THE LEON COUNTY 2022 DISASTER SURVIVAL GUIDE

wfsu PUBLIC MEDIA

88.9 For emergency updates on the radio. In addition, iHeartMedia stations will provide emergency updates.

#HURRICANESTRONG™

Leon County is the nation's first **#HurricaneStrong** community — find more information inside

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Hi there! I'm Billy the Bucket, Leon County's official disaster preparedness mascot. Throughout the Disaster Survival Guide, you'll see my best hurricane prep tips, which are all watertight - just like me! Visit LeonCountyFL.gov/BillyBucket to request information about a school visit and for more resources for the whole family, including my coloring book.

#HURRICANESTRONG™

Leon County is proud to be the nation's first #HurricaneStrong community

FLASH® Strengthening Homes & Safeguarding Families

FEMA

Disaster Survival Guide produced by:

Leon County Government

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Emergency Information Portal
LeonCountyFL.gov/ei

Citizens Connect Mobile App
Available for Apple and Android devices

Emergency Alerts
LeonCountyFL.gov/Alerts

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LeonCountyFL.gov

A Prepared Community is a Resilient Community

VINCENT S. LONG
County Administrator

While our community was spared from any detrimental weather-based disasters in 2021, Leon County still remained agile and innovative in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our County teams continued to build community-wide resilience while answering the challenges of COVID testing, emergency medical care, vaccine rollouts, and other public health initiatives. And throughout all of this, the County successfully leveraged over $138 million in federal funding to protect the lives of livelihoods of our families, businesses, nonprofit partners, and healthcare organizations.

Now, we bring that continued focused into the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, which by all accounts will be another busy period. With our lead role in emergency response, caring for the lives and livelihoods of our community is nothing new to the County. That same focus remains as we enter the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. At the County, we know firsthand the importance of resilience in the face of disaster. The upcoming hurricane season may bring up to 19 named storms, nine hurricanes, and four major hurricanes. As we have learned from Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Irma (2017), Michael (2018), and Elsa (2021), it only takes one storm to bring lasting damage and threaten lives and property in our community.

That's why every year the County brings you the Disaster Survival Guide. In the pages ahead you will find the information to keep you and your family safe and resilient. Prepared alongside our community's public safety and healthcare experts, the guide is a roadmap to evacuation routes, how to get and use sandbags, reviewing your insurance policies for disaster coverage, and so much more. But most of what you will read about must be done before a storm is heading our way. Now is the time to plan and prepare and the guide will show you how. At Leon County Government, we focus on extracting every possible lesson from disaster.

After every disaster, the County performs an extensive analysis of our emergency operations through a comprehensive after-action report. From past hurricanes, those after-action reports have led to nearly 300 findings and more than 200 recommendations to make us even more prepared and resilient for the next emergency. Our focus on learning from disasters led FEMA and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes to name Leon County the nation's first #HurricaneStrong community in 2018. The designation also recognizes the hard work of our community to be more disaster resilient, and of our Board of County Commissioners for their leadership in building resilience and protecting public safety.

So, while our County will continue to face challenges surrounding disasters and public health, we are committed to learning, improving, and leveraging our partnerships to meet the needs of our citizens. As a citizen in our special community, do your part by reading this guide closely, reviewing your plans, and staying informed and prepared for the 2022 hurricane season!

KEVIN PETERS
Director
Leon County
Emergency
Management

Each year, the County's Disaster Survival Guide gives you the critical information you need to be prepared before, during, and after a disaster. At Leon County, we say "Prepare. Act. Recover" because preparing for hurricane season before a storm approaches is the best way to help your family now. While the County and its many local, state, and federal partners continue to prepare and plan for disasters year-round, it's now more important than ever to stay prepared and informed for the upcoming 2022 Atlantic hurricane season.

The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be another active season. Fortunately, we have a resilient community filled with local officials, neighborhood leaders and community partners who work together during times of disaster to keep us safe, provide critical information and answer our community's needs.

As Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Irma (2017), Michael (2018) and Elsa (2021) have taught us, every emergency exposes different vulnerabilities, tests a community's partnerships differently and reveals opportunities for improvement in different ways. We have also seen how our community is especially vulnerable to weather-based disasters. Therefore, Leon County remains committed to making our strong response to emergencies even stronger for the next disaster.

You will see Leon County's commitment to #HurricaneStrong reflected throughout the 2022 Disaster Survival Guide. This document continues our County's commitment to listening, planning and building upon our past successes. From information on homeowner's insurance to what you need to have in your disaster kit, this guide provides all you need to know to be prepared for whatever disaster may come your way.

The 2022 Disaster Survival Guide is a critical part of your disaster planning. Take it with you when you travel and give copies to your family, friends and neighbors. The guide is divided into several sections that focus on storm readiness, featuring important information to help you prepare, act and recover.

Before, during and after a disaster, keep up-to-date with the most recent updates visit www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei. If you need help planning and preparing, do not hesitate to contact Leon County Emergency Management at (850) 606-3700.

