



FIRST ALERT

HURRICANE GUIDE

2023

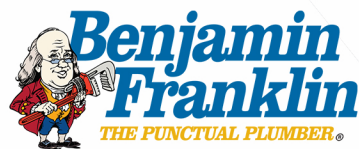
The Suncoast's Most Accurate Forecast



Presented By:



FIRST ALERT WEATHER





When I sat down to write this year's hurricane article a melancholy mood came over me. Each year I'm asked to put into words my thoughts about the past season and what we can expect for this upcoming hurricane season. In the 37 years of covering storms in Florida, Ian has been the hardest to deal with, having seen first-hand the devastation Ian caused in North Port, Port Charlotte and Hidden River. Interviewing people who lost everything and seeing so many people in need of help after the storm was very emotional for me and so many others. But there was a bright spot or a ray of hope that came out of all of this and that was the fast action of the first responders and volunteers who spent countless hours helping the victims of Ian get back on their feet after this devastating storm.

Seeing the command center in Port Charlotte where Ian refugees would come by looking for warm meals for themselves and their families was helpful. The long line of cars waiting in line just to get some warm comfort food and just to talk with the helpers made a big difference in their lives. The Florida Baptist Disaster Relief ministries along with many other agencies were there to help provide food, water and even prayers. Even the First Lady of Florida Casey DeSantis showed up and passed out dinners and commiserated with the victims of this catastrophe.

All season long I was worried about a late season storm impacting Florida. The conditions were ripe. We were in a La Nina, (cooling of the E. Pacific) and there was an enormous amount of untouched hot water in the SE Gulf and the western Caribbean. This high-octane fuel was just waiting for a storm to strengthen. I remember I kept showing a graphic on TV which shows Florida is much more likely to be hit by a major hurricane during La Nina vs El Nino or a neutral ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation).

Well as we get ready for hurricane season 2023 what can we expect? No one can say for certain, but it looks like it should be an average or slightly below average season due to the projection of a strong El Nino during the peak part of the season from Aug. through early Oct. El Nino typically means fewer and less intense storms due to wind shear over the developing storms. As I've said every year it doesn't take but one storm to hit our coast to make it an active season. So, these pre-season forecasts shouldn't really mean much to you, take them with a grain of salt. You should prepare each season with the expectation that we may get hit regardless if there are 7 storms or 20 storms forecast the season. Being prepared is the key to survival and knowing what to do will save your life, the lives of your family and pets.

As we have always preached here at ABC7, it is not the wind but the water that has the potential to take more lives. You hide from the wind and run from the water. Over 140 people lost their lives from Ian in Florida and most of those were a result of storm surge and freshwater flooding not the wind. It is disheartening to see so many deaths occur during this modern age with so many ways to communicate the threats from these storms to the public. With so many new people moving to Florida each year it is so important to get the word out to your neighbors, friends and family that these storms can kill. I can tell you that many people who lost their lives due to Ian were in an evacuation level. They shouldn't have been there. So, this is an important reminder if you are asked to evacuate do so. Have a plan, know where you will go. You should explore countless sources of how to prepare for a hurricane and be ready for whatever this season brings.

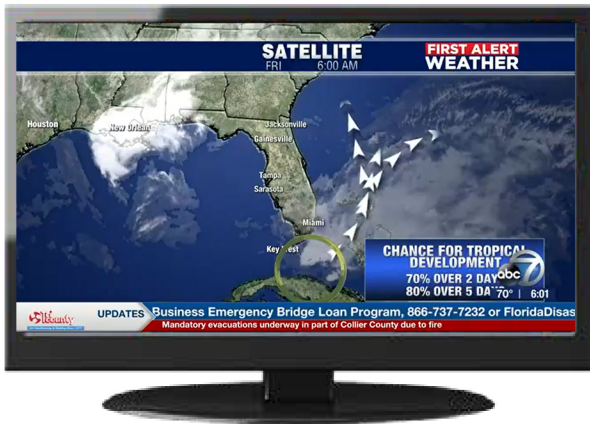
There were some confusing optics that were broadcast on national media before Ian slammed into Ft. Myers. Several days from Ian making landfall a lot of national weather reporters were set up along Clearwater beach, giving the impression this was the likely place for a direct hit. The "cone of uncertainty" was centered on Pinellas County at that time. If people in Ft. Myers only saw these initial broadcasts a couple days prior, then they may have thought they were going to escape the lethal blow from Ian. My point is to stay tuned to local media when a storm has the potential to threaten our coast. The national media is looking for eyes or viewers across the country while we are looking out for your safety.

