

OFFICIAL
ST. JOHNS COUNTY

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



PLAN



PREPARE



PROTECT



STAY INFORMED



STAY SAFE

WWW.SJCEMERGENCYMANAGEMENT.COM

Welcome To Your Hurricane Preparedness Guide

A prepared community is a safer and stronger community.

St. Johns County is vulnerable to hurricanes and related hazards, including flooding, storm surge, and tornadoes. Your safety during a disaster depends on being prepared before a storm approaches. Having a plan in place and knowing what to do can help protect you, your family, and your property. This guide provides essential information, resources, and practical steps to help you prepare for hurricane season.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE



HAZARDS

Learn about the different hazards hurricanes can bring to St. Johns County, including storm surge, flooding, tornadoes, high winds, and dangerous weather conditions. Understanding these risks can help you better prepare your home, family, and community before a storm arrives.



PREPAREDNESS

Discover how to prepare your family, home, and property before hurricane season begins. This section includes emergency planning tips, supply kit recommendations, important documents to gather, and ways to strengthen your home against storms.



EVACUATION

Understand evacuation zones, evacuation routes, and what to expect when local officials issue an evacuation order. Learn how to prepare early, where to go, what to bring, and how to safely evacuate with pets, children, and family members with special needs.



SHELTERING

Explore sheltering options available during hurricanes and other emergencies, including general shelters, special medical needs shelters, and pet-friendly sheltering information. This section also includes tips for staying safe and comfortable while sheltering during a storm.



RECOVERY

Find important guidance for staying safe after a hurricane, including debris cleanup, flood and generator safety, insurance documentation, and rebuilding information. Learn how to safely recover and access local resources available to help your family and community after the storm.



Looking for more hurricane preparedness resources?

Scan the QR code to explore preparedness tips, evacuation information, sheltering resources, and storm recovery guidance for St. Johns County. Or visit: www.sjcemergencymanagement.com

St. Johns County HURRICANE HISTORY

A Strong Community. A History of Resilience.

St. Johns County residents have faced many storms throughout history, each leaving a lasting impact on our community and coastline. Here's a look at some of the hurricanes that have affected St. Johns County since 1964 and how they helped shape our preparedness and resilience today.



HURRICANE DORA

Category 2 hurricane with 110 mph winds and a 12 foot storm surge. Most recent hurricane to make direct landfall in St. Johns County.



HURRICANE FLOYD

Category 2 hurricane near the coast with heavy rain and strong winds that caused significant beach erosion in St. Johns County.



HURRICANES: CHARLEY, FRANCES & JEANNE

Three back-to-back hurricanes that caused flooding, widespread damage and impacts.



HURRICANE MATTHEW

One of St. Johns County's most significant storms since Hurricane Dora, causing severe flooding, storm surge, and major beach erosion.



HURRICANE IRMA

Category 4 hurricane that brought heavy rain, major storm surge, minor flooding, and tornadoes to St. Johns County.



HURRICANES: IAN & NICOLE

These two hurricanes brought heavy rain, storm surge, flooding, and significant beach erosion causing widespread impacts.



HURRICANE IDALIA

Category 3 hurricane that brought coastal flooding, heavy rain, and beach erosion impacts to St. Johns County and Northeast Florida.



HURRICANES: DEBBY, HELENE & MILTON

Three back-to-back storms that brought heavy rain, flooding, strong winds, and widespread coastal impacts.



Want to learn more about our hurricane history:

Scan the QR code to explore detailed information about these storms and their impacts on St. Johns County. Or visit: <https://www.sjcfl.us/sjc-historic-hazards/>

HURRICANES

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION VISIT:
www.nhc.noaa.gov

What is a Hurricane?

Hurricanes are large rotating storms, often referred to as tropical cyclones, that form over warm waters in tropical areas. Hurricanes begin when a tropical depression forms in the ocean. A tropical depression is a line of rain showers and weak thunderstorms that circle around an area of low air pressure. The low air pressure causes the hot, humid air from the ocean to rise in a spiral shape. As that warm air rises, it releases heat, cools down, and condenses into gusty bands of clouds and storms. When winds reach 39 miles an hour, the tropical depression becomes a tropical storm. When winds reach 74 miles an hour, it's officially a hurricane.

Hurricane WATCH

An announcement that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are possible within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.



Hurricane WARNING

An announcement that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected somewhere within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. A Hurricane Warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Categories

Category 1



**74-95
MPH WINDS**

Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Snapped tree branches. Power outages likely.

Category 2



**96-110
MPH WINDS**

Well constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Trees snapped or uprooted. Near total power loss expected.

Category 3



**111-129
MPH WINDS**

Devastating damage will occur: Well built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Damaged trees blocking roads. Utilities unavailable for days or weeks.

Category 4



**130-156
MPH WINDS**

Catastrophic damage will occur: Well built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of roof and/or some exterior walls. Trees and power poles down. Most of area may be uninhabitable.

Category 5



**157 +
MPH WINDS**

Catastrophic damage will occur: High percentage of framed homes destroyed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks or months. Area may be uninhabitable.

STORM SURGE

What is a Storm Surge?

The abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tide.

Storm Surge **WATCH**

An announcement of the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours. The watch may be issued earlier when other conditions are expected to limit the time available to take protective actions for surge.

Storm Surge **WARNING**

An announcement of the danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours. The warning may be issued earlier when other conditions are expected to limit the time available to take protective actions for surge.