PREPARE PLAN NOW BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

Plan now. When disaster strikes, it is too late to prepare. This section will help you plan to keep you and your family safe during disasters. Be prepared by having a plan and disaster bucket for your family.

Build Your Bucket

Leon County encourages citizens to put disaster supplies in a waterproof and durable five-gallon bucket. Keep these essential items in a bucket near an exit door in your home or in your vehicle.

- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Hand crank emergency radio
- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Change of clothing
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Dust masks for each person
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Games and toys
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Keys (home and car)
- ☐ Large plastic trash bags
- ☐ Local map
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Non-perishable food
- ☐ Permanent marker
- ☐ Pet supplies
- ☐ Photos of family members and pets
- ☐ Pocket knife
- ☐ Portable phone charger
- ☐ Ponchos
- ☐ Rope/paracord
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Special family needs (diapers, feminine hygiene items, etc.)
- ☐ Tarp
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Waterproof bag with family documents, including driver's license, insurance information, out-of-area contact, medical information
- ☐ Whistle

Power up your preparedness by making sure you have batteries and these other essential items in your disaster bucket!

2022 North Atlantic Hurricane Names

Alex	Hermine	Owen
Bonnie	Ian	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tobias
Fiona	Martin	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

Watch or Warning?

Knowing the difference between a watch and warning can help keep you safe. Whether a watch or warning, listen closely to instructions from local officials using a TV, radio, cell phone or other communication device.

Tropical Storm Watch:

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 of 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning:

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within the specified area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Watch:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Tornado Watch:

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Tornado Warning:

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Proceed to a safe room immediately.

Flood Watch:

A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Flood Warning:

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flash Flood Warning:

A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take minutes or hours to develop.

Insurance

5 Questions to Ask About Your Policy

1. What is my standard deductible?
2. What is my hurricane deductible?
3. Do I need flood insurance?
4. Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?
5. Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

Not all insurance policies are created equal. Check your policy or talk to your agent to make sure you have sufficient coverage and to determine if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on premiums. Learn more about insurance policies from the Insurance Information Institute at iii.org.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from rising flood waters. If you own a home in a flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to carry a flood policy. Even if you don't live in a flood zone, consider the additional coverage. Anywhere it rains, it can flood. To learn more about flood protection, visit LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection.

Don't wait until it is too late to buy a flood insurance policy. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period before your policy goes into effect.

Renters: Questions to Ask

Do I know my rental property's risk of flood or storm surge? Do I know my evacuation zone?

Do I need flood insurance and renter's insurance to cover damage to my personal property?

Will my landlord protect the windows in a storm? If not, where would I go during a hurricane?

Insurance Helpline

The Florida Department of Financial Services' toll-free Insurance Consumer Helpline is available year-around to assist Florida's insurance consumers. Insurance Specialists are available to answer questions or concerns regarding insurance coverage and advocate on a consumer's behalf to resolve a dispute with an insurance company. Consumers may contact an Insurance Specialist at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236) toll-free, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For additional information on preparing for a natural disaster, visit the Department of Financial Services' website at MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers and click Disaster Preparedness.

Sandbags

Sandbags can redirect stormwater and debris flows away from homes and other structures if they are correctly filled, placed and maintained. However, sandbags will not seal out water and residents should not rely on sandbags to save their home from major flooding, especially fast moving hurricane storm surge flooding. Consider the severity of flood conditions before deciding whether sandbags would provide effective protection.

Filling

- Fill sandbags one-half full.
- Fold the top of sandbag down and rest the bag on its folded top.

Placing

- Take care in stacking sandbags.
- Limit placement to three layers unless you have a building or wall to use as a backing.
- Tamp each sandbag into place, completing each layer before starting the next layer.
- Clear a path between buildings for debris flow.
- Lay a plastic sheet in between the building and the bags to control the flow and prevent water from seeping through openings, like sliding glass doors.

Limitations

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed to continued wetting and drying.
- Sandbags are for small water flow protection – up to two feet. Protection from more significant water flow requires a more permanent flood prevention system.
- Wet sandbags are very heavy. Use caution when lifting to avoid injury.

Sandbags are made available by Leon County and the City of Tallahassee for heavy rain. Leon County sandbags are limited to 15 bags per household and citizens should bring shovels to fill bags. County locations will be staffed. Sites will remain open until officials determine sandbags are no longer needed. Updates about sandbag availability will be provided during an emergency at LeonCountyFL.gov/ei.

ACT STAY OR GO?

Making the Decision

When a hurricane is approaching, will you stay in Leon County or drive miles away to another location? Evacuating to a safe shelter locally or in a neighboring county has advantages; you will avoid traffic jams and highways crowded with vehicles from other counties joining the evacuation. Even if you leave the area, the storm could shift and still put you in harm's way. The next section will guide you through the steps you should take as a storm is approaching and the choices you'll have to make.

Understanding the Forecast

5-day Cone Actions

When the Big Bend area is in the 5-day cone, it's time to implement your plan and preparations. A hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days.

