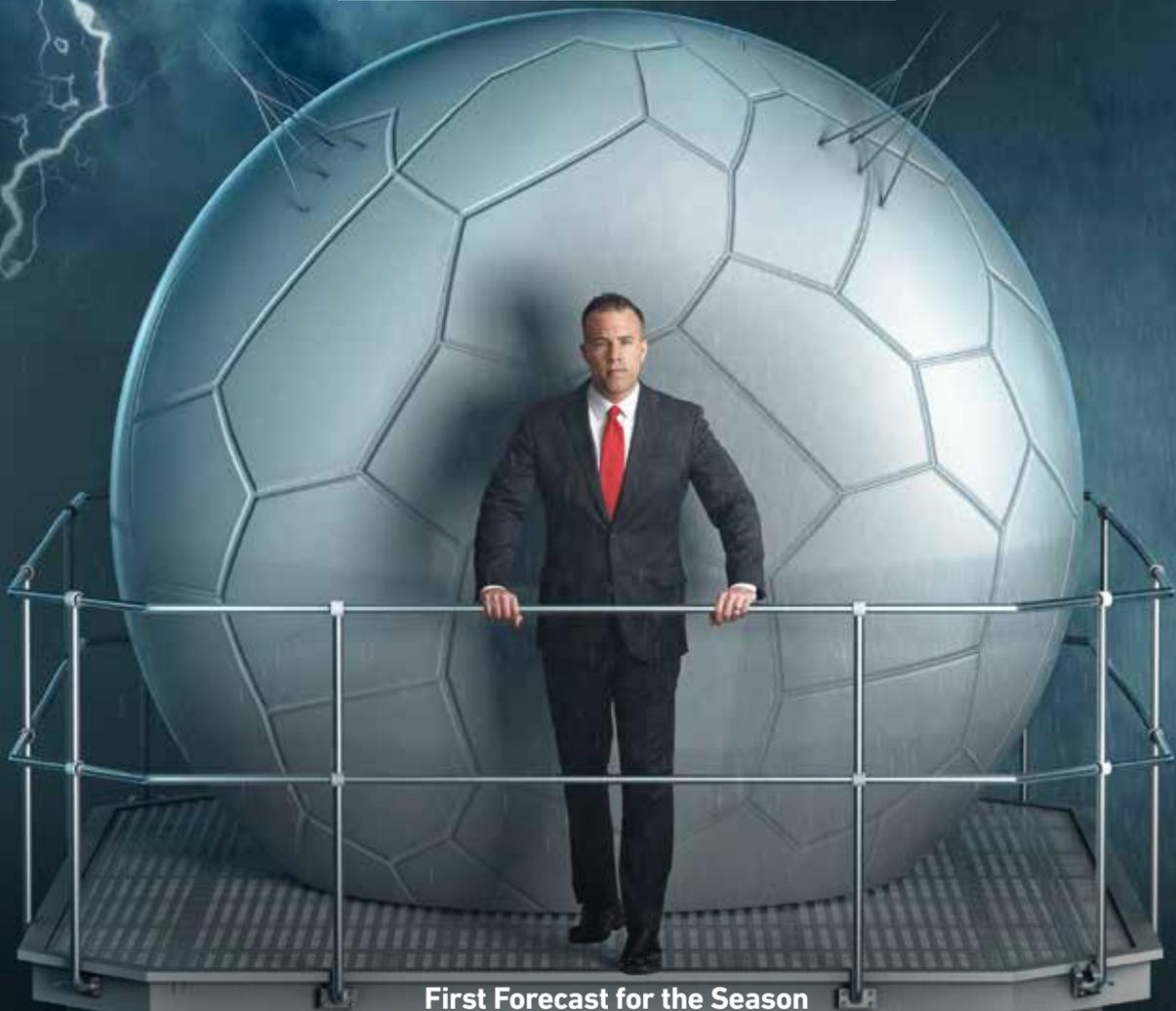


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HURRICANE

GUIDE 2022



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HURRICANE CLEAN UP - Separating Your Debris

Debris should be placed curbside, without blocking the roadway or storm drains.

NO PICKUP ZONE

Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up.



Normal Household Trash

Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up with disaster debris. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.



VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

- Logs
- Plants
- Tree branches
- Leaves (do not put in bags) * If you have a lot of leaves and small twigs in plastic bags, please set those aside from any brush piles. ▼



CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

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- Lumber
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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Check with your local government.

* The brush will be ground into mulch, so plastic must be avoided.

DEBRIS SEPARATION

Separate debris into the **six** categories shown.

DO NOT STACK OR LEAN

Placing debris near or on trees, poles, or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?

If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch, or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HURRICANE CLEAN UP

What is the difference between storm-related debris and regular household trash?

Storm debris includes any trees, tree limbs and shrubs that went down in the hurricane. Regular household trash is what you would throw away in a typical week.

When will the storm debris be collected from my curb and what should I do to prepare?

There is no schedule for when storm debris will be collected from your neighborhood, but be assured that it will. Cleanup efforts take time.

When will my regular household collections resume?

Regular collections of garbage, recycling and your normal weekly yard waste resume as soon as it is safe for collection crews to do so.



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Prepare your property for storm season before June 1

- Cut back any trees or branches that contact your house, pool cage, shed or other buildings.
- Thin foliage so wind can blow freely through branches, decreasing chances the plant will become uprooted during a storm.
- Place trimmings at the curb on your regular collection day. Yard waste must be containerized in an extra yard waste container, paper lawn, leaf bag, or bundled. **Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected.**
 - **Charlotte County** – Cans and bundles cannot weigh more than 40 lbs. each. Limbs cannot be more than 6 feet in length or 10 inches in diameter.
 - **Collier County** – Cans and bundles cannot weigh more than 50 lbs. each. Limbs cannot be more than 4 feet in length of 4 inches in diameter. A total of ten 45-gallon containers or ten bundles of yard waste may be placed curbside.
 - **Lee County** – Cans and bundles cannot weigh more than 50 lbs. each. Limbs cannot be more than 6 feet in length. Up to 50 lbs. of unbundled palm fronds may be placed at the curb.
- Clean your property of any items that could become a projectile during a storm, such as old lumber, broken lawn furniture, etc., and place them at the curb on your regular waste collection day.

Once a storm has been named or a hurricane watch / warning has been issued:

- Do not cut down trees and do not do any major yard work. Mass cutting produces a burden on the normal collection process.
- Do not begin construction projects that produce debris unless absolutely necessary to protect life and property.
- Secure all debris and do not place materials of any kind at the curb during a Watch or Warning period.
- Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm. For information on the status of collection services and disposal facilities, residents should monitor local media or check the county government websites.

After the storm has passed:

- Most important – keep storm debris separate from your regular household garbage and recycling.
- Storm debris should be sorted into separate piles for garbage, yard waste, appliances, furniture & other bulky waste, appliances and construction debris as shown in the diagram to the left. Check with your local government regarding set out of household hazardous waste.
- Pick up will generally be done with a mechanized claw truck so it's important that you not set debris over buried electric/phone lines, water meters, hydrants or mailboxes. Inspectors will tour each part of the county to determine where collection needs are greatest.
- Be patient. Following a storm, the No. 1 priority is the health and safety of our community and restoration of the county. When collection services resume, place garbage curbside away from storm-related debris on your regular collection service day.
- Debris collection guidance and recovery process updates will be available through local media and on county government websites.

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A MESSAGE FROM MATT DEVITT

WINK News Chief Meteorologist

Welcome to the *2022 WINK News Hurricane Guide*. As much as we would love to have beautiful Southwest Florida weather all year round, hurricane season is now here. For the next six months the WINK News Weather Team, The Weather Authority, will constantly monitor for tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes that could impact Southwest Florida.

Last year, the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season was the third most active on record, with a preliminary 21 named storms, seven hurricanes and four major (measuring Category 3 and above) hurricanes. It was also the third costliest hurricane season on record behind 2005 and 2017, with more than \$80 billion in damages.

The worst storm of 2021, Category 4 Hurricane Ida, avoided Southwest Florida and devastated Louisiana with winds of 150 mph, tied for strongest in state history. The only impact we felt last year was a brush from Category 1 Hurricane Elsa on July 6. Even though it stayed 100 miles off the coast, the storm still brought seven to 11 inches of rain and flooding, two feet of storm surge and wind gusts up to 55 mph. Considering a record-breaking 51 storms and 19 U.S. landfalls over the last two hurricane seasons, luck has certainly been on Southwest Florida's side.

The hyperactive 2020 and 2021 Atlantic hurricane seasons were both fueled by a La Niña, which is marked by cooler-than-average waters in the eastern Pacific and can influence weather patterns. It contributes to an increase in Atlantic tropical activity by weakening wind shear, which enables storms to develop and intensify.

For the 2022 Hurricane Season, La Niña is projected to weaken as eastern Pacific waters return to more neutral levels. What does that mean for us in Southwest Florida? If that occurs, it would lower the potential to see a record-breaking number of storms like in 2020 and 2021. Now before you get too excited, even neutral conditions can still lead to an active, above-normal season in the Atlantic.

Regardless of the number of storms, all it takes is ONE devastating hurricane across Florida to leave a lasting impact, which Category 5 Hurricane Andrew taught us in 1992 during a season with "only" seven storms.

Keep this helpful guide with you and remain vigilant during hurricane season. My best advice is to get ready now when the weather is quiet. Don't wait until a hurricane is on the way to gather supplies and develop a plan for your family if told to evacuate.

I'll be here every step of the way calmly guiding you through any future storms that may come our way, just like in 2017 with Hurricane Irma. Trust WINK, The Weather Authority, to deliver accurate information 24/7 all season long.

And let's have a safe 2022! [w](#)



**HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022**

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**HURRICANE
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2022**

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Always there

WINK News, The Weather Authority, stays with you in a hurricane.



PREPARE NOW FOR THE SEASON AHEAD

W

**HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022**

Now is the time to prepare for hurricane season. Waiting until a storm is approaching Southwest Florida is far too late to get ready.

The hurricane season stretches from June 1 through Nov. 30, and at any point during that period you should be ready to brave a major storm if one should hit. We all hope for a mild season, but memories of devastating storms with names like Irma, Michael, Matthew, Katrina, Rita, Charley and Wilma remain fresh in the minds of many Floridians. Anyone who has been through a hurricane can tell you that it's an experience they don't want to revisit. All it takes is just one storm to reduce homes to rubble, turn the tallest trees into timber wood and transform cities and towns into disaster zones.

The *2022 WINK News Hurricane Guide* was written to help you avoid those kinds of calamities. Put together by WINK News, The Weather Authority, this guide's sole purpose is to help you prepare in advance for the season ahead. Please keep a copy of the *2022 WINK News Hurricane Guide* on hand throughout the next several months and use it to help you plan for protecting your family, your home and your property. It will show you how to assess the kinds of supplies you will need, to devise a communication plan, to put together an evacuation strategy and to deal with the physical, emotional and financial aftermath of a hurricane.

The most important things you can learn from this guide are that making comprehensive preparations and taking preventative measures can make all the difference when it comes to surviving a hurricane unscathed. By planning ahead, staying informed and remaining alert, you, your family and your friends will make it through another season successfully.

The *2022 WINK News Hurricane Guide* is here for you. Please use it to stay safe and sound. [w](#)

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HURRICANE FORECAST 2022

THE 2022 HURRICANE OUTLOOK

RESEARCHERS PREDICT AN ACTIVE SEASON



Hurricane researchers at Colorado State University have issued their first 2022 Atlantic hurricane season forecast and they're calling for an above-normal season.

The research team at the CSU Tropical Meteorology Project predicts there will be 19 named storms this year. Researchers forecast that nine of these named storms will become hurricanes. Of the nine storms that become hurricanes, the research team believes four of them will reach major hurricane status. A major hurricane has sustained winds of at least 111 miles per hour and is classified as either a Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale. The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30.

When the report was released in April, Caribbean and subtropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures were warmer than normal, which contributed to the active hurricane season prediction. Other factors included weak La Niña conditions and an unlikely chance for a significant El Niño effect. When El Niño is present, it creates upper-level westerly winds across the Caribbean and into the tropical Atlantic. These upper-level winds are called shear, and they help tear hurricanes apart.

"Too much shear is good for us and bad for hurricanes," says Dr. Phil Klotzbach, a research scientist with the department of atmospheric science at Colorado State University. "Unfortunately, we don't think El Niño will be there this year. It will more likely be neutral conditions or weak La Niña."

He points to the warmer-than-average temperatures in the Caribbean and subtropical Atlantic as being a major factor in the upcoming active hurricane season. "These are subtle changes," Klotzbach says. "We're talking an increase of one degree Fahrenheit. In the tropics, small changes in temperature can make a big difference in how the atmosphere responds."

The hurricane research team at CSU anticipates a 71 percent probability of at least one major hurricane making landfall somewhere along the coastline of the United States in 2022. The average for the last century was

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2022 Storm Names

The following names have been selected for storms in the Atlantic Basin during the 2022 hurricane season.

ALEX
BONNIE
COLIN
DANIELLE
EARL
FIONA
GASTON
HERMINE
IAN
JULIA
KARL
LISA
MARTIN
NICOLE
OWEN
PAULA
RICHARD
SHARY
TOBIAS
VIRGINIE
WALTER

The World Meteorological Organization maintains rotating lists of names for each of 10 tropical cyclone basins. In the Atlantic, for instance, tropical cyclones receive names in alphabetical order, and women and men's names are alternated. The Atlantic list covers just 21 letters of the alphabet as it is difficult to find six appropriate names that start with **Q, U, X, Y** and **Z**.

The 2020 and 2021 hurricane seasons were both so active that there were more storms that formed than there were names on the primary list for each year. When that occurs, rather than using Greek names—as the WMO has in the past—the organization uses a new list of supplemental storm names.

52 percent. The team puts the chances of a major hurricane landing along the East Coast of the United States, including the Florida peninsula, at 47 percent. The average for the last century was 31 percent. The team estimates that the chances of a major hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast—from the Florida panhandle to Brownsville, Texas—at 46 percent. The average for the last century was 30 percent.