RIP CURRENTS

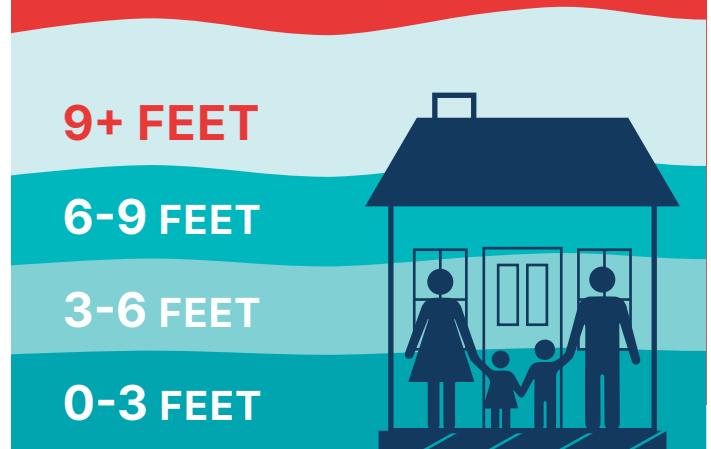
Can Quickly Pull Swimmers From Shore

Rip currents are powerful channels of water that can quickly pull swimmers away from shore. If caught in a rip current, do not panic or try to swim directly against it. Stay afloat, signal for help, and swim parallel to the shoreline until you are free from the current. Then swim at an angle back toward shore. Always swim near a lifeguard and pay attention to posted beach warning flags and advisories before entering the water.

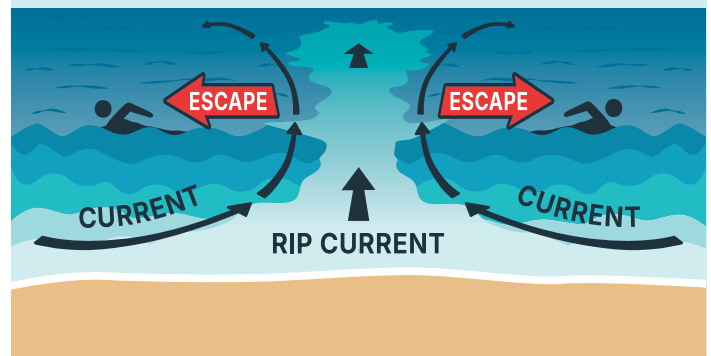
Storm Surge Flooding

Storm surge is destructive, life-threatening coastal flooding. It accounts for about half of the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the U.S. To help you determine the best way to prepare, storm surge forecasts are expressed as feet of water above ground level.

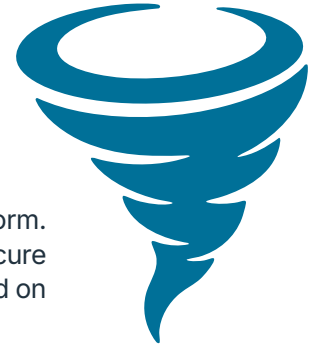
Leading Cause of HURRICANE DEATHS



STAY CALM AND SWIM PARALLEL TO SHORE



TORNADOES



What is a Tornado?

A rotating column of air touching the ground, usually attached to the base of a thunderstorm. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Tornado size can vary depending on the weather situation. Tornadoes are rated on the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale.

Tornado WATCH

Is issued by the Storm Prediction Center when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. Watches are usually issued for a duration of 4 to 8 hours. They are normally issued well in advance of the actual occurrence of severe weather.



Tornado WARNING

Is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. A Tornado Warning can be issued even if a Tornado Watch is not in effect. It is important to take shelter immediately and don't forget your pets.

AVOID THE THREAT

If a Tornado Warning is issued or threatening weather approaches move to your pre-designated safe room, a small room nearest the center of the structure away from windows. Gather blankets to cover yourself with to help protect from flying debris. Don't forget to bring your pets with you!

LIGHTNING & Thunderstorms can Approach Rapidly

Lightning can strike even when a storm seems far away. At the first sound of thunder, move indoors immediately and stay inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder. Avoid open areas, trees, and bodies of water, and seek shelter in a safe building.



**If Thunder
Roars, Go
Indoors.**

WILDFIRES Many Wildfires are Caused by Lightning

Wildfires can spread rapidly and with little warning. Protect your family, pets, and property by staying informed about local fire conditions, preparing an evacuation plan, and reducing fire hazards around your home by clearing dry vegetation and maintaining defensible space.

**When Fires
Threaten,
Don't Delay.**



DISASTER PLANNING

Plan Ahead. Stay Ready

As residents of a coastal community, we must always be aware of our vulnerability to hurricanes. If disaster strikes, are you ready? Is your family ready? Is your business ready? A few simple steps now can make a big difference during and after a storm.

KNOW YOUR ZONE



Do you live in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone?

To find out your zone:
Evacuatestjohns.com



EVACUATIONS



If you are ordered to evacuate, you must plan ahead:



- Where Will You Go?
- How Will You Get There?
- You may only need to move further inland
- Think 10s of miles, not 100s

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT



Prepare your family before a disaster. Power, water, and food may be limited.

Stock Up On Essentials. Prepare Your Kit Now.

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS



Plan ahead if you or family members require special assistance.

Do Not Wait Until the Last Minute.

MORE RESOURCES



Federal Alliance For Safe Homes:
Flash.org

Florida Division of Emergency Management:
Floridadisaster.org

Ready Campaign:
Ready.gov/Business

Florida Disaster Biz:
Floridadisaster.biz

CONTACT INFORMATION



In a small notebook, keep a list of:

- Family & emergency contacts
- Insurance information
- Medical contacts
- Banking information
- Additional important numbers should you be away from home for an extended period of time.

BEFORE THE STORM

How To Protect Your Home

Taking a few simple steps now can help reduce damage to your home and property and keep your family safe during a storm.

Take Photos

Take photos and videos of your home and belongings to document what you have for insurance purposes.

Roof & Gutters

Before hurricane season, have a licensed roof contractor inspect, perform repairs, and double-check the integrity of your roof.

CLEAR GUTTERS AND DRAINS.

Yard Prep

Unhealthy trees and limbs, yard furniture and decorations are among the objects that could become deadly missiles in high winds. Keep your trees pruned, clean out your gutters on a regular basis, and when a storm is coming:

- Properly dispose of piles of tree limbs or debris.
- Bring in large yard items such as furniture, grills, decor and bird baths.
- Do not drain your pool. Add extra chlorine and turn off power to pool equipment.