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your disaster bucket and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you or a family member have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and, if needed, you are registered for a special needs shelter. See page 8 for more information.

3-day Cone Actions

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast will increase and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for children, seniors, and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

Hurricane Watch Actions

(48 hours ahead)

- Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you plan to travel or be transported to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

Hurricane Warning Actions

(36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

When a Hurricane Strikes

- Prepare for the storm before the arrival of tropical force winds. When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge and crashing waves can damage buildings, trees, cars, and other infrastructure.

Hurricanes Have Two Main Parts:

1. The eye of the hurricane is an area of nearly calm winds in the center of the storm where the lowest pressure resides. The eye of a hurricane averages about 20 miles in diameter and often has very few clouds.
2. The second part is the wall of very tall clouds that surrounds the relatively calm eye. This region, known as the eye wall, is where the hurricane's strongest winds and heaviest rain occur.

Did you know that 40% of all hurricanes in the United States hit Florida? That's why it's especially important for us to have a disaster plan.

Evacuation Order

- If you're being transported to a public shelter, be ready to leave when contacted.
- Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order — does it include your area, or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave immediately to avoid traffic jams.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times.
- If you must evacuate and do not have access to transportation due to age,

disability, or other special needs, you should register now with Leon County Emergency Management. See next page for more information.

Plan To Stay If ...

- You live in a structure that was built after 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- You do not live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- Your home is not vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You have reduced the threat of falling trees by trimming and/or removing dead, dying or diseased trees.
- You have mitigated the effects of severe winds on your home by installing hurricane shutters on windows and bracing your garage door.
- You have prepared a multi-hazard Disaster Response Plan for yourself, your family, and your pets.
- You have prepared a disaster bucket that includes cash, a supply of food, water and a 1-month supply of prescription medicines.
- You have identified a Safe Room within your home.

Plan To Go If ...

- An evacuation order has been issued.
- You live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- You live in a structure that was built prior to 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- Your home is vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You can leave early enough to meet an estimated regional clearance time of 24 hours. (It is very dangerous to be on the highway during a storm.)

Mobile Homes Are Not Safe Havens

A Category 1 hurricane like Hermine, with winds of 74 to 95 mph, can rip apart a mobile home. The National Hurricane Center reports that no mobile home or manufactured home — no matter how new it is — can be a safe shelter from hurricane force winds. Also, tornadoes can spin off from hurricanes. Straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from high winds associated with a hurricane. In 1992, 97% of all manufactured homes in Hurricane Andrew's path in Dade County were destroyed, compared to 11% of single-family, non-manufactured homes. If a hurricane threatens Leon County, all mobile and manufactured home residents should plan to evacuate to a safer location.

EVACUATIONS AND SHELTERS

Leon County officials can issue an order directing the evacuation of specific areas of the county deemed to be in danger. Prepare to leave 24 hours prior to the storm landfall in order to give yourself enough time to evacuate.

Voluntary

If a tropical storm is approaching or a hurricane is expected to cross Florida and pass over Leon County, the danger from storm surge may be high. Emergency managers may recommend residents in mobile homes or flood prone areas to evacuate to higher ground or a sturdier shelter.

Mandatory

The probability of storm surge is high and could be deadly for residents who don't leave. It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order. Residents living in mobile homes should plan to evacuate to a safer location during a mandatory order.

If You Plan To Evacuate...

Prior to evacuation, remember to:

- Maintain a full tank of gas.
- Bring identification, insurance papers and other important documents for every family member.
- Bring adequate water, snacks, cash and medications.
- Obey all special traffic signs and law enforcement orders.

Evacuees Should Be Prepared For...

- Extremely heavy traffic. Residents in highly vulnerable areas should leave the area sooner rather than later.
- Limited access to gas stations, restaurants and restroom facilities.

The only safe storm is a brain storm! Always prepare the items you'll need before severe weather approaches.

Sheltering

Risk shelters may only have water, snacks, and a secure area for you to stay safe during a major storm. Shelters may be crowded and are not designed for comfort. If you evacuate to a risk shelter during a disaster, please bring the following items:

- Toiletries and diapers if you are sheltering with young children.
- Prescription medications, identification and any important documents you deem necessary.
- Additional snacks, specifically if you have a special diet.
- Blankets, pillows, and/or sleeping bags. Accommodations at the shelter will be limited.
- Books, puzzles or other entertainment that do not require electricity.