“It only takes one storm to cause significant damage,” Klotzbach says. “People need to prepare for every hurricane season, regardless of the outlook. That doesn’t mean everyone needs to board up June 1 and hide away in a bunker, but they should keep an eye on the tropics.”

This is the 39th year that the CSU hurricane research team has issued its seasonal hurricane forecast for the Atlantic basin. So far, the 2022 season is exhibiting characteristics similar to hurricane seasons in the years 1996, 2000, 2001, 2008, 2012 and 2021—all seasons that exhibited near-to somewhat-above-normal Atlantic hurricane activity. The team will issue updates to its forecast on June 2, July 7 and August 4.

AccuWeather also released its forecast this spring and is similarly predicting an active season. The AccuWeather team forecasts between 16 and 20 named storms for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. This includes six to eight hurricanes and three to five major hurricanes listed as Category 3 or higher. The report predicts four to six storms will directly impact the United States.

Dan Kottlowski, expert senior meteorologist and lead hurricane forecaster at AccuWeather, knows that people are wary of another above-normal hurricane season. “We’ve had so many active seasons back-to-back-to-back,” he says. “It’s mind-numbing.”



The challenge for meteorologists is to keep reminding people that they have to prepare. “People have meteorological amnesia,” Kottlowski says. “They forget how bad it was.” This year marks five years since Hurricane Irma devastated Southwest Florida, and already people are starting to forget the storm’s damage. Kottlowski worries this means they’ll fail to adequately prepare for the season ahead. “You want to prepare for the unexpected. If you’ve got a Category 2 heading your way, you want to prepare for at least a Category 3. Always assume that it’s going to be one category higher.”

Dr. Michael Brennan, branch chief for the hurricane specialist unit at NOAA’s National Hurricane Center in Miami, echoes Kottlowski’s advice. “Every inch of U.S. coastline is at risk every year, whether it’s a busy season or not,” Brennan says. “Southwest Florida, especially, has a tremendous amount of vulnerability from storm surge, wind and rainfall. Always be prepared.”

He urges people to create a plan, assess their vulnerabilities and determine whether they live in an evacuation zone. He also suggests that those who are veterans of hurricanes and tropical storms reach out to friends and neighbors who are new to the Sunshine State. After all, not everyone understands how dangerous hurricanes can be. “If they’re moving here from Iowa or Oregon or Minnesota, these storms aren’t something they’ve been through,” Brennan says. “Now is the time to get them up to speed.”^w

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HURRICANE GUIDE 2022



WIND AND WATER

STORM SURGES, TORNADOES
AND OTHER HAZARDS

When wind and water come together during a hurricane, the results can be catastrophic. Here are a few hazards that could arise when these elements converge.

Storm Surges

Storm surges occur when water is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around a hurricane. When this advancing surge combines with the normal tides, water levels may increase by 15 feet or more. Add wind-driven waves to the mix and water levels can rise to destructive heights and cause severe flooding in coastal regions.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can develop as devastating by-products of hurricanes. They often spring out of the spiraling lines of thunderstorms which extend outward from a hurricane's

center and hit the shoreline well ahead of the main storm. Meteorologists have no definitive way to predict whether one hurricane will produce more tornadoes than the next.

Tornadoes can occur even after a hurricane has moved out of the area. They can develop for several days because of the remnants of the low-pressure system associated with them. If a tornado warning is issued, move to a small, interior room away from windows, or to an interior hallway on a lower floor. If that's not possible, you can protect yourself by getting under heavy furniture or using a mattress to shield your body. Avoid windows.

Other Hazards

Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to anyone caught in them. Powerful, hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Any debris can become flying missiles. Damage to trees, towers, water lines, underground utility lines from uprooted trees and fallen utility poles can cause considerable problems.

High-rise buildings are also vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, particularly at the upper levels. Research suggests you should stay below the 10th floor, but still higher than any floors at risk for flooding.

The strongest winds usually occur in the right side of the eye wall of the hurricane. Wind speed usually decreases significantly within 12 hours after landfall. Nonetheless, winds can stay above hurricane strength well inland.

Learn These Terms

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

EL NIÑO: The abnormal weather pattern caused by warmer-than-normal water in the central and eastern Pacific along the equator. When the tropical Pacific is warmer than normal, winds at upper levels (say, about 30,000 feet) of the atmosphere in the tropical Atlantic are stronger than normal, which tears apart hurricanes as they are trying to form. El Niño effect can help determine the severity of a hurricane season.

EYE: The relatively calm area in the center of a hurricane. It can range from 5 miles to more than 50 miles wide.

GALE WARNING: According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, this is a warning of 1-minute sustained surface winds in the range of 39 mph to 54 mph..

HIGH WIND WARNING: NOAA notes that this is issued when 1-minute average surface winds of 40 mph or greater last 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 WARNING: Issued when hurricane conditions—winds of 74 mph or greater—are expected within 36 hours.

HURRICANE WATCH: Issued when hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours.

LANDFALL: When the surface center of a tropical cyclone intersects with the coastline.

LA NIÑA: This is the opposite of El Niño and is marked by cooler-than-average eastern Pacific waters that contribute to an increase in Atlantic tropical activity by weakening wind shear, which enables storms to develop and intensify.

MAJOR HURRICANE: A storm with winds of 111 mph or higher.

STORM SURGE: This occurs when water is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. When this advancing surge combines with the normal tides, water levels may increase by as much as 15 feet or more.

TROPICAL CYCLONE: These rotating, organized systems of clouds and thunderstorms originate over warm tropical or subtropical waters and are characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds and heavy rain. [w](#)

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Check if your well is able to be run off a generator.



Secure loose items around your water treatment equipment to help prevent damage.

AFTER THE STORM



Electrical hazard: Stay away from flooded pumps and other equipment.



After power is restored, flush systems and reset controls.



A change in look, smell, or taste of water can indicate a compromised well.



If your well or septic system has been damaged have a qualified professional:

- ◆ Clean pump and turn it on
- ◆ Flush out your well
- ◆ Disinfect your well
- ◆ Consider testing water before use

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PREPARATION

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rates storms by Categories 1 through 5 based on their intensity. These categories may change as a hurricane becomes stronger or weaker during the course of the storm.

Category					
Barometric Pressure (Millibars)	980-994	965-979	945-964	920-944	Less than 920
Winds (MPH)	74-95	96-110	111-129	130-156	157+
Summary	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage	Devastating damage will occur	Catastrophic damage will occur	Catastrophic damage will occur
People, Livestock and Pets	Possibility of getting struck by flying or falling debris that could injure or kill	Substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying or falling debris	High risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying or falling debris	Very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying or falling debris	Very high risk of injury or death due to flying or falling debris even if indoors
Mobile Homes	Older mobile homes (pre-1994) could be destroyed, especially if they are not anchored properly	Older mobile homes (pre-1994) have a very high chance of being destroyed. Newer ones are at risk	Nearly all older mobile homes (pre-1994) will be destroyed. Most newer mobile homes will sustain damage	Nearly all older and newer mobile homes will be destroyed	Almost complete destruction of mobile homes
Frame Homes	Some poorly constructed homes can experience damage	Some poorly constructed homes have a high chance of damage	Poorly constructed homes can be destroyed by the removal of roof and exterior walls	Poorly constructed homes' walls can collapse and roof structures can be lost	High percentage of homes will be destroyed
Apartments, Shopping Centers and Buildings	Some buildings' roofs and siding coverings could be removed	Unreinforced masonry walls can collapse	High percentage of roof and siding damage	High percentage of damage to top floors. Steel frames can collapse	High percentage of buildings will be destroyed
Trees	Large branches of trees will snap and shallow-rooted trees will topple	Many shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted	Many shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted	Most trees will snap or uproot and power poles will be downed	Nearly all trees will snap or uproot and power poles will be downed
Power and Water	Extensive damage to powerlines and poles. Power outages for a few days	Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last for days to weeks	Electricity and water will be unavailable for days to weeks after the storm	Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks	Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months
Example	Hurricane Dolly (2008)	Hurricane Frances (2004)	Hurricane Ivan (2004)	Hurricane Irma (2017)	Hurricane Andrew (1992)

WINK

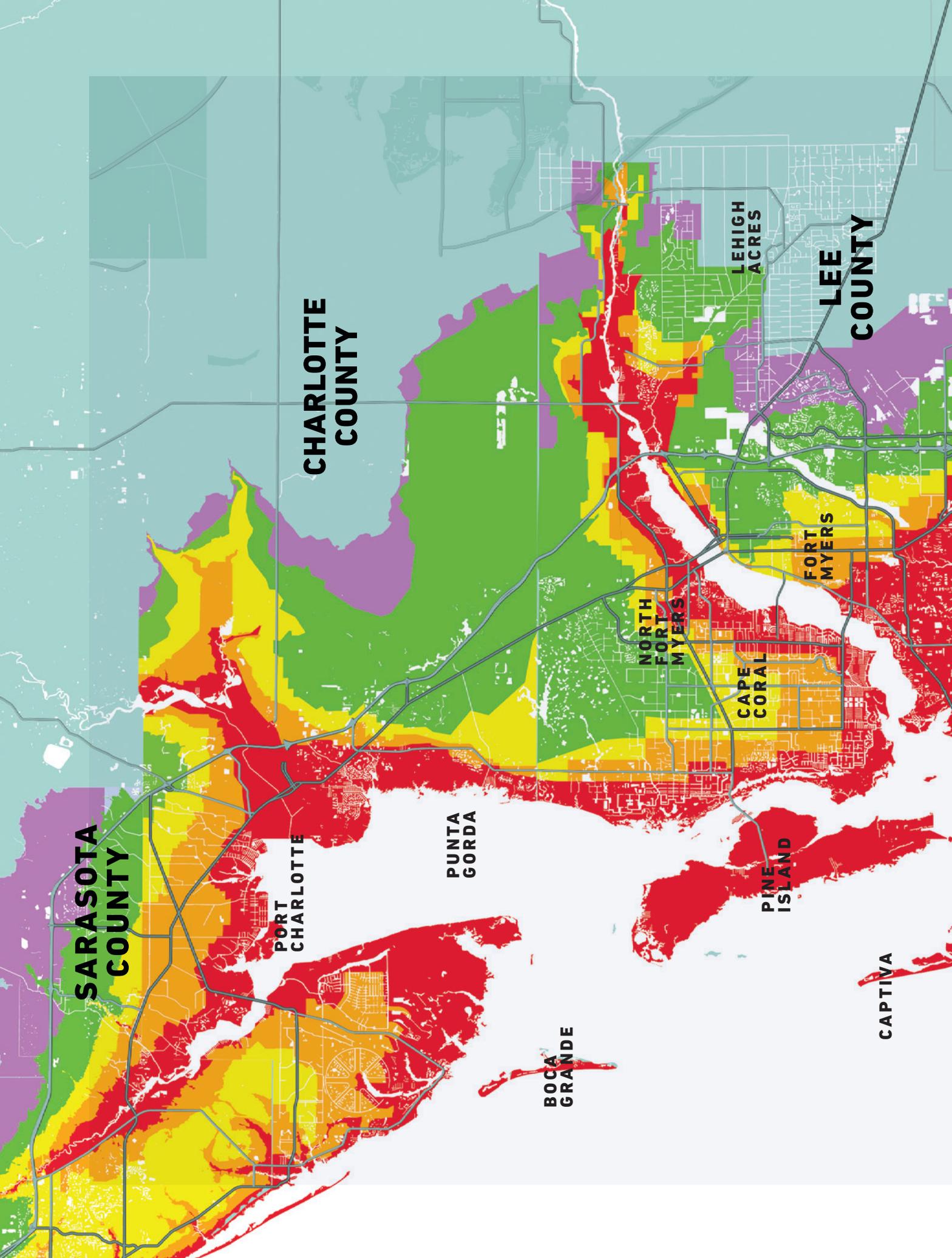


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GRANDE**

**PINE
ISLAND**

CAPTIVA



**HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022**

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA EVACUATION ZONES



is most vulnerable to hurricanes and will be first to be impacted by a land-falling storm. Evacuation is often required for any named storm coming from the Gulf and it also may be necessary for exiting storms. Potentially fatal storm surge and large, crashing waves are the most extreme dangers.



is very vulnerable and will experience significant impacts from land-falling storms. Evacuation will often be required for a hurricane coming from the Gulf. Winds in exiting storms may also require evacuation. Zone B is still vulnerable to potentially fatal levels of storm surge and some wave action.



is vulnerable to hurricane impacts. A large or powerful hurricane from the Gulf may require evacuations for surge or wind. Wind can pose a danger to unprepared or poorly constructed homes.



is one of the least vulnerable areas. Well-prepared and well-protected buildings should be safe during most storms. However, if evacuations are required, the safest option may be to travel to the East Coast.



is the least vulnerable area. Well-prepared and well-protected buildings should be safe in all but catastrophic events. Wind, including tornadoes, poses the most significant danger in Zone E.



SOURCE: Lee County Emergency Management. For more information: leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone



KNOW YOUR RISKS

Hurricanes can be highly destructive and potentially deadly. You need to treat these storms—and the dangers associated with them—very seriously.

In short, you need to know your risks.

Treating a hurricane like a lark is a big mistake. Those who do are lucky to make it through the storm unscathed. Even if they do, they might find themselves waiting on long lines for ice, water and food after a particularly powerful storm. Maybe they'll be fortunate enough to have friends and family who did prepare well and are willing to help them out

with shelter and supplies once a hurricane has passed. Most people, however, wouldn't want to find themselves in either position.

There's nothing fun about a hurricane. Don't treat it like a spectator sport. Understand what you are really facing.

JUST HOW BAD COULD A LANDFALLING HURRICANE BE?

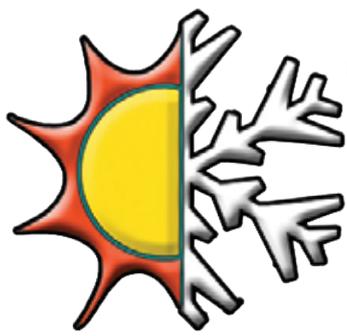
A Category 3 storm can propel trees and tree limbs through windows and roofs while taking

down power lines and destroying smaller homes. A Category 5 monster packs enough wallop to cause complete building failure. A storm of any size has the potential to cause flooding just about anywhere.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall Sept. 10 on Marco Island as a Category 3 storm. All told, 129 people were killed in the hurricane, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The National Hurricane Center estimated that the storm cost the United States about \$50 billion in overall damage. State officials ordered 6.5 million Floridians to evacuate, with 77,000 of them finding refuge in 450 shelters, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. In the end, Irma was one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in recorded history.

