore Features: Familiarize yourself with the features and functionalities of the app, including posting updates, joining neighborhood groups, accessing local recommendations, and communicating with neighbors.



Join Relevant Groups: Join neighborhood groups or forums dedicated to topics such as disaster preparedness, emergency response, or community assistance. These groups serve as valuable resources for sharing information, seeking assistance, and offering support to fellow residents during hurricanes and other emergencies.



Stay Informed: Stay informed about relevant updates, announcements, and alerts from local authorities, community leaders, and neighborhood moderators. Utilize the app to receive real-time information about hurricane warnings, evacuation orders, shelter locations, and other important updates.



Share Resources and Tips: Use the app to share helpful resources, preparedness tips, and recommendations with your neighbors. Share information about hurricane preparedness kits, evacuation routes, emergency contacts, and local services available to support community members during hurricanes.



Offer Assistance: Offer your assistance to neighbors in need by posting offers to help with hurricane preparations, evacuation plans, or post-storm cleanup efforts. Use the app to coordinate volunteer efforts, organize community initiatives, and provide support to vulnerable individuals or households.



Engage with Local Officials: Engage with local officials, emergency responders, and community leaders who may use the neighborhood app to disseminate important updates and information during hurricane season. Participate in virtual town halls, Q&A sessions, or community forums to ask questions, share concerns, and collaborate on disaster preparedness efforts.

By downloading a neighborhood app like Nextdoor and actively engaging with your local community, you can strengthen connections, foster collaboration, and enhance resilience in preparation for hurricanes and other emergencies.

MAKE A GROUP CHAT

Creating a group chat can be an effective way to communicate and coordinate with neighbors, friends, or community members during hurricane season. Whether it's for sharing updates, organizing volunteer efforts, or offering support, a group chat provides a convenient and accessible platform for real-time communication.



Select a Platform: Choose a messaging platform that is accessible to all members of your group, such as WhatsApp, GroupMe, or Facebook Messenger. Consider factors such as ease of use, availability across different devices, and privacy settings when selecting the platform.



Invite Participants: Invite neighbors, friends, or community members to join the group chat by sending them an invitation link or adding them directly to the conversation. Ensure that everyone participating in the group chat is aware of its purpose, guidelines, and expectations for communication.



Establish Communication Norms: Establish clear communication norms and guidelines to ensure productive and respectful interactions within the group chat. Encourage members to share relevant updates, information, and resources related to hurricane preparedness and response while avoiding misinformation or panic-inducing messages.



Share Updates and Alerts: Use the group chat to share real-time updates, weather forecasts, evacuation orders, and other critical information from local authorities and emergency agencies. Promptly disseminate important alerts and warnings to ensure everyone in the group stays informed and prepared.



Coordinate Volunteer Efforts: Coordinate volunteer efforts, mutual aid, and assistance initiatives through the group chat. Organize tasks such as shutter installation, debris removal, or welfare checks to support vulnerable individuals or households in your community during hurricanes and other emergencies.