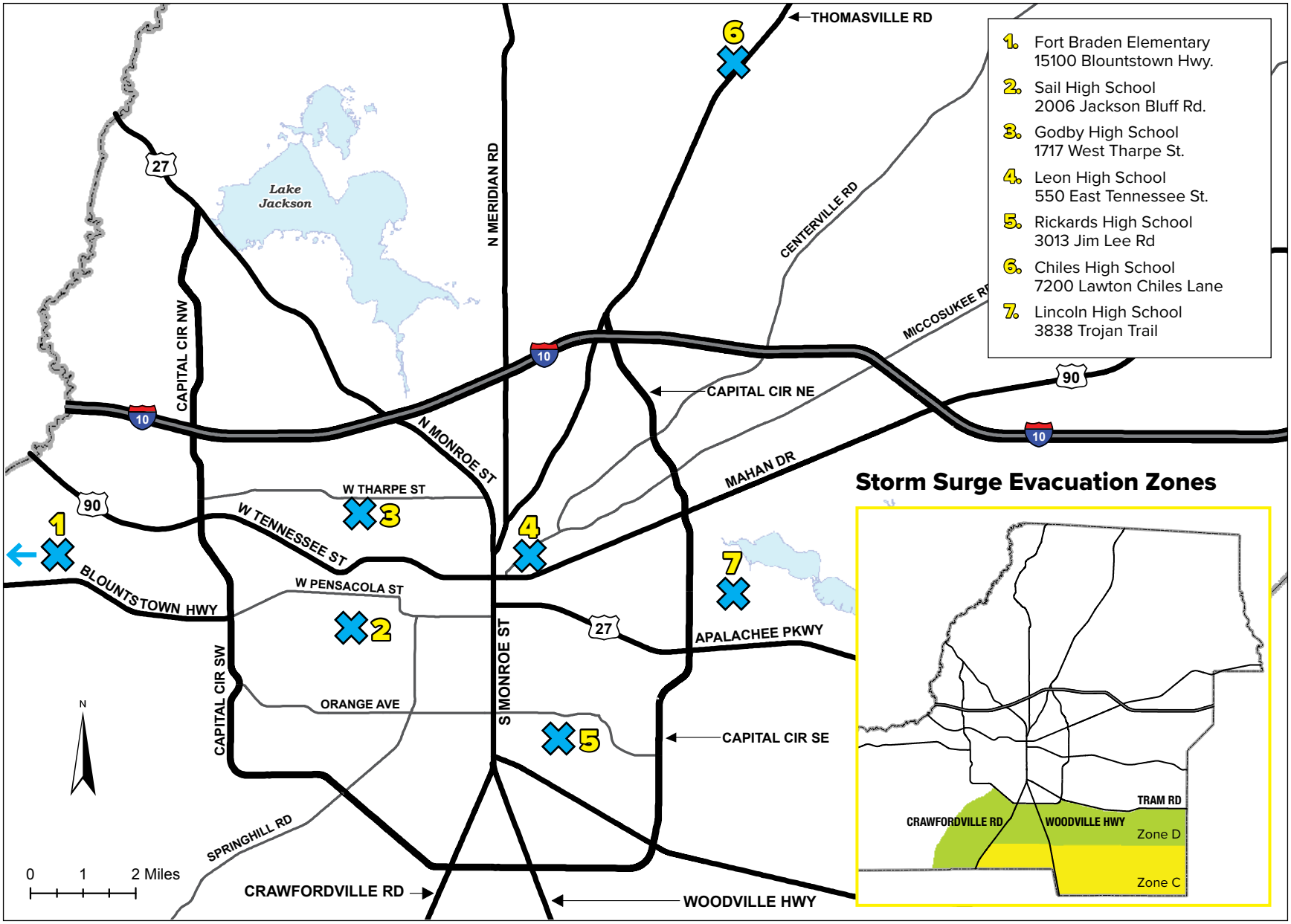
For Citizens With Special Needs

According to the Florida Department of Health, a Special Needs Shelter is for "someone who, during periods of evacuation or emergency, requires sheltering assistance due to physical impairment, mental impairment, cognitive impairment or sensory disabilities." Special needs shelters are designed to meet the needs of persons who require assistance that exceeds services provided at a general population shelter. If a person is medically stable but needs help with basic tasks or uses an electronic medical device and has no other evacuation options, they should pre-register for a special needs shelter at SNR.FLHealthResponse.com. All information is confidential and protected under Florida Statutes and must be updated on an annual basis. For further assistance, call Leon County Emergency Management at (850) 606-3700.

Protect Your Pets

Inventory your supplies and review all records so your pet can be safe in the event of a hurricane. Make a kit including a pet crate, a list of pet friendly hotels, food and water with respective bowls, medications with instructions for administering, copies of current veterinary records that include your address and phone number, a leash and collar with rabies tag and ID, a picture of your pet and a small box with litter for cats.

HURRICANE SHELTERS



Please note: *Not every shelter will open for every disaster. Please check LeonCountyFL.gov/ei or call (850) 606-3700 to learn about shelter openings.*

Storm Surge

Storm surge is the leading cause of death from hurricanes and is the reason hurricane evacuation orders are issued. The Apalachee Bay is one of the most storm surge prone areas in the Southeast. Areas of southern Leon County have been identified as storm surge evacuation zones. Know your zone!

Zone C (Yellow) – Areas east of Crawfordville Highway to the Leon/Jefferson County Line, and areas along and south of the following roads: Glover Road; Oak Ridge Road; Rhodes Cemetery Road; Meridale Drive.