We are committed to providing you with accurate information and not to scare you but to prepare you for all the dangers from these storms.

**ABC7 First Alert Weather
Chief Meteorologist
Bob Harrigan**



Keeping You Informed On-Air



You can count on The Official Suncoast Storm Team whenever severe weather threatens. Bringing you the most comprehensive and accurate forecast on the Suncoast

Comcast Cable
CH 7 & CH 431

Spectrum Cable (Manatee)
CH 7 & CH 1007

DirectTV
CH 7 & CH 40

Dish Network
CH 7

Online

Go online for *The Official Suncoast Forecast* and updated weather information and alerts when severe weather approaches.

MySuncoast.com



In the event of a storm and you need to use your radio, we will be simulcasting on WSRQ.

Mobile



MySuncoast.com/mobileapps/

Stay informed wherever you go! The **SuncoastWx** weather app brings you the latest weather updates no matter where you are.



Severe Weather



ABC 7 News



Weather & Short Wave Radio Programming

County	SAME	Transmitter(s)	Frequency MHz
Charlotte	012015	Fort Myers, Venice	162.475, 162.400
DeSoto	012027	Fort Myers, Venice	162.475, 162.400
Hardee	012049	Riverview, Venice, Sebring	162.550, 162.400, 162.500
Highlands	012055	Sebring	162.500
Manatee	012081	Riverview, Venice, Largo	162.550, 162.400, 162.450
Sarasota	012115	Venice	162.400



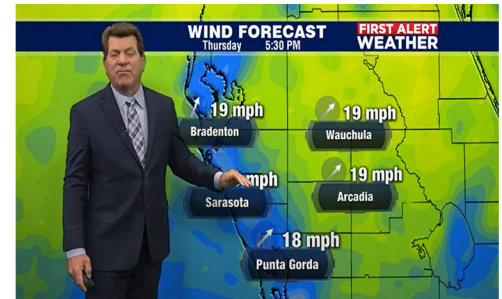


Creating a Family Hurricane Readiness Plan

A hurricane on the way can be frightening for everyone, especially children and teenagers. Going over your emergency plan now can help ease some of their fears, and give everyone the confidence that he/she will know what to do in the event of a storm.

Quick Tips

- Have a family meeting about the weather conditions. Explain why you'll need to stay safe at home or evacuate as the storm nears.
- Locate and agree on a safe room (or safe areas) in your home. Move pillows, flashlights, batteries, food and other hurricane supplies to that area.
- Gather necessary medicines, glasses/contact lenses, a first aid kit, and items for children such as baby formula and diapers. Keep them handy.
- Come up with an escape route from your house.
- Decide on a rendezvous point where everyone can meet in case you're separated during the storm.
- Write out contact information for family members. Include work and school, meeting locations and emergency services.
- Decide on a family contact who lives out of town or out of state, so all family members have a single point of contact in case of emergency. Make sure everyone knows this person and his/her phone number.
- The Department's Emergency Contact Information (ECI) program allows Floridians to securely register contact information online at <https://services.flhsmv.gov/eci/> and in driver license offices. DHSMV Executive Director Terry Rhodes says the information can only be accessed by law enforcement in times of emergency. There is no fee to register.
- Make sure a young child knows his/her name, address and home phone number.
- Post emergency phone numbers near your phone and explain when and how to call 911.
- Decide what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate. Make a plan for your pets - don't leave them behind.
- If there's a chance you'll evacuate, pack in advance, and allow children to pack one special item for comfort, such as a stuffed animal.



Important Documents

Before a storm threatens, you should create a file with copies of all the documents you'll need after the storm. Be sure to keep this important information with you during a hurricane, especially if you're forced to evacuate. Personal identification (driver's license or photo identification card) and copies of the following:

- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Social Security cards
- Passports
- Wills
- Deeds
- Inventory of household goods
- Proof of Home and Car insurance policies
- Immunization records
- Bank and credit card account numbers
- Stocks and bonds
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers
- Map of the area and phone numbers of places you could go

Source: FEMA

Stay up to date with the latest forecasts and severe weather updates from The Official Suncoast Storm Team at ABC 7.