Garage Door

Garage doors in good condition can be braced with retrofit kits while new doors must meet stringent wind requirements. They are a common failure point during high winds.

Windows

Install storm shutters, impact resistant windows. Or cover windows with 5/8" plywood when a storm is approaching.

DUCT TAPE PROVIDES NO PROTECTION.



Vehicle Prep

Review your insurance policy, fill your gas tank as a storm approaches, and prepare a car emergency kit with essentials like first aid supplies, food and water, a tire inflator, tools, jumper cables, a flashlight, and phone chargers.

FILL YOUR GAS TANK

Lithium-ion Batteries

Before a storm, remove lithium-ion powered devices from areas at risk of flooding. If exposed to water, keep them at least 50 feet away from structures or flammable materials. Damaged batteries can short circuit when exposed to air, potentially causing fires that are difficult to extinguish.

SANDBAGS Quick Guide



Use sandbags to help reduce flooding around doors, garages, and other low-lying areas.

GETTING SANDBAGS

- Locations announced before storms
- Up to 20 bags per household
- Fill material and bags provided
- Bring shovel and gloves
- Fill and load your own sandbags

St. Johns County provides sandbags 3-5 days ahead of storms.

USE & LIMITATIONS

- Stack tightly, like bricks
- Press down to seal gaps
- Best for shallow flooding (~2 ft)
- Will NOT stop all water
- Break down over time

BE PREPARED

Plan Before the Storm

Every family and business in St. Johns County should prepare before Hurricane Season begins. Power outages, flooding, evacuations, and limited access to essential services can happen during and after a storm. Preparing now by creating a disaster plan, building an emergency supply kit, and understanding your evacuation zone can help protect you, your family, and your property.

PREPAREDNESS STARTS LONG BEFORE A HURRICANE MAKES LANDFALL.

STAY INFORMED

Receive Important Alerts And Emergency Updates

Sign up for Alert St. Johns to receive time-sensitive emergency notifications for severe weather, evacuations, road closures, water advisories, public safety incidents, and more. Alerts can be delivered to your home, mobile, or business phone, email, text message, and other devices — you can choose how and where you receive important information.



Register for Alert St. Johns:
alertstjohns.com

Know Your Zone

Residents of St. Johns County are evacuated by zone. Knowing your evacuation zone and having a plan in place before a storm can help you respond quickly and safely. Find your evacuation zone at:

Evacuatestjohns.com



Weather Radio Alerts



NOAA Weather Radio provides continuous weather updates directly from the National Weather Service, including severe weather watches, warnings, and daily forecasts. Weather radios equipped with SAME technology can be programmed to receive alerts specific to your area, helping you stay informed before and during emergencies.

St. Johns County NOAA Weather Radio frequencies:



162.550 MHZ

IF YOU ARE LOCATED **NORTH** OF INTERNATIONAL GOLF PARKWAY

162.425 MHZ

IF YOU ARE LOCATED **SOUTH** OF INTERNATIONAL GOLF PARKWAY

St. Johns County is 12109.

THE FIRST 72 IS ON YOU

In the aftermath of a hurricane, emergency services may be limited for up to **72 HOURS**. Every household should be prepared with enough supplies to be self-sufficient for a minimum of **3 DAYS**.

MAKE SURE YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS READY

In the event of an emergency, access to food, water, power, and other essentials may be limited for several days. Build your disaster supply kit before Hurricane Season begins and store supplies in easy-to-access containers so your household is ready when a storm approaches.

BUILD A DISASTER KIT



FOOD

Non-perishable



WATER

One gallon per person per day



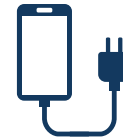
FLASHLIGHTS

Extra batteries



RADIO

Battery operated or hand crank



CHARGERS

Tablets, laptops, cellphones, etc.



CASH

Banks and ATMs may not be open



FIRST AID KIT

Including your prescriptions and medications



PET SUPPLIES

Food, water and medications for your pet



TOILETRIES

Personal hygiene supplies for your family



SANITATION

Cleaning supplies - wipes, garbage bags, towels



FACE MASKS

Gloves, sanitizer and your health essentials



CLOTHING

Including rain gear and sturdy shoes

SPECIALTY ITEMS

Plan ahead for your family's unique needs:

- Baby food, formula & diapers
- Specialty foods & dietary items
- Senior care & mobility essentials
- Any additional items your family may need

HELPFUL TIP:

Use a radio and flashlight instead of your cell phone whenever possible to help preserve battery life.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Gather and store in a waterproof container:

- Photo IDs & emergency contacts
- Banking information
- Medical records & prescription information
- Insurance documents & policy numbers
- Property records, titles & legal documents
- Household inventory, photos & any important files

INSURANCE CHECKLIST

Protect What Matters

Check your homeowner’s policy limit and make sure the amount is enough to rebuild your home. Understand your hurricane/windstorm deductible. Understand what disasters your insurance policy covers, and those it doesn’t. Review your policy to ensure you’re adequately covered. Photograph and inventory your possessions. Keep documents with you if you evacuate. If you rent, consider purchasing content coverage.



Flooding Can Happen Anytime, Anywhere

No home is completely safe from potential flooding. Many homeowners never expect flooding to happen to them until it does. Flood insurance can make the difference between recovering quickly and facing significant financial hardship after a storm.

Low Risk Does Not Mean No Risk

More than 20% of flood insurance claims come from properties outside high-risk flood zones. Flooding can happen anytime, anywhere — even in areas that have never flooded before. This hurricane season, take time to review your risk and make sure you’re prepared.

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INSURANCE COVERAGE?



Home-owners Insurance

Does not typically cover flood damage.

There are more than 28,000 active flood insurance policies in St. Johns County. Flood insurance helps protect your home, belongings, and financial future after a storm.