Zone D (Green) – Includes all areas in Zone C, in addition to areas east of Springhill Road to the Leon/Jefferson County Line, and areas along and south of the following roads: Capital Circle SW; Capital Circle SE; Tram Road.

RECOVER IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER

During a disaster, services could be impacted, including electric, water, and sewer. When preparing, consider that you could be without these important utilities for an extended period.

Electric Outages

For City of Tallahassee customers, report electric outages via the City's DigiTally App, Talgov.com/Outage, or by calling (850) 891-4968. During major events, the City will send information directly to utility customers. Keep your contact details current by visiting Talgov.com/Update or by calling (850) 891-4968.

For Talquin Electric members, you can report an electric outage by calling 1-866-899-4832 (Automated System) or 1-888-802-1832 (Live Operator) or text #OUTAGE to 85700. Sign up for text alerts at TalquinElectric.com. Download Talquin's mobile app on your iOS or Android device.

Duke Energy customers, call 1-800-228-8485.

Expect longer wait times during major events.

Food Safety

TWO DAYS: The approximate time frozen items can be stored safely if you keep the freezer door shut.

FOUR HOURS: If your refrigerator's power is out for longer than this time, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler.

Generators

If you are considering purchasing a permanent backup generator, the City of Tallahassee offers a low-interest loan program for qualified homeowners. To be eligible, a transfer switch is required, and the installation must be permitted and inspected. Get details by calling 850-891-4968.

A generator can keep your appliances going after a disaster, but it comes with several dangers:

CARBON MONOXIDE: Use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors to avoid exposure to this deadly, colorless, odorless gas. Never operate a generator indoors. Consider installing a CO_2 detector in your home.

FIRE: Make sure the generator is cool when refilling the fuel tank and store flammable fuel away from fuel-burning appliances.

Calculate the total wattage of all the appliances and light fixtures you want to connect to the generator. The total should be less than the generator's stated maximum power output.

ELECTRICAL SHOCK: An electrical shock from your generator can kill you.

- Keep generator in a dry place.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, three-pronged extension cord.
- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

Sewer Outage

If a sewer outage is announced, DO NOT flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be down, which could cause a sewage back-up in your home.

Emergency Toilets

Use a chemical toilet or create an emergency toilet by one of the following methods:

5-GAL BUCKET: Line with heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as disinfectant. Make sure it has a tight lid.

TOILET BOWL: Turn off your outside water supply first and flush once to empty before lining with a trash bag. Do not use kitty litter — it cannot be flushed after the sewer system is running.

Water Impacts

If the drinking water supply is compromised by a disaster, a boil water notice will be issued, which means there's a possibility of contamination.

BOIL: Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

BLEACH: Add 1/8 tsp. of unscented bleach per gallon of water and let stand for 30 minutes; bleach used should contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. This is less effective but will work if there's no way to boil water.

Safe Driving

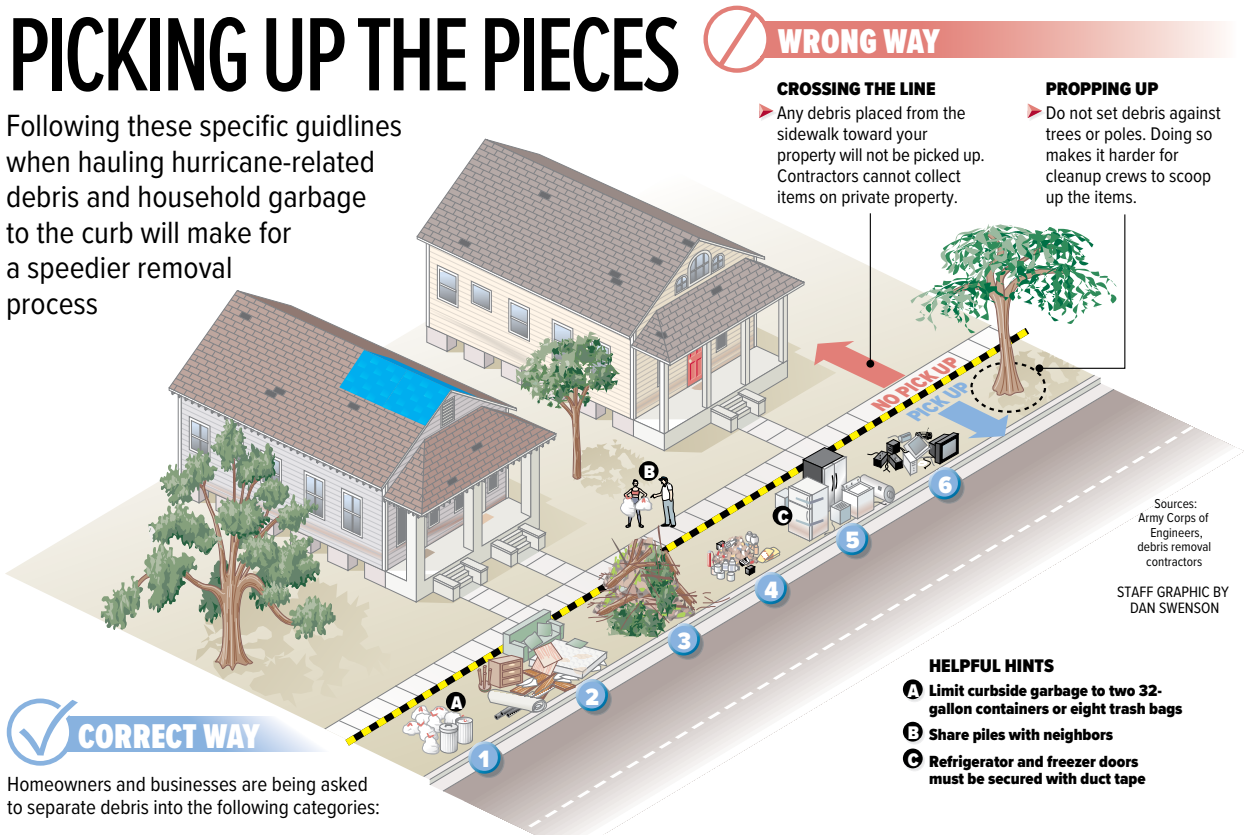
After a storm, roads may be littered with debris and many routes may be flooded. Avoid unnecessary travel and, if you must venture out, always obey Road Closed signs.