Follow us on Twitter
[Twitter.com/MySuncoast](https://twitter.com/MySuncoast)



Like us on Facebook
[Facebook.com/MySuncoast](https://facebook.com/MySuncoast)



The information within this guide should be used as reference only and is subject to change without notice. Always check with local Emergency Management Services, tune to ABC 7 and visit MySuncoast.com for updated information during severe weather events.



MAINTAINING YOUR KIT

After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change

KIT STORAGE LOCATIONS

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars.

Home: Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.

Work: Be prepared to shelter at work for at least ²⁴ hours. Your work kit should include food, water and other necessities like medicines, as well as comfortable walking shoes, stored in a "grab and go" case.

Car: In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car.



After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. Most of the items are inexpensive and easy to find and any one of them could save your life. Headed to the store? Download a printable version to take with you. Once you take a look at the basic items consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Download the Recommended Supplies List (PDF)

Additional Emergency Supplies

Since Spring of 2020, the CDC has recommended people include additional items in their kits to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or other viruses and the flu.

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Cloth face coverings (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Making Your Home Storm Ready



Long before hurricane season begins, there are things you should do to get your home ready for the storm season

- Keep your trees trimmed, removing all overgrowth and dead branches.
- Make or buy shutters for all your doors and windows NOW, not in the days before a hurricane threatens the Suncoast.
- Impact-resistant windows and manufactured shutters are the preferred ways to protect your home.
- If pre-made shutters aren't an option, use plywood that's at least 3/4 of an inch thick.
- If you own a concrete block home, install anchoring devices for the roof.
- Don't forget about your garage door. This can be the most vulnerable area of your home when a hurricane hits. If possible, work with a professional garage door installer to retrofit your door to meet current hurricane codes. Most home supply stores sell garage door bracing kits.
- Buy plastic tarps that you can use after the storm if you have roof damage.
- Stock up on batteries for radios, flashlights and portable lights.
- Keep in mind, many stores will sell out of the materials you need to protect your home when the area is under a hurricane watch or warning. Everything you can do BEFORE the storm will give you more time to get ready and more peace of mind.
- Have flashlights and battery powered lights ready.
- Make sure the storm has passed before you go outside and it's not the eye of the hurricane.
- Remember that many injuries happen AFTER the storm during the clean up process.

Here's what you need to know to protect your home in the few days or hours before a hurricane strikes

- Pick up everything around your home that could become airborne and bring it inside. That includes all outdoor furniture, potted plants, yard tools, garbage cans, etc.
- Clear your home's gutters to handle the heavy rain.
- Protect your insurance and other important documents in sealable, plastic bags.
- Charge your cell phone batteries.
- Fill up your car with gas and portable gas cans if you own a generator.

What you need to do if you plan to stay at your home through the storm

- Stock up on water, non-perishable food, prescriptions, first aid kit, and cash. Basically anything and everything you'll need to survive in the days after the storm when electricity will be out and finding supplies will be a challenge.
- Choose an interior room in your home that can serve as your safe room.
- Have a battery powered radio.
- Have flashlights and battery powered lights ready.
- Make sure the storm has passed before you go outside and it's not the eye of the hurricane.
- Remember that many injuries happen AFTER the storm during the clean up process.

The Bottom Line

- After the storm can be the most stressful part of a hurricane.
- Be safe, be patient and help your neighbors.
- When a hurricane threatens, hope for the best and prepare for the worst!

Sources: National Hurricane Center, Federal Alliance For Safe Homes

What To Bring To A Shelter

Now, before a hurricane threatens, is the time to pack your bag to take with you to the shelter. Keep in mind that there are no beds, few chairs, and no entertainment at shelters and you may spend a few hours or several days cooped up there. There is very little privacy at the shelters. You'll spend your time in a big room in close proximity to a lot of other people. Volunteers at the shelters supply food and a safe, dry place out of the storm. It's up to you to bring the rest.



Here's what to bring to the shelter

- Medication
- Sleeping bag, inflatable mattress, pillow, and a blanket to keep warm
- Something to sit on, like a folding chair
- Books, games, radio, cell phone, toys for kids
- Batteries for all battery operated items
- Wash cloth, towels and a few changes of clothes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Snacks
- Flash lights

And be sure to let friends and family, especially those out of town, know what shelter you're going to so they can find you after the storm passes.

