


THE BRADENTON HERALD'S HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE 2008

The official guide for Manatee County

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Are you prepared for a hurricane?

You've seen the destruction Hurricane Charlie left in Port Charlotte in 2004.

You remember the chaos running rampant in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina smacked the city in 2006.

Are you prepared for a Category 4 hurricane to slam into Manatee County?



Carl Mario Nudi
cnudi@bradenton.com

Statistics say you're probably not.

According to local and statewide studies, only about 25 percent of the residents have taken the necessary steps for a natural disaster.

"Florida is arguably the best prepared state in the nation," said Thomas Mason, director of the University of South Florida Global Center for Disaster Management



NOAA FILE PHOTO

As hurricane season gets under way, it's important to be prepared.

and Humanitarian Action at the College of Public Health.

News media have bombarded you with information about being ready for the big storm, but many people do not take the time to get ready.

Government agencies "attempt

to get the message out often and as early as possible," Mason said. "Unfortunately as a society we have a very short attention span."

He said in 2004 after Hurricane Charlie hit Charlotte County and ripped through Central Florida, people were ready for the next

three storms that pummeled the state, although Tampa Bay was not directly hit.

But with three years of relatively light hurricane activity in this part of the state, people have become complacent.

"People have never been as serious about preparing (for a natural disaster) as they should be," said Capt. Larry Leinhauser, spokesman for the Manatee County Emergency Management Division. "They don't think it's going to be that bad."

Leinhauser suggested Manatee County residents take a trip to Port Charlotte to see how bad it can be.

"Four years later and they're still recovering," he said.

Emergency officials recommend people be prepared to take care of themselves for at least seven days.

"If there is a serious storm it will take a while for responders to get into your neighborhood," Leinhauser said. "There may be

roads to clear, electric power lines to repair and water and sewer lines to get back on line."

Mason emphasized that it does not take a major storm for the electricity to go out.

"When you lose power, even in a minor storm, it can be serious," he said. "There is no electricity to run wells for drinking water, cell towers may go down, even gas pumps will not operate."

Leinhauser pointed out the recent disasters in China and Myanmar, where it took time for rescuers to reach those affected.

"Government can't come in and make it better in a hurry," he said.

He remembers helping out in Gulfport and Biloxi, Miss., after Hurricane Katrina struck in 2006.

"There literally was nothing there," Leinhauser said. "People had to start from scratch."

"Be prepared to take responsibility for yourself and your family," he said.

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How do hurricanes form?

The formation of a hurricane can be rather complicated.

However, a hurricane is basically just a big low pressure area with numerous showers and thunderstorms surrounding a center of circulation.

Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters and are most common from the summer to fall time period. When a large group of thunder-

storms come together over the ocean they typically are associated with an area of low pressure. So you might hear us talk about a "disturbance"

we are watching that could eventu-



Brian McClure
Bay News 9

ally develop into a tropical storm. Air will move toward these areas of lower pressure resulting in an influx of moisture and increasing thunderstorm activity.

In some cases this process will continue to the point that a low pressure area develops into a "tropical depression", with sustained winds between 20 and 33 knots. As more air rushes toward the tropical

depression, more thunderstorms will form, which will lower the pressure even more. As the pressure continues to lower the winds continue to get stronger. If a tropical depression continues to strengthen, it will become a "tropical storm" when winds are between 34 and 63 knots. A tropical storm is declared a "hurricane" when winds equal or exceed 64 knots (74 mph).

Dual-Polarization weather radar comes to Tampa Bay

Bay News 9 has one of the first Dual-Polarization weather radars in the country. These radars are the future in weather technology.

Conventional radars only send a horizontal pulse. Dual-Polarization radars send both horizontal and vertical pulses hundreds of times a second. This allows these radars to better see the size and shape of raindrops, hailstones and other types of

severe weather.

In hurricanes and tropical storms, this will improve the radar rainfall estimates. Not all raindrops are the same, and this plays an important role in pinpoint-



Mike Clay
Bay News 9

ing area in danger of flooding. This radar is also a Doppler radar so it can see the winds in real-time and uses the new antenna to provide extremely detailed radar data. In the next 5-10 years, all National Weather Service radars will also be upgraded to dual-polarization.

Hurricanes and heavy rain aren't our only threats. Tornadoes can hit Florida with winter-type storms and also be associated with hurricanes.

Bay News 9 was the first station in the country to use the new Baron Tornado Index (BTI). This tornado predictor puts together real-time radar data and hourly computer model data for the first time. It generates a simple 1-10 scale, showing each thunderstorms potential to produce a tornado. A 1 is a very low risk and a 10 is an extremely high risk of a tornado.

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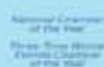


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HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

HURRICANE TRACKING CHART

Newspapers, radio and television give hurricane positions in latitude and longitude. The longitude scale is the vertical numbers at bottom. Latitude runs horizontally.

Want to plot along? Here's an example: An advisory says a storm is at 25 degrees N latitude and 80 degrees W longitude. Find 25 degrees N on the right side of this map and 80 degrees W along the bottom. Follow each of those lines until they cross and that's where the storm is located.



Small Craft Advisory
25-38 mph winds



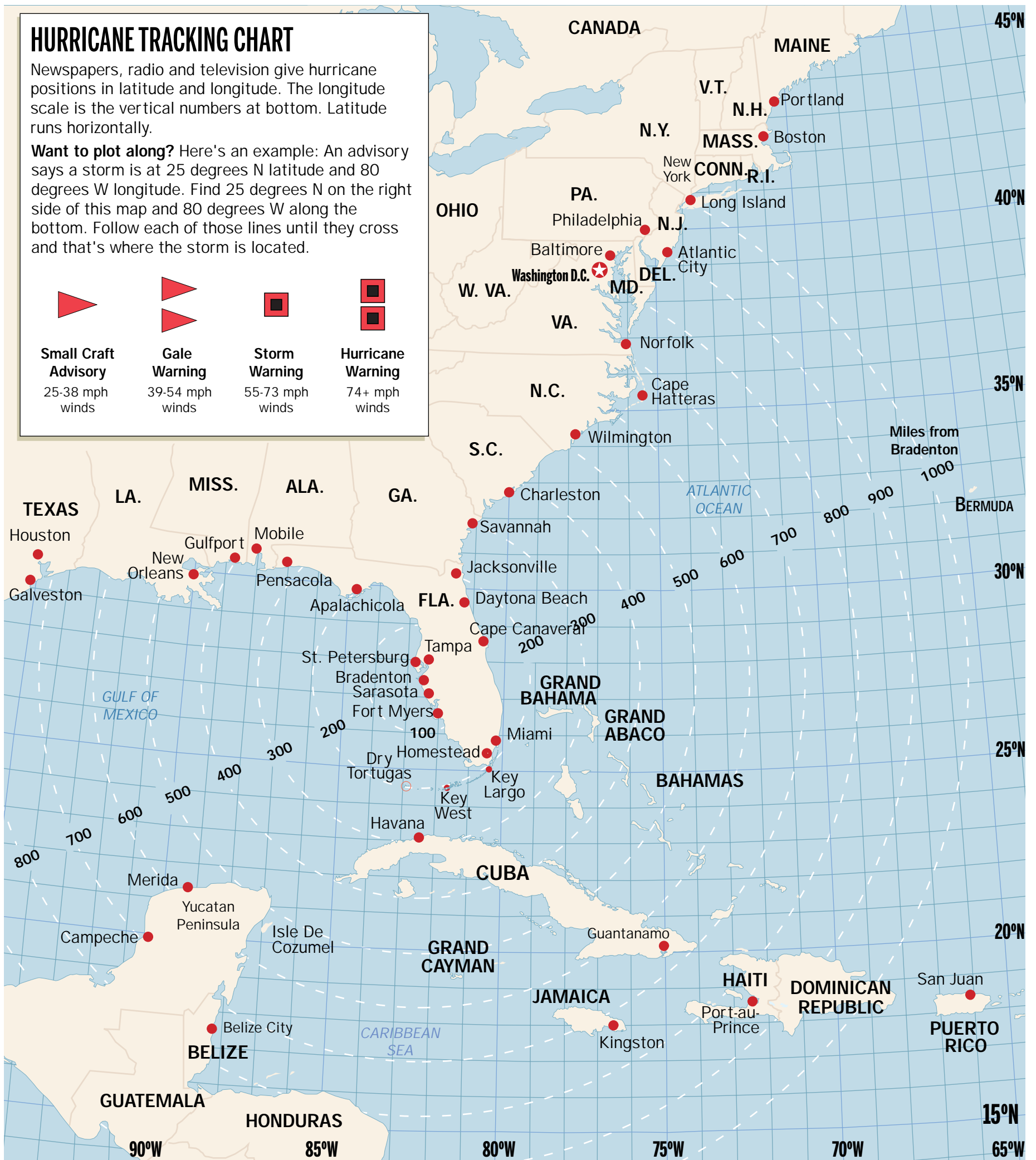
Gale Warning
39-54 mph winds



Storm Warning
55-73 mph winds



Hurricane Warning
74+ mph winds



SEASON TRACKER

| NAME | DATE NAMED | NAME | DATE NAMED |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------|
| ARTHUR | | LAURA | |
| BERTHA | | MARCO | |
| CRISTOBAL | | NANA | |
| DOLLY | | OMAR | |
| EDOUARD | | PALOMA | |
| FAY | | RENE | |
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BEFORE THE STORM

Supplies you need

Experts suggest having three emergency kits: one at home, a small one at work and a few basic supplies in the car. Pick up a few items on the list every time you go shopping.

FOOD, WATER

- One gallon of water per person per day (Try to store a week's supply. Do not use milk jugs; 2-liter soda bottles can be used if they are thoroughly cleaned and filled to the top.)
- A backcountry water-filtering device or a bottle of unscented liquid chlorine bleach to purify water (16 drops per gallon or eight drops per 2-liter bottle right before you use it, NOT before you store it)
- Nonperishable food
- Can opener
- Pet food

FIRST AID, HYGIENE

- First aid handbook
- Bandages in a variety of sizes, gauze, bandaging tape, surgical gloves
- Portable supply of prescription drugs and copies of prescriptions
- Backup of special supplies you regularly use, such as oxygen tanks or hearing-aid batteries
- Moist towelettes
- Toilet paper
- Baby and feminine-hygiene items

SHELTER, CLOTHING

- Camp stove and fuel (Never use them indoors.)
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Sturdy shoes
- Hat
- Boy Scout Handbook for basic "how-to" instructions

TOOLS

- Flashlight
- Portable radio
- Extra batteries
- Multipurpose pocketknife
- Crowbar
- Handsaw
- Sledgehammer
- Work gloves, goggles, dust masks
- Rope
- Plastic sheeting or tarps
- Duct tape
- Fire extinguisher with ABC rating (with instructions)
- Candles
- Waterproof matches
- A loud whistle (one for each family member) to signal for help
- Documents
- Photocopies of credit cards, driver licenses, birth certificates, bank information and account numbers, other official identification

UPKEEP

- Store the items in plastic boxes that are waterproof and pest-proof. Stash emergency supplies near your front door or in your bedroom, somewhere you can easily grab them on your way out in an emergency. Don't keep supplies in the basement or other areas not easily accessible.
- Replenish kits annually when you reset your clocks at daylight-saving time. Toss outdated food and cans that are dented, rusty or swollen. Restock as family's needs change.



BEFORE THE STORM

Make a family emergency plan

- Identify a safe place in each room of your home and practice rapidly getting there. Best locations include under a sturdy desk or table, or beside a sturdy, large piece of furniture such as a sofa or bed. Avoid doorways; doors could bang open and shut during an earthquake or storm.
- Practice home-evacuation drills. Choose someplace nearby for your family to meet. Expect a lack of transportation.
- Educate your children. Get a copy of your school district's disaster policy regarding transportation and the release of students. Keep photos of family members in your wallet in case someone is missing.
- Take a first aid course. Learn CPR.
- Know where the nearest police and fire stations are. Know the route to the nearest hospital emergency room. Keep critical phone numbers and your insurance policy numbers by your phone and in your wallet.
- Enter your "ICE" — In Case of Emergency — numbers on your cell phone so emergency workers will know whom to contact if you're hurt. For example, enter "ICE husband John" and the phone number.
- Find out whether any neighbors have medical or other expertise. Plan to unite if your neighborhood becomes isolated. Help elderly, disabled or single-parent neighbors create an emergency plan. Get contact information for their relatives.

Fill in this form and keep this page in a handy place.

FAMILY

Emergency meeting place: _____
 Out-of-state contact, phone number: _____
 Insurance company and phone numbers: _____
 Insurance policy numbers: _____
 Driver license numbers: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighbors' names, phone numbers: _____

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EMERGENCY

Doctor's phone: _____
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Evaluate your home, gather documents

GATHER

□ Store important documents such as insurance policies, deeds, property records and birth certificates in a safe-deposit box. Store copies in your disaster-supplies kit.

□ Keep a stash of cash or traveler's checks where you can quickly get them in case of evacuation.

PLUMBING

□ Know how to shut off waterlines in case of a leak in the house. Label the shut-off valve clearly; it's the first valve in the line after it enters the house.

□ Strap your water heater (gas and electric ones) to studs in the wall or to the floor with heavy-duty metal strips to prevent gas leaks and possible fires from

broken pipes. You can find strapping kits at home-improvement stores.

GAS

□ All occupants should also know how and when to turn off the gas. If you smell gas after a storm or other emergency, shut off the meter valve found at the first fitting on the supply pipe coming out of the ground. Use a wrench to turn the valve either way until it is perpendicular to the pipe. Keep a wrench attached to the gas meter with a wire. Call the gas company to get service restored.

ELECTRICITY

□ Buy a portable, gas-powered generator for emergency electricity. Only appliances that can use extension cords should be

attached to a generator. A 2,200-watt unit can power a refrigerator and several lamps. Keep fuel in a safe, protected container.

□ Learn how to shut off the electricity: Turn off single breakers first, then switch off the main breaker. To turn back on, switch the main breaker first, then the single breakers. On older panels, pull the main fuse blocks.

STRUCTURAL SAFETY

□ Make sure your home is bolted to the foundation and the structure is properly reinforced.

□ Check the roof, foundation, chimney and walls for cracks and overall condition. Contact trained contractors in your area for information on retrofitting.

□ If you live in an apartment, know where your building's utility controls are and how to use them.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

□ Place flashlights in hallways, bathrooms and bedrooms. Keep a flashlight, spare batteries and sturdy shoes under the bed. (Shoes will protect you from broken glass and other debris on the floor.)

□ Evaluate each room. Ask yourself: If the home began shaking, what would fall? Secure appliances, bookshelves and hutches to wall studs. Mirrors should be hung on double hooks; do not lean them against the wall.

□ Place heavy objects and electronic equipment on lower shelves. Use large Velcro patches or nonskid rubber shelf liners to help keep items in place.

□ Place sand in the bottom of vases and other breakable items to help hold them down.

□ Use plastic, not porcelain hanging planters.

□ Store household chemicals safely, preferably near the floor.

□ Secure light objects, such as lawn chairs, to prevent them from becoming flying missiles

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

□ Close shutters and lash down awnings.

□ Bring in anything that could blow around: bicycles, garbage cans, patio furniture, gas grills.

□ Lower your TV antenna, but first unplug the television.

□ Turn off power to the pool pump, lights and chlorinator. If pump is exposed, wrap with a waterproof cover and tie securely.

□ Do not empty the pool of water.

□ Trim dead branches from

Distinguishing myth from fact

Here is what your neighbor over coffee has told you to do during hurricane season, and what the experts say about that ill-considered advice:

There are myths and there are facts, and recognizing the difference may save your life and property.

Take it from Luke Wood, the operations officer for the Manatee County Emergency Management, who separated myths from facts:



VIN MANNIX
vmannix@bradenton.com

Myth: Crisscrossing windows with masking or duct tape provides protection from flying glass.

Fact: Tape will not save your windows. Nor protect anything else in your home or business.

Myth: During the height of the storm, emergency personnel will be able to come and save you.

Fact: Once winds reach a sustained 45 mph, any high profile vehicles — ambulances, fire trucks, etc. — will

be taken off the road until after the high winds subside. You can still call 911, but you'll be put on a life safety priority list.

Myth: There will be plenty of free food, water and ice after power is restored.

Fact: The government will set up points of distribution, but only in areas without electrical power. Government won't compete with private industry that is up and running — i.e. Publix, Wal-Mart, etc.

Myth: Shelters will provide everything you need.

Fact: They'll provide a safer place to be, along with food and water. That's it. People need to bring their own bedding, whatever comfort items they want — books, magazines, lawn chairs. As for computers, Game Boys, iPods, if they're battery-operated, and ear phones, fine. But you can't plug in to the shelter's wall outlets because the shelters must conserve power. And there aren't that many outlets, anyway.

Myth: Most people are killed by hurricane winds and the damage they cause.

Fact: Nine out of 10 hurricane deaths are from inland flooding. Water is your biggest threat, and that includes the surge after-effects. With the ground saturated, water won't drain off as quickly.

Myth: Pets will be safe at home and can take care of themselves when need be.

Fact: No. If you evacuate, take your pets. Pets running around loose after a storm are stressed, confused and scared. You may never be reunited. They could become a health hazard. Manatee County does have two pet-friendly shelters. Some hotels, too. You have to plan ahead.

Myth: Open windows on your home on the side away from the storm.

Fact: Wind can come from all directions during a hurricane.

Myth: All hurricanes form off the coast of West Africa, therefore giving us about a week's notice.

Fact: Hurricanes also form in the Gulf of Mexico and just beyond our doorstep in the Caribbean basin, within 48 hours. Hurricanes do not need a week to develop a head of

steam. They can intensify rapidly and without warning within the vicinity of Florida. Katrina formed in the Bahamas. A tropical wave can form into a Category 4 hurricane with 48 hours.

Myth: Generators do not interfere with commercial power lines.

Fact: When homeowners use a generator in their homes, it can often re-energize an electrical line that's being worked on, and back-feed into neighborhood powerlines, becoming a hazard for electrical repair workers.

Myth: As long as I leave 48 hours before the storm, I've got plenty of time to get to safety.

Fact: Depending on evacuation of the Tampa Bay area and southwest Florida, it may take 60 or more hours of highway driving to be clear of the area. In some cases, you may have to leave earlier than 48 hours.

Myth: I have to go at least 100 miles inland to escape the storm.

Fact: The reality is, 10 or 20 miles inland is usually sufficient to escape the potential storm surge and find available shelter. On the other hand, that doesn't mean you can escape

hurricane force winds 10 miles or even 100 miles away. Charley showed us that hurricanes can cut across the state and pack devastating winds.

Myth: I can immediately return to my home or business after a storm.

Fact: Depending on the circumstances, there may be a curfew in effect, and until search-and-rescue and initial damage assessment is complete, only first-responders will be allowed into a devastated area. Allow for at least 48 to 72 hours before expecting to be able return to your home or business.

There are three levels of re-entry: Level 1 — Search-and-rescue and first-responders only; Level 2 — Limited access. Homeowners and business owners with proof of residency or ownership are OK. Utility companies trying to restore basic infrastructure are also permitted; Level 3 — Regular access.

Myth: Most businesses are able to reopen after a major disaster.

Fact: Eight out of 10 small businesses fail to reopen. Wal-Mart will recover, but not some mom and pops. Not with a plan they won't.

MANATEE COUNTY

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BEFORE THE STORM

Be sure to know your insurance coverage

BRIAN NEILL

bneill@bradenton.com

REVIEW POLICIES NOW: Make sure your insurance policy provides the coverage you need and will remain in force through the duration of storm season. If you have any doubts about coverage, ask your agent.

THE INSURANCE BOX: Insurance companies have an imaginary box drawn over a map of Florida and its surrounding waters. Once a storm enters that box, regardless of whether it's projected to hit land, insurance companies won't write new policies until the storm dissipates or leaves the zone.

LAST RESORT: If you can't find coverage, there's always Citizens Property Insurance Corp. It is the state-created insurer of last resort in Florida and can usually provide coverage when private insurers can't or won't. Check out www.CitizensFla.com or contact the Florida Market Assistance Program at (800) 524-9023 for help finding

coverage.

TWO COVERAGES: Wind and storm coverage is different from flood insurance. Make sure you have both, particularly if you live in a flood-prone area, which about 80 percent of Florida's 17 million residents do. For information on the federal government's flood insurance program, visit www.floods-mart.gov.

CONTACT NUMBERS: If you are forced to leave your home, make sure to contact your agent or insurance company and leave a number where you can be contacted.

TAKE PICTURES: Document the contents of your home thoroughly either with photographs or a video recorder. Photograph any storm damage and keep receipts for any temporary repairs to the home.

INSURANCE REVIEW: Don't make extensive repairs or throw out damaged furniture or other items until a claims adjuster has been able to assess the damage.

Special needs help available

DONNA WRIGHT

dwright@bradenton.com

Manatee County Special Needs Program provides hurricane evacuation assistance to individuals who have no other alternative.

What you need to know about assistance:

- Pre-registration is critical for patients who require transportation to a special needs shelter. Contact Manatee County Emergency Management, P.O. Box 1000, Bradenton, FL 34206-1000. Phone: 749-3500.

- Registrations must be updated each year.
- If a hurricane threatens Manatee County and you are pre-registered as an eligible Special Needs Client, a representative will call you to confirm your transportation needs.

- A group evacuation of a nursing home, adult living facility or similar facilities, is the responsibility of the facilities' management.

- Non-emergency transportation is your responsibility.

- Take friends, family contact information.
- Residents of assisted living and skilled care facilities could be transported to care facilities in other parts of the state.

Caregivers, friends or family members should make sure patients' records have current contact information.

SPECIAL NEEDS ELIGIBILITY

Any Manatee resident whose physical condition requires special care, but doesn't require an acute-care setting and who fits into any of the following categories, regardless of age.

1. Unable to administer their own frequently required or daily injectable medications.
2. Requires frequent or daily dressing changes due to moderate to copious drainage.
3. Needs assistance with ostomy management and indwelling catheters.
4. Requires frequent assessment of potentially unstable medical conditions.
5. Cardiac or respiratory conditions that require special medical equipment such as monitors, oxygen, IPPB machines, etc.
6. Terminal illness, non-bedridden, in need of professional assistance in administering heavy doses of pain medication.
7. Others deemed necessary by triage team.

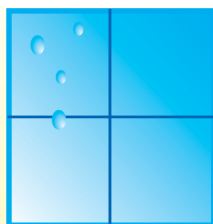


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Manatee County Evacuation Plan 2008

Evacuation shelters

Shelter openings vary with each emergency and will differ with size and intensity of a disaster. In the event of a disaster, stay tuned to local media for a listing of shelters, including pet-friendly sites.

Do not go to the shelter until local officials announce, through the media, that the shelter is open.

- 1 Sea Breeze Elementary School, 3601 71st St. W., Bradenton
- 2 Miller Elementary School, 4201 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton
- 3 Manatee High School, 902 33rd St. Court W., Bradenton
- 4 Prine Elementary School, 3801 Southern Pkwy., Bradenton
- 5 Lee Middle School, 4000 53rd Ave. W., Bradenton
- 6 Bayshore Elementary School, 6120 26th St. W., Bradenton
- 7 Lincoln Middle School, 305 17th St. E., Palmetto
- 8 Tillman Elementary School, 1415 29th St. E., Palmetto
- 9 Rowlett Elementary School, 3500 Ninth St. E., Bradenton
- 10 Johnson Middle School, 2121 26th Ave. E., Bradenton
- 11 Oneco Elementary School, 5214 22nd St. Court E., Bradenton
- 12 Kinnan Elementary School, 3415 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
- 13 Mills Elementary School, 7200 69th St. E., Palmetto
- 14 Buffalo Creek Middle School, 7320 69th St. E., Palmetto
- 15 Bashaw Elementary School, 3515 Morgan Johnson Road, Bradenton
- 16 Braden River High School, 6545 State Road 70 E., Bradenton
- 17 Williams Elementary School, 3404 Fort Hamer Road, Parrish
- 18 Haile Middle School, 9501 State Road 64 E., Bradenton
- 19 Freedom Elementary School, 9515 State Road 64 E., Bradenton
- 20 Gullett Elementary School, 12125 44th Ave. E., Bradenton
- 21 Braden River Elementary School, 6125 River Club Blvd., Bradenton
- 22 Braden River Middle School, 6215 River Club Blvd., Bradenton
- 23 Witt Elementary School, 200 Rye Road, Bradenton
- 24 McNeal Elementary School, 6325 Lorraine Road, Bradenton
- 25 Willis Elementary School, 14705 The Masters Avenue, Bradenton
- 26 Myakka City Elementary School, 37205 Manatee Ave., Myakka City

LEGEND

Evacuation Levels

| Evacuation Level | Wind Velocity (mph) | Storm surge expected (FT)* |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Level A - Evacuate purple areas and all manufactured home residents | 74 to 95 | Up to 6' |
| Level B - Evacuate purple and blue areas and all manufactured home residents | 96 to 110 | Up to 10' |
| Level C - Evacuate purple, blue and green areas and all manufactured home residents | 111 to 130 | Up to 13' |
| Level D - Evacuate purple, blue, green and yellow areas and all manufactured homes | 131 to 155 | Up to 16' |
| Level E - Evacuate purple, blue, green, yellow and orange areas and all manufactured home residents | Greater than 155 | Up to 19'+ |

NON - EVACUATION - Areas that are NOT required to evacuate. However all mobile home residents in those areas **must** evacuate.

Major evacuation routes

For information about shelters, call 748-4501

*Surge values vary considerably depending on coastal configurations, forward speed direction of the hurricane, tides and wave action.

Helpful Web sites

- American Red Cross disaster services
www.redcross.org/services/disaster/
- Bay News 9 weather page
www.bn9.com/Weather.html
- The Bradenton Herald weather page
weather.bradenton.com
- The Tropical Meteorology Project
hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/
- Current Florida weather warnings
ivln.nws.noaa.gov/w/in/fl/allwarnings.html
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov
- FEMA for Kids hurricane page
fema.gov/kids/hurr.htm
- Florida Department of Elder Affairs
elderaffairs.state.fl.us
- Manatee County Government
www.co.manatee.fl.us/
- National Flood Insurance Program
www.fema.gov/business/nfip/index.shtm
- National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov/
- National Weather Service
www.weather.gov
- National Weather Service Tampa Bay forecast
www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/
- St. Petersburg Times' Florida forecast page
www.floridaforecast.com
- The Weather Channel
www.weather.com

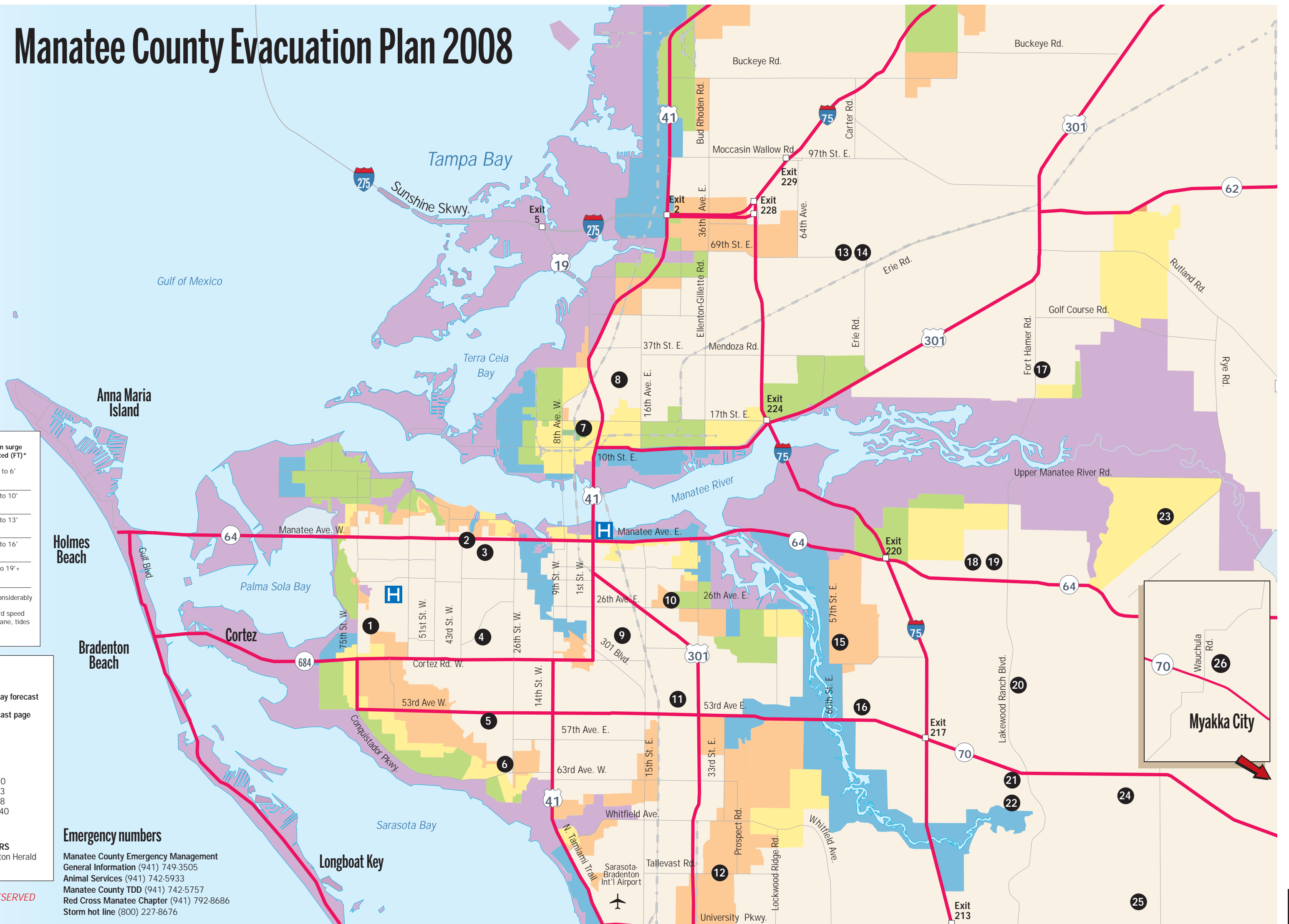
Media organizations

- RADIO**
- WFLA 970
- WWPR 1490
- WCTO 106.5
- WJIS 88.1
- WMTX 100.7: (The Emergency Alert Station for Manatee County)
- TELEVISION**
- WTSP Ch. 10
- WTVT Ch. 13
- WFTS Ch. 28
- WWSB Ch. 40
- WFLA Ch. 8
- Bay News 9
- NEWSPAPERS**
- The Bradenton Herald

Emergency numbers

- Manatee County Emergency Management
General Information (941) 749-3505
- Animal Services (941) 742-5933
- Manatee County TDD (941) 742-5757
- Red Cross Manatee Chapter (941) 792-8686
- Storm hot line (800) 227-8676

DO NOT CALL 911 FOR HURRICANE INFORMATION. THE 911 LINE IS RESERVED FOR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES ONLY.





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|--|---|---|---|---|

Understanding some generator basics

GRACE GAGLIANO

gagostin@bradenton.com

A generator can become a luxury item for homeowners after a storm leaves them without power for days or weeks.

But before purchasing or operating one, it is important to understand generator safety and product information, said Rick Stevens, chief financial officer of Power Source Industries in Sarasota. When it comes to purchasing a generator, Stevens said homeowners must first consider their needs.

"You want to figure out what items you want to run after a storm," Stevens said.

This will also help determine what size generator you need.

Stevens said multiply the amps by the voltage of the units you want to run. That will give you the number of watts required in a generator.

Stevens added it is important for homeowners to focus on operating basic appliances after a storm.

"We're not trying to replace Florida Power & Light, we're just trying to live without them for a few days," Stevens said.

A common size is a 5,000-watt generator and prices on generators range from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Generators can run on gasoline, diesel or propane, however, gasoline-

operated generators tend to be more common and less expensive.

Because it is a fuel-operated device, Stevens said consumers should understand the safety of operating and storing one.

Having a licensed electrician install a transfer switch on a generator is the safest way to connect because it connects to the circuits in a home's electrical panel. This can add \$400 to \$600 to the generator cost, plus labor for installation.

Stevens said a generator should never be operated by using a dryer outlet. In addition, generators should be run outdoors and in a well ventilated area since they run on fuel.



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Carol and Bill Diamond, of Bradenton, shop for generators as they prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

Emergency home power

People who live in places where electricity is often interrupted should set up a backup electric generator.

What a generator can power

Small 3,550 watts

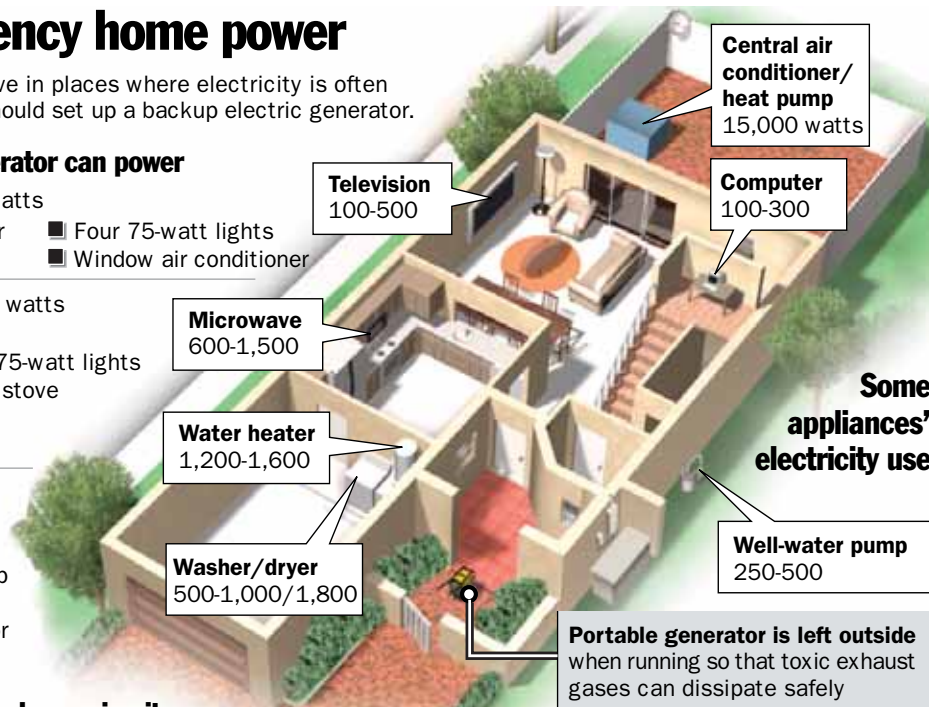
- Refrigerator
- Four 75-watt lights
- Television
- Window air conditioner

Medium 5,550 watts

- Above plus
- Four more 75-watt lights
- One-burner stove
- Clock radio
- Freezer

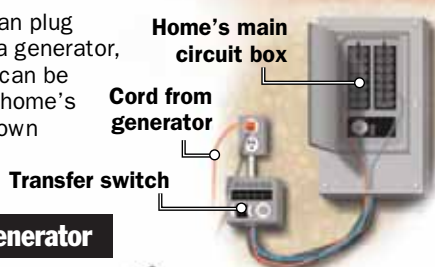
Large 7,550 watts

- Above plus
- Water pump
- Computer
- Garage door opener

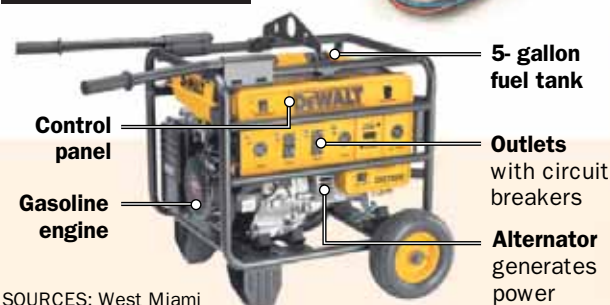


Connecting to home circuits

Appliances can plug directly into a generator, or generator can be plugged into home's wiring, as shown at right



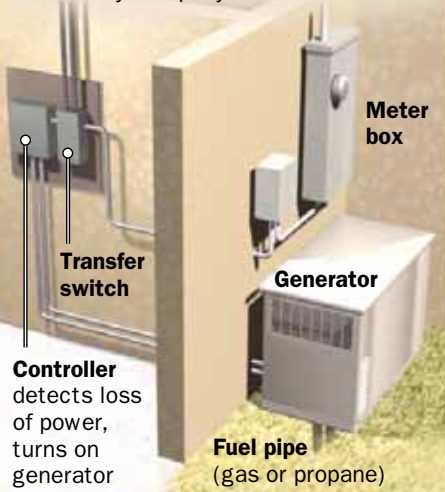
Portable generator



SOURCES: West Miami Discount Tool, DeWalt, Master Distributors, Briggs & Stratton, The Home Depot, HowStuffWorks.com
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Standby generator

Switches on automatically when power from utility company fails



GENERATOR SAFETY

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

A generator can be a wonderful aid, but if operated improperly, it can be dangerous. Here are some safety tips from Florida Power & Light and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Generators must be placed outdoors because they emit carbon monoxide, which can be deadly. Place in a well-ventilated area, not under an open window where the fumes could waft inside.

- Do not connect the generator to the home wiring system, such as through a fuse box or circuit breaker, unless you have a transfer switch that has been installed by a licensed electrician. The power can flow outside the house to the power lines and injure workers.

- Make sure your generator is the right size. In general, small generators can power appliances requiring 110-volt current, such as lamps and refrigerators. A larger generator (at least 3,500 watts) is needed for appliances using 220-volt current, such as window air conditioners, stoves and clothes dryers. Do not hook up a generator to a central air-conditioning unit.

- Don't exceed the recommended wattage listed on the generator.

- Make sure the generator is grounded. Connect a length of heavy-gauge wire between the generator grounding lug and an external ground source, or make

your own by driving a length of copper piping into the ground.

- Use a heavy-duty extension cord to plug appliances into the generator.

- Let the unit reach operating speed before electrical loads are connected. Disconnect loads before turning off the engine. Don't allow the engine to run out of gas while appliances are connected.

- Let the generator cool down before refueling. Never refuel while the engine is running.

- Fuel for the generator, such as gasoline or propane, should be stored outside, never inside.

- After storm season has passed, start the generator once a month to keep it ready.

- Keep it dry. Units should not be operated or stored in wet or damp conditions. Don't operate on top of metal decking. If possible, keep the generator elevated off the ground with plywood.

- Keep intake and ventilating slots clean. Don't put anything through the slots — this could cause the engine to over-heat.

- Keep the generator clean and free of oil, mud and other foreign matter.

Don't wait too long to fill your gas tank

Avoid gas station chaos with these tips

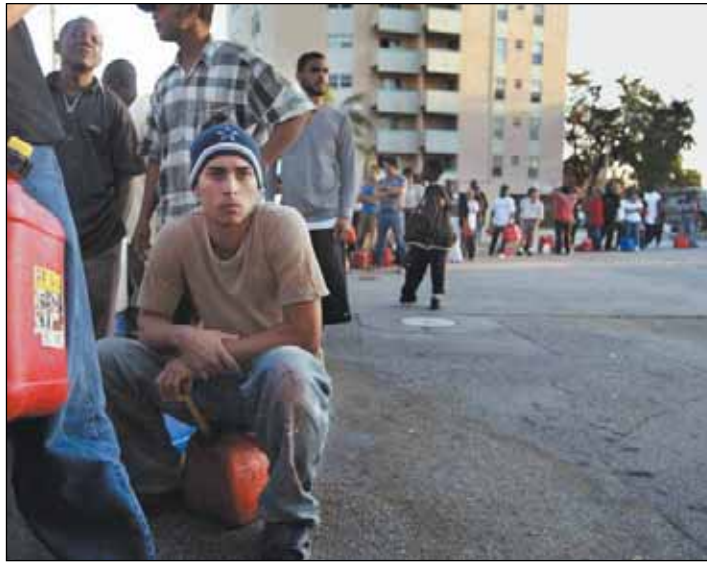
HERALD STAFF REPORT

Images of South Florida after Hurricane Wilma in October 2005 showed cars in lines several blocks long as people waited to fill their tanks. If a storm approaches Manatee County this season, fill up as soon as possible, before any storm winds arrive, and avoid the post-storm, gas-buying binge.

Here are other tips from Laurie Feagans, Emergency Management Chief for Manatee County:

GAS CONTAINERS: If you need to store gas at home, purchase high-grade fuel containers. Higher grades offer thicker plastic and sturdier nozzles for easier and safer handling. Never use a rusted or damaged container, and gasoline should never be stored in something that resembles a food or drink container.

STORAGE: Gas tanks emit fumes, so keep them out of your living area. Outdoor sheds work well for storing. If you don't have a shed and decide to keep gas con-



McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

People wait in line for gas at a service station in Miami prior to a storm. The average wait was 2 1/2 hours.

tainers in your garage, place them closer to the garage door than the door leading to the inside of your home. Treat the tanks like any other hazardous material and keep them away from children and pets or open flames.

STATIC: Filling a gas container

with fuel creates static electricity, so the container must be grounded to dissipate the static. Have the container on the ground when filling, and not in the back of a pick-up.

EARLY ACTION: Fill vehicle tanks well before the arrival of a

storm. Once tropical-force winds arrive (40 mph and higher) trees and power lines can start falling, making driving dangerous.

GAS FOR GENERATORS: If using gasoline for a generator, make sure to use the generator outdoors and learn how to correctly hook it up. Do not use generators indoors or in enclosed patios. Make sure their location is aerated to avoid the hazards of poisonous fumes.

OTHER TIPS:
SECURE TRANSPORT: When carrying gas in a vehicle, secure it so it does not slide around or tip over during sudden stops.

IGNITION SOURCES: No electrical equipment or sources of ignition should be near stored gasoline.

NO SMOKING: Do not smoke when handling gasoline. It is highly flammable.

FILLING UP: Make sure the gas container is on the ground when fueling to avoid static electricity that fuel often creates. Keep prop-

Waiting too long to fuel gas tanks after a storm warning can jeopardize evacuation for some and cause overcrowding at the pump.

An approaching storm can restrict tankers and carriers from travel, thus making fuel scarce to Floridians, said Mike Stone, public information officer for the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

"You need to prepare in advance," Stone said.

Stone said heavy winds from a storm can force tankers to remain at sea and prevent carriers from transporting fuel to gas stations.

Though gas prices are reaching \$4 a gallon in some areas of Tampa Bay, Stone said families should still properly prepare after a storm warning by filling up their tanks or storing it in a gasoline-certified container.

While prices may be inflated, Stone said it's better to obtain fuel while it's available.

As storms grow stronger and inch closer, fuel may become more difficult to obtain due to long lines at the pump or scarce sources.

A backup generator pump is available if tankers cannot reach port to make fuel more available in an emergency, however, Stone advises to fill up as soon as possible if evacuation may seem necessary.

"If you hear the fact that there is a storm coming you want to properly top off your tanks," Stone said.

A storm will also cause obstacles at the pump after it has hit a city, said Steve Simpson, operations officer for Manatee County Emergency Management.

"You must fill up immediately post storm," Simpson said. "There have been some provisions to have generators at some sites but not all do."

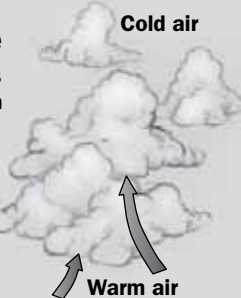
Simpson said be sure to have a cash available to pay at the pump as debit/credit cards may not be accepted due to power loss.

Lifecycle of a hurricane

How hurricanes – giant whirlwinds that feed on hot, tropical winds – develop:

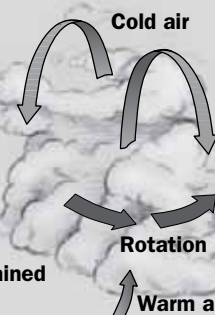
1 Tropical disturbance

Thunderstorms form over ocean as warm, wet air rises and hits cold air; winds off African coast move storms westward



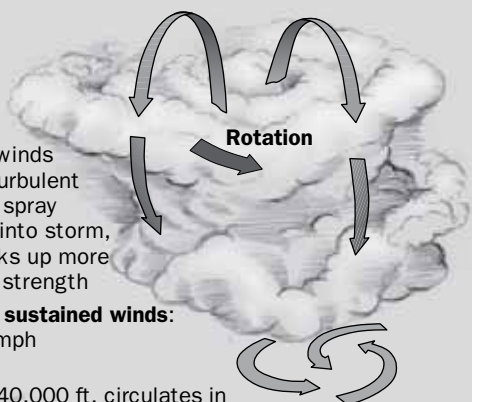
2 Tropical depression

Storms gather into one depression, begin to spin counter-clockwise
Maximum sustained winds: 38 mph



3 Tropical storm

Spiraling winds produce turbulent seas; sea spray absorbed into storm, which picks up more moisture, strength
Maximum sustained winds: 39 to 73 mph

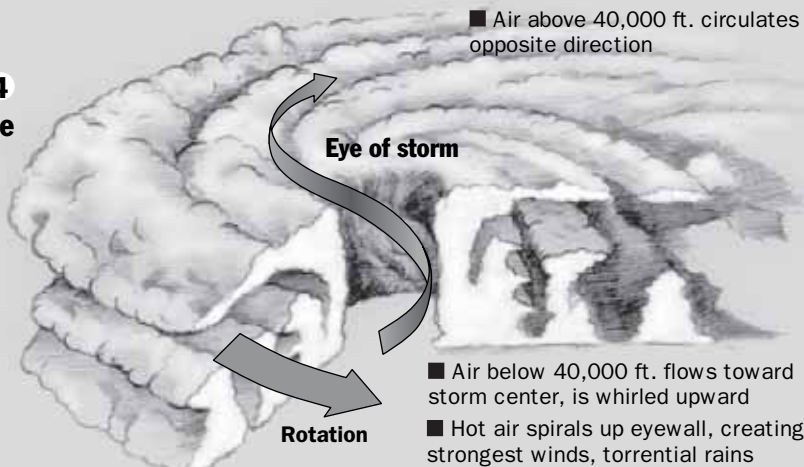


Necessary ingredients

- Water temperature at least 80°F in upper 200 feet of ocean
- Warm, humid air
- Weak winds moving in same direction as developing storm

4 Hurricane

Maximum sustained winds: At least 74 mph



■ Air above 40,000 ft. circulates in opposite direction

■ Spiraling bands of wind, rain can occur up to 240 mi. from center; can spin off tornadoes

■ Some air moves inward and sinks into storm center forming the eye, a relatively calm, clear low-pressure area

■ Air below 40,000 ft. flows toward storm center, is whirled upward

■ Hot air spirals up eyewall, creating strongest winds, torrential rains

KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE
Source: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Diego State University, "Eyewitness Books: Weather"

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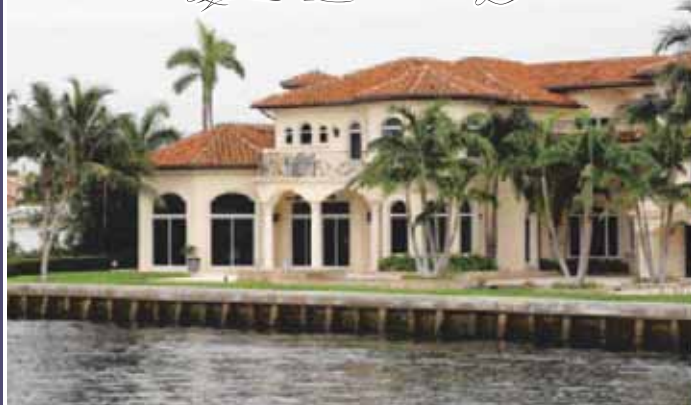
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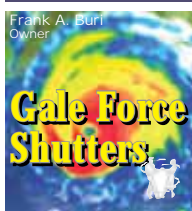


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BEFORE THE STORM

Preparing your home

Hurricanes have the potential for both wind and water damage. A few things can be done to prevent wind damage, which in turn will secure the structure and prevent water from entering.

Garden tools, awnings, grills and toys should be anchored or sheltered

Elevate appliances and furniture off the floor and cover

Insert wedges in sliding patio doors; if not protected, damaging winds will lift them off their tracks and blow into the house

Prune dead or dying tree limbs

Fill **bathtubs and sinks** with water in case water supply is interrupted or contaminated; turn off main water to the house

Install storm panels, plywood, or shutters over all windows, skylights, doors and open vents

Take **pets** indoors to shelter them from the storm

Store **personal papers and irreplaceable documents** in the highest point possible in water-proof

Move furniture away from exposed windows and doors

⚠️ Turn off main **gas valve and electricity** before the storm hits; use flashlights

Keep **swimming pools** filled; cover the filter pump and turn off the electricity; add additional chlorine

Set the **refrigerator** on maximum cold; do not open unless necessary; stock nonperishable foods

Lower **radio and television antennas**

Stay in a **central room** or on the downwind side of the house

Park your vehicle against the garage door and keep the gas tank full

Close all **outdoor electrical outlets** and cover with duct tape

Secure garage and porch doors

SOURCES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; AccuWeather; Federal Emergency Management Agency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't be left without cash; stop at the bank early

■ Visit the bank well before the storm approaches and take out enough cash to get you through a couple of weeks — don't wait until evacuation orders are issued, suggests William H. Sedgeman Jr., chairman, Community Bank of Manatee.

■ If you don't have an ATM card, or a combination ATM-debit card, you might want to order one from your bank, as you may need to be able to tap your accounts if the banks are closed. If you'd rather not use it regularly, order a card and put it

away for use only in an emergency, Sedgeman suggested. His customers can use ATMs at any Publix store, which has generators in case the power is out, he said.

■ Some banks have emergency generators and thus, their ATMs

will work, even if the electric power has failed, said Pam Johnson, vice president-compliance officer, Manatee River Community Bank. She said her firm is located in a new building with a generator that ensures its ATM machine is working as

long as the building remains undamaged.

■ Keep a small amount of cash with your hurricane supplies, and be sure to have an ATM card, suggested Beth Trent, branch manager, First Priority Bank.

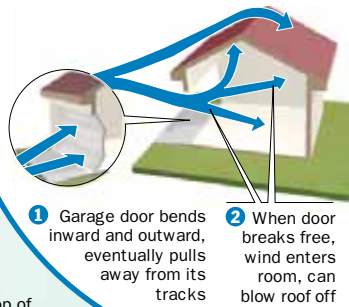
BEFORE THE STORM

Strengthening a garage door

Older garage doors in good condition can be reinforced with a vertical bracing kit; the brace is installed before a storm hits and removed afterward for storage.

How high wind can stress a garage door

Storm winds exert the most pressure and suction at the corners of a home, where most garages are located



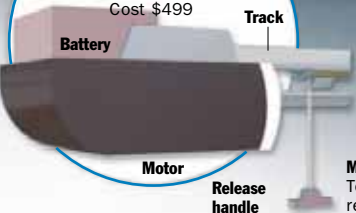
- 1 Garage door bends inward and outward, eventually pulls away from its tracks
- 2 When door breaks free, wind enters room, can blow roof off

Reinforce door at its weakest points with posts; for single doors, use one brace; for double-wide doors, use two or three

Cost \$150 per brace

Heavier tracks may need to be installed; wind can force door out of track or pull track from wall if fasteners are not secure

Emergency battery power unit
Turns on lights and opens garage door for 20 cycles
Cost \$499



Track
Motor
Release handle

Manual operation
To open door if power is lost, pull release cord connected to track

Metal brace is bolted to floor to secure bottom of post; it can be removed for storage and screws left in place

U-bolts attach top of post to bracket on wall above door

Track
Wall
Top bracket
Hinge
Brackets attach hinges to post
Metal post
Hinge
Metal post
Floor brace
Cement floor

SOURCES: Secure Enterprises, Broten Garage Door, University of Florida and Institute for Business and Home Safety
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

TIPS FOR BOATERS

HERALD STAFF REPORT

- Do not attempt to "ride out the storm" at sea in a recreational boat.
- If possible, remove small boats from the water and move them to a secure location above likely flood areas. Tie the boat securely to the trailer. Remove loose items. Turn off the electrical system and remove batteries. Place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Tie down boat/trailer in all four directions.
- If you must moor your vessel, move it to a safe haven at least 48 to 72 hours before a hurricane is estimated to strike the area.
- Before mooring, ensure fuel tanks are full; fuel filters are clean; batteries are charged; bilges are clean; cockpit drains are free and clear; firefighting equipment is in good order and life-saving equipment is in good condition, in place and readily available.
- Remove or secure all deck gear, portable gear, radio antennas, outriggers, fighting chairs, deck boxes, Bimini tops and side canvas/curtains,

- sails, boom, extra halyards, canister rafts and dinghies.
 - Secure all hatches, ports, doors, lazarettes and sailboat rudder.
 - Lash down everything you cannot remove, such as tillers, wheels, booms, etc.
 - Take down and secure the mast if possible.
 - Use duct tape to seal all openings and make the vessel as watertight as possible.
 - Moor in the center of a canal or narrow river where at least doubled lines can be secured to both shores, port and starboard, fore and aft.
 - Do not raft vessels together.
 - If the vessel must remain dockside, use or install heavy duty fender boards (2" by 6") on bare wood center pilings.
 - Double or triple mooring lines to hold a vessel in the berth's center or off seawalls or dock pilings. Remember that nylon line will stretch 5 to 10 percent of its length.
 - Install preventers at the top of pilings so lines cannot slip off.
- Sources: Manatee County Emergency Management, U.S. Coast Guard, University of Florida

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DURING THE STORM

Don't forget about your furry friends

CHECKLIST FOR PETS

- Two-week supply of food (dry and canned)
- Two-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs
- Cage/carrier for each animal, labeled with contact information
- Manual can opener
- Copies of veterinary records including pets' current rabies vaccination certifications and proof of ownership
- Toys, treats to make pet feel comfortable
- First aid kit
- Medications including instructions and veterinarian contact numbers
- Leash, ID collar, harness for each animal
- Litter, litter pan, litter scoop
- Muzzles for dog or cat
- Pet bedding
- Photograph of pet
- Non-spill food and water dishes
- Paper towels
- Spoon
- Trash bags



HERALD STAFF PHOTOS

Remember your four-legged friends while making your evacuation plans.

ANIMAL FIRST AID KIT

- Activated charcoal (liquid)
- Anti-diarrhea liquid or tablets
- Antibiotic ointment for wounds
- Antibiotic eye ointment
- Bandage scissors
- Bandage tape
- Cotton bandage rolls
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Elastic bandage rolls
- Eye rinse (sterile)
- Flea and tick treatment
- Gauze pads and rolls
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Ice cream sticks, which may be used as splints
- Alcohol prep pads
- Latex gloves
- Liquid dish detergent for wound cleansing
- Measuring spoons
- Medications and preventatives such as heartworm prevention with instructions
- Non-stick bandage pads
- Saline solution for rinsing wounds
- Sterile lubricant - water based
- Styptic powder clotting agent
- Syringe or eyedropper
- Thermometer - digital
- Tourniquet
- Towel and washcloth
- Tweezers

Tracking pets with microchips

Only a fraction of the 8 to 10 million pets lost each year in the United States are returned to owners. How microchips could help:

Size: Pet ID chips about the size of a grain of rice

Inserted: Under loose skin of back of neck between shoulder blades of dogs, cats

When scanned: Radio waves return unique ID number kept in database that tracks owner

Cost: About \$65

Compatibility issue

- Chips from competing U.S. companies cannot be read by single scanner
- Vet or shelter may not have right scanner to detect ID chip in pet
- Europe, Canada use international standard chip; can be read by all scanners

Source: Coalition for Reuniting Pets and Families (U.S.)
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE



motels and hotels that allow pets.

WHILE EVACUATING

- Bring dogs, cats and other small animals indoors.
- Make sure all animals have collars and some form of identification securely fastened.
- Place all small pets, including cats and small dogs, inside individual transportable carriers. When stressed, animals that normally get along become aggressive.
- Secure leashes on large dogs.
- Load larger animal cages/carriers into your vehicle to serve as tem-

porary housing for animals if needed.

- Load the animal evacuation kit and supplies into your vehicle.
- Call prearranged animal evacuation site to confirm space.
- Implement your equine/livestock evacuation plan.
- If you must leave equine/livestock behind, relocate them to a predetermined safe place based on the type of imminent disaster. Ensure that they have access to hay or an appropriate and safe food source, clean water, a safe living area or high ground above flood levels. Do not rely on automatic watering systems.
- Secure or remove outdoor objects that may turn into flying debris.

AFTER THE STORM

- Survey in and around your home to identify sharp objects, dangerous materials, dangerous wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines or other hazards.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals.
- Release equine/livestock in safe and enclosed areas only.
- Release animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if allowed outside unsupervised.
- Reintroduce food in small servings, gradually working up if animals have been without food or water for a prolonged period.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep for all animals to recover from trauma.
- Physically check animal control and shelters daily for lost animals.
- Post lost animal notices and notify local veterinarians and your neighbors of any lost animals. Visit www.missingpet.net.

MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Manatee County Animal Services at 748-4501, ext. 3255, or www.co.manatee.fl.us.

Sources: American Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Terry Clikes, Braden River Animal Hospital, Humane Society of Manatee County

SHELTERS

- Additional pet shelter facilities may open if needed. Monitor media coverage.
- Space is limited and no more than two family members will be admitted in pet shelter area.
- Dogs, cats and birds are allowed.
- Check petswelcome.com for

DURING THE STORM

Try this experiment

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Need help explaining how a hurricane works to a child or just have time to kill? Try the following experiment as a fun, informative way to pass the time. All you need is a few common household items that you should be able to find easily.

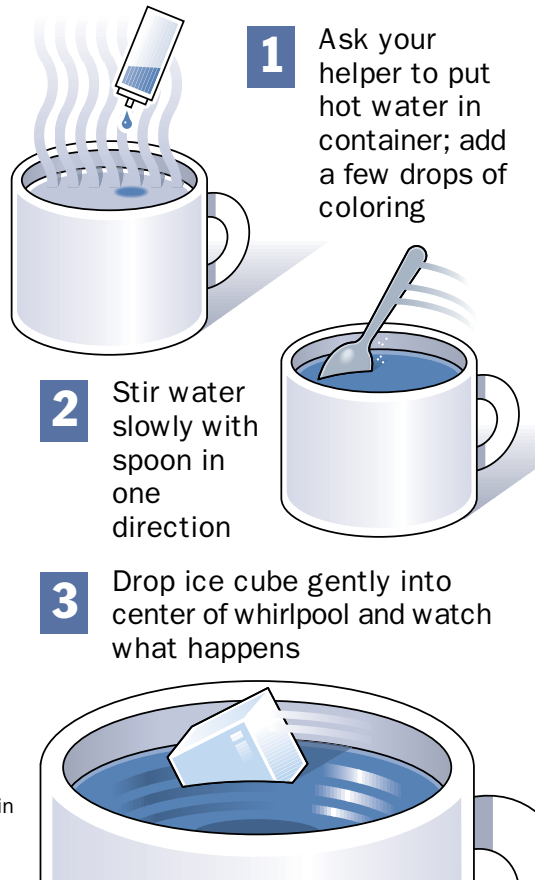
A tiny storm

In this experiment, a whirlpool, or **vortex**, of spinning water behaves in a surprising way.

You'll need

- Large mug or small cooking pot
- Very hot water
- Food color
- Small ice cube
- Spoon
- Adult helper

SOURCE: University of Wisconsin meteorology professor David Houghton



1 Ask your helper to put hot water in container; add a few drops of coloring

2 Stir water slowly with spoon in one direction

3 Drop ice cube gently into center of whirlpool and watch what happens

What happened?

The ice turns with the water, and if conditions are just right, it will start to spin faster

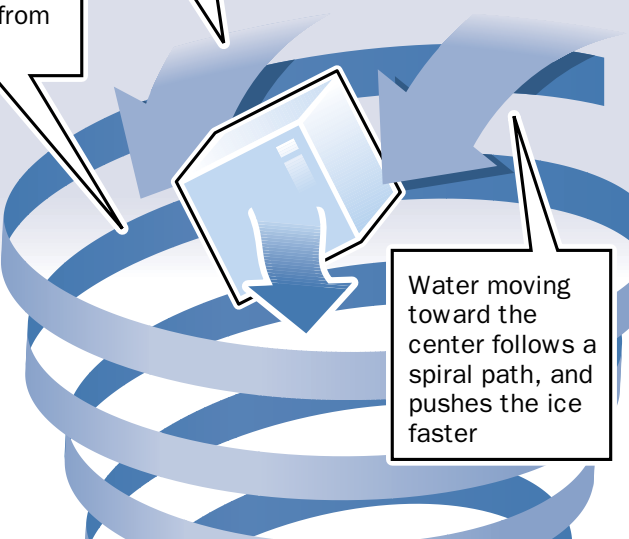
Cold water (which is more dense than warm) flows downward from the melting ice

That pulls water inward across the top of the water

Some tornados and hurricanes get their power from this combination of temperature difference and rotation

Note: You may need to repeat experiment a few times to make it work well

Water moving toward the center follows a spiral path, and pushes the ice faster



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Don't wait for natural disasters like hurricanes or floods to happen before you take steps to preserve your irreplaceable memories. Safeguard, organize and archive your family photos, video, films and other mementos on a more disaster-proof digital format.



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Dealing with a loss of power

HERALD STAFF REPORT

If your electricity is knocked out by a storm, what actions do you take? Here are a few:

- Before it happens, have batteries stocked up for the radio.
- Turn off and disconnect appliances, equipment (like air conditioners) or electronics you were using when the power went out. When the power comes back on, this can help prevent a power surge.
- Leave one light turned on so you'll know when the power returns.
- If it is hot outside, take steps to

remain cool. Move to the lowest level of your home, as cool air falls. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.

- Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- If the heat is intense and the power may be off for a long time, consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall, or "cooling shelter" that may be opened in your community.
- In advance of a power outage, prepare a camping cooler stocked with ice. Put in those items from the refrigerator that you need often. This keeps you from going into the fridge.

■ Do not open the doors of your refrigerator and freezer. This will keep your food fresher longer.

- If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.
- Use the phone for emergencies only. Listening to a battery-powered radio can provide the latest information.
- Do not call 9-1-1 for information. Only call to report a life-threatening emergency.
- Remember to provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pets.
- Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.
- If you use medication that

requires refrigeration, most can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.

- Try to use only a flashlight for emergency lighting. Take great care in the use of candles.
- Do not run a generator inside a home or garage.
- If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.

Source: American Red Cross

Foods that provide sustenance, comfort

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

There are few times in life when you appreciate the restorative power of good food more than when you're coping with the aftermath of a hurricane.

Whether it's the inconvenience of an extended power outage or the calamity of a rain-soaked home, you need all the comfort you can get.

Here are a few products and dishes guaranteed to elevate your post-storm dining experience:

PANTRY GOODS

- Tyson Premium Chunk Chicken Breast (\$3.29/7-ounce pouch): This was by far the best product we tried — fresher tasting than canned and with 60 percent less sodium than Tyson's cooked, refrigerated chicken breasts.
- Bear Creek Dam Good Chili Mix (\$3.99/8-serving package): Add water and a can of tomato paste, simmer 25 minutes and you have a pot of pretty good, surprisingly hearty vegetarian chili. Add a can of diced green chiles if you like yours hot.
- Gia Russa Spinach Tortelli (\$2.69/4-serving package): This was the best of the three brands of shelf-stable stuffed pastas we tried. The taste was relatively fresh, though no match for the Rosetto tortellini we stock in our freezer.
- Rice-a-Roni Express Asian Fried Rice (\$1.69/2-serving

pouch): This was OK on its own, but made a pretty good main-dish salad mixed with a pouch of chicken breast chunks and sliced fresh scallions.

RECIPES

Laura Karr, author of *The Can Opener Gourmet* and *Pop It, Stir It, Fix It, Serve It*, reminds us that most canned fruits and vegetables are picked at their peak and quickly processed, preserving more nutrients than are found in fresh produce that's in transit for days.

Here are two of her recipes that work fine with nothing but a can opener:

Pineapple-Ham Tossed Salad:

Drain and dice two 5-ounce cans of ham. Drain and chop one 8-ounce can of water chestnuts. Combine them in a mixing bowl with one drained 16-ounce can of bean sprouts, one drained 16- to 20-ounce can of pineapple chunks and 1 cup cashews or slivered almonds. Toss with bottled Oriental salad dressing to taste. Makes 4 servings.

Chickpea, Tomato and Olive Salad

With Lemon-Basil Vinaigrette: Drain a 28-ounce can of whole, peeled tomatoes, and cut them into quarters. Drain a 6-ounce can of pitted black olives and cut them in half. Combine in a bowl with one rinsed and drained 15-ounce can chickpeas. In a jar, combine 1/2 cup olive oil, 1/4 cup white-wine or rice vinegar, the juice of 1/2 lemon, 1/2 teaspoon dried basil and 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano. Cover and shake to combine. Drain accumulated liquid from salad ingredients, add dressing and toss. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

If you have a gas range or grill on which to heat food, here are two more keepers:

Cream of Pumpkin Soup:

In a saucepan, combine one 15-ounce can pumpkin, one 14.5-ounce can chicken or vegetable broth, one 12-ounce can evaporated milk, 1/2 teaspoon onion powder, 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder, -1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Stir over medium heat until hot. Makes 4 servings.

Southwestern Beef Stew:

Rinse and drain one 15-ounce can sliced potatoes and chop them into bite-size pieces. Drain and chop one 7-ounce jar roasted red peppers. Rinse and drain one 15-ounce can hominy. Combine them in a saucepan with one 15-ounce can enchilada sauce and two 12-ounce cans roast beef with gravy. Simmer 10 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

COOKING TIPS

- Gas grills allow the most versatile cooking even when the power lines are down. Besides the usual grilling, cooking over indirect heat with the lid closed turns your grill into a convection oven. The heat circulates inside the grill, so turning the food is not necessary.
- Charcoal grills are a bother because they take so much time and require a major stash of charcoal and lighter fluid. Consider purchasing a gas two-burner hot plate. You'll find them in camping departments of sporting, discount and hardware stores. They range in price from \$30 to \$80 — not much when you consider the convenience of being able to cook or heat foods. Be sure to buy enough fuel to last for at least 10 days.
- Don't use your good pots and pans for grill cooking; they will blacken on the outside. Instead, use old pots or place foods in foil packets or disposable aluminum pie plates. Don't use Pyrex containers; they can break on the grill.



KEEPING FOODS

☛ To keep foods cold longer, open the refrigerator and freezer only when necessary

☛ If the power's off for only one or two days and your freezer is full, the food probably will stay frozen if you keep the door closed.

☛ Not all food spoils uniformly. Meats and dairy products are usually the first to go. Fresh vegetables may wilt but may be fine to eat. Use your sense of smell.

☛ Foods that spoil first: Milk, meat, fish, yogurt, cooked pasta and mayonnaise. Discard anything that is moldy or has an odd odor or appearance

☛ Items that can be kept without refrigeration for a few days: butter, margarine, fruit juices.

☛ These items can be kept without refrigeration for about a week: Hard or processed cheeses, fresh herbs (keep in water, like flowers), bread, (pita, white, rye) English muffins, rolls, cakes and muffins, tortillas, shelf-stable pizza crusts, apples, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, limes, carrots, celery, tomatoes, bananas and iceberg lettuce. Onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes and garlic will keep longer.

☛ Condiments and seasonings: These items can be kept without refrigeration after opening if they have never been refrigerated: Ketchup, mustard, barbecue sauce, olives, pickles, syrup, oil, vinegar, bottled lemon and lime juice, horseradish sauce, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, Tabasco sauce, some salad dressings and salsa.

☛ If you have questions about which foods should be tossed out, you can call the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline, (800) 535-4555.

DURING THE STORM

Seasonal vocabulary

Sure, there are Manatee residents whose early childhood vocabulary included “mama,” “papa,” “storm surge” and “eyewall.” But there are new inhabitants, seasonal residents, vacationers — and maybe some old-timers in the county — who don’t know

the difference between a “hurricane warning” and a “hurricane watch,” the “center” and the “eye,” a “direct hit” and a “strike.”

So, the Bradenton Herald offers this glossary of storm-related terms.

CENTER: Generally speaking, the vertical axis of a tropical cyclone, usually defined by the location of minimum wind or minimum pressure.

CENTRAL NORTH PACIFIC BASIN: The region north of the Equator between 140W and the International Dateline. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu tracks tropical cyclones in this region.

CONE OF UNCERTAINTY: This is sometimes called the ‘cone of error’. This shows the HISTORICAL error at certain time periods in a tropical cyclone forecast. Average error in track forecasting over the last several years is at about 75 miles for 24 hours meaning the “cone” will be 150 miles across and 300 miles at 120 hours or 600 miles across. It is important to realize that sometimes the actual forecast scenario may be more or less accurate than the historical error cone.

CYCLONE: An atmospheric closed circulation rotating counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

DIRECT HIT: A close approach of a tropical cyclone to a particular location.






EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC BASIN: The portion of the North Pacific Ocean east of 140W. The National Hurricane Center in Miami tracks tropical cyclones in this region.

EL NINO: This is an anomalous warming of the sub tropical Pacific Ocean surface waters. During an El Nino, vertical wind shear is increased at high altitudes leading to a lower opportunity for tropical systems to develop. This was the main element during the middle and end of the 2006 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

EYE: The roughly circular area of comparatively light winds that encompasses the center of a severe tropical cyclone. The eye is either completely or partially surrounded by the eyewall cloud.

EYEWALL/WALL CLOUD: An organized band or ring of cumulonimbus clouds that surrounds the eye. Eyewall and wall cloud are used synonymously.

EXTRATROPICAL: Used in advisories and tropical summaries to indicate a cyclone has lost its “tropical” characteristics. It is

| Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| | Category 1 | Category 2 | Category 3 | Category 4 | Category 5 |
| |  |  |  |  |  |
| Damage | Minimal Damage to shrubs, trees, mobile homes | Moderate Some damage to roofs, doors, windows; some downed trees | Extensive Minor damage to small buildings, homes; large trees blown down | Extreme Major damage to buildings; mobile homes destroyed | Catastrophic Buildings, roofs destroyed; all trees, shrubs, signs downed |
| Pressure | 28.94 inches | 28.50 to 28.93 inches | 27.91 to 28.49 inches | 27.17 to 27.90 inches | Less than 27.17 inches |
| Winds | 74 to 95 mph | 96 to 110 mph | 111 to 130 mph | 131 to 155 mph | More than 155 mph |
| Surge | 4 to 5 ft. | 6 to 8 ft. | 9 to 12 ft. | 13 to 18 ft. | Higher than 18 ft. |

SOURCE: U.S. National Hurricane Center

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

important to note that cyclones can become extratropical and still retain winds of hurricane or tropical storm force.

GALE WARNING: A warning of 1-minute sustained surface winds in the range 39 mph to 54 mph, either predicted or occurring and not directly associated with tropical cyclones.

HIGH WIND WARNING: A high wind warning is defined as 1-minute average surface winds of 40 mph or greater lasting for 1 hour or longer, or winds gusting to 58 mph or greater regardless of duration that are either expected or observed over land.

HURRICANE: An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. The term hurricane is used for Northern Hemisphere tropical cyclones east of the International Dateline to the Greenwich Meridian. The term typhoon is used for Pacific tropical cyclones north of the Equator west of the International Dateline.

HURRICANE SEASON: The portion of the year having a relatively high incidence of hurricanes. The hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The hurricane season in the Eastern Pacific basin runs from May 15 to Nov. 30. The hurricane season in the Central Pacific basin runs

from June 1 to Nov. 30.

HURRICANE WARNING: A warning that sustained winds 74 mph or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

HURRICANE WATCH: An announcement for specific coastal areas that hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours.

INDIRECT HIT: Generally refers to locations that do not experience a direct hit from a tropical cyclone, but do experience hurricane force winds (either sustained or gusts) or tides of at least 4 feet above normal.

LANDFALL: The intersection of the surface center of a tropical cyclone with a coastline. Because the strongest winds in a tropical cyclone are not located precisely at the center, it is possible for a cyclone’s strongest winds to be experienced over land even if landfall does not occur. Similarly, it is possible for a tropical cyclone to make landfall and have its strongest winds remain over the water.

PROBABILITY OF TROPICAL CYCLONE CONDITIONS: The probability, in percent, that the cyclone center will pass within 50

miles to the right or 75 miles to the left of the listed location within the indicated time period.

STORM SURGE: A dome of water pushed onshore by storm winds.

STORM TIDE: A combination of storm surge and normal tide (i.e., a 15-foot storm surge combined with a 2-foot normal tide over sea level creates a 17-foot storm tide).

STORM WARNING: A warning of 1-minute sustained surface winds of 55 mph or greater, either predicted or occurring, not directly associated with tropical cyclones.

STRIKE: For any particular location, a hurricane strike occurs if that location passes within the hurricane’s strike circle. This circle is meant to depict the typical extent of hurricane force winds.

TROPICAL CYCLONE: A warm-core non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well-defined center.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION: An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

TROPICAL STORM: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39–73 mph (34–63 knots).

TROPICAL STORM WARNING: A warning that sustained winds within the range of 39 to 73 mph associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours or less.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH: An announcement for specific coastal areas that tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours.

TROPICAL WAVE: A trough or cyclonic curvature maximum in the trade-wind easterlies. The wave may reach maximum amplitude in the lower middle troposphere.

SOURCES: National Hurricane Center’s Tropical Prediction Center, FEMA

Bay News 9’s Josh Linker contributed to this report.

A roof that will stay nailed down

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Florida learned some hard lessons when Hurricane Andrew hit Dade County in 1992. The lessons learned were tested — and proven sound — in the storm seasons of the recent past, when tougher building codes enacted after Andrew assisted in safeguarding Florida homeowners' investments in new buildings and roofs.

Stricter enforcement, added inspections, refined techniques and improved materials helped protect homes as well.

Experts in the weather, disaster preparedness, insurance and home construction industries say a reroofing project provides a good opportunity to improve a home's chances of withstanding a hurricane. The roof covering, and the deck or decking beneath it, form one of the most critical shields of protection from high winds and rain.

The loss of the roof covering — shingles, tiles or metal panels — makes the house more vulnerable to water damage. Loose roofing can become a wind-borne projectile that can damage other structures.

And the loss of the roof's sheathing can cause extensive damage to a home and possessions.



McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Branden Wilson, right, and Donald Small install stone-coated steel tile roofing designed to stand up to hurricanes.

BETTER ROOF TIPS

- Make sure your roofer removes sheathing (also known as decking) and confirms that rafters and trusses are securely connected to the wall. Make sure also that he replaces damaged plywood and properly refastens existing sheathing. Cost varies, depending on the amount of sheathing and other material that needs to be replaced, but it could be up to several thousand.
- Make sure damaged plywood is removed and properly replaced.
- People with homes with 1/2-inch plywood decking might consider going with a 5/8-inch decking. Want to strengthen 5/8-inch sheathing? Upgrade to 3/4-inch.
- Add 8d ring shank nails,

better known as “magic nails,” to the sheathing. The common bright nails now in service come loose in 120-mph winds, but ring shanks can withstand 150-mph blasts.

A word of warning: More doesn't necessarily mean better. Follow code. Too many nails can split the plywood and weaken your roof. (Nails are driven every four inches along panel edges and every six inches in the field of the panel.)

- Ask your roofer to hand-nail instead of using a gun. Hand-nailing is labor intensive and therefore more expensive, but worth it.
- Consider using metal instead of shingles or tile. The cost is usually about two or 2 1/2 times that of shingles and about the same cost as tile.
- Hire a licensed, insured and

dependable roofer or contractor to do the work. Check references and complaints in the county building code compliance office and with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Also, look for the roofer's longevity in the community. Remember that cutting corners will only hurt you in the end.

- Be sure the necessary permits are secured before work begins.

FILING A CLAIM

- Photograph the premises, showing any damage and the height of the water if your property was flooded.
- Call your insurance agent to report your claim. If you have separate flood insurance, also call your flood insurance agent.

They will prepare a Notice of Loss form and an adjuster will be assigned to you.

- Separate the damaged from the undamaged property and put it in the best possible order for the insurance adjuster's examination.

When the adjuster visits your property, let him or her know if you need an advance or partial payment of loss. Good records can assist your insurance company.

- Damaged property that presents a health hazard or that may hamper local cleanup should be disposed. Be sure to describe discarded items so that, when the adjuster examines your losses and your records, these articles are included.

- Compile an inventory of missing or damaged goods, and include manufacturers' names,

dates and places of purchases and prices. Try to locate receipts or proofs of purchase, especially for major appliances. — FEMA

CONTACT NUMBERS

- State Farm Insurance:** (800) 732-5246
- Allstate Floridian Insurance:** (800) 547-8676
- Nationwide Insurance:** (800) 421-3535
- USAA:** (800) 531-8222
- Citizens Property Insurance:** (866) 411-CPIC
- Travelers of Florida:** (800) 252-4633
- Progressive:** (800) 776-4737
- Mercury:** (800) 987-6000
- National Flood Insurance Program:** (800) 427-4661

— The Miami Herald and Herald archives contributed to this report.

AFTER THE STORM

After saving your home, save your yard

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

After a storm, while local nurseries are getting up and running again, there are still is opportunity to fill in the blanks with sun-loving plants. Indeed, whole areas can become sun gardens that otherwise might languish untended.

Butterfly gardens, flowering tropical shrubs and annuals can help you create colorful areas while contemplating what trees you want to replace.

Butterfly gardens, which help the environment and its critters and reduce watering needs, are composed of plants that thrive in sunlight. Paint yours with some of the following: Scarlet milkweed, *Asclepias curassavicum*, a reddish-orange and yellow wild-flower that draws monarch, soldier and queen butterflies.

Or buy or build a trellis and cover it with red passion flower, *Passiflora coccinea*, which blooms in winter, while others, such as the native corky-stem *Passiflora suberosa* blooms anytime it's warm. The blue *Passiflora caerulea* blooms in summer. The native *P. suberosa*, though unspectacular and greenish, attracts zebra longwing, julia and the Gulf fritillary.

SHRUBS

A shrub should be planted with the top of the root ball at the same level in the ground as it was in the container. Mulch the root zone and water daily for one or two weeks, then every two days for four to six weeks, and every three or four days for another month, depending on rain. The object is to keep the root zone moist until the shrub is growing well. When we enter the dry season around November, watch for wind that can pull water from the ground and replenish moisture when necessary.

PRUNING TREES

■ Carefully examine trees for injuries. If more than half of the canopy is gone or heavily damaged, it may be wise to remove the rest of the tree, as any regrowth will be weakly attached. Look for cracks in the trunk and major limbs, which indicate danger down the road.

■ For large broken branches, prune them back to a V-crotch, where the branch forks, provided it is sound and has bark intact. If you must take a major branch back to the trunk, remember to save the branch collar, which is the raised area from which the branch emerges. It is this area that contains tissue that can form a callus to cover the wound.

■ Use a chain saw or pruning saw to clean up jagged ends, cutting at an angle so water runs off. Don't use pruning paint, as you'll

seal fungi inside.

■ Whitewash newly exposed bark to prevent a fatal dose of sunburn. Use whitewash or thinned white latex paint (not an oil-based paint) on areas exposed for the first time.

■ Many downed trees can be righted. Until you can work on them, cover the roots (use an old blanket, but not plastic, which can cook the roots in sun) and keep the root mass moist.

■ Prune the root system to get it back in the ground. Remove an equal amount of canopy so the tree doesn't struggle to keep its leaves hydrated while trying to produce new roots. Dig out soil beneath the exposed roots. Right the tree and stake it. Use pieces of old hose to cushion the guy wires where they wrap around the tree, and keep stakes in place for at least six months.

■ Treat the reset tree as a newly planted one, watering every day for two to four weeks, depending on rain. Reduce watering gradually, but keep the root zone moist for several months.

■ When new growth appears, use a water-soluble fertilizer at half strength either as a spray or a drench. A light application of potassium nitrate may be helpful. Wait until spring to use granular fertilizer, then fertilize lightly.

SAVING PLANTS

■ If a storm surge drenched your yard with salt water, thoroughly drench your plants with fresh water. Salt can kill many plants.

■ Downed trees can be out of the ground for weeks and still live after being righted. The key is cutting away any roots and enlarging the growing hole so that the root systems will fit back into a sufficiently large space. Tap roots, or large net-like roots, may have to be pruned so the tree can be raised upright. A come-along or a hoisting device can be used to right a tree if it is too big for you to handle alone.

■ Rake up leaves and debris or anything that can smother grass.

■ Water-sensitive plants: Some plants, such as European fan palms and avocado trees, have roots that do not like sitting in water. Use a drench of Banrot, Aliette or Subdue to ward off root rot; drench valuable palms.

■ Palms may be left standing, but under heavy winds they will be badly shaken. This bruises the single growing point and any bud that might emerge. To keep the bud from rotting, prepare a mix of a copper-based fungicide and pour in into the growing point. Remove any bromeliads around the palms first as they are sensitive to copper.

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Dry your tears, then your stuff

HERALD STAFF AND
WIRE REPORTS

Having allowed yourself a short time to grieve for destroyed property, the misery of it all and the changes in your life, get busy.

You will want to start work as soon as the wind dies and the water recedes. What else is there to do? What other choice do you have? There is much to accomplish in a short period of time following the hurricane.

Quickly assess the condition of important records and family photos, floors and carpets, appliances and furniture, keepsakes and books. The condition of your recovery depends, of course, on the extent of the damage, and whether your house or apartment has electricity and running water.

Finding a private place to take a shower and apply fresh bug spray after a day slogging through the mud and humidity does wonders for the level of the effort tomorrow.



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Brenda Dewar looks over soaked possessions drying in her driveway after a storm surge ahead of Hurricane Dennis soaked her trailer.

Saving your possessions

Get sodden records into a dry place. Spread them out — but not in the sun. And not in an extremely hot space like a closed garage.

If important papers got soaked, stick them in your freezer or the freezer of a friend who has electricity. That will arrest ink-running, prevent the growth of mold and mildew and keep the paper intact until it can be freeze-dried by a professional.

If mold grows on the paper, don't try to rub it off. You will only spread it and stain the paper. Allow the mold to either air-dry or freeze the paper.

Shovel, mop and sweep the water, mud and trash off the floors.

After a few days of drying wood floors, determine whether they can be saved.

Carpets, if they can be saved, need to go into the sun, draped over shrubs or a low structure. And usually a hot, scalding sun

quickly follows a hurricane. So, there is a chance for drying without mildew.

Be careful with electrical and gas-powered appliances.

If your stove, washer, dryer, microwave or other appliance got wet during the storm, be extremely cautious.

Any household electrical or gas equipment that has been submerged in water should not be used until it has been inspected and reconditioned by a qualified service technician. There is danger of electrical shock, leaking gas or food contamination.

As the storm hits, and before the electricity leaves, perishable foods that you will eat for a few days should go into ice chests. Food that can be left in the fridge should be left alone, and the doors of the fridge taped shut.

Even with the electricity off, food in an unopened fridge will

remain good.

Smelly refrigerators can be a problem if you have spoiled food due to loss of electricity.

To get a clean-smelling fridge again, throw out the food and wash the inside with Lysol disinfectant or a similar product.

To keep chair and table legs from staining wet carpet, wrap aluminum foil around the feet. If possible, elevate upholstered sofas with wood or plastic blocks.

Those priceless pieces of family history can be saved if they're not torn apart.

Books, even though soaked, can be spread out and dried if a breeze is allowed to hit them.

Cornstarch sprinkled between the pages can help, but it must be left only for a few hours and then removed.

— *The Miami Herald*
contributed to this report.

How to stay safe after a hurricane passes



Road hazards

Watch out for debris, slick surfaces, areas in danger of being washed away; avoid downed power lines, trees



Viewing damage

Do not sightsee in disaster areas to avoid interfering with rescue, recovery operations



Leaking gas lines

Check for leaks by smell only; if line leaks, open windows and doors, turn off gas at meter; leave house; notify gas company, police



Animal visitors

Watch out for snakes, insects or other animals driven to higher ground



Food, water

Check that food, water supplies have not spoiled from power outages or flood water



Damaged buildings

Be careful when entering damaged buildings



Medical attention

Go to hospital emergency room, fire station or walk-in clinic



Power lines

Do not touch loose, dangling or damaged wires; report them to power company or police



Broken sewer lines

Report broken sewer or water lines to appropriate utility department



Staying tuned in

Look to radio, TV for advice, instructions



Fire prevention

Help prevent fires because fighting them could be made difficult by low water pressure



Pets outdoors

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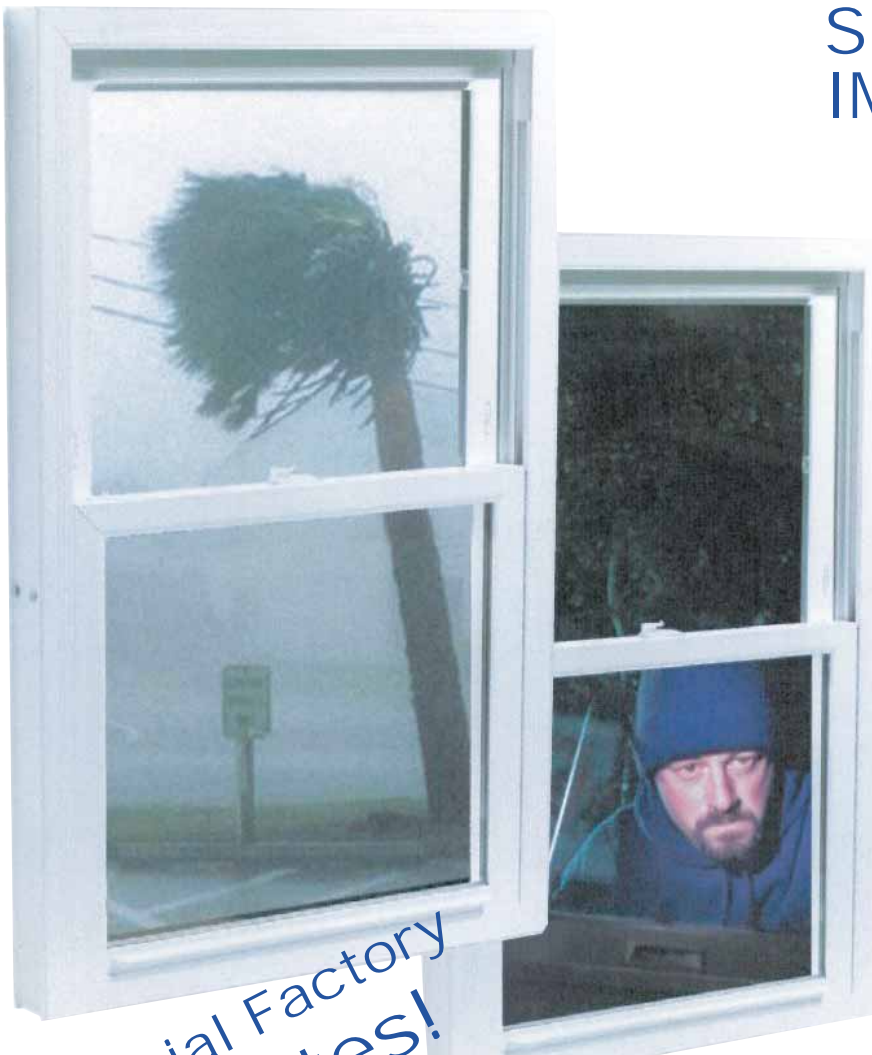
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