Flood Insurance

Covers damage caused by flooding.

Flood insurance is available to homeowners, renters, and businesses — even outside high-risk flood zones. Flooding can happen almost anywhere during severe weather.



Peace of Mind

Recovery is easier when you’re prepared.

Planning ahead is important. Don’t wait until a storm is approaching to purchase flood insurance. Most policies take:

30 Days To Go Into Effect

To learn about purchasing flood insurance today, visit:
www.floodsmart.gov/



To learn about your flood risk, visit St. Johns County Flood Zone Viewer:
www.gis.sjcf.us/floodviewer



EVACUATIONS SAVE LIVES

Leave Early. Avoid Delays. Stay Safe.

Evacuation orders are issued to help protect lives when dangerous storm conditions are expected. Mandatory evacuations are only ordered when there is a real threat to public safety or the possibility that emergency responders may no longer be able to safely reach affected areas.

WHEN YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE, DO SO IMMEDIATELY.

If You're Told to Leave

If an evacuation order is issued, leave as early as possible and follow instructions from local officials. Evacuation orders are issued to help protect lives when dangerous storm conditions are expected. In many cases, residents may only need to travel a short distance inland to reach a safer location. Think 10s of miles, not 100s.

EVACUATION ORDERS SAVE LIVES

VS

If You Choose to Stay

Residents who remain in evacuation areas may be on their own. Flooding, debris, and dangerous conditions can make roads impassable and delay emergency response for an extended period of time. You could be left without electricity, internet, phone service, emergency services or running water after the storm passes.

RESCUE MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATE

PREPARING FOR EVACUATION

Plan Ahead. Know Your Options.

If you are ordered to evacuate, leaving early will give you and your loved ones the best chance to stay safe. Plan now so you know where to go and what to do, especially if you need special assistance or have pets.



PLAN YOUR ROUTE

Identify multiple evacuation routes and monitor traffic and weather updates.



DECIDE WHERE TO GO

Choose a location outside the evacuation area or locate a public shelter if needed.



DON'T FORGET PETS

Not all shelters accept pets. Make arrangements early for pet-friendly options.



STAY INFORMED

Follow St. Johns County Emergency Management for updates.

QUICK CHECKLIST BEFORE YOU GO

- Fill up your car with gas
- Withdraw cash from ATM
- Secure your home, lock doors
- Notify someone of your plans
- Pack and bring with you:
 - Medications
 - Medical supplies
 - Disaster Supply Kit
 - Shelter Kit
 - Pets and supplies

KNOW YOUR ZONE

Understand Your Risk Before a Storm

Knowing your evacuation zone and flood risk before a storm can help you act quickly and confidently when evacuation orders are issued. Even if you have lived in St. Johns County for years, it is important to check your current zone and understand your potential flood risk. Residents of St. Johns County are evacuated by zone. Knowing your evacuation zone and having a plan in place before a storm can help you respond quickly and safely.



Evacuation Zones And Flood Zones Serve Different Purposes

EVACUATION ZONES help determine when residents should leave due to storm surge threats. **FLOOD ZONES** identify a property's potential flood risk and help residents prepare in advance. Knowing both helps you make informed decisions before and during severe weather.

EVACUATION ZONES

Evacuation Zones identify areas that may need to evacuate during hurricanes due to storm surge flooding. Zones are designated by letters A–F and are based on a property's location and vulnerability to storm surge—not the strength of the storm. Emergency officials may issue evacuation orders for specific zones depending on the forecast.



ALL EVACUATION ZONES MATTER

Different storms may require different evacuation zones to leave. Always know your zone and follow official evacuation orders.



FIND YOUR EVACUATION ZONE

Look up your address and review evacuation zone information.

Evacuatestjohns.com

FLOOD ZONES

Flood Zones identify areas with varying levels of flood risk based on factors such as rainfall, storm surge, elevation, and proximity to water. These zones help residents better understand their property's flood risk and prepare for potential flooding before and during severe weather. Flood zones are also used to support floodplain management and building requirements.



HIGH RISK:
Greatest Chance
of Flooding

MODERATE RISK:
Flooding Possible
in Severe Storms

LOW RISK:
Minimal Flooding
is Possible

FLOODING CAN OCCUR ANYWHERE

Even properties outside high-risk flood zones can experience flooding during heavy rainfall, hurricanes, or other severe weather events.



FIND YOUR FLOOD ZONE

Explore flood maps and learn about your property's flood risk.

www.gis.sjcf1.us/floodviewer/

SHELTERING OPTIONS

Know Your Choices. Choose What's Right For You.



Outside Evacuation Area

Family, Friends or Hotel

If possible, stay with family or friends outside the evacuation area or make hotel arrangements in advance. Familiar surroundings often provide greater comfort, flexibility, and access to personal necessities than a public shelter.



General Shelter

Find Safe Shelter Nearby

If you do not have another option outside the evacuation area, an evacuation shelter may be your safest option. Shelter locations are announced when an evacuation order is issued. Bring essential supplies, bedding, and personal items.



Pet Friendly Shelter

Plan Ahead for Your Pets

If you evacuate with your pet, you will need to use a designated pet-friendly shelter. Shelter locations will be announced when an evacuation order is issued. Bring food, medications, a carrier, leash, and other essential supplies.



Special Medical Needs Shelter

Basic Support for Those with Medical Needs

A Special Medical Needs Shelter may be appropriate if you rely on electricity for medical equipment or require oxygen therapy. These shelters provide basic assistance only, NOT advanced medical care. If you are under a doctor's care or use home health services, discuss your plans before hurricane season.

Pre-Registration Is Required.

Register for a Special Medical Needs Shelter at:

webapp.sjcf1.us/evacassist/



If you require a high level of medical care or specialized equipment, please make arrangements to stay at a facility that can accommodate your needs.

More information is available on page 16.



NOT ALLOWED IN ANY SHELTER

You Will Be Turned Away.