Irma was followed the next year by Hurricane Michael, the strongest storm to ever hit the Florida panhandle, according to multiple news accounts. The costs of that storm topped \$25 billion according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with the state of Florida saying that it led to at least 43 deaths.

Be prepared. Stay informed. Above all, keep safe. Don't try to ride out a hurricane if you don't have to. If evacuations are called for, then by all means get out of harm's way as soon as you can. It's difficult to overestimate how dangerous a hurricane can be. Understanding the realities these storms pose is the first step in making it through the season safely. [w](#)



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By Deanne Criswell
Federal Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA) Administrator

PREPARE NOW FOR THE 2022 HURRICANE SEASON

WASHINGTON—The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season is now upon us. If the past few seasons are any indication, Atlantic and Gulf Coast residents can expect unpredictable storm patterns, heavier rains, inland flooding and stronger winds this season.

But there are things you can do right now to get ready.

➔ **Well-informed is well-armed.** Create a communications plan to stay in touch with loved ones if you and your family are on the move. Learn your evacuation routes now and identify a place to stay if you must evacuate your home.

➔ **Sign up for weather alerts.** Download the FEMA App on your Android or iPhone to receive real-time weather alerts for your area. Be sure to sign up for any local weather alerts, too.

➔ **Know how to locate a shelter.** FEMA's new Text to Shelter feature makes it easy to find a shelter closest to you. Simply text your zip code to 43362 to find a safe space to shelter during a disaster.

Additional ways to find shelter can be found at disasterassistance.gov/information/immediate-needs/emergency-shelter or redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html.

➔ **Be prepared to be self-sufficient.** Pack a “go bag” with 72 hours’ worth of supplies—including food, water, blankets, a battery-operated radio, any medications you may take and pet supplies. Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

and [Listo.gov](https://www.listo.gov) for additional resources on practicing personal preparedness.

➔ **Fortify your home.** Protecting your property before a storm can help reduce damages. Examples include installing storm shutters or placing plywood over windows to protect them from high winds.

It’s also critical that you secure loose outdoor objects like bicycles and grills which can become dangerous when airborne.

In addition, make sure you catalog items in your home, review your insurance policies and safeguard all critical personal information like financial and legal documents.

➔ **Listen to local authorities.** Follow the guidance of your local officials when deciding whether to evacuate or stay in place. Your safety is their priority.

Only return home when authorities say it is safe to do so. When you do return to your community, stay away from downed power lines and trees. Do not enter damaged buildings or try to remove trees and heavy debris yourselves.

➔ **Lend a helping hand to neighbors and friends.** Help others prepare for severe weather by sharing the ways you are practicing emergency preparedness.

Consider helping a senior citizen plan their evacuation route or assisting a disabled community member in fortifying their home. You have the power to serve as an influential emergency preparedness ambassador in your community.

Most importantly, expect the unexpected, and practice year-round emergency preparedness. Remember, what you do today can save lives tomorrow. [w](https://www.wink.com)

W

HURRICANE
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HURRICANE GUIDE 2022



OUR COVERAGE SAVED LIVES

The tornadoes hit early on a Sunday morning, a line of dangerous weather moving south and east across the state.

The first tornado warning went out across Southwest Florida just before 8 a.m. on Jan. 16. By the time the storms had moved through the area, six tornadoes had touched down, including an EF2 tornado with winds up to 135 MPH that hit Fort Myers, the first such storm of that magnitude to occur in the state in six years. By the end of the day, 60 homes would be unlivable, 27 of them completely destroyed. It was the most severe weather outbreak in years, the biggest since Hurricane Irma struck in 2017. But not a single life was lost in Lee County thanks to the early warnings and fearless dedication of the WINK Weather Team, the Weather Authority.

“It was important to be there for the community,” says WINK Chief Meteorologist Matt Devitt. “Our coverage saved lives.”

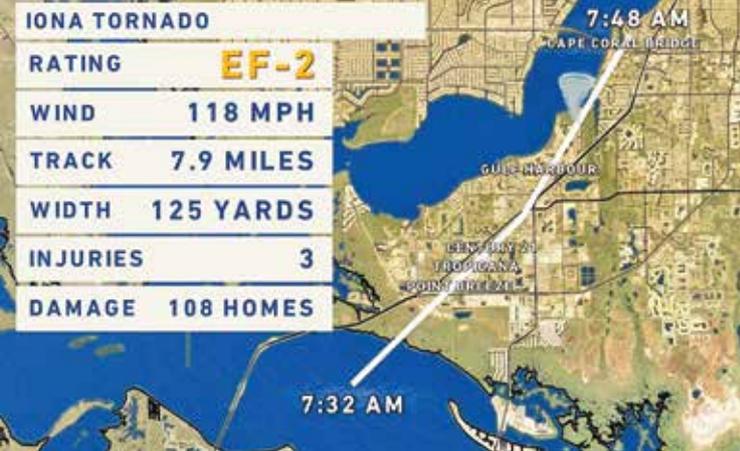
Florida is no stranger to dangerous tornadoes. According to the Florida Climate Center at Florida State University, Florida has a higher frequency of tornadoes per 10,000 square miles than any other state. The coast between Tampa Bay and Fort Myers is particularly hard-hit. Destructive tornadoes often occur in Florida during the spring and summer. The most powerful usually strike in the spring.

Devitt remembers waking up early that Sunday morning. “It was a morning almost like any other,” he says. “Which just goes to show that Mother Nature can have her own agenda.” He checked in and saw the status of the storms. When he realized that things were taking a turn for the worse, he knew he needed to be ready to guide viewers through the terrifying weather event. He wanted to be a calm voice in the middle of the storm. He put on a suit and tie and rushed to WINK News, The Weather Authority, where he teamed up with meteorologist Dylan Federico to go live on-air.

Federico was already at the studio for his regular broadcast. He remembers the first images coming in over the radar that morning when the storms were still offshore. “At first it was nothing concerning,” he says. But at around 7 a.m. the first tornado warning came in from Tampa. Federico looked at his producer and said, “This isn’t good.”

Devitt and Federico devised a reporting plan just as the first tornado warnings popped up in Charlotte County. “We did a great job working together,” Devitt says. “I analyzed elements of the rotation—when it was getting stronger or weaker—and gave damage reports. Dylan did storm tracking and let viewers know what was coming.”

Soon tornado warnings were sounding across Lee County as the storms turned into a dangerous weather event. The WINK Weather Team, The Weather



Authority, monitored the rapidly evolving situation, analyzing data from the National Weather Service and local radars. “With our radar, we were able to detect debris thrown thousands of feet into the air and relay that live on TV as it was happening,” Devitt says.

On air, Devitt and Federico remained cool, calm and collected. “I knew I had to keep my composure,” Federico says. “It was a life-threatening situation. People were scared. They needed someone who could confidently articulate what was going on.”

Devitt and Federico spent the entire first half of the day covering the storms, from 7:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Together the duo was on air for more than six hours, delivering the kind of straightforward coverage viewers have come to know and trust from WINK, The Weather Authority. “When viewers turned to WINK News during the January storms,

they didn’t get any scare tactics. Just information,” Devitt says.

In addition, meteorologists KC Sherman and Nash Rhodes worked hand in hand with producers in the newsroom to provide additional coverage by gathering video and pictures from loyal viewers of WINK, The Weather Authority. That effectively made viewers part of the storm coverage. At the same time, news team members were out in the field providing comprehensive live breaking news coverage of the storms.

Devitt has been through several tornado events throughout his career. “I knew exactly what was happening, and I was calm throughout it,” he says. He made sure viewers understood what was happening as it was happening, directing them to hunker down, to seek the lowest level of their homes in the center part of the building and to stay away from windows. When the storm had passed and

Southwest Florida was through the worst of it, he told viewers the coast was clear. “I wanted to reassure the community and give everyone peace of mind once things did get better,” he says. Devitt was able to do all of this without any hype, only quiet authority and strength. “That’s why viewers turn to the Weather Authority,” he says. “Southwest Florida trusted us over every other station.”

Like Devitt, Federico also has significant experience with major weather events. “The tornadoes in January weren’t my first rodeo,” he says. His previous experience allowed him to guide viewers through the dangerous storms while interpreting and analyzing the weather data. “It was the ultimate pressure cooker situation,” he says, “but I kept my cool and I’m proud of that.”

Federico credits the success of WINK’s on-air coverage of the tornadoes to the fine-tuned machine of the WINK Weather Team, The Weather Authority. He gives a special nod to his on-air partner the day of the storms. Led by Devitt, the team provided bigger, better and smarter coverage than any of the competition.

“Matt Devitt is an outstanding chief meteorologist,” he says. “He is the epitome of class and professionalism, especially when there’s life-threatening weather going on. He provides a tremendous amount of leadership and weather knowledge. And he’s built a strong team and created effective infrastructure. All of this set us up for success that day.” [w](#)





**HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022**



By Ron DeSantis, Florida Governor

KEEPING FLORIDIANS SAFE

As governor of Florida, keeping Floridians safe is my top priority. As Floridians, we know the impacts that a hurricane can have on our communities. Being prepared for hurricane season is the best way to mitigate those impacts. And, it is never too early to be prepared for hurricane season, which began on June 1.

Since I took office in 2019, Florida has been hit with multiple tropical cyclones and a hurricane while continuing to recover from damages after hurricanes Michael and Irma. The Florida Division of Emergency Management has released a total of \$6.5 billion in recovery money since 2019 for those impacted by disasters. Additionally, more than \$1.2 billion has been dispersed from the Department of Economic Opportunity in housing programs and Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief funding to further aid recovery efforts after hurricanes Irma and Michael.

As we enter the 2022 hurricane season, I urge all Floridians to be prepared and create a disaster plan for themselves and their families. I also encourage all Floridians to take advantage of the disaster preparedness sales tax holiday, which started on May 28 and runs through June 10, to stock up on hurricane supplies.

As you prepare your families for hurricane season, I can assure you that the state has been hard at work

preparing our staff and resources to be able to respond quickly in the event of a hurricane. My office, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, other state agencies and our private-sector partners work year-round to ensure residents and communities statewide are equipped with the tools that they need in the event of a disaster.

The first step to hurricane preparedness is building a plan in the event of a disaster. You should have a plan for your family and pets that includes a shelter plan, evacuation route and a family communication plan. If you own a business, you should create a plan for securing it before the storm and for re-entry following a disaster. While creating your plan, you should also gather a disaster supply kit that can sustain you and your family for up to seven days. Your kit should include food, water, medications, and copies of important documents. You can find resources for creating your disaster plan, including a disaster supply kit, at FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare.

Additionally, if you or a family member is disabled or would require additional assistance during an emergency, utilize Florida's Special Needs Registry at FloridaDisaster.org/snr to register with your local emergency management agency and provide first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters.

My hope is that our state will not have to endure a hurricane this year. But the best way that I can support Floridians if one does hit is by encouraging you to be prepared. FloridaDisaster.org has many resources available to help all Floridians prepare themselves for a disaster and I encourage everyone to take the necessary steps to prepare before a storm is on the horizon. I will do everything in my power to ensure that Floridians have the resources they need before and after a storm to come out safe on the other side of a disaster. [w](https://www.wink.com)

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A HIGHLY ACCURATE VIEW OF POTENTIAL DANGER

WINK'S NEW DOPPLER RADAR IS THE MOST POWERFUL IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

W

HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022



WINK, the Weather Authority, was already the station viewers in Southwest Florida trusted most for storm coverage—especially during hurricane season. Now WINK's storm reporting is even stronger thanks to its new dual-polarization Doppler radar.

WINK's dual-pol Doppler radar is the most powerful in Southwest Florida, three times more powerful than any other station's radar. "The value of having this radar is incredibly important," says Matt Devitt, WINK chief meteorologist. "We'll be closer to these storms, and we'll be able to see inside them."