Never drive through standing water. Turn around, don't drown! Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.

Don't forget to stay in touch! Contact loved ones to see what their plans are looking like! Remember, we're all in this together!

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Following these specific guidlines when hauling hurricane-related debris and household garbage to the curb will make for a speedier removal process



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

1 HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE
- Bagged trash
- Discarded food
- Packaging, papers
- All garbage should be placed curbside the night before the scheduled weekly pickup.

2 CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS
- Building materials
- Drywall
- Lumber
- Carpet
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Plumbing

3 VEGETATION DEBRIS
- Tree branches
- Leaves
- Logs

4 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
- Oils
- Batteries
- Pesticides
- Paints
- Cleaning supplies
- Compressed gas

5 'WHITE' GOODS
- Refrigerators
- Washers, dryers
- Freezers
- Air conditioners
- Stoves
- Water heaters
- Dishwashers

6 ELECTRONICS
- Televisions
- Computers
- Radios
- Stereos
- DVD players
- Telephones

Help Your Neighbor

Once you and your family are safe, help friends who are especially vulnerable and need help recovering. A disproportionate number of fatalities in recent hurricanes have occurred among senior citizens. When possible, help the senior citizens you know and friends with financial limitations.

Preparing Debris for Curbside Pickup

Debris removal is integral during the response and recovery phase of a disaster. Initial response begins during the disaster event when crews are activated to cut and toss debris off the roadway. Routes to critical facilities (such as hospitals) and other priority routes are addressed first. This process ensures police, firefighters, EMS, and other first responders crucial to response efforts can navigate the roadways safely.

During the recovery phase, eligible disaster-related debris will be collected from residential neighborhoods. Debris should be placed curbside and separated in the following categories: construction, vegetative, household hazardous waste, appliances/white goods, and electronics. During this process, DO NOT bag debris or put debris in containers. Depending on the severity of the event, it may take multiple passes before all debris is collected.

Price Gouging

In a declared state of emergency, it is illegal to sell necessary goods or services at increased prices. If you believe a business or individual is price gouging, call the Attorney General's Office at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226).

Hire Licensed Businesses

If repairs to your home or property are needed, hire reputable and licensed people and avoid any contractor or appraiser who says they can adjust your insurance claim. You can verify a contractor's license and check to see if there are any complaints against them by calling the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at (850) 487-1395.

Who To Call

- 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies or (850) 606-5800 for non-emergency public safety assistance.
- Citizen Information Line for the latest emergency updates, (850) 606-3700 or use 7-1-1 Florida Relay.
- Contact 2-1-1 Big Bend for 24- hour social services assistance by dialing 2-1-1 or (850) 617- 6333.
- For City of Tallahassee Utility information, call (850) 891-4968.
- For Talquin Electric, call 1-888-802-1832.
- For Duke Energy call 1-800-228-8485.

SURVIVING ALL HAZARDS

While hurricanes pose a major threat to Leon County, there are other potential disasters that threaten lives and property. From violent tornadoes to hazardous chemical spills, it is crucial to know what to do when warnings are issued.

- Identify a meeting location, should an incident prevent you from getting home.
- Build a disaster bucket for potential disasters.
- Locate a safe room you can retreat to in the event of severe weather events such as thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Florida, especially during the summer. The Sunshine State sees about 1.4 million lightning strikes in an average year, and we lead the nation in lightning-related deaths. About 10 percent of thunderstorms are severe, with winds of 58 mph or stronger and 1-inch hail. Keep an eye on the weather forecast before you venture outdoors and heed nature's warning when you hear the sky start to rumble.