- Firearms and weapons are not permitted
- Alcoholic drinks or illegal drugs are not allowed
- Tents are not allowed

Important Shelter Note: Not All Shelters Will Be Open.

Monitor local radio and TV stations, call St. Johns County Emergency Management at: (904) 824-5550, or visit sjcemergencymanagement.com for open shelter locations during an evacuation.



SHELTERING KITS: GENERAL

Gather Supplies & Build Your Shelter Kit Now

Taking shelter is necessary in many emergencies. Your Disaster Plan should include your Sheltering Plan. Will you be sheltering outside the evacuation area or at one of the local evacuation shelters? If you plan to use one of the evacuation shelters, familiarize yourself with their locations. By planning for several destinations, you have options when an evacuation is ordered. Build your shelter supply kit early, before a storm approaches and essential items become difficult to find.

Sheltering will involve living with many people in a confined space. There will be little privacy, which may be difficult. It is important for all shelterees to be considerate of one another and to cooperate with shelter staff to make your stay as pleasant and stress free as possible.



Shelters Provide Limited Supplies. Pack Early. Be Prepared.

SLEEP & COMFORT



- Cot or air mattress
- Blankets & pillows
- Bedding or sleeping bag

General shelters do not provide cots or bedding.

FOOD & MEDICATIONS



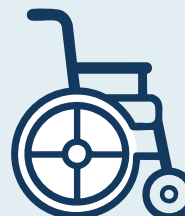
- Snacks & drinks
- Specialized foods
- 7-day medication supply
- Cooler for insulin or refrigerated medicine

HYGIENE & CLOTHING



- Toiletries
- Extra clothing
- Rain gear
- Closed toe shoes
- Supplies for baby (if needed)

ELECTRONICS & MOBILITY



- Phones, tablets, laptop & chargers
- Hearing aid batteries
- Eye glasses
- Cane/walker/wheelchair



QUICK TIP:

Label all personal medical equipment, electronics, and chargers before arriving at a shelter. Don't forget comfort and entertainment items such as books, cards, games, headphones, or other favorite ways to help pass the time during a stressful situation.



SHELTERING KITS: **MEDICAL**

Plan Ahead: Pre-Registration Is Required.

Begin by gathering the basic supplies from the General Shelter Supply Kit, then add any medical items you may need during an evacuation. Building your kit early helps ensure you have enough medications, medical equipment, batteries, and personal care supplies before a storm approaches and resources become limited.

Special Medical Needs Supply List:

- Cane / Walker / Wheelchair / Electric Convenience Vehicle (ECV)
- Extra battery and/or converter for charging ECV
- Hearing / Speech / Visual Impairments
- Extra batteries for hearing aids
- Pencil and paper for communicating
- Medical alert bracelets / tags
- A written description of your needs if you are unable to communicate them in an emergency
- BiPAPs, CPAPs, nebulizers, oxygen concentrators, and/or oxygen tanks
- Prescriptions and a list of all current medications
- Identification labels should be placed on all medical equipment (nebulizers, oxygen, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) brought to the shelter
- Backup power cords and charging cables for medical devices
- Copies of important medical documents and insurance cards
- Service animal supplies, food, and medications
- Emergency contact information
- Catheter supplies and ostomy supplies
- All medical equipment you use regularly should be brought with you to the shelter



Not Available:

St. Johns County shelters do not provide the items or advanced medical care listed below. If your health requires this level of care, you must arrange to stay at a facility that can accommodate your medical needs.

- Dialysis Treatments - There will be no dialysis treatments at Shelters
- Hospital Beds or Hoyer Lifts - Not available
- Tracheotomy Patients - Suctioning equipment is not available
- Ventilator Patients - Shelters do not have the capability to support ventilator patients

Pre-Registration Is Required.

Register for a Special Medical Needs Shelter at:

webapp.sjcfl.us/evacassist/



Important Note:

The Special Medical Needs Shelter is not a hospital or nursing home. It is not for people who need 24-hour dedicated care, who require hospital beds, ventilators, or have other complex medical needs. If you require complex medical care you should plan to stay at a specialized facility outside the evacuation area.



SHELTERING KITS: PETS

Keep Your Pets Safe and Comfortable

If you plan to evacuate with your pet, build your pet shelter kit before hurricane season begins. Pet Friendly Shelters require pets to remain kenneled except during exercise and relief periods. It is important to bring food, medications, comfort items, and other supplies your pet may need during their stay.

Pet Supply List:

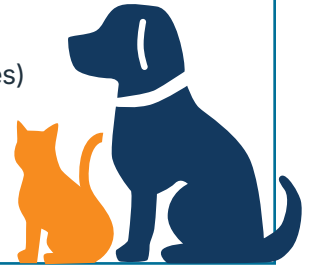
- Food for 7 days, water, and bowls
- Collar, leash, harness, and muzzle if needed
- Medications your pet requires
- Appropriately sized crate or carrier and bedding
- Comfort items such as blankets and toys
- Current photo of you and your pet together
- Labels on all pet supplies with your name, address, and phone number

Allowed in Shelters:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Rabbits
- Birds
- Pocket Pets

NOT Allowed:

- Exotics (insects, primates, snakes)
- Farm Animals
- Wildlife

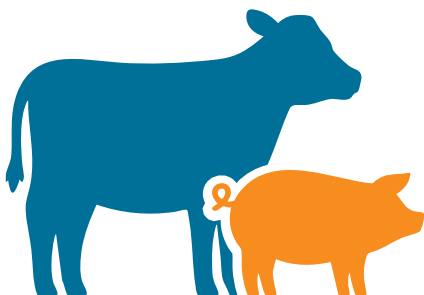


SERVICE ANIMALS ARE ALWAYS ALLOWED AT ALL SHELTERS
Per Florida State Statute 413.08 (1) d, a service animal is a "dog" or a "miniature horse".