Less powerful radars at a greater distance from weather fronts only allow meteorologists to see the top half of storms. But the bottom half, beneath the pulse of the radar beams, goes undetected. This can be a challenge for meteorologists who want to give viewers a full breakdown of a weather event. "We want to see most of, if not the entire storm," Devitt says. This is particularly important for storms

WINK

Shelby, Brian Tietz

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WINDOWS & DOORS



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- James Froelicher, Port Charlotte



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- Bob Horton, Naples

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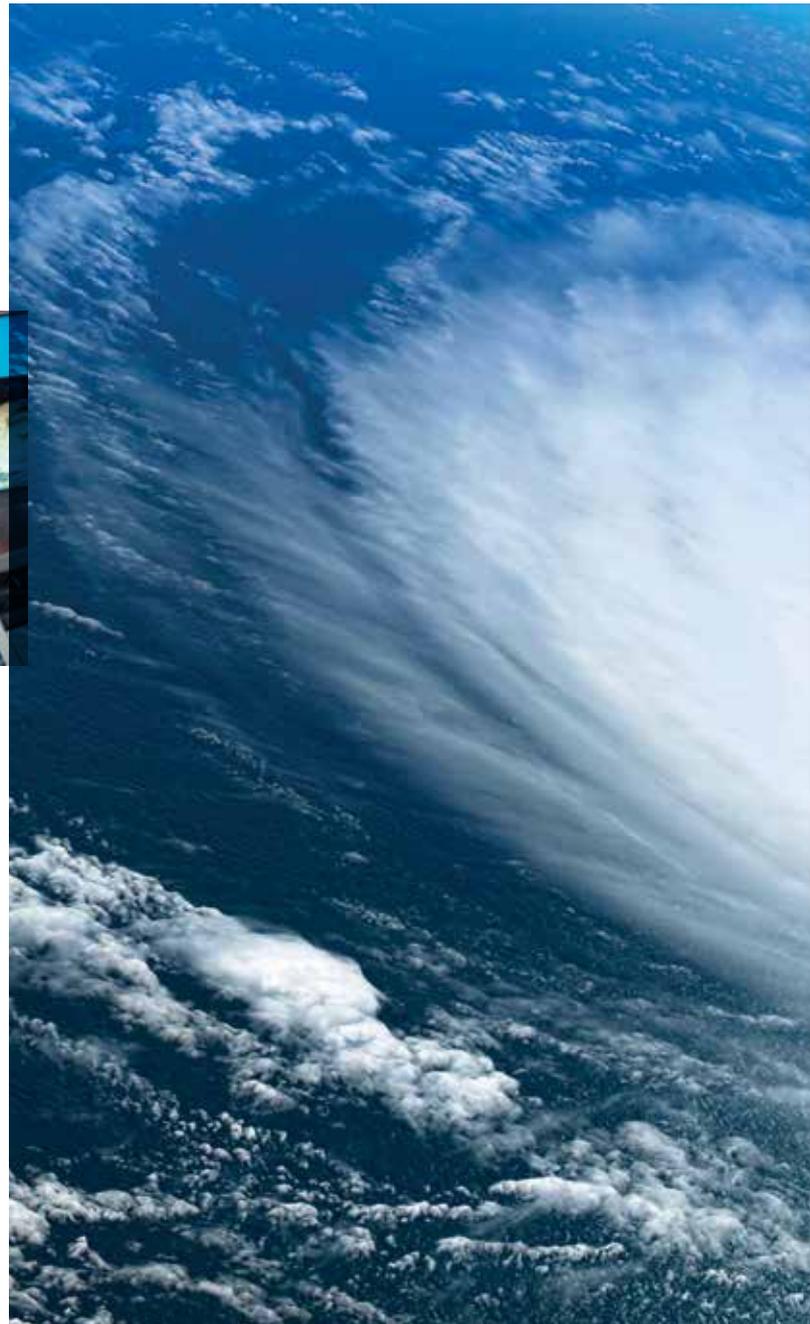
that might yield tornadoes. “If we think we have a possible tornado at the base of a cloud, but we can only see the top half of a storm, then we can’t see the rotation,” Devitt says. “And that’s a problem.” A tornado formation follows a pattern as it develops. Dual-pol Doppler radar allows WINK, The Weather Authority, to see the pattern develop, adding precious advance warning to those in the storm’s path. And advance warning capabilities are a life saver.

For WINK, The Weather Authority, the new radar checks all the boxes. It provides new levels of accuracy, advance warning in the name of safety and superior technology.

Before WINK, The Weather Authority, acquired its new radar, the closest dual-pol Doppler radars were in Tampa and Miami. “The maximum range of how far each of those radars can ‘see’ is 150 miles,” explains WINK meteorologist KC Sherman. Although Fort Myers is within range, those radars sometimes missed weather events. “A light rain might be falling over Fort Myers, but because it hadn’t built up into a thunderstorm cloud there wouldn’t be a blip on the radar,” Sherman says. A missed rain shower is one thing, but the radars in Tampa and Miami could potentially miss more severe weather events in the Fort Myers area, like tornado activity. But WINK’s new Doppler

radar won’t miss a thing. “Our radar will be close enough to detect those details,” Sherman says. “That’s so important when it comes down to saving people’s lives.”

The new Doppler radar transmits and receives pulses in both a horizontal and vertical orientation—that’s where the dual polarization comes in—giving meteorologists a highly accurate view of potential danger, such as an approaching hurricane. Because the dual-pol radar system reads both up and down and side to side, it provides the most comprehensive look at the size and shape of storms. The radar produces better accuracy on rain estimates, which can be critical during hurricanes and flood warnings, and it delivers improved detection of debris created





during tornadoes. WINK's new Doppler radar provides the best means of early warning and safety for all of Southwest Florida. "It is a potential life saver during an emergency, when other radars fail to provide a detailed look at the storm," Devitt says.

The new radar operates with one million watts of power, enough power to punch through and see the potential danger behind a storm's leading bands. "It's very powerful," Devitt says. "We'll be able to see all of the storm." This is essential for monitoring approaching hurricanes. "We'll get almost instantaneous updates," Devitt says. "We'll know immediately if the storm is getting stronger."

It's not just the new Doppler radar's wattage that makes it the

top one in the area. It's also its location, location, location. All radars have a donut hole of blank space in their immediate vicinity. This no-information zone covers a radius around the radar of several miles. "In recent years, the size of that donut hole has gotten smaller with better technology," Devitt says. "But for a long time, we couldn't see anything five to 10 miles out from a radar. It's unfortunate, but this is a reality for all radars across the country."

WINK, The Weather Authority, solved this problem. The station made the wise strategic decision to locate its new Doppler radar in a remote area northeast of Fort Myers near Babcock Ranch. "Our radar is over a rural section of Charlotte County," Devitt explains, "so our blank space is in a rural section that doesn't impact as many people compared to (other) radars. That means we can provide radar coverage to more people than they can."

Ultimately, it comes down to saving lives. Early warning and comprehensive details can make the difference between life and death. The new WINK dual-pol Doppler radar provides the most powerful, sophisticated technology in the area. It allows WINK's team of top-notch meteorologists to discern the most important details of a storm and relay that information to viewers. And in Southwest Florida, where hurricanes can turn deadly, every detail counts. [w](#)

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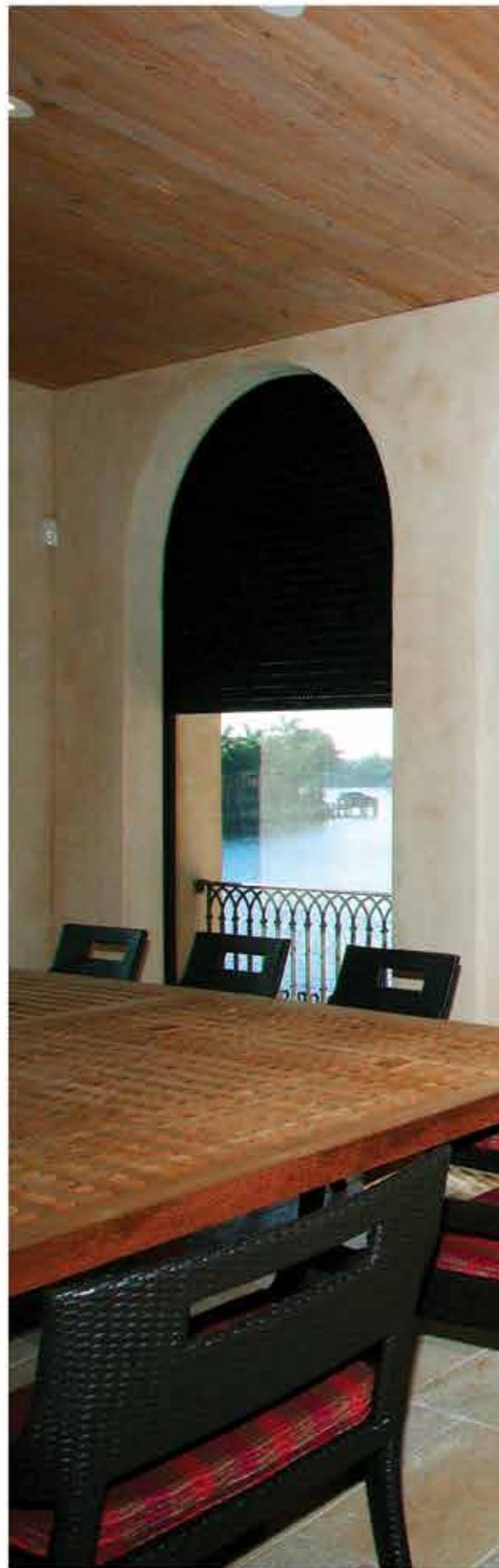


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PREPARATION

PREPARING YOUR FAMILY

MAKE A FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Some disasters strike without any warning, and family members may not all be in the same place when a hurricane hits. How will you get in touch with each other? Where will you meet? What if your neighborhood is being evacuated? It's important to make a plan now so that you will know what to do, how to find each other and how to communicate in an emergency.

- ➔ Pick the same person for each family member to call or email, so that everyone has a single point of contact. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town or outside the state.

- ➔ Program that contact as "ICE" ("In Case of Emergency") in your cell phone. If you're hurt, emergency personnel often will check your ICE listings to reach someone you know. Alert that person that you've listed him or her as an emergency contact.

- ➔ Text, don't talk, unless it's an emergency. It may be easier to text and you won't tie up phone lines for emergency workers. Text messages often can get around network disruptions when phone calls can't.

- ➔ Keep your family's contact info and meeting spot location in your backpack, wallet, cell phone or taped inside your school notebook.

- ➔ Designate someone from outside the area to be the primary contact for out-of-town relatives and friends to check with to see how you fared. Following a hurricane, landlines and cell phones may be out of service for some time.



BE PREPARED AND STAY AWARE

When faced with hazardous weather conditions, it's important to be prepared and stay aware. A communication plan is only part of what you'll need to outline with your family when faced with a hurricane. Please get everybody together today so that you can map out a plan for how to respond to a natural disaster. Here are some ideas:

- ➔ Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family.
- ➔ Know your home's vulnerability to storm dangers.
- ➔ Decide your evacuation route and destination. Plan to go to family or friends who live in safer areas. Use county evacuation shelters only as a last resort.
- ➔ Outline an alternate plan in case your friends are out of town, your evacuation route is flooded or other unforeseen circumstances arise.
- ➔ Put together a family communication plan as outlined above.
- ➔ Plan what you will do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- ➔ Review your homeowners and flood insurance policies and keep them with you in a secure, waterproof place. When a storm hits is the wrong time to check if you have the proper insurance.



- ➔ Register individuals with special needs with your county's emergency management office.
- ➔ Make a list of prescription medicines that you will need to refill and take with you.
- ➔ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and food.
- ➔ Prepare a disaster supply kit.

PREPARE YOUR PETS

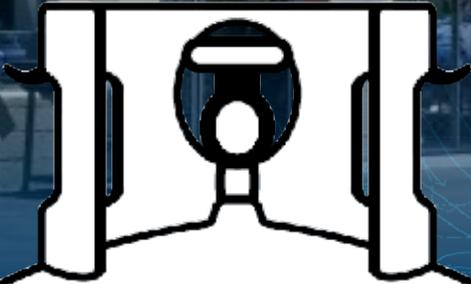
There needs to be a plan for your pets too. Consider two different pet emergency kits:

- ➔ In one, put everything your pets will need to stay where you are.
- ➔ The other should be a lightweight smaller version to use if you and your pets have to get away.
- ➔ For more information and a detailed list of disaster preparedness tips go to aspca.org.





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GET YOUR SUPPLIES NOW: FOLLOW THESE CHECKLISTS

Supplies are a critical part of every family's health and safety. They should be gathered well in advance of hurricane season each year. It pays to be prepared.

Once a storm is imminent, time to shop will be limited. If supplies are available, you will have to search for them. Many Southwest Florida residents experienced shortages of storm necessities during the more active recent hurricane seasons.



THE ESSENTIALS

These are the supplies you should always have on hand. Be sure to place the items that you will most likely need for an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container.

- A minimum of one gallon of water per person per day. Keep at least a three-day supply per person on hand.
- Additional water for food preparation and sanitation.
- Bags of ice.
- Partially fill plastic one liter or larger soft drink bottles with water and place in the freezer. The bottles will freeze without cracking. If the power goes out, the frozen water will help keep the freezer cool. When the ice melts, the water will be drinkable.
- Fill up your car's gas tank, as well as portable gas canisters. Make sure those canisters are stored safely.
- Keep cash handy. Banks may not be open. ATMs may not be accessible.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons, remember to include items and supplies that may be unique to their special situation. That may mean setting aside anything from extra diapers and baby formula to special medications and a spare walker.



GROCERIES

- Baby formula
- Bread
- Crackers
- Canned fruits
- Canned juice
- Canned meats
- Canned vegetables
- Dry cereal
- Instant coffee and tea
- Peanut butter
- Quick-energy snacks
- Ready-to-eat soups



MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- First-aid kit for your home. For how to stock your kit, consult the American Red Cross at redcross.org
- First aid kit for your car
- Insulin
- Denture needs
- Prescription drugs (minimum two-week supply)
- A supply of aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Eyeglasses, along with a spare pair, if you have one.
- Heart and high blood pressure medicine
- Insect repellent
- Itch-relief cream



DOCUMENTS

- Important telephone numbers
- Record of bank account numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Record of credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods—with pictures, if possible
- Copy of will, insurance policies, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Copy of passports, social security cards and immunization records



SANITATION

- Disinfectant
- Toilet paper, towelettes, paper towels
- Soap and liquid detergent
- Personal hygiene items
- Household chlorine bleach
- Large bucket or trash can with lid for storing water to flush toilets

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

- Battery-operated radio or TV
- Flashlight and lanterns
- Extra batteries and extra bulbs
- Lighter or matches for your grill
- Antenna for your TV
- Extension cords (heavy duty and three-pronged)
- Manual can opener/utility knife
- Plastic sheeting/tarps
- Duct tape
- Generator
- Gas cans
- Old towels for clean up
- Paper cups, plates and utensils
- Plastic trash bags
- Full propane tank
- Charcoal and lighter fluid
- Camp stove
- Sterno
- Thermos for hot food
- Coolers with ice for cold food
- Tree saw for cutting fallen limbs
- Hand tools: knife, axe, pliers, screwdrivers, wrench
- Hammer and nails
- Fire extinguisher
- Fix-a-flat
- Mops, buckets and cleaning supplies [w](#)

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PREPARATION

PREPARING YOUR HOME

Preparing your home for a hurricane can involve taking precautions both big and small. Ultimately, it may mean making changes to your home and property that can vary in cost and complexity. A professional contractor licensed to work in Florida should carry out complicated or large-scale changes that affect the structure of your house, its electrical wiring or plumbing.

There are several precautions, however, that you can take on your own to protect your home.