Boat Safety Tips

Whether you store your boat in your backyard or have it docked on the water, there are some simple things you should do before a hurricane hits:



- Remove small boats from the water and move them to a secure location; the more inland the better.
- Be sure your trailer and boat are secured above the areas likely to flood.
- Remove all loose items on board.
- Tie the boat securely to the trailer or tie it to trees. It doesn't hurt to throw out the anchor.
- Let some air out of the trailer tires and block the wheels.
- You can increase the weight of lighter outboard boats by leaving the drain plug in and using a garden hose to add water. This has the added advantage of giving you emergency.
- Gather water (non-drinking) if the hurricane knocks out the main water supply.
- Place wood blocks between the trailer's frame and axle to support the added weight.
- In some cases you may want to plug the engine's exhaust outlet.
- If possible, boats on storage racks should be placed on trailers and taken home.
- If your boat is too large to take out of the water, move it to a safe haven well before the storm approaches. You should know where safe havens are in the area where you boat.
- Double up and secure mooring lines.
- By the time preparations are completed, your boat should resemble a spider suspended in the center of a large web.
- Secure all hatches and portals and cover windscreens.
- Take down mast whenever possible.
- It's best to not leave your boat on a davit. If you must, be sure to remove the drain plug to avoid excess water weight. A study by MIT after hurricane Gloria found that boats stored ashore were more likely to be saved than boats that were kept in the water. Members of the Boat U.S. Catastrophe team estimated that as many as 50% of the boats damaged during Hurricane Fran could have been saved by using better dock lines.

Sources: US Coast Guard & BoatUS.com

What To Do With Pets?

In order to bring your pet to a pet friendly shelter you will need to provide proof of an updated license, vaccinations and have your pet in a pet carrier. Pet friendly shelters are usually limited to dogs and cats only.



As pet owners, we have several responsible choices when a hurricane threatens:

1. Keep them with us at home.
2. Take them with us to a pet-friendly motel or public shelter.
3. Board them in a hurricane safe kennel.
4. Take them on a road trip to an out of town friend or family's home.

If you decide to stay, designate a safe room where pets can go. Preferably one with solid walls and without windows. You'll need a preparedness kit for each pet.

FEMA's Recommendation For Pet Preparedness

(in addition to proof of updated vaccinations)

- A leash with collar and ID
- An animal crate
- Two week supply of food, water and any medications.
- Towels to dry them off after a walk in the rain.
- If you have a cat, be sure to bring kitty litter and an appropriate container.
- Check around NOW for kennels that are hurricane safe (located inland, away from storm surge, with an independent power source). It might be smart to register with them ahead of time providing the latest vaccination and medical information.
- During the early signs of an approaching storm, make your reservations early because the kennels will fill up fast. The same goes for finding motels that are pet-friendly.

Sarasota Pet Friendly Shelters

www.scgov.net

Heron Creek Middle School	6501 W Price Blvd., North Port
Brookside Middle School	3636 S Shade Ave., Sarasota
Atwater Elementary	501 Old Venice Rd., Osprey
North Port High School	6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port
Woodland Middle School	2700 Panacea Blvd., North Port
Riverview High School	1 Ram Way, Sarasota
Booker High	3201 N Orange Ave., Sarasota
Booker Middle	2250 Myrtle St., Sarasota
Southside Elem	1901 Webber St., Sarasota
Phillippi Shores Elem	4747 S Tamiami Trl., Sarasota
Gulf Gate Elementary	4701 Huntsville Ace., North Port

Manatee Pet Friendly Shelters

www.mymanatee.org

Braden River High School	6545 State Road 70 E., Bradenton
Manatee High School	1000 32nd St. W., Bradenton
Mills Elementary School	7200 69th St. E., Palmetto

Charlotte Pet Friendly Shelters

www.charlottecountyfl.com

Port Charlotte Middle School	23000 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte
------------------------------	------------------------------------

Hardee Pet Friendly Shelters

www.hardeecounty.com

Pet Friendly Shelter	404 West Orange St., Wauchula
----------------------	-------------------------------

The information within this guide should be used as reference only and is subject to change without notice. Always check with local Emergency Management Services, tune to ABC 7 and visit MySuncoast.com for updated information during severe weather events.