LIVESTOCK

Sheltering Livestock During a Storm

If you plan to shelter livestock on your property during a hurricane or severe storm, identify the safest location before an emergency occurs. Avoid areas with flooding risks, unstable trees, or overhead hazards, and make sure animals have enough room to move safely.



CHOOSE THE SAFEST LOCATION POSSIBLE

- Do not confine animals to a barn
- Survey your property for the safest shelter location
- Keep animals away from trees that uproot easily
- Avoid areas near overhead poles and power lines
- Use an open area that is at least one acre in size

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

For residents who need transportation assistance.

Transportation assistance is available for individuals who need help getting to a General, Pet-Friendly, or Special Medical Needs Shelter during an evacuation. In the event of an evacuation, the Emergency Operations Center will contact you with your assigned pick-up time and provide as much advance notice as possible to allow time to prepare. As a general rule, pets will be transported with their owners. All animals must be safely secured in a sturdy plastic or metal carrier or transport device during transportation and while housed at the shelter.

BE READY FOR TRANSPORT

You will be given as much advance notice as possible to allow you time to prepare.



Once contacted, gather your shelter, medical, pet, and personal supplies and have them ready to go.



All animals must be secured in a sturdy plastic or metal carrier during transportation and while at the shelter.



Keep everything ready and organized by the door for a quick, safe, departure.



Listen for notifications and follow instructions from the Emergency Operations Center.

Need Assistance?

For evacuation assistance, please complete the St. Johns County Evacuation Assistance Registration Form on our website and be sure to include all relevant medical, transportation, and emergency contact information.

<http://sjcemergencymanagement.com>



Scan here to access the Evacuation Assistance Registration Form and additional emergency transportation information.

Reminder:

Bring all necessary medications, equipment, and supplies.



POST-HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS

Avoid Common Hazards and Recover Safely

After a hurricane, dangers can remain long after the storm has passed. Power outages, floodwaters, heat, debris, mosquitoes, and improper equipment use can create serious safety risks. Follow these important safety tips to help protect your family, home, and community during recovery efforts.



GENERATORS

Generators can provide temporary power during an outage, but they must be used carefully to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, and electrical hazards. Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety instructions before operating a generator.

NEVER USE THEM INSIDE A HOME, GARAGE, OR CRAWL SPACE.

Only Use Outdoors

Use generators outdoors only, at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents. Keep generators dry at all times and avoid operating them in standing water or wet conditions.

Professional Installation

Stationary (whole-house) generators should be professionally installed by a licensed electrician and all required permits should be obtained.

Maintenance

Check oil levels regularly and follow the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations.

Safe Connections

Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty extension cords.

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is deadly and cannot be seen or smelled. If you feel dizzy, weak, sick, or nauseous, move to fresh air immediately. Install carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup in your home.

Power Up Safely

Identify the essential items you need to power before using a generator. Start the generator first, then plug in appliances one at a time.

Refuel Safely

Turn the generator off and allow it to cool completely before adding fuel. Store fuel outdoors in approved, properly labeled safety containers.

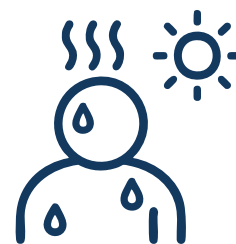
Child Safety

Keep children and pets away from generators.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Prevent Heat-Related Illness Before It Starts By:

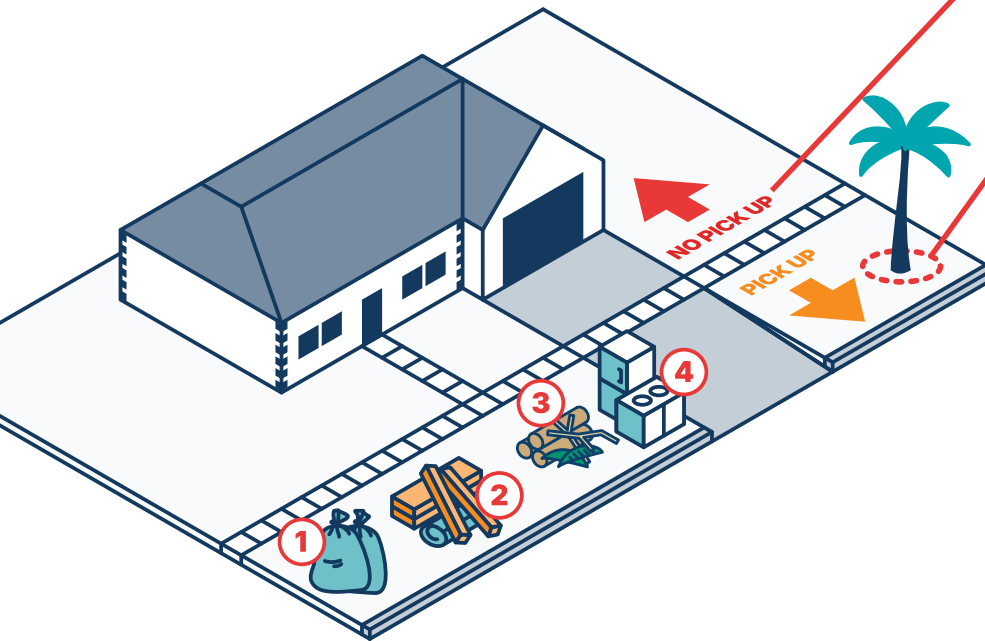
- Drinking plenty of water throughout the day.
- Wearing lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Taking breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.
- Limiting outdoor activity during the hottest hours.
- Checking on children, older adults, and pets frequently.
- Never leaving people or pets in a parked vehicle.



PICKING UP THE PIECES

Sort Debris For Faster Cleanup

Following these specific guidelines when hauling hurricane-related debris to the curb will make for a speedier removal process.



THE WRONG WAY

Crossing The Line

Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up. Contractors cannot collect items on private property.

Propping Up

Do not set debris against trees or poles. Doing so makes it harder for cleanup crews to scoop up the items.

Important Details

- Refrigerator and freezer doors must be secured with duct tape.
- Debris must be placed between the sidewalk and road, or in the public easement.
- Take chemicals and hazardous waste to a County transfer station.
- Do not put debris in the roadway.

THE RIGHT WAY

Homeowners are being asked to separate debris into the following categories:

1 Household Garbage

- Bagged Trash

2 Construction Debris

- Building Materials
- Drywall
- Lumber
- Carpet
- Furniture

3 Vegetation Debris

- Tree Branches
- Logs
- No Bagged Vegetation

4 Appliances

- Refrigerators
- Washers, Dryers
- Freezers
- Stoves
- Water Heaters
- Dishwashers

Post-Hurricane Regularly Scheduled Residential Waste Collection

Residential service providers will continue collecting regular household garbage, recycling, and bagged waste on normal scheduled collection days. Please continue to follow your regular garbage, recycling, and yard waste schedules and guidelines.

Normal Yard Waste Includes:

- Grass clippings and leaves placed in cans no larger than 32 gallons, or sealed in plastic bags no more than 50lbs.
- Small vegetative waste, twigs, and branches.
- Do not place near storm-related debris.

NEED MORE INFORMATION

For more information about storm debris pick-up, contact St. Johns County Solid Waste at: 904-827-6980 recyclestjohns.com



HIDDEN DANGERS

After a hurricane, hidden dangers can remain even after the skies clear. Floodwaters, contaminated water, downed power lines, and displaced wildlife can create serious safety and health risks. Follow these precautions to help protect you and your family.

Safe Re-Entry

If evacuated, return home only when local officials say it is safe.

Document Damage

Take photos of all damage before cleanup or repairs begin. Keep receipts, records, and repair estimates for insurance purposes.

Drinking Water

Floodwater can contaminate drinking water. Check with your water utility for boil water advisories. If needed, boil water for 5 minutes or add 8 drops of bleach per gallon before drinking or cooking.

Limit Driving

Avoid unnecessary driving after a storm to help keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and crews. Watch for hidden dangers such as downed power lines, debris, and flooded roadways.

Wildlife Hazards

Be cautious of snakes and other wildlife displaced by flooding and rising waters.

Downed Power Lines

Stay away from downed power lines, especially when clearing debris or fallen trees after a storm.

Flood Water Safety

Never walk or drive through floodwaters. Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide dangerous debris, holes, or electrical hazards.



CHAINSAWS

Chainsaws can be dangerous when used improperly, especially during storm cleanup. Following these safety tips can help keep you safe.

- Always keep both hands on the chainsaw handles.
- Never cut branches above your head.
- Use the lower edge of the blade when possible.
- Do not force the saw while cutting.
- Wear protective gear including gloves, goggles, sturdy shoes, and a hard hat.
- Keep children and pets away from the work area.
- Turn off and let cool before refueling.



MOSQUITOES

After storms, standing water can quickly become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Taking a few simple steps around your home and yard can help reduce mosquito populations and protect your family from mosquito-borne illnesses.

- Empty or treat standing water after storms.
- Store containers and toys indoors when possible.
- Turn boats, canoes, and kayaks upside down.
- Keep tarps tight and drain pooled water.
- Clean gutters so water can flow freely.
- Empty water from buckets, flower pots, and bird baths regularly.

After hurricanes Anastasia Mosquito Control District monitors mosquito populations closely and will take action when necessary. To submit service to Anastasia Mosquito Control District request call 904-471-3107 or visit www.amcdsjc.org



LICENSED CONTRACTORS



**Only Hire
Trusted
Professionals**

After hiring a licensed and insured contractor, take these additional steps to protect yourself:

Get Everything In Writing And Never Pay Cash

Obtain a written estimate or contract. Include start/completion dates and payment terms. Do not pay in full before work begins and never pay the final balance until work is done to your satisfaction.

Permits Are Required

Permits are required for roofing, demolition, permanent repairs, and reconstruction. Reputable contractors will obtain the required permits for the work they perform. Do not pull permits on behalf of a contractor, as this may indicate they are not properly licensed.

View contractor licenses at myfloridalicense.com

Report Fraud: 1-866-966-7226

If you suspect contractor fraud, contact the Florida Consumer Fraud Hotline.

Unlicensed Contracting is a Felony

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can lead to poor quality work, financial loss, and limited legal protection. Protect yourself by getting written estimates, avoiding large upfront payments, checking references, confirming permits and inspections are completed, and keeping records of all agreements and payments.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Ways to Reduce Future Damage To Your Home

Elevate

Raise your home above flood levels using stilts, pier foundations, or raised platforms. Elevate essential utilities and building systems above anticipated flood levels to help reduce flood damage.

Tie Down

Anchor manufactured homes. Tie down trailers, boats, sheds, propane tanks and any detached items to their foundation to prevent damage in high winds.

Strengthen Your Home

Install reinforced, impact-resistant doors, laminated windows, storm shutters, or high-impact synthetic window screens.

Rebuild Stronger

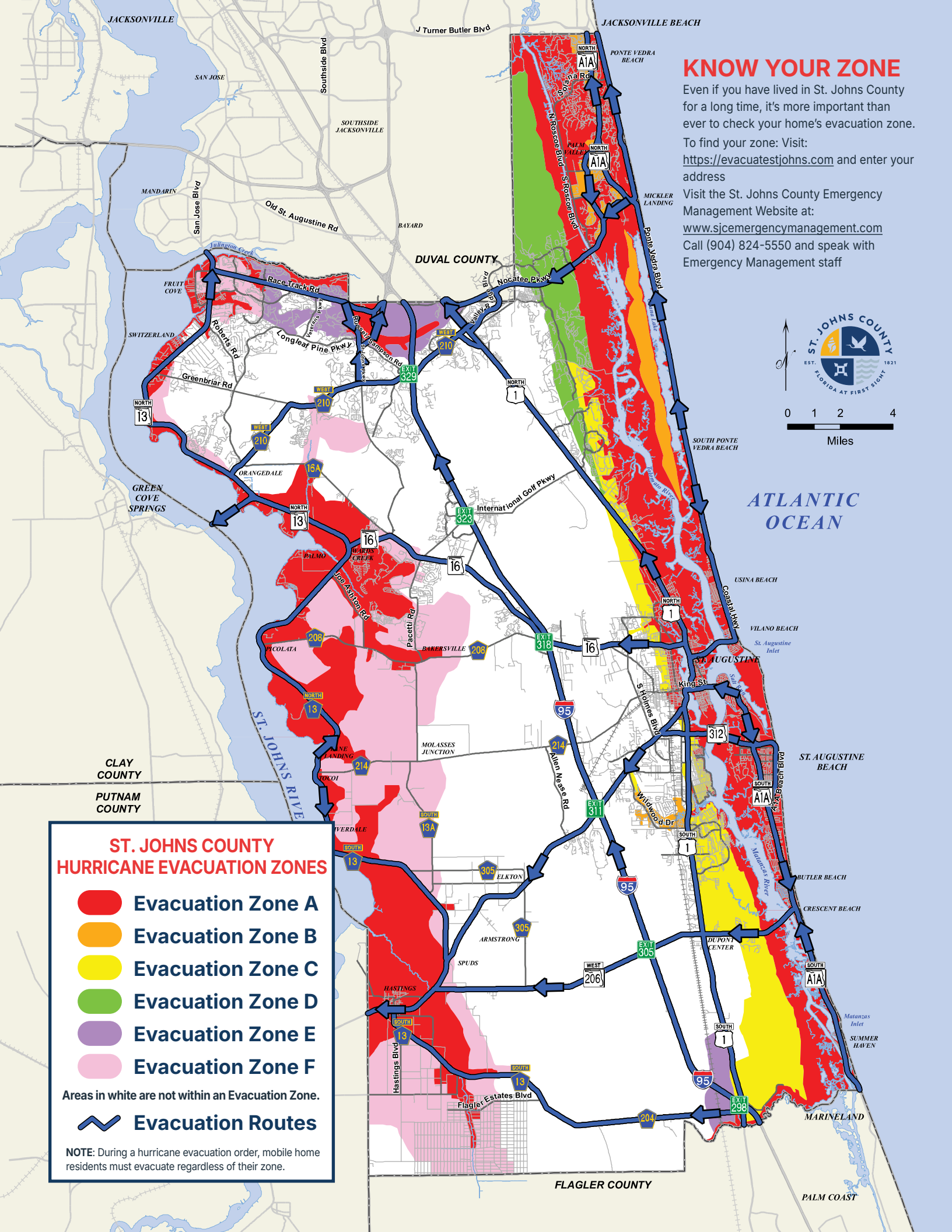
If your home was damaged by a hurricane, use stronger materials and construction techniques. Follow current building codes and improve your home for the future.

For more information, visit:

www.sjcemergencymanagement.com

Know Your Coverage

Make sure you are receiving all available benefits from your insurance policy. Contact your insurance agent to discuss potential discounts for wind mitigation improvements, flood-resistant features, security systems, and other measures that help reduce your risk and lower your premiums.



KNOW YOUR ZONE

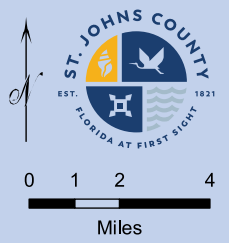
Even if you have lived in St. Johns County for a long time, it's more important than ever to check your home's evacuation zone.

To find your zone: Visit: <https://evacuatestjohns.com> and enter your address

Visit the St. Johns County Emergency Management Website at:

www.sjcemergencymanagement.com

Call (904) 824-5550 and speak with Emergency Management staff



ATLANTIC OCEAN

ST. JOHNS COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

- Evacuation Zone A
- Evacuation Zone B
- Evacuation Zone C
- Evacuation Zone D
- Evacuation Zone E
- Evacuation Zone F

Areas in white are not within an Evacuation Zone.

Evacuation Routes

NOTE: During a hurricane evacuation order, mobile home residents must evacuate regardless of their zone.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

St. Johns County

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Phone: 904.824.5550

X/Facebook: @StJohnsEOC

SHERIFF'S OFFICE (non-emergency)

Phone: 904.824.8304

X: TeamSJSO

Facebook: @StJohnsSheriffsOffice

FIRE RESCUE (non-emergency)

Phone: 904.209.1700

X/Facebook: @sjcfirerescue

PUBLIC WORKS

Phone: 904.209.0110

X/Facebook: @SJCFL

SOLID WASTE

Phone: 904.827.6980

X/Facebook: @SJCFL

UTILITIES

Phone: 904.209.2700

X/Facebook: @SJCFL

PEOPLES GAS (TECO PEOPLES GAS)

Phone: 877.832.6747

X:@Teco Peoples Gas

Facebook: @PeoplesGas

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Phone: 904.547.7500

X/Facebook: @SJCSD

ANASTASIA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

Phone: 904.471.3107

X/Facebook: @AnastasiaMCD

City of St. Augustine

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(non-emergency)

Phone: 904.825.1098

Facebook: @CityStAugFire

POLICE DEPARTMENT

(non-emergency)

Phone: 904.825.1070

X/Facebook: @StAugPD

PUBLIC WORKS

Phone: 904.825.1040

X/Facebook: @CityStAug

City of St. Augustine Beach

CITY HALL

Phone: 904.471.2122

Facebook: @CityofStAugustineBeach

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone: 904.471.3600

Facebook: @sabeachpolice

FPL (FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT)

Phone: 800.468.8243

X: @InsideFPL

Facebook: @fplconnect

JEA

Phone: 904.665.6000

X/Facebook: @NewsfromJEA