WINDOWS

Installing storm shutters over all exposed windows and other glass surfaces is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect your home from a host of potential problems. Don't skip this precaution. Cover all windows, French doors, glass doors and skylights. There are many types of manufactured storm

shutters available, made from a variety of materials from steel or aluminium to heavy-duty plastic. Even homemade plywood shutters, if properly constructed and installed, can offer a great deal of protection from flying debris during a hurricane.

ROOF

The roof of your house is most vulnerable to damage from high winds. Proper roof construction is essential. A small investment made before a storm hits can save thousands of dollars in future damage. Have a qualified building professional inspect your roof to determine whether it needs reinforcement.

DOORS

Homes with double-entry doors usually have one door that is active and one that is inactive.

The bolts or pins that secure most doors typically are not strong enough to withstand hurricane-force winds. Check with your local building supplies retailer or hardware store to determine the type of bolt system that will work best for your door.

GARAGE DOORS

Double-wide doors for two-car garages can present a particular problem during hurricanes. Some garage doors can be strengthened with retrofit kits. Check with your local building supplies dealer or hardware store.

MOBILE HOMES REQUIRE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to hurricane-force winds. Anchor the mobile home with over-the-top, or frame ties. When a storm threatens, do what you can to secure your home, then take refuge with friends or relatives or go to a public shelter. Do not try to ride out a hurricane in a mobile home under any circumstance. Always follow mandatory evacuation orders if they are issued.

Once you've anchored your mobile home, make sure to:

- ➔ Pack breakables in boxes. Remove mirrors.
- ➔ Wrap mirrors and lamps in blankets and place them in the bathtub or shower.
- ➔ Install hurricane shutters or apply pre-cut plywood on all windows.
- ➔ Shut off utilities and propane tanks; disconnect electricity, sewer and water lines. [w](#)

PREPARATION

PREPARING YOUR BOAT

In Southwest Florida, with its inland waterways and land that's only slightly above sea-level, boats are particularly vulnerable to damage during tropical storms and hurricanes.

Each boat owner needs a plan that's unique to the type of vessel in question, the local boating environment and the best available storage options. But if you follow these precautions and checklists as guidelines, you should get a good idea of the sort of planning and prep work you'll need to do before a storm hits.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR BOAT

- ➔ Check that your boat is in sound condition. This includes the hull, deck hardware, rigging, ground tackle, machinery and electronics.
- ➔ Make sure that the batteries are charged, bilge pumps are operable, fuel tanks are full, fuel filters are clean, cockpit drains are free and clear, fire-fighting equipment is in

good working order and lifesaving equipment is accessible and in good condition.

- ➔ Enhance the watertight integrity of your boat, both above and below the water line. Seal windows, doors and hatches with duct tape.

- ➔ Secure all items on your boat. Remove and/or secure all deck gear, portable gear, radio antennas, outriggers, chairs, deck boxes, cushions, bimini tops and side canvas/curtains, sails, boom, canister rafts and dinghies.

- ➔ Put together a hurricane action plan for your vessel. If you plan to move your boat, and you have sufficient notice, do it at least 48 to 72 hours before the hurricane is due to hit the area. Rehearse your planned boat movement, including an actual visit to the alternate dock or hurricane mooring/anchoring location.

- ➔ Inspect the boat's deck hardware in light of planned mooring arrangements. Assess the size and structural attachment of the primary chocks, cleats, bitts, bollards and winches. These high-load/high-stress points should have substantial backing plates and be secured with bolts of adequate size.

- ➔ Provide special attention to avoid chafing of mooring lines. Chafing gear that has been proven successful is a double neoprene hose arrangement.

- ➔ Storm moorings, whether at dockside or otherwise, should have doubled lines. The second set of lines should be a size larger than the normal lines, including spring lines at a dock.

- ➔ Make a list of important phone numbers. These numbers include your insurance agent, harbor master, marina facility, Coast Guard and National Weather Service.

- ➔ Purchase necessary materials ahead of time such as additional lengths of mooring lines, screw anchors, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear and anchors.

- ➔ Make an inventory of all boat equipment. Note items to be removed from your vessel. Keep a copy of equipment inventory both on board and ashore. Take photos of the current condition of your boat—inside and out—to keep with all records.

- ➔ Make sure your insurance policy is current. Read the policy thoroughly. There is quite a bit of helpful and advisory information in the policy about what the boat owner should—and should not—do if there is a storm- or hurricane-related loss or damage to the vessel. [w](#)





HURRICANE SAFE AT HOME: HOW TO ENSURE YOUR HOME IS HURRICANE RESILIENT

Though Hurricane Andrew's lifespan was just five days in 1992, the Category 5 storm destroyed more than 25,000 homes in Florida and damaged 100,000 more. And the effects of that damage still reverberate in the state's homebuilding industry today.

To unify and strengthen the state's building codes in Andrew's wake, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Building Code in 2002. Serving as a set of statewide building standards, and updated every three years, the code's specifications are designed to make new homes more hurricane resilient, while also offering guidance for updating older homes.

Building a new, hurricane-resilient home in Florida today means building a structure to withstand winds and moisture. But, it all begins in the ground, according to Bart Zino, vice-president of Naples-based PBS Contractors.

"It starts with elevation. How far above the floodplain are you with your slab? (After that) there is a continuous point of attachment from the foundation of the home to the roof ... a continuous, mechanical connection," Zino says.

"On a concrete block house, it's the reinforcing rebar that is embedded in the foundation, goes up through the concrete block walls, (and) terminates in a cast-in-place, concrete beam that runs the perimeter of the house," he adds. "And, then there are metal straps that are embedded in that concrete

beam, which then are connected to and tied to the roof trusses."

While the mechanical connection creates a stronger, more stable structure, keeping it sealed is also important. Keeping out moisture, even if one element is compromised, is part of the structure's connection as well.

"The first course of plywood around the perimeter of the house is not only nailed but it's also glued. And then we put a self-adhering membrane over the plywood over the entire house," Zino says. "If all the shingles blew away, that membrane would self-adhere to the plywood, and it would act as a secondary barrier and would probably withstand water intrusion."

Even with a strong, moisture-resistant infrastructure, another element of hurricane resilience is reinforcing what builders call the "envelope," or the home's four walls and roof. The importance of protecting the openings in the envelope, such as doors, windows and garage doors, was one of the biggest lessons learned from Hurricane Andrew.

"The primary cause of damage is a breach in your openings, (such as) your windows, your garage door, your front door," says Tony Persichilli, owner and CEO of Green Mountain Builders in Bonita Springs.

"When windows are broken out, the force of the wind and the out-

side pressure gets into the home and it actually causes uplift and it can actually tear your roof off," Persichilli says. "You don't want the weather to come in, but more importantly, you don't want the pressure to come in and affect the roof. So, opening protection is probably the first thing that everybody should look at."

For an older residence, upgrading to reinforced, wind and impact-resistant windows, doors and garage doors, or even adding retractable shutters, can significantly increase a home's hurricane resilience, meet current building codes and lower insurance costs. In addition, as smaller storms can weaken a roof's structure, Persichilli recommends having a home's roof inspected regularly to ensure it provides maximum hurricane resistance.

"Roof materials are a lot stronger than they were 30 years ago. The requirement to fasten them has changed. (Now) it's usually a combination of screws and adhesives. Today's code roof deck is nailed off and is a much more secure structure," Persichilli says. "(Then) your roof trusses are tied to your structure with straps. And there are companies that can come in and either add straps or increase the nailing pattern on the straps to hold your roof down."

Finally, both Zino and Persichilli recommend having a wind mitigation study done to assess your home's ability to withstand a hurricane. Doing so will not only show what needs to be done to fortify your home's hurricane defenses, but it could also lower your homeowner's insurance.^w



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By Rick Scott
U.S. Senator from Florida and Former Governor

DON'T WAIT TO TAKE ACTION, GET PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON TODAY



HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022

Throughout my eight years as governor, I saw firsthand the destruction left behind by multiple devastating hurricanes—Michael, Irma, Hermine and Matthew. If there is one thing I learned, it's that Florida is resilient. Our state and local communities come together in times of need and work incredibly hard to recover from these storms.

Each hurricane season presents its own challenges, and with 2022 hurricane season now upon us, Americans are facing the challenge of inflation and increased prices on everyday goods, as well as supply-chain shortages. That means every Florida family needs to be prepared ahead of time. We know how suddenly severe weather can develop and threaten our communities—it can happen at any moment. So, I am urging every family and business in Florida to get a plan and make a disaster preparedness kit today.

Starting preparations early allows Floridians to make purchases of vital supplies, like food, water, flashlights, batteries and other necessities on their own terms. Early preparations also give you the time to revisit your plan, so you don't feel rushed to create the best plan

possible for your family. You can find resources and information on creating a personalized emergency plan in this guide or at ready.gov.

As Floridians, we know better than anyone that preparedness saves lives. Even for those who have lived in Florida for decades, we can never become complacent or let our guards down. We should never underestimate the threat of severe weather. In case of a storm, stay tuned to your local news reports—such as WINK News, The Weather Authority—and follow the direction of local law enforcement and emergency management officials. As I always say, you can rebuild your home, but you cannot rebuild your life.

As your senator, I'll do everything I can at the federal level to protect Florida's families and businesses and continue to fight the reckless spending that is fueling inflation. I'm also working with FEMA to issue guidance to states, local governments, tribes and territories regarding how to address hurricane preparedness.

Now is the time to focus on taking care of each other and protecting our families. Don't wait to take action. Start getting prepared TODAY. [w](#)



Courtesy of U.S. Sen. Rick Scott

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By Patrick Fuller
Director of the Charlotte County Office
of Emergency Management

A CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS



HURRICANE
GUIDE
2022

We find ourselves approaching our yearly reminder that enjoying our beautiful climate and access to the water means we may experience the impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes.

The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1 and early indications appear to point to another above-average season. Whether you are a longtime resident of Florida or a newcomer to the state, preparedness is the task at hand. As automatic as renewing your vehicle registration, paying your taxes or spring cleaning, preparedness in advance of hurricane season should be a part of your regular routine. The Charlotte County Office of Emergency Management, along with the other 66 counties in the state of Florida, provide resources to help our residents and visitors prepare for what Mother Nature may throw our way.

Building a disaster kit complete with the supplies you will need to get by on your own for five to seven days is a good first step when tackling the task of preparing for hurricane season. Disaster kits should include food, water (one gallon per person per day), medications (a two-week supply), clothes, flashlights, batteries,

cash, first aid kits, battery- or crank-operated radios, important documents and needs of your pets. A comprehensive list of disaster supply kit considerations can be found in this guide, as well as in the *Charlotte County Disaster Guide*, available at all Charlotte County libraries and online at the Charlotte County Emergency Management website (charlottecountyfl.gov/EM). Disaster kits are there to sustain you and your family in the days after an event.

Developing your disaster plan is another important step in preparedness. In your plan you should address where you will go if directed to evacuate (shelters should be your last option), how you will communicate with loved ones, what you need to do to prepare your home in advance of a storm and how you will stay informed before, during and after storms. Local television, radio and print media, official government websites and social media accounts and emergency notification systems such as Alert Charlotte, which is a free service available by registering at charlottecountyfl.gov/alert-charlotte, are great tools to remain informed throughout hurricane season.

Knowing your evacuation zone ahead of time is critical to understanding evacuation orders from local government. In Charlotte County you can find your evacuation zone by going to charlottecountyfl.gov/knowyourzone. Thorough planning ahead of a storm helps to reduce stress and allows you and your family the ability act quickly to ensure your safety.

As new residents and visitors flock to our region, it is important that everyone understands the potential for tropical storms and hurricanes and does their part to foster a culture of preparedness. **w**

WINK

Courtesy of the Charlotte County Office of Emergency Management

WHO'S WATCHING & PREPARING YOUR HOME WHILE YOU ARE AWAY?



What is Home Watch? It's someone checking on your home while you are away. So much can happen in your absence, and you need to know about it. If you are away from your Southwest Florida home for stretches of time, **you need to have someone checking on your unoccupied place**, advocating for you and your best interests.



Jack Lubber, NHWA Executive Director

Home Watchers that are Members of the National Home Watch Association:

- Have all passed criminal background checks.
- Carry the correct insurance and bonding in order to protect the client and their property.
- Receive ongoing education.
- Act as their client's advocate during their absence.

HOME WATCHERS CAN ASSIST WITH PRE & POST STORM SERVICES

PRE STORM

- FOLLOW HOMEOWNER'S ACTION PLAN
- TAKE TIME / DATE STAMPED PICTURES / VIDEOS FOR DOCUMENTATION
- COMMUNICATE WITH HOMEOWNER

POST STORM

- INSPECTED FOR STORM DAMAGE
- CONTACT HOMEOWNER
- SEND HOMEOWNER PICTURES / VIDEOS OF ANY OBVIOUS DAMAGE



Carl Lorenzini, Chapter Lead and Members of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the NHWA

For a list of NHWA accredited, bonded, and insured Home Watchers in Southwest Florida, please visit:

www.nationalhomewatchassociation.org/florida-home-watch-companies

Companies represented in photo: 1-Stop Home Watch Services; A&M Home Watch Services; Allied Home Watch; Always There Homewatch; B & L Homewatch; Checkmate Home Watch; Check My Home; Coconut Home Watch; Eagle View HomeWatch; Elite Home Watch Plus of SWFL; GMan Home Watch of Punta Gorda; Gold Shield Home Watch; Gulf Coast Home Solutions; Gulf Coast Home Watch of South West Florida; Here 4 You Homewatch; Hoffmann Home Watch; Holy Naples Homewatch; Home Watch Group of SWFL; Homewatch Services Etc.; Hudnall's Home Check Services; Mermaid Home Watch; Naples Area Home Watch; Pentagon Watch; Sentry Home Watch; Sun Seekers Home Watch; Two D Home Watch; Until You Return Homewatch.



By Kevin Rambosk
Collier County Sheriff

PUBLIC SAFETY IS A PARTNERSHIP

W **HURRICANE GUIDE 2022**

Our community can rest assured that the Collier County Sheriff's Office is trained and prepared to be there for them should another hurricane like 2017's Irma make landfall locally.

Hurricane Irma was a big challenge for our community, and we had a terrific team with a great plan here at the Collier County Sheriff's Office. We met the challenge and kept our community, and each other, as safe as possible. As we enter another hurricane season, we again have the best team and a solid plan. You can rely on us.