What To Do After The Storm

Emergency information will be forthcoming; follow the directions of local officials. If you have evacuated, do not return home until you have been notified that the neighborhood is safe.

- **Have I.D. with you at all times.**
- Your family's health and safety is a primary concern. Drink plenty of clean water to avoid dehydration. To purify water, boil it for ten minutes or add 8 drops of bleach per gallon of clear water. Discard food that has been in contact with floodwaters.
- Wash hands frequently as floodwaters may contain contaminants.
- Apply first aid to any cuts and seek professional assistance for the injured.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies and to call your insurance agent.
- Mark your address on your home so that it is clearly visible from the street. Also mark the name of your insurance company.
- Do not go sightseeing, particularly at night.
- Make temporary repairs to your roof with tarpaulins as soon as possible to limit further water damage to the inside of your home.
- Document all damage with a camera.
- Beware of hazards such as gas leaks, downed power lines, stray animals, damaged home wiring, broken glass, chemical spills and weakened trees.
- Wear sturdy shoes and use gloves for clean ups.
- Do not use candles for light. Battery powered lanterns and flashlights are best.
- Follow generator instruction manuals for the safety procedures.
- Check the credentials of anyone hired to assist in repairs to your home. Get estimates and guarantees in writing and be sure the contractor is licensed and insured.
- Understand that disaster can cause an emotional toll on family members. Accept assistance from faith-based organizations, voluntary agencies or professional counselors for anyone showing signs of profound sadness, grief or anger.



Important Telephone Numbers

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Sarasota County	941-861-5000	scgov.net
Manatee County	941-749-3500	mymanatee.org
Charlotte County	941-833-4000	charlottecountyfl.com
DeSoto County	863-993-4831	www.co.desoto.fl.us
Hardee County	863-773-6373	hardeecounty.net

SARASOTA COUNTY

Sheriff	941-861-5800
Animal Services	941-861-9500
Highway Patrol	941-483-5911
American Red Cross	941-379-9300
Special Needs	941-861-5000
FPL	1-800-468-8243
Solid Waste	941-861-5000
Friendship Volunteer Center	941-953-5965

MANATEE COUNTY

Sheriff	941-747-3011
Animal Services	941-742-5933
Highway Patrol	941-751-7647
American Red Cross	941-792-8686
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824
FPL	1-800-468-8243
Solid Waste	941-792-8811
Citizens Action Ctr.	941-742-3500
Special Needs	941-749-3500, ext. 7828

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Sheriff	941-639-2101
Animal Services	941-833-5690
Highway Patrol	239-278-7100
American Red Cross	941-629-4345
Emergency Management	941-833-4000

HARDEE COUNTY

Sheriff	863-773-0304
Animal Services	863-773-2320
American Red Cross	863-773-9097
Utilities	863-773-3465
Fire Rescue	863-773-4362
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824
Progress Energy	1-800-228-8485
Special Needs	863-773-6373

DESOTO COUNTY

Sheriff	863-993-4700
Animal Services	863-993-4855
American Red Cross	863-494-2348
Highway Patrol	239-938-1800
FPL	1-800-468-8243
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824

STATE OF FLORIDA

FEMA	1-800-621-3362
FEMA-Hearing Impaired TDD	1-800-427-5593
American Red Cross Helpline	1-800-733-2767
Salvation Army Emergency Needs	1-800-725-2769
Fl. Hurricane Financial Help Line	1-800-488-4406
State of FL Emergency Information Attorney General	1-800-342-3557 myfloridalegal.com
Price Gouging Hotline/Consumer Services	1-800-435-7352 (1-800-HelpFLA)
Dept. of Labor & Employment	1-800-342-1741
State Volunteer and Donations	1-800-354-3571
Elder Affairs	1-800-963-5337

MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

State Farm Insurance	1-800-732-5246
Allstate Floridian Insurance	1-800-547-8676
Nationwide Insurance	1-800-421-3535
USAA	1-800-531-8222
Citizens Property Insurance	1-866-411-2742
Travelers of Florida	1-800-252-4633
Progressive	1-800-776-4737
Mercury	1-800-987-6000
National Flood Insurance Program	1-800-427-4661



Be Prepared This Hurricane Season



Hurricane season can be a stressful time for Floridians. It's a good idea to stock up now on essential preparedness products before disaster strikes suddenly or you need to evacuate. Batteries Plus Bulbs has a nationwide disaster planning program in place for its stores, ensuring that consumers are able to stock up on preparedness items without fear of their local store running out of products.

Batteries Plus Bulbs has store locations in Bradenton, Ellenton, Sarasota, Port Charlotte and Venice. Visit www.batteriesplus.com to find the store nearest you and get expertise about more essential hurricane preparedness products.

Here are recommend products homeowners and businesses should keep on hand:

- **Power Inverters** – Power inverters will allow you to use a car's battery to run a variety of electronic devices and appliances if you're without electricity.
- **Flashlights** – As a general rule of thumb, consumers should have one flashlight per person in their household.
- **Alkaline Batteries** – Stock up on two to three sets of backup batteries, including AA, AAA, C, D and 9 volt, for every device that requires a charge including flashlights, lanterns, and smoke, fire and carbon monoxide detectors.
- **Battery-Operated Candles** – Battery powered candles are a safe option to provide lighting in the home.
- **UPS Battery Backup** - Keep equipment powered and avoid losing data or damaging your electrical equipment during a power surge or unexpected shutdown.
- **Backup Chargers for Mobile Devices** – A protective case with an external battery pack can help keep a smartphone powered up longer than its normal battery life. Car chargers are crucial for keeping communication lines open when the electricity is out.



**FIRST ALERT
WEATHER**



Manatee County Shelter & Evacuation Information

Evacuation levels	Wind Velocity (M.P.H.)	Storm Surge Expected (FL)
Level A Evacuate purple areas and all manufactured home residents	74 to 95	Up to 6 ft.
Level B Evacuate purple and blue areas and all manufactured home residents	96 to 110	Up to 10 ft.
Level C Evacuate purple, blue and green areas and all manufactured home residents	111 to 130	Up to 13 ft.
Level D Evacuate purple, blue, green and yellow areas and all manufactured home residents	131 and 155	Up to 16 ft.
Level E Evacuate purple, blue, green, yellow and orange areas and all manufactured home residents	156 and over	Up to 19 ft. +

■ Designated shelters
— Evacuation routes



The evacuation plan

The colored areas on this map are vulnerable to storm surge. Storm surge is salt water flooding which rushes over coastal areas – near where the eye of the hurricane strikes – destroying homes and businesses in its path. Nine out of 10 hurricane-related deaths are caused by storm surge and inland flooding.

Hurricanes are categorized on a scale of one to five depending on the strength of the winds. Storm surge can reach 5-6 feet above sea level in a Category 1 hurricane to more than 19 feet above sea level in a Category 5 hurricane. Depending on the track and strength of a threatening hurricane, local officials may order one of five evacuation levels. These are called Evacuation Levels A, B, C, D, and E. These levels correspond to the storm surge flooding which is likely to occur from the five categories of hurricanes.

Don't take a chance. If you live in an area ordered to evacuate or in a mobile home, manufactured home or RV, gather your emergency supplies, secure your home and leave immediately. Failure to obey an evacuation order is a violation of Florida law.

Media organizations

Listen to local radio or TV for announcements of evacuation information or shelter openings (not every shelter may be open).

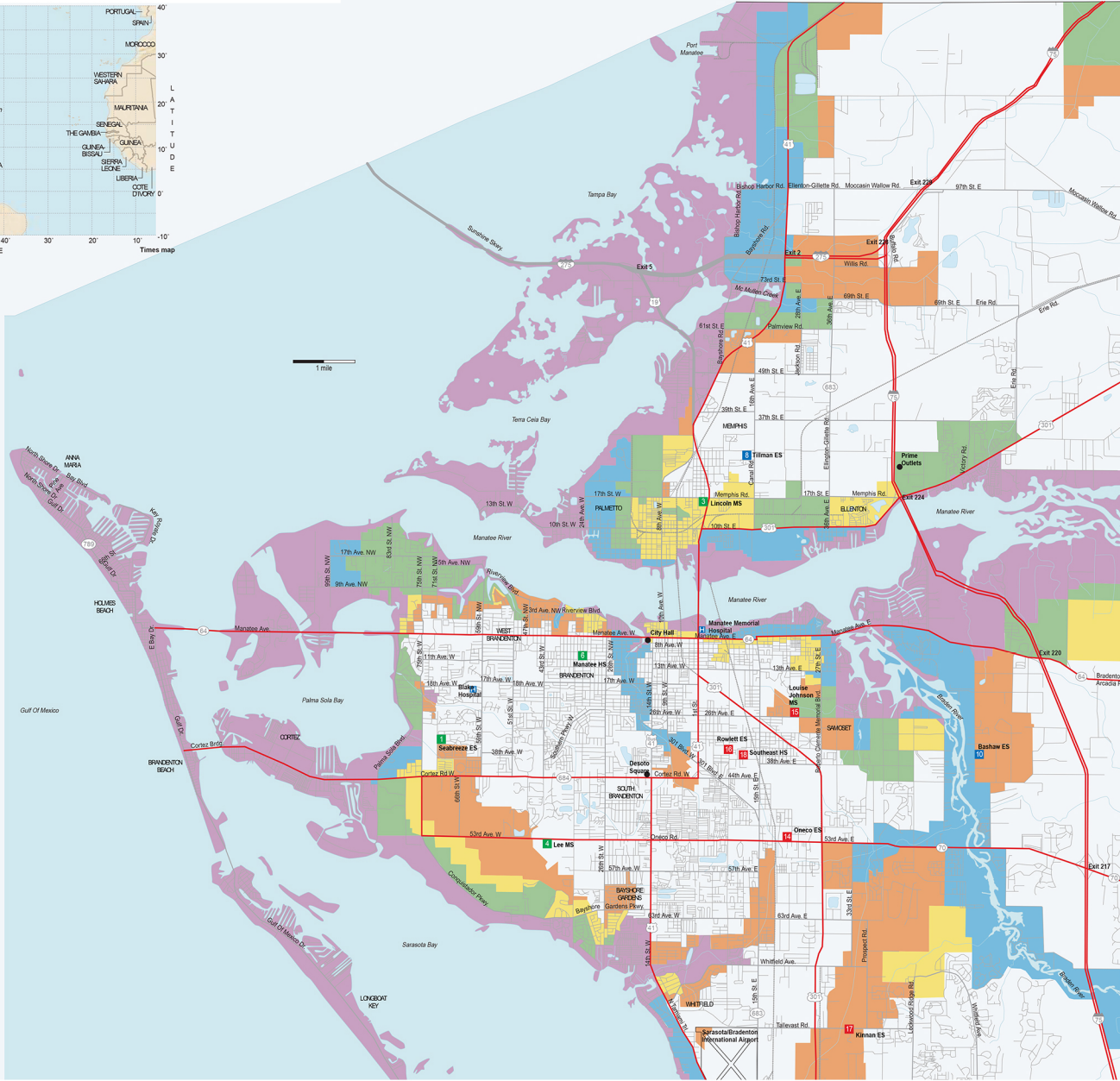
- WFLA-AM 970
- WWPR-AM 1490
- WCTQ-FM 106.5
- WJIS-FM 98.1
- WMTX-FM 100.7 (The Emergency Alert Station for Manatee County)
- Bradenton Herald News
- Islander Bystander News
- Sarasota Herald News
- WTSP-Ch. 10
- WTVT-Ch. 13
- WFTS-Ch. 28
- WWVS-Ch. 40
- WFLA-Ch. 8
- Bay News 9

Emergency numbers

- Manatee County Emergency Management
- General information . . . (941) 748-4501
 - Special needs registration (941) 748-4501
 - Emergency Information Center (941) 748-4501
 - Deaf communications for TDD messages . . . (941) 742-5802
- Red Cross Manatee Chapter
(941) 792-8686

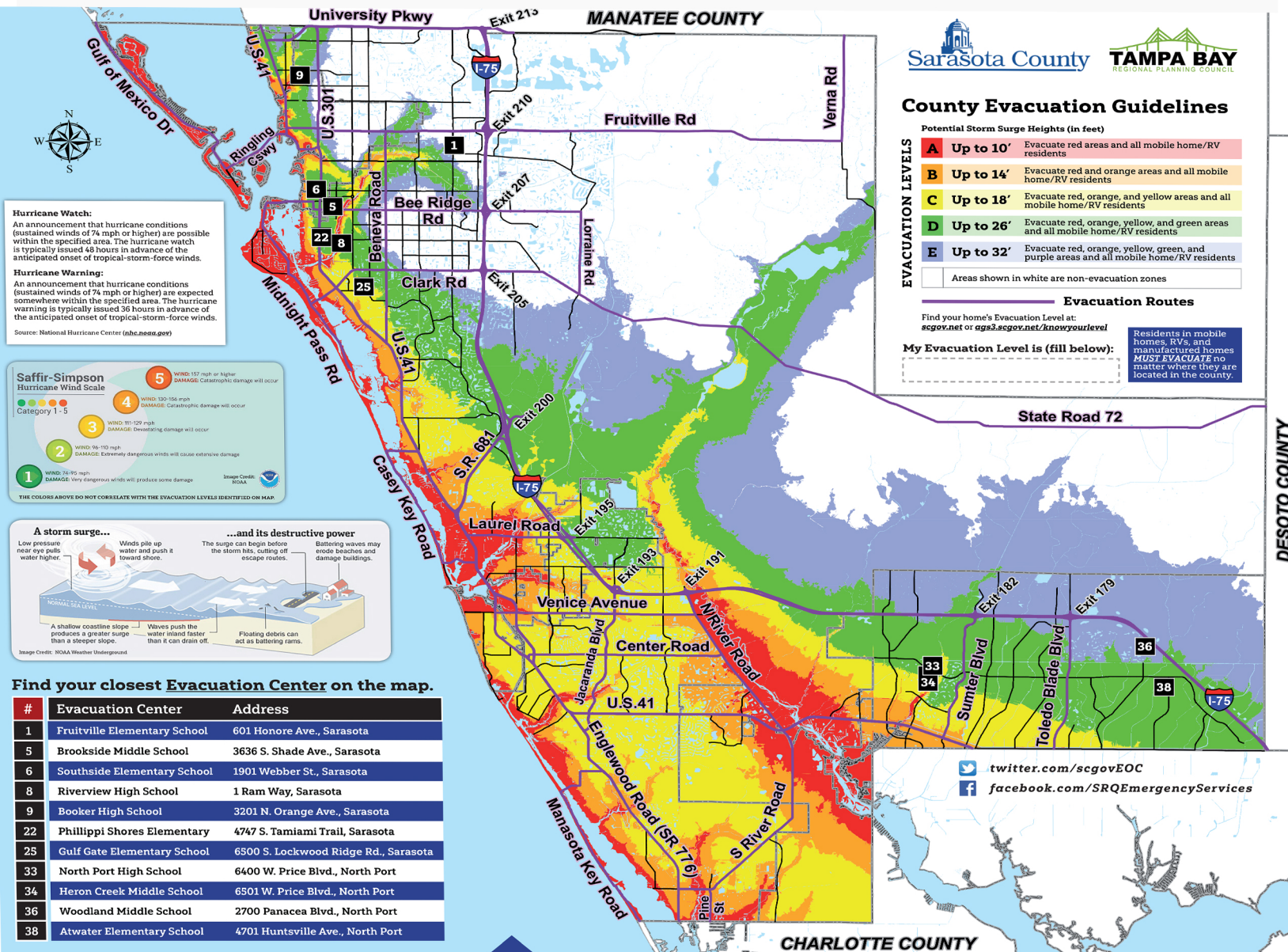
Animal Services (941) 749-7103

Please DO NOT dial 911 for Hurricane information. This line is exclusively designated for life or death emergencies.



The information within this guide should be used as reference only and is subject to change without notice. Always check with local Emergency Management Services, tune to ABC 7 and visit MySuncoast.com for updated information during severe weather events.

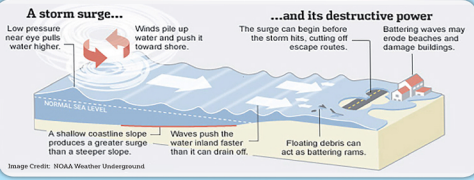
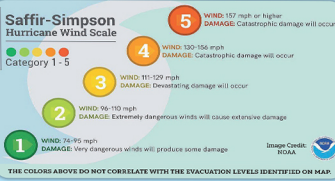
Sarasota County Hurricane Center & Evacuation Information



Hurricane Watch:