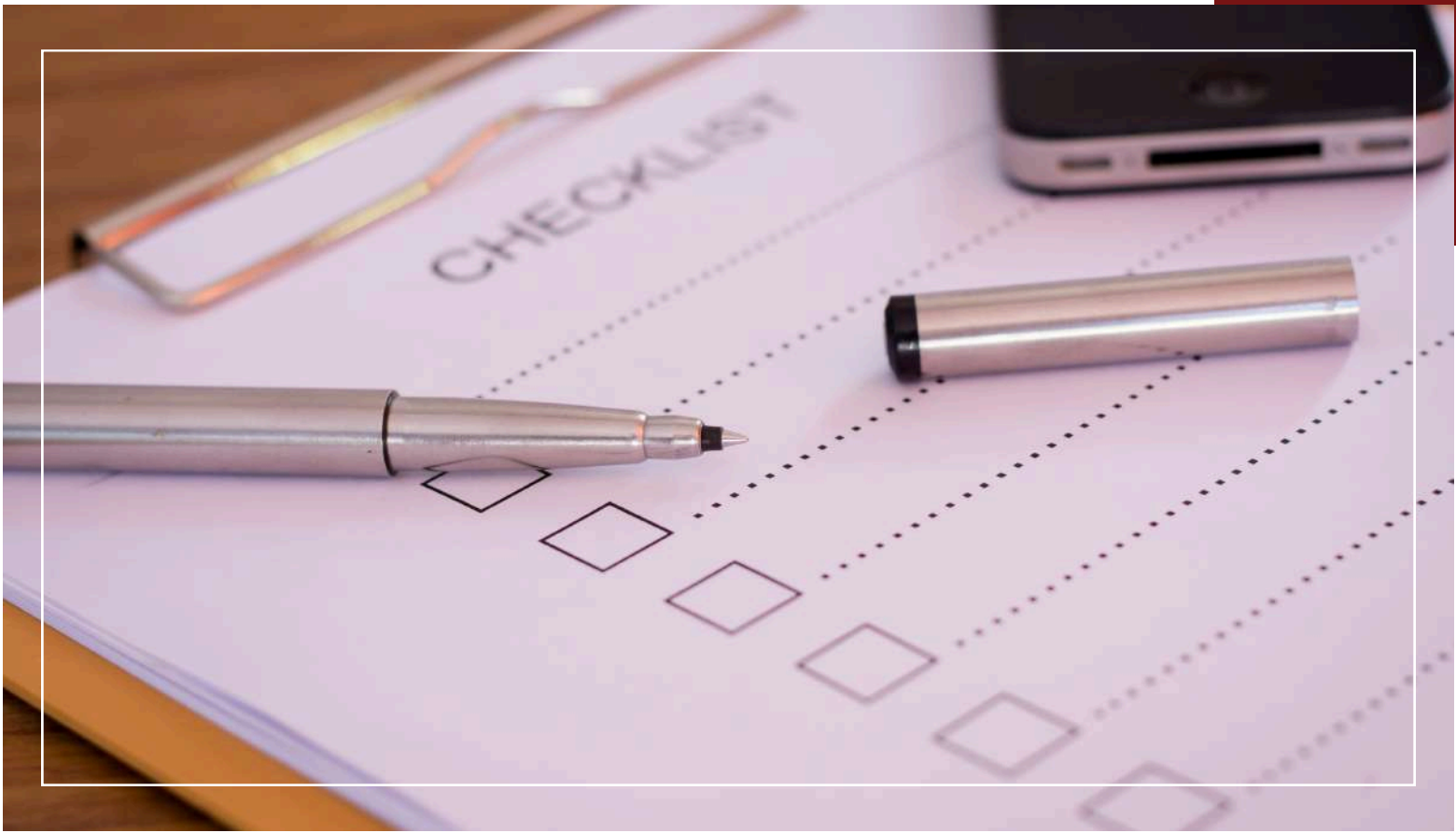


Offer Support and Resources: Use the group chat to offer support, share resources, and provide assistance to neighbors in need. Offer help with hurricane preparations, evacuation plans, or post-storm recovery efforts, and encourage others to do the same.



Maintain Security and Privacy: Respect members' privacy and confidentiality within the group chat by refraining from sharing sensitive personal information or engaging in inappropriate behavior. Monitor the group chat regularly to ensure compliance with community guidelines and address any concerns or issues that may arise.

By creating a group chat and actively engaging with participants, you can foster collaboration, share information, and strengthen community resilience during hurricane season and other emergencies.



PRINTABLE CHECKLISTS

7 WAYS TO PREP IN 7 DAYS

With the 2024 hurricane season finally here (Official Hurricane season occurs annually between June 1 – November 30), now is the time for South Florida homeowners to prepare their homes.

This guide offers valuable information to help you plan over the next 7 days to protect your family and property before, during and after the storm.

Remember, it's always better to KNOW that your roof is working right rather than hoping it will when the storm comes to test it. At T&S Roofing Systems, we are available to provide annual preventative maintenance checks, repairs, and roof replacement services.

Day 1

- Request a Roof Maintenance check from a trusted roofing contractor (like T&S)
- Begin by checking the surface of your roof, either on the roof itself or from the ground with binoculars.
- Look for curled, loose, or missing shingles or roof tiles. Pay particular attention to the edges of the roof.
- Also check the spacing of the nails that hold the shingles and underlying roof deck onto your houses.
 - a. Nails should be approximately four inches apart along edges.
 - b. Nails, not staples, should be used to secure the roof deck to the rafters.
- If you have access to your attic, look for points of light coming through the roof. This can reveal gaps that can let in wind and water.
- Examine the rafters or trusses for protruding nail tips, which indicate that the plywood roof deck might not be properly secured.

Day 2

- Trim your Trees
- Clean your gutters and drainage systems

Day 3

- Make a plan

Day 4

- Protect areas where wind can enter such as windows and doors, with county approved storm shutters. One option is to board up windows with 5/8" plywood. Note that tape does not prevent windows from breaking!
- Bring in lawn furniture of other outdoor items not tied down that could become airborne.
- Withdraw cash from the bank, and get fuel for your car, generator and other gas-powered tools.
- Protect electronics with surge protectors and waterproof coverings

Day 5

- Taking a picture or video of your vehicle/boat's condition prior to the occurrence of a hurricane is always a good idea in the event that your property is damaged and you need to file a claim with your insurance agent.
- Cars should typically be kept inside of an enclosed garage during a storm, while boats should be removed from the water and weighed down to prevent them from being picked up by the wind.
- If you own a boat, remember to secure it. Use double lines at a marina or consider dry-dock storage. Never try and ride out a hurricane in your boat! Know where you plan on storing these items so that in the event of a hurricane, you can use your limited time to carry out your plans rather than make them.

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Day 6

- Monitor the radio and television for weather updates and instructions from public safety officials.
- It is advised to stay indoors, preferably in a room with no windows.
- Take your emergency kit and disaster supplies with you if you move from room to room, or if you evacuate to a shelter.
- If flooding threatens your South Florida home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
- Avoid using the phone and do not bathe or shower during the storm.
- Keep children informed about what's happening and watch for signs of stress.
- Get in the tub or under your mattress if your home begins to come apart.

Day 7

- Pet food & serving bowls.
- Leash
- Carrier
- Place ID tags on appropriate collars
- Ensure your pets are micro-chipped.
- Its best to account for 1 ½ gallons of water, as well as sufficient food and medicine for each animal for at least 3 days.
- Prepare to care and maintain control over your pets at all times.
- Whenever possible, ask a friend or relative if you can leave your pet with them if a hurricane forces you to evacuate your home.
- Never plan on leaving your pet alone!

Post Storm

- Remain inside until local authorities give the green light to go outdoors.
- If you must go outdoors, watch for fallen objects and downed electrical wires report downed power lines to Florida Power & Light.
- Inspect your home for damage, assuring that its safe to stay there. Check for gas leaks, if applicable.
- Contact your insurance agent. Take pictures of damage. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.
- Stay out of areas with extensive storm damage.
- Obey all curfew and emergency orders.
- Do not operate charcoal grills, propane camping stoves or generators indoors.

Disaster Kit Checklist

- Extra cash
- Cell phone
- Charger and Battery Pack
- 7-day supply of food and water for each person
- Manual Can Opener
- Utility lighter
- Flashlight and Batteries
- Change of Clothing for each person
- First Aid Kit



Examples Of Service Requests The Public Can Get Through 311

Abandoned Property / Vehicle	Junk And Trash / Overgrowth
Abandoned Shopping Carts	Missed Garbage
Animal Cruelty Investigation	Missed Recycling
Broken Water Meter Box	Mosquito Inspection Request
Broken/Leaking Water Main	Overgrown Median
Broken/Missing Water Cover	Pawsventure Registration
Cancel Pickup Appointment	Pet Store / Breeder Complaint
Chickens	Police Central Records Appointment
Commercial Vehicle - Unauthorized	Pothole
County Park Concern	Report Missed Bulky Pickup
Damaged Blue Recycling Cart	Schedule Bulky Waste Pickup
Damaged Green Waste Cart	Stop Sign Issue
Damaged Sidewalk	Stray Dog
Dead Animal Pickup	Street Sign Name Issue
Environmental Complaint	Tethered Dog
Graffiti	Traffic Sign Issue (All Other Signs)
Illegal Dumping	Tree Trimming