I believe that planning for response to major disasters is essential, but it must be partnered with training so that everyone is on the same page should an event occur. The more training you can do, the better. Here at the Sheriff's Office we train not only within our agency, but also with our fellow first responders. This means our deputies stand prepared to assist with all hurricane-related tasks including evacuations, traffic control, welfare checks, road clearing, supply distribution and more.

And in the years since Hurricane Irma we have turned an existing space in our administration building into our Real-time Operations Center, or ROC. The next time we have a hurricane the ROC will serve as our information hub, supplying deputies in

the field with real-time updates on weather conditions, power outages, road blockages and more.

But it's important to remember that public safety is a partnership. There are a lot of things you can do ahead of a storm that will make it easier for first responders to perform their hurricane-related duties. Create a disaster response kit of supplies that you could take with you if you are forced to evacuate or to use in your home if you are left without power for several days. Some recommended items to include are: non-perishable food, water, first-aid kit (include any prescription medication you may need), personal hygiene items and sanitation items, flashlights, extra batteries and a battery-operated radio.

It is also important to know how to secure your home ahead of the storm in the event of damaging winds, storm surge and flooding. Cover all of your windows with hurricane shutters or wood, ensure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters, secure all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down and brace internal doors.

If you take precautions and make preparations, we'll all make it through another hurricane season as safely as possible. [w](#)



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EVACUATING TO A SHELTER:

If an evacuation order has been issued, officials stress that you make every effort to leave the area. Evacuation options that may be better than going to a public shelter include:

- ➔ **Staying at your house if you are not in an area under an evacuation order, or if you do not live in a mobile or manufactured home.**
- ➔ **Going to the home of a friend or family member who lives outside the evacuation zones.**
- ➔ **Checking into a hotel or motel that's outside the evacuation zones.**
- ➔ **Traveling to a part of Florida not under an evacuation order.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SHELTERS

If you have no safe place to go, head for a shelter. Lists of local shelters are available on county websites, as well as in this guide. But keep in mind that some locations may not be open and operating if they are too close to the storm and its path. Follow WINK News, The Weather Authority, via website, television or radio for the latest information.

CURRENT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

Charlotte County

Not currently enforcing any COVID protocols.

Lee County

Select shelters will be open on an as-needed basis and the county will continue to work with the Florida Department of Health for any health-related issues that may exist at the time of a storm event. For updated information, residents are encouraged

to check the Lee Prepares app and leegov.com/publicsafety/emergency-management.

Collier County

Collier County Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Health-Collier will cooperatively assess COVID-19 concerns at the time of a pending hurricane event that may require public shelter. As is best practice in any crowd setting, especially in a shelter situation where air handling and fresh air exchange may be limited, it would be important to exercise good hygiene practice with frequent hand washing, covering your mouths and noses for coughing or sneezing, and maintaining safe distances when possible. Wearing a mask will be highly recommended. There are ample supplies of masks

and hand sanitizer for each of the evacuation shelters. More information will be forthcoming pending the local positivity rate and other factors at the time of the event.

DeSoto County

Not currently enforcing any COVID protocols.

Glades County

Glades County will be adhering to COVID-19 protective measures set by the American Red Cross during a storm event.

Hendry County

According to the Florida Department of Health in Hendry County, anyone may wear a mask at evacuation centers. Some who may be unvaccinated or medically vulnerable should wear





a mask; however, masks are optional. Social distancing and washing hands frequently is also recommended.

If you must go to a shelter, here are some things for you to consider:

➔ There is a shortage of evacuation shelters. If you have a safe place to evacuate to, plan to use that alternate location rather than a public shelter.

➔ Shelters are not hotels. They cannot provide any conveniences or luxuries. Bring your family's disaster supply kit to ensure proper provisions.

➔ Food and water should be available, but there may be a slight delay in initial service.

➔ Cots are not provided in general-population shelters.

➔ Weapons, smoking or alcoholic beverages ARE NOT allowed in shelters. In fact, showing up with weapons or liquor under any circumstances could get you arrested.

➔ Service animals are allowed at all shelters, but family pets are not allowed in public shelters. Pets are permitted only in shelters designated as pet-friendly. All service animals must have vaccination records and be caged. You must also provide their food, water, leash and litter box.

Items to bring to a shelter

- Drinking water
- Snacks or special foods
- Lawn chair
- Bed roll
- Pillows and blankets
- Books, magazines or

electronics with headphones

- Medications
- Change of clothing
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Important documents and ID (driver license or passport, proof of residence, etc.)

About Special Needs Shelters

A special needs shelter is a temporary emergency facility capable of providing care to residents whose medical condition may require the use of electrical equipment, oxygen or dialysis, as well as to individuals with physical or cognitive conditions requiring assistance from medical professionals. Those eligible to go to a special needs shelter should pre-register with Emergency Management. Here's what you should know about special needs shelters:

➔ You must register every year. Your application is good for one calendar year only.

➔ You must have a companion or caregiver accompany you during your time at the shelter. Typically, there are a limited number of staff on hand.

➔ You will receive a confirmation letter and instructions advising you that you're on the registry for a special needs shelter, and what to expect if those shelters are opening.

➔ Although special needs shelters provide more care than a general shelter, they do not provide the level of care found in a medical facility.

About Pet-Friendly Shelters

Prepare a pet supply kit that includes:

- Non-perishable food
- Water
- Medications
- Sturdy cage or carrier
- Collar and leash
- Updated vaccination records [w](#)



HURRICANE GUIDE 2022



POST-HURRICANE SAFETY CONCERNS

Even after a hurricane has passed, there still are lingering health and safety concerns. Here are some important points to remember.

HEALTH CARE

If they've sustained structural damage, medical facilities and hospitals may operate on a limited basis. A mobile health unit may be available to provide services to residents with cuts, scrapes, bruises and mild illnesses. Stay tuned to WINK News, The Weather Authority, for more medical information.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, tasteless and odorless poison that can be easily avoided. Do not burn charcoal, gas grills or gas-powered generators inside houses, garages, vehicles or tents. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include fatigue, weakness, chest pains, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headaches, confusion, lack of coordination and impaired vision.

FOOD SAFETY

Food that has not been refrigerated for two hours or more, has an unusual odor, color or texture and is no longer cool to the touch is unsafe. Throw it out.

DRINKING WATER

Never assume that public water in hurricane-affected areas is safe to drink. Use bottled water for cooking, eating and drinking until there are public announcements about water safety. If bottled water is not available, boil tap water vigorously for at least one minute.

HAND WASHING AND SANITIZATION

Wash hands often with soap and clean water. If you're unsure about the water source, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to decrease the risk of illness, infection or contact with disease-causing bacteria.



MOSQUITOS

Heavy rains and flooding lead to an increase in the mosquitos. Public health authorities recommend following the "five D's of prevention" to avoid mosquito bites.

- **Dusk and Dawn**—avoid the outdoors from sunset to sunrise.
- **Dress**—wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks.
- **DEET**—use repellents with DEET, usually 30 percent solutions. Do not use DEET on children younger than 2 months old.
- **Drainage**—check your home and neighborhood, and dump standing water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.



By Larry Antonucci, M.D., MBA
Lee Health President & CEO

HEALTHY PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Southwest Florida hasn't suffered a devastating blow from a hurricane since Hurricane Irma in 2017, but our region is at risk every hurricane season. Our hospitals have weathered numerous hurricanes and tropical storms, and every storm has helped prepare us to care for our community when severe weather strikes.

It is important to not become complacent after a few quiet storm seasons in a row, and there are things that we can begin doing now to ensure health and safety before, during and after a hurricane makes landfall. These early preparation steps could save your life during times when heavy wind and rain makes it impossible for first responders to get to you.

Before hurricane season starts, you should check your first aid kit to make sure it is fully stocked. This includes having plenty of sunscreen and insect repellent. Since we live in a subtropical climate, our homes will become hot and muggy in the event of prolonged power outages. Remember to test flashlights and make sure you have plenty of

batteries. These are items that can keep you safe and will be in short supply as a storm nears.

It is also important to make sure all of your prescriptions and over-the-counter medications are filled and up-to-date. Pharmacies will close as evacuation orders are issued, but as storms approach, Florida law allows patients to refill prescriptions early to ensure they have enough medicine to make it through the heavy weather. Filling your prescriptions early could save your life and alleviate the stress of navigating potentially dangerous roads.

Every family should have an evacuation plan ready. If you're staying in the area and need to leave your home, plan ahead of time and map the best route to your local shelter. It is important to remember that hospitals are not hurricane shelters. In Lee County, if you have special medical needs you must pre-register with the Lee County Emergency Operations Center, which will assign you to a special needs shelter. Other counties have similar procedures. Check with yours so you are prepared.

Surviving a hurricane is a community effort, and health care providers and hospitals are here to support first responders and care for patients in the aftermath of the storm. We hope to not endure another Irma or Charley, but we must stay vigilant and prepare for when the next big one hits. Preparation will help keep you safe during the storm, and you can rest easy knowing we have a community of caring people who will come together in the aftermath to serve those in need. [w](#)





THE STORM IS OVER

Even after a storm has passed, many dangers still exist. During this clean-up-and-repair period, your focus should naturally be on keeping you, and those around you, safe, as well as insuring that your family, friends, neighbors and emergency workers also remain safe. If you find yourself in a potentially risky situation during this time, always err on the side of caution.

In the aftermath of a hurricane, any needed relief supplies and other types of aid will typically arrive as quickly as possible. Often, special disaster teams will be sent to damage scenes by insurance companies, as well as by the state and federal governments along with a host of private organizations.

It's essential to understand, however, that it could take several days for any help to arrive at disaster sites. Not only does it take time to gather and load the unique supplies that this area may require, but roadways may be blocked by debris and rendered unsafe for travel. This is why it's so very important to make sure you have enough ice, water and food to sustain you and your family for at least three days.

What to Expect

Hurricanes are traumatic experiences—both physically and emotionally. The recovery process can be the hardest part of all.

Imagine the scene after a particularly strong storm. There may be debris scattered across roads, parking lots and yards. The nice, neat neighborhoods that existed prior to the hurricane might now be covered with fallen trees and limbs, gutters and other wreckage. Homes and businesses might be damaged, or even destroyed. There may be no water, sewer, electrical or telephone service and no air conditioning or refrigeration. Roadways could be blocked for days or even weeks.

Everyone one is affected in some way by a hurricane. Having to return to your home or business, assess damage and perform clean up can be very difficult tasks. If you're calm, patient and understanding, you can help ensure that this time is safe and productive for everyone.

Here are some post-storm procedures and considerations—as well as some important information on disaster assistance—to keep in mind during any recovery.

First Things First

- Return home only after authorities say it is safe to do so. Follow any specific re-entry procedures that may have been put in place. Stay tuned to WINK News, The Weather Authority, and winknews.com for recovery information.

- Try to help injured or trapped persons as best you can. But do not move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help. Give first aid where appropriate.

- Avoid loose or dangling power lines. Report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department.

- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Allow emergency crews to remove fallen power lines and other hazardous debris.

- Enter your home with caution. Open doors and windows to ventilate or dry your home. Beware of snakes, insects and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.

- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve and if you can, call the gas company. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on only by a professional.

- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.

- Check for sewage and water line damage. If you sus-

Hurricane Damage?

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HURRICANE GUIDE 2022

pect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid tap water.

- Keep your refrigerator closed as much as possible to protect food from spoiling. Discard any spoiled foods.

- Take pictures of any damage to your house and its contents for insurance claims. Save receipts—including those for temporary lodging and food—for reimbursement. Keep records of not only all receipts, but also of cancelled checks, bills and other documents received for repair work or temporary lodging.

WHAT THE STORM LEAVES BEHIND

Storm Debris

Following a hurricane, it will become necessary to separate your curb-side trash. Debris from the clean-up and recovery will be accepted by priority.

- As soon as roads are cleared, raw garbage such as animal, fruit or vegetable waste will be collected.

- The second priority will be normal household garbage including food waste.

- The third priority is yard waste. Place trees, branches and the like in piles that can be easily managed by collection personnel.

- And finally, the last priority will be construction debris such as lumber, roofing, concrete and similar materials.

- Your county may accept food waste at the local waste management facility. Contact the facility for drop-off hours.

- Do not block your road with garbage.

- Storm Debris Removal Information:

- **Charlotte: (941) 575-3600**

- **Collier: (239) 252-2380**

- **DeSoto: (863) 993-4831**

- **Glades: (863) 946-6020**

- **Hendry: (863) 675-5222**

- **Unincorporated Lee: (239) 533-8000**

CLEANING UP AROUND AND ABOUT THE HOUSE

Household Priorities

- Pump or bail water out of the house as soon as possible.

- Open the windows to let the house air out and give the walls and floors a chance to dry.

- Shovel mud out before it can dry, then scrub floors and walls with a brush and mild soap and water.

- Make sure all appliances are unplugged as a general safety precaution.

Stoves and Ovens

- Clean the outside with a grease cutter, then with detergent and water.

- Clean the inside with conventional oven cleaner.

Refrigerators and Freezers

- To remove odors, wash the inside and the plastic door gasket with detergent and water.

- Rinse with a cloth and clear water. Wipe dry.

Washers and Dryers

- Pour a disinfectant into the empty washer. Run a 15-minute cycle using the hot water setting.

- Unplug the dryer and wipe the drum and dryer door with a cloth dipped in disinfectant solution.

- Rinse with a cloth dipped in clear water.

- Leave the dryer door open

until all parts are dry, preferably overnight.

- Leave the dishwasher door open until all parts are dry.

Books and Papers

- Place books on end with leaves separated. When they are partially dry, pile and press books. Alternate drying and pressing until thoroughly dry.

- If books and papers are very damp, sprinkle some corn starch between the pages to absorb moisture. Leave on for several hours, then brush off.

- When papers and books are almost dry, try using an electric iron set on low heat to flatten the pages.

- Separate the pages to prevent odors.

- When books are completely dry, close them and clamp them closed to help them retain their shape.

- Photocopy important papers because they may quickly disintegrate, even if they have dried out.

Swimming Pools

- Remove as much debris by hand as possible and lower the water level to normal.

- Add a chlorinator, as in the form of the 10 percent hypochlorite granules commonly known as shock.

- Super chlorinate again and clean the filter frequently until the pool is back to normal.

- Have the gas company reconnect the heater line. If your pool needs structural repairs, choose a contractor carefully.

Looting

With walls and more blown away—and since many homes belong to snowbirds summering up north—residences become easy targets. But, it's important to note that incidences of crime are statistically lower after a disaster. [w](#)

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE! IS YOUR ROOF READY?

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DANGERS OF ELECTRICITY

Following a hurricane, electrical equipment, downed power lines and household wiring can all pose potential hazards if not dealt with properly. Here's how to safely contend with such problems.

- ➔ If your electrical equipment is wet or near water, switch off the main breaker. If you must enter water to reach the main switch, call an electrician to turn it off.

- ➔ Do not turn electrical equipment back on until it has been professionally inspected.

- ➔ Stay clear of downed power lines—they may still be energized and dangerous. Beware of water contacting downed lines.

- ➔ Do not trim trees or remove debris near downed power lines.

- ➔ If you must remove debris

that's in, or near, your home, do not pile it under, or near, electrical lines or equipment.

- ➔ If appliances were on when power was lost, make sure all appliances are turned off. If left on, they could pose fire hazards.

- ➔ Refrain from using candles. Use a flashlight instead.

- ➔ If you spot a downed power line, report it to the utility company. Otherwise keep utility telephone lines clear for emergency calls.

HOW IS POWER RESTORED AFTER A STORM?

- ➔ After a storm, your electric provider quickly begins to assess the damage to the electric system.

- ➔ Your electric provider then begins restoring power to essential services such as hospitals, traffic

signals, shelters, communication centers and law enforcement.

- ➔ Next, power is restored to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time.

- ➔ Finally, individual services are restored, or those that need reconnection after repairs to damaged electrical systems.

WHAT IF MY NEIGHBOR HAS POWER BUT I DON'T?

First, check all circuit breakers by resetting them. If your breakers aren't the problem, then:

- ➔ You may be on another power feeder line or power transformer.

- ➔ The transformer for your location may be damaged. These are the last system devices to be repaired while resources are focused on restoring the greatest number of customers first.

- ➔ Your weather head conduit (the pipe and wire extending above your roof) is damaged or bent. An electrician must repair it and it must be inspected before restoring power.

- ➔ You own your own underground service and it may be damaged. If so, you must have it repaired by an electrician and inspected before power can be restored.

- ➔ If none of this is the case, and your neighbor's power is on while yours is still out, call your utility.

ABOUT ELECTRONICS

- ➔ Never open an electronic appliance to dry it inside.

- ➔ Unplug items and let them dry thoroughly. Don't assume that because the outside is dry, the inside has dried. Continue drying for a few more days.

- ➔ Place the equipment in the sun but monitor it closely. Bright sunlight can damage LCD displays.

- ➔ If you see smoke or hear crackling sounds, unplug it immediately.

- ➔ If the power indicator lights come on, leave the equipment on for about 10 minutes, then turn it off for about 30 minutes. Repeat, leaving the appliance on for an extra five minutes each try. [w](#)

AFTER A MAJOR EVENT... HERE'S HOW THE RESTORATION PROCESS WORKS



1. The first step in our restoration plan is damage assessment, which includes physical inspection of our facilities. Once damage assessments have been made, LCEC begins repairs.



2. Next, we repair main circuits, and restore critical facilities such as hospitals, police and fire stations.



3. The next goal is to repair lines to get the greatest number of customers on as soon as possible.

4. At last, LCEC begins restoring power to those small pockets or individuals still without power.





AREA SHELTERS AND REFUGES OF LAST RESORT



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center

☎ (941) 833-4000

Charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/public-safety/emergency-management/

PLEASE NOTE:

Do not depend on a particular shelter or refuge. Sites may, or may not, be opened depending on the size of the storm and the predicted landfall area.

*All Charlotte County shelters are pet-friendly.

PORT CHARLOTTE

- ➔ Harold Ave. Regional Park Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Ave.
- ➔ Kingsway Elementary School, 23300 Quasar Blvd.
- ➔ Liberty Elementary School, 370 Atwater St.
- ➔ Neil Armstrong Elementary, 22100 Breezeswept Ave.

COLLIER COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center

☎ (239) 252-3600

Collier.gov/net/em

PLEASE NOTE:

Listen to local radio, television and visit Colliercountyfl.gov/

government/county-manager-operations/divisions/emergency-management/shelter-info for additional shelter openings.

*Pets are accepted at all of the below elementary and middle schools.

IMMOKALEE

- ➔ Immokalee High School, 701 Immokalee Drive
- ➔ Immokalee Middle School, 401 N. Ninth St.

NAPLES

- ➔ Corkscrew Middle School, 1165 Oil Well Road (County Road 858)
- ➔ Cypress Palm Middle School, 4255 18th Ave.
- ➔ Golden Gate High School, 2925 Titan Way
- ➔ Golden Gate Middle School, 2701 48th Terrace S.W.
- ➔ Gulf Coast High School, 7878 Shark Way
- ➔ Lely High School, 1 Lely High School Blvd.
- ➔ Oakridge Middle School, 14975 Collier Blvd.
- ➔ Palmetto Ridge High School, 1655 Victory Lane—Special Needs Only * and Pet-Friendly
- ➔ Sabal Palm Elementary School,

4095 18th Ave. N.E.—County Staff; No General Public; Pet-Friendly

DESOTO COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center

☎ (863) 993-4831

Desotobocc.com

ARCADIA

- ➔ Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 N.E. Roan St.—Pet Friendly with proof of vaccination
- ➔ South Florida State College, DeSoto campus, 600 W. College Drive – Pre-Approved Special Needs Only. Apply at: Desotobocc.com/news_dept/emergency_management/special-needs-shelter-information-and-registration

GLADES COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center

☎ (863) 946-6020

Myglades.com/departments/public_safety/emergency_management/index.php

PLEASE NOTE:

Not all shelters will be open in the event of an emergency.



BUCKHEAD RIDGE

- ➔ Buckhead Ridge VFW, 29012 E. State Road 78

LAKEPORT

- ➔ Maple Grove Baptist Church, 12777 State Road 78

MOORE HAVEN

- ➔ Moore Haven Middle/High School, 700 Terrier Pride Road—Moore Haven High is Pet-Friendly
- ➔ Ortona Community Center, 2130 Ortona Locks Rd.

MUSE

- ➔ Muse Community Center, 3897 Loblolly Bay Road
- ➔ West Glades Elementary, 2586 State Highway 731—Special Needs and Pet-Friendly

HENDRY COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center
 ☎ (863) 674-5400
Hendryfla.net/emergency_management.php

PLEASE NOTE:

The locations listed below are the county's primary shelters. Secondary storm shelters will be opened only if needed.

CLEWISTON

- ➔ Clewiston High School, 1501 S. Francisco St.
- ➔ Pioneer Community Center, 910 Panama Ave.

LABELLE

- ➔ Labelle Middle School, 8000 E. Cowboy Way
- ➔ West Glades School, 2586 S. County Road 731 SW—Special Needs Only. Must Pre-Register.

LEE COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center
 ☎ (239) 533-0622
Leeeoc.com

PLEASE NOTE:

Not all shelters will be open in the event of an emergency.

BONITA SPRINGS

- ➔ Bonita Springs YMCA, 27200 Kent Road

CAPE CORAL

- ➔ Island Coast High School, 2125 De Navarra Parkway

ESTERO

- ➔ Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.
- ➔ Hertz Arena, 11000 Everblades Parkway



FORT MYERS

- ➔ Dunbar High School, 3800 Edison Ave.
- ➔ Gateway High School, 13820 Griffin Drive
- ➔ S. Fort Myers High School, 14020 Plantation Road
- ➔ Treeline Elementary School, 10900 Treeline Ave.

LEHIGH ACRES

- ➔ E. Lee County High School, 715 Thomas Sherwin Ave.
- ➔ Harns Marsh Elementary School, 1800 Unice Ave. N.
- ➔ Harns Marsh Middle School, 1820 Unice Ave. N.
- ➔ Mirror Lakes Elementary School, 525 Charwood Ave. S.
- ➔ Tortuga Preserve Elementary, 33981, 1711 Gunnery Road
- ➔ Varsity Lakes Middle School, 801 Gunnery Road
- ➔ Veterans Park Recreation Center, 55 Homestead Road S.

NORTH FORT MYERS

- ➔ N. Fort Myers Academy of the Arts, 1856 Arts Way
- ➔ N. Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 N. Recreation Park Way

SAN CARLOS PARK

- ➔ Alico Arena, 12181 FGCU Lake Parkway E.

TICE

- ➔ Manatee Elementary School, 5301 Tice St.
- ➔ Oak Hammock Middle School, 5321 Tice St. [w](#)



Kingway Elementary School



Harold Ave. Regional Park Recreation Center



Neil Armstrong Elementary School



Liberty Elementary School

PUNTA GORDA

PORT CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Island Coast High School



N. Fort Myers Recreation Center



N. Fort Myers Academy of the Arts



Manatee Elementary School



Oak Hammock Middle School



Dunbar High School



Varsity Lake Middle School



Tortuga Preserve Elementary



Harns Marsh Middle School



FORT MYERS

LEE COUNTY

Treeline Elementary School



Gateway High School



S. Fort Myers High School



Alico Arena



Hertz Arena



Estero Recreation Center



Harns Marsh Elementary School



Veterans Park Recreation Center



Mirror Lake Elementary School



E. Lee County High School



LEHIGH ACRES

SANIBEL



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AREA SHELTERS AND REFUGES OF LAST RESORT

Do not depend on a particular shelter or refuge being open during a hurricane. Sites may, or may not, be opened depending on the size of the storm and the predicted landfall area. There often is a shortage of evacuation shelters. If you have a safe place to evacuate to, plan to use that alternate location rather than a public shelter. Shelters are not hotels. They cannot provide any conveniences or luxuries. Bring your family's disaster supply kit to ensure proper provisions. [w](#)



BONITA SPRINGS

 Bonita Springs
YMCA

IMMOKALEE

 Immokalee
High School

 Immokalee
Middle School

 Gulf Coast
High School

 Oakridge
Middle School

 Corkscrew
Middle School

 Palmetto Ridge
High School

 Cypress Palm
Middle School

 Sabal Palm
Elementary School

 Golden Gate
Middle School

 Golden Gate
High School

NAPLES

 Lely High School

COLLIER COUNTY



IMPORTANT AREA PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Emergency Operations Centers

- ☛ **Lee:** (239) 533-0622
- ☛ **Collier:** (239) 252-3600
- ☛ **Charlotte:** (941) 833-4000
- ☛ **DeSoto:** (863) 993-4831
- ☛ **Glades:** (863) 946-6020
- ☛ **Hendry:** (863) 674-5400

Hotlines

- ☛ Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Assistance/Registration:
 - ☛ **(800) 621-3362,**
 - TTY: **(800) 462-7585**
- ☛ United States Small Business Administration:
 - ☛ **(800) 659-2955,**
 - TTY: **7-1-1**
- ☛ National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline:
 - ☛ **(866) 720-5721**
- ☛ Florida Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General Hotline:
 - ☛ **(800) 323-8603**
- ☛ State of Florida Emergency Info 24-Hour Hotline:
 - ☛ **(800) 342-3557**
- ☛ Safe & Wellness Helpline (to check on those evacuated to a shelter):
 - ☛ **(844) 221-4160**
- ☛ Florida Department of Financial Services Disaster Assistance Helpline:
 - ☛ **(877) 693-5236 or**
 - ☛ **(850) 413-3089**
- ☛ Red Cross Food, Shelter and Financial Assistance:
 - ☛ **(866) 438-4636**
- ☛ Department of Children and Families Information for Southwest Florida:

- ☛ **(813) 558-5500**
- ☛ Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida Elder Helpline:
 - ☛ **(800) 963-5337**
- ☛ Florida Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline:
 - ☛ **(866) 966-7226**
- ☛ Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Unlicensed Activities Hotline:
 - ☛ **(866) 532-1440**
- ☛ Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (to verify contractor licenses):
 - ☛ **(850) 487-1395**
- ☛ Agricultural and Consumer Services:
 - ☛ **(800) 435-7352**
- ☛ Domestic Animal Services:
 - ☛ **(239) 533-7387**—Lee
 - ☛ **(239) 252-7387**—Collier

Online Resources

- ☛ **nhc.noaa.gov:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration experts at the National Hurricane Center are leading authorities on Atlantic Basin hurricanes and tropical storms.
- ☛ **floridadisaster.org:** This is the state's Emergency Operations Center's website for up-to-date, statewide information, news alerts and contact information about storms, evacuations, storm surge and shelter information.

- ☛ **hotels.petswelcome.com** for pet friendly lodging in Florida.

Contractor Information

- ☛ Division of Workers' Compensation:
 - ☛ **(800) 342-1741**
- ☛ Florida Association of Electrical Contractors:
 - ☛ **(407) 260-1511**
- ☛ Florida Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association:
 - ☛ **(407) 260-1313**
- ☛ Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida:
 - ☛ **(813) 879-8064**

American Red Cross Offices

- ☛ Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands and Lee:
 - ☛ **(239) 596-6868** or **redcross.org/southflorida**
- ☛ Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties:
 - ☛ **(941) 379-9300** or **redcross.org/local/florida/central-florida/about-us/locations/southwest-florida.html**

Power Companies

- ☛ FPL:
 - ☛ **(800) 468-8243**
- ☛ Lee County Electric Cooperative:
 - ☛ **(800) 599-2356**
- ☛ Glades Electric Co-Op:
 - ☛ **(863) 946-6200**

After a Disaster

- ☛ You can donate food, water and money: Harry Chapin Food Bank, 3760 Fowler St., Fort Myers.

- ☛ **(239) 334-7007** or **harrychapinfoodbank.org.**
- ☛ Salvation Army Donation Hotline:
 - ☛ **(800) 725-2769**
- ☛ American Red Cross:
 - ☛ **(800) 435-7669**

Agency Help

- ☛ **fema.gov:** This is the Federal Emergency Management Agency website. It offers detailed instructions to prepare for natural disasters, including action plans, safe rooms and the National Flood Insurance Program.
- ☛ **redcross.org:** The American Red Cross keeps residents informed about response and recovery operations.
- ☛ **myfloridacfo.com:** In the event of a storm, the Florida Department of Financial Services can assist with banking and insurance concerns.

- ☛ **flash.org:** The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, dedicated to promoting disaster safety and property loss mitigation.
- ☛ **fmo.org:** The Federation of Manufactured Home Owners is a consumer-advocacy group that promotes hurricane safety. www.fmo.org



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When a hurricane hits, you may have to evacuate your home, but you can always take WINK News, the Weather Authority, with you, wherever you go. Even if you can't watch TV, you can still stay informed with the sort of up-to-the-minute storm coverage Southwest Florida relies on from WINK News, The Weather Authority.

Reports from WINK News Chief Meteorologist Matt Devitt and the entire Weather Authority team, are available over radio, online or on your smartphone. You can follow storm coverage on 96.9 WINK-FM, 97.7-FM Latino and watch live reports at WINKnews.com or on the WINK News app.

Whenever severe weather strikes, you can always trust WINK News, The Weather Authority, to keep you informed with the latest, most accurate updates available anywhere, anytime and anyplace. w

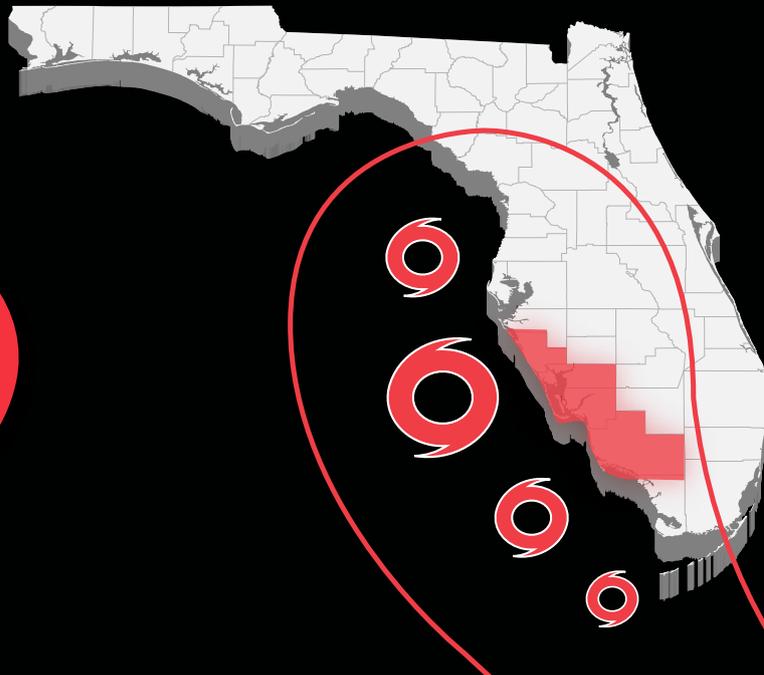
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Prepare for the when.

Hurricane Readiness Guide

Now is the time to prepare.

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30.
Don't be caught off guard!

- *Survey what you have at home, and restock any items necessary for evacuation or two weeks of sheltering.*
- *Plan with your family.*
- *Get organized and ready for an emergency.*
- *Stay informed so you'll know when a storm is coming.*

Be sure to visit **publix.com/storm**.

You'll find helpful checklists for emergency supplies and nonperishable foods, links to expert resources, and more.

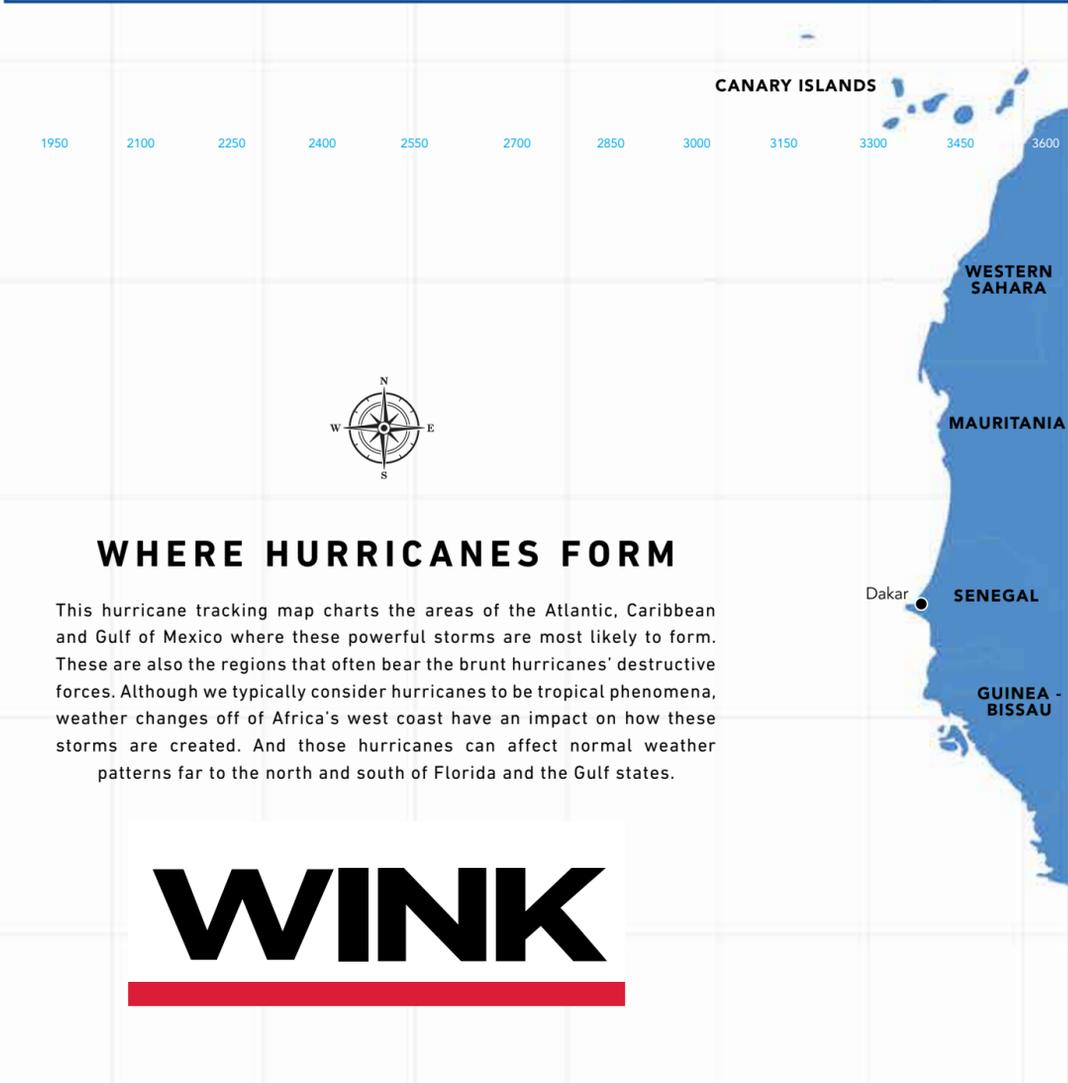


100°W 95°W 90°W 85°W 80°W 75°W 70°W 65°W 60°W

90°W 85°W 80°W

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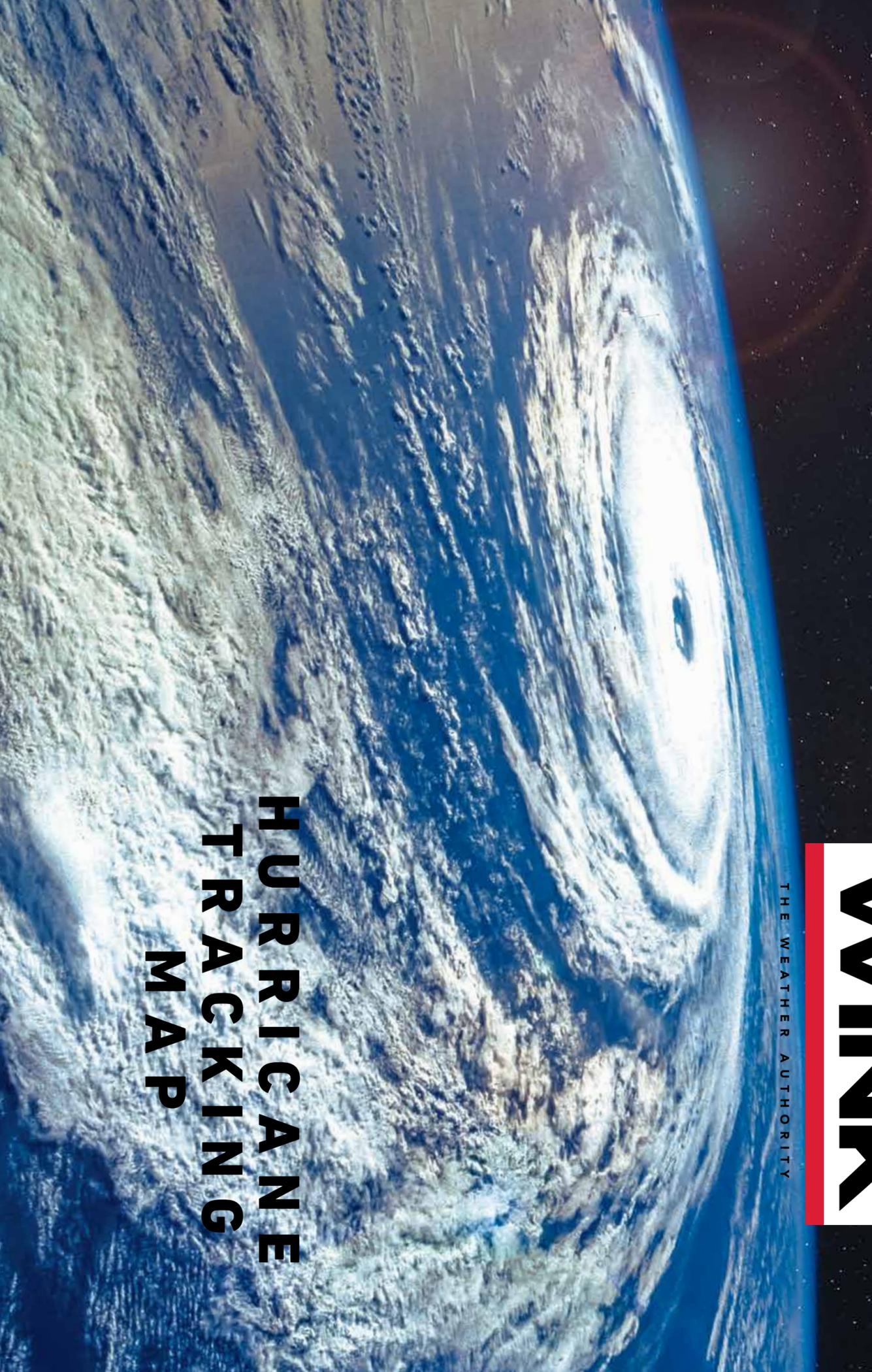
WHERE HURRICANES FORM

This hurricane tracking map charts the areas of the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico where these powerful storms are most likely to form. These are also the regions that often bear the brunt hurricanes' destructive forces. Although we typically consider hurricanes to be tropical phenomena, weather changes off of Africa's west coast have an impact on how these storms are created. And those hurricanes can affect normal weather patterns far to the north and south of Florida and the Gulf states.



100°W 95°W 90°W 85°W 80°W 75°W 70°W 65°W 60°W 55°W 50°W 45°W 40°W 35°W 30°W 25°W 20°W 15°W

HURRICANE TRACKING MAP

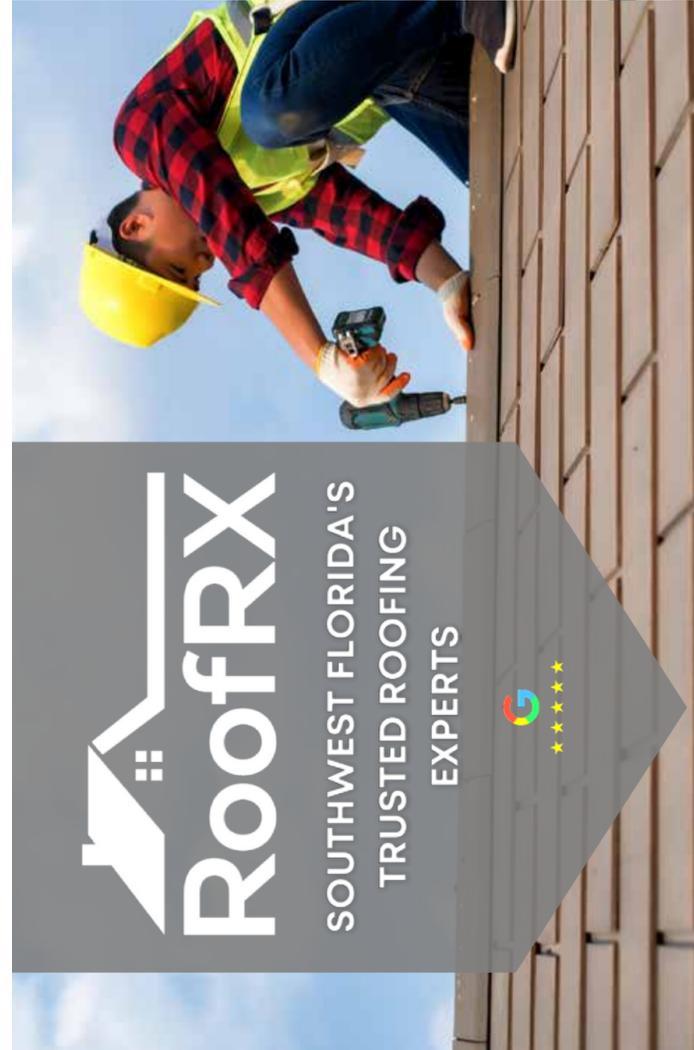


THE WEATHER AUTHORITY

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