Seek Shelter

Every thunderstorm produces lightning. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike. Go inside or find shelter immediately. Wait 30 minutes after hearing the last crash of thunder before going back outdoors.

When thunder roars, go indoors!

If you're indoors during a thunderstorm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.

If Stuck Outdoors ...

- Get off any elevated areas.
- Do not shelter under an isolated tree or other tall objects.
- Get as far away from water and metal objects as possible.

Downed Power Lines

- Do not touch downed power lines.
- Assume all downed power lines are energized.
- Contact your utility provider to report downed power lines. See page 10 for contact information.

Pandemic

In our global society, infectious diseases can spread quickly by human contact, animals, insects or food. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is the agency responsible for warning the public about pandemic health hazards. The Florida Department of Health in Leon County may also issue warnings and advice. For more information, visit the website of the CDC at CDC.gov or the Florida Dept. of Health at Leon.FloridaHealth.gov.

Vaccines

Vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight viruses. It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19.

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, the CDC approved the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. To find a vaccine site near you: LeonCountyFL.gov/VaxMap.

Stay Home If You Are Sick

If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, you should stay home as much as possible and contact your healthcare provider.

Terrorism and Active Shooters

Unlike a hurricane, there may be no warning for a terrorist attack, but you can plan ahead by taking the steps referenced earlier: emergency contacts, emergency alerts, a meeting place and a disaster bucket. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something — report it to law enforcement. Report suspicious activities to the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement at 1-855-FLA-SAFE.

If dangerous behavior occurs, whether a shooting or another act of violence, move away as quickly as possible. Be on the lookout for secondary or additional threats as you escape. When you reach a safe location, call 9-1-1 and report the emergency.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can form quickly during thunderstorms any time of year, creating high velocity wind and blowing dangerous debris. In Florida, the average warning time before a tornado hits is only 12 minutes. You may only have moments to make a life-or-death decision.

Safe Rooms

Designate a safe room where you can stay during a tornado in your home, office, or other places you go frequently. Good safe room options include: bathrooms, interior hallways, the center of a building, and spaces on the ground floor away from windows.

If you cannot reach your prepared safe room, follow these basic guidelines:

Get In: Get as far inside a strong building as you can, away from doors and windows.

Get Down: Get to the lowest floor.

Cover Up: Use whatever you can to protect yourself from flying or falling debris.

Mobile Homes and Vehicles

Mobile homes are not safe from the violent winds of a tornado. When tornadoes are possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building to protect yourself from flying debris. Do not try to run or outmaneuver a tornado in your vehicle.

Floods

Flooding is a year-round threat. Sometimes floods develop slowly and forecasters can anticipate where a flood will happen days or weeks before it occurs. Oftentimes flash floods can occur within minutes and sometimes without any sign of rain.

Know Your Flood Risk

- For your FEMA Flood Zone, visit LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection.
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, consider sandbags or another type of barrier to keep water out of your home in minor flood events.
- Remember: Homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damage. Consider extra flood coverage. See page 5 for more information.
- A new flood policy takes 30 days to take effect.

Stay Out of the Water

- Do not drive through standing water and make sure to obey "road closed" signs. It only takes a foot of water to make vehicles float. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Do not walk through flood waters. It only takes six inches of water to knock you down.
- Don't go into any room if water has submerged electrical outlets or cords.
- After a flood, stay out of standing water or structures until authorities advise it's safe. Standing water could contain toxins, chemicals, dangerous debris and wildlife.

Learn more about floods: Leon County has a comprehensive website on our area's flood hazards and how residents can become better prepared: LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Shelter-in-place if local authorities ask you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from coming in. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for further instructions through the local media and emergency notification systems.

Wildfires

Low humidity and high winds during times of droughts and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. With so many trees in Leon County, the threat of wildfires is always present. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home.

- Identify at least two escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Practice fire drills so everyone knows what to do.
- If advised, evacuate immediately.

Learn Before You Burn

Escaped yard waste from burn piles is one of the leading causes of wildfires. Learn more at BeWildfireReadyFL.com.

STAY ENGAGED

The agencies below are critical during any disaster. Please consider learning more about volunteering with these nonprofits partners.

American Red Cross

(850) 878-6080

RedCross.org/NorthFlorida

When disaster strikes, volunteers play a critical role in recovery efforts and providing needed relief to victims. Consider becoming an American Red Cross Disaster Volunteer. Employees with the State of Florida, Leon County and City of Tallahassee are eligible for 15 days of disaster leave by becoming a Red Cross Volunteer.

2·1·1 Big Bend

2-1-1 or **(850) 617-6333**

211BigBend.org

2-1-1 Big Bend, Inc. serves as the preferred 24/7 gateway to community information, services and support any day of the year, including times of community emergencies. Trained hotline counselors provide emotional support, crisis assistance, information about local services and referrals that contain accurate, up-to-date resource information. The agency's resource database contains more than 1,000 programs in the Big Bend area with subjects including housing assistance, emergency shelter, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, child development, employment, food pantries and more.

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(850) 222-0304

SalvationArmyFlorida.org/Tallahassee

The Salvation Army of Tallahassee serves disaster survivors and relief workers with food, emotional support and other critical services. The Salvation Army's disaster team consists of staff and volunteers who conduct wellness checks, feed hot meals, drinks and snacks directly from our canteen, provide spiritual care and assist in distributing food, water, clothing and clean-up kits to residents who are affected or have been displaced by a disaster.

VOLUNTEER LEON

LEON COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

(850) 606-1970

VolunteerLEON.org

During an emergency, VolunteerLEON organizes the Citizens Information Line and coordinates the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). COAD provides a structure for non-profit organizations, and the faith-based community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster. COAD focuses on coordinating efforts to best serve communities. Nonprofit partners include: 2-1-1 Big Bend, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Catholic Charities, Florida Baptist Active in Disaster, Goodwill, Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, and more.

Have a Plan for your Business

Small businesses are vital assets to our economy and community. But did you know most businesses do not have a plan for emergencies such as a hurricane?

Early preparation is the smartest way to protect employees and ensure business continuity.

Identify Your Risk: Think through how a local disaster would impact your organization.

Develop A Plan: Depending on the hazard, develop a plan to mitigate risk to staff, structures and services.

Take Action: Making a plan is not enough. Follow through by taking action on established plans when disaster strikes.

The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is committed to serving and supporting our local business community before, during and after a disaster strikes. Visit Ready.gov/Business for more info on preparedness.

Business Disaster Toolkit

Do you have questions about how to prepare your business for hurricane season? FloridaDisaster.biz provides valuable information regarding preparedness, response and recovery from hurricanes and other disasters. OEV is your source for vital business information for hurricane preparation and recovery.

For additional information on local business assistance during disasters, please contact the OEV at info@oevforbusiness.org or (850) 219-1080.

STAY INFORMED

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Citizens Connect App

Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App, your best source of emergency news and alerts. The most critical information will be delivered by push notifications directly to your phone or tablet.

The Leon County Citizens Connect App puts up-to-the-minute emergency information at your fingertips, such as weather alerts, road closings, sandbag locations and so much more.

The County's App provides a single source of emergency information verified by public safety agencies, emergency management professionals and other crews in the field.

- Critical Updates: announces the most important community updates, such as comfort stations, points of distribution and price gouging alerts and road closings.
- Storm Debris Management: after disasters, this section details debris collection and removal.
- Sandbag Locations: lists locations and addresses for sandbag distribution, including a map of sites.
- Power Outages: direct links to outage maps from City of Tallahassee and Talquin Cooperative.
- Evacuations: provides a map of evacuation routes for Leon County and other real-time updates.

DOWNLOAD DIGITALLY

Tallahassee's premier disaster reporting mobile app.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

From finding your bus to paying your bills, this free app puts the City at your fingertips. Power out? Tree trouble? Take a picture of City issues and we'll handle it.

LeonCountyFL.gov/ei
Twitter: @LeonCounty
Facebook: @LeonCountyFL
Mobile App:
Leon County Citizens Connect
Citizens Information Line:
(850) 606-3700
Emergency Alerts
LeonCountyFL.gov/Alerts

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

Talgov.com
Twitter: @CityofTLH
Facebook: @CityofTLH
Mobile App: DigiTally
(850) 891-4968

wfsu 88.9
PUBLIC MEDIA

If you are unable to use your smartphone, tablet, or computer, timely and critical updates will be provided by emergency management officials on 88.9 WFSU-FM radio. By partnering with WFSU, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee will help ensure that any citizen with radio access stays informed before, during, and after a disaster.

In addition, iHeartMedia stations will provide emergency updates.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

(850) 606-3700

LeonCountyFL.gov/ei | HaveAHurricanePlan.com

Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross **(850) 878-6080** RedCross.org/NorthFlorida	**2-1-1 Big Bend** **Dial 2-1-1** (850) 617-6333 (NEED) 211BigBend.org	**Franklin County Emergency Management** Apalachicola **(850) 653-8977** FranklinEmergencyManagement.com
Gadsden County Emergency Management *Quincy* **(850) 875-8642** GadsdenCountyFL.gov	**Jefferson County Emergency Management** *Monticello* **(850) 342-0211** JeffersonCountyFL.gov	**Liberty County Emergency Management** *Bristol* **(850) 643-2339** LibertyCountyFLEM.com
Madison County Emergency Management *Madison* **(850) 973-3698** MadisonCountyFL.com/Emergency-Management/	**Taylor County Emergency Management** *Perry* **(850) 838-3575** TaylorSheriff.org	**Wakulla County Emergency Management** *Crawfordville* **(850) 745-7200** WCSO.org/Emergency-Management

LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

People Focused. Performance Driven.

In Partnership With

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

American Red Cross

2·1·1 Big Bend