

## CREATE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family disaster plan include:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select on calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster supply kit.
- Plan for your pets.

## WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES

Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards residents can face in Sumter County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every Sumter County home, a NOAA Weather Radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio provides National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information specific for Sumter County 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

### Local Frequencies

Transmitter	VHF Frequency
Inverness	162.400
Sumterville	162.500

## STOCK A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

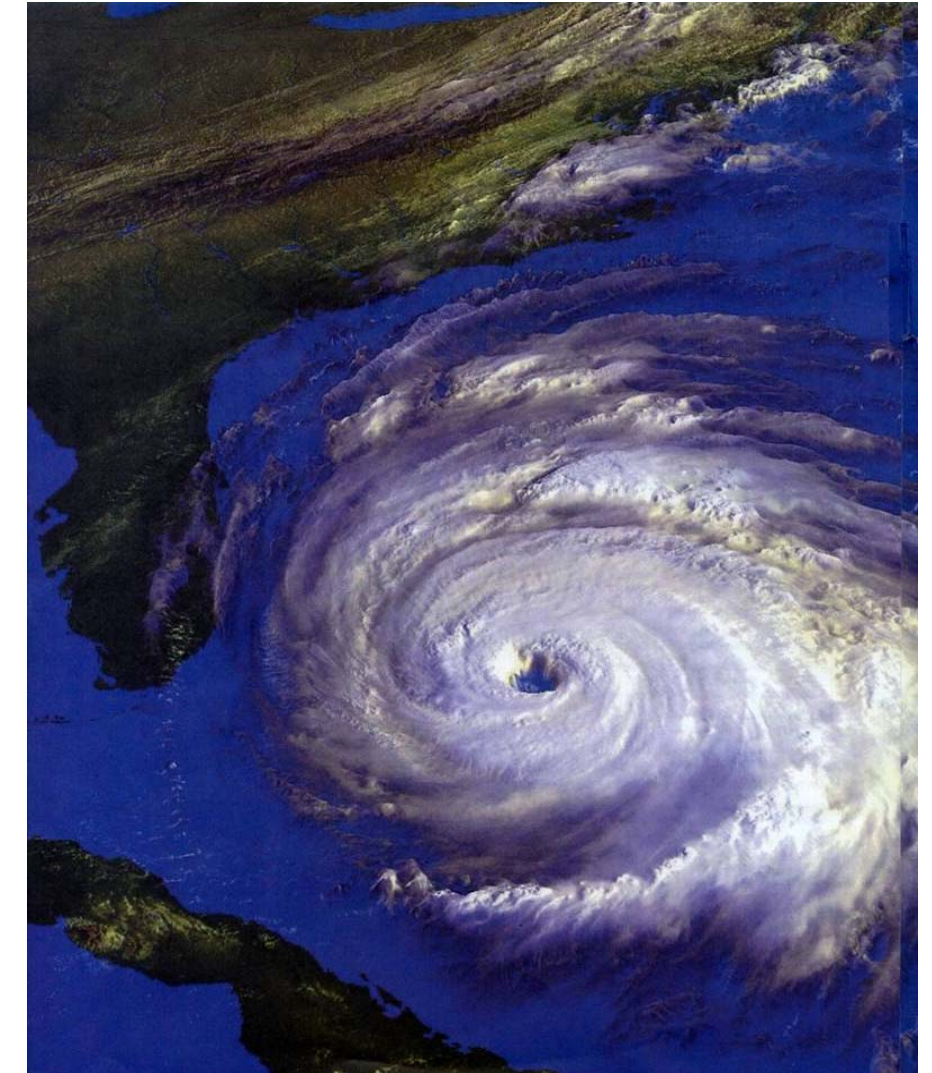
- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils and cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, re-sealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account, and Social Security Cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

### Local SAME codes (*Specific Area Message Encoding*)

County	SAME Code
Sumter	012119
Lake	012069
Marion	012083

County	SAME Code
Citrus	012017
Hernando	012059
Pasco	012101

# LEARNING ABOUT HURRICANES



**Sumter County  
Emergency Management**

*A Division of the*  
**Sumter County Sheriff's Office**

*A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*



1010 North Main Street  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
Phone: 352-569-6000  
Fax: (352) 569-1222

Web: [www.sumtercountysheriff.org](http://www.sumtercountysheriff.org)

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

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### Category 1: Winds 74 – 95mph; Storm Surge 4-5 feet

Minimal damage, primarily to trees, foliage and unanchored manufactured homes. No real damage to other structures. Some small watercraft may be torn from moorings.

### Category 2: Winds 96 – 110mph; Storm Surge 6-8feet

Moderate damage. Some trees blown down. Some window, door and roof damage possible. Small watercraft from moorings in unprotected anchorage. Some evacuation of shoreline residences and low-lying areas.

### Category 3: Winds 111 – 130mph; Storm Surge 9-12 feet

Extensive damage. Large trees blown down. Some structural damage to small buildings. Manufactured homes destroyed. Serious coastal flooding. Many small structures near coast destroyed by wind and waves. Massive coastal evacuation required.

### Category 4: Winds 131 – 155mph; Storm Surge 13-18 feet

Extensive damage to roofs on many smaller structures and buildings. Terrain 10 feet or less above sea level flooded. Escape routes cut off by rising water three to five hours before hurricane eye arrives. Massive coastal evacuation required.

### Category 5: Winds 156 mph or more; Storm Surge 19 feet or more

Catastrophic damage. Complete failure of roofs on residences and many commercial buildings. Small structures overturned or blown away. Massive evacuation from low ground within 5 – 10 miles of the coast.

## EVACUATION TERMS

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**Area storm risks** – Residents that live in a manufactured home or in flood-prone location.

**Host home** – A home with window protection and other than a manufactured home where a person can shelter with family or friends and be more comfortable than in a public shelter.

**Public Shelter** – A facility provided by Sumter County where the at-risk residents, who are unable to locate a host home, can shelter from an impending hurricane. Public shelters do not have beds or showers.

**Special Needs** – Persons who have certain medical conditions requiring limited observation during sheltering. Medications are a personal responsibility.

## HURRICANE & TROPICAL STORM TERMS

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**Tropical Disturbance** – An area of showers and thunderstorms that may have a slight cyclonic circulation (counterclockwise) and maintains its identity for at least 24 hours.

**Tropical Depression** – A storm system displaying a noticeable circulation with maximum sustained wind speeds of 38 mph.

## DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

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- Listen to a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and news reports on television and AM/FM radio.
- Recheck supplies in disaster-supply kit.
- Fuel Car.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools, and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Take out extra money from an ATM.
- Review family disaster plan.
- Moor boat in safe area or take out of water.

## DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

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- Closely monitor battery-operated weather radio and news reports on television and AM/FM radio.
- Finish installing storm shutters and storing loose objects on property.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting.
- Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture that could blow away or cause damage or injury.
- If in a manufactured home, check tie downs and evacuate.
- Store water in bathtubs and jugs for flushing toilets.
- Store valuables and important documents in waterproof containers.

### If evacuating...

- Leave as soon as possible
- Secure home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and main water, gas and propane valves.
- Tell someone outside of storm area where you are going.
- Bring supplies from disaster-supply kit.

### If staying at home...

- Stay inside away from doors, windows and skylights.
- Open refrigerator only when necessary.
- Turn propane tanks off.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to limit damage when the power is restored.
- Use only battery-operated lights. Do not use candles or open flames.

### When a hurricane strikes...

- Stay away from windows, brace all exterior doors and close interior doors. Don't go outside!

**Tropical Storm** – A storm system with sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph. When reaching tropical storm strength, a storm is given a name to aid in tracking.

**Hurricane Watch** – Issued by the National Weather Service when there is a threat of hurricane conditions developing in 24-36 hours.

## AFTER THE STORM

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- Help family members, friends, and neighbors. Remember some may require special assistance, such as infants, elderly, and those disabled.
- Help injured or trapped persons. Give first aid when appropriate. Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call 9-1-1 for help.
- Turn on radio or television to get the latest emergency information. Use the phone only for emergency calls.
- If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse or circuit breaker.
- If you smell the odor of natural gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company. If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on.
- Stay away from downed, loose or dangling power lines and report them to authorities.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- In the case of an electrical outage, it is important to take precautions to ensure food safety. Discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more and any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture. Just remember "When in doubt, throw it out!"
- If using a generator, make sure your home is not connected to other sources of electricity. Contact the power company for more information. Place generator in a well ventilated area away from your home.
- If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. IF water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap.
- Do not use candles or open flames.
- Drive only if necessary. Debris and washed-out roads may make driving dangerous. When approaching intersections with inoperable traffic lights, treat it like a four way stop.
- Clean up soiled flammable liquids immediately. Leave the building if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- When cleaning up debris always use proper safety equipment such as heavy gloves, safety goggles, hardhat, heavy boots, light-colored long sleeve shirts and long pants. If you can't identify something, don't touch it and be wary of downed power lines. Be extremely careful with a chainsaw and always heed safety warnings.
- Take photographs of damage to your house, furnishings and surroundings for insurance claims.

**Hurricane Warning** – Issued when winds of 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. In most of the Pacific Ocean, these storms are called typhoons, and in the Indian Ocean, they are called cyclones. Families should complete their hurricane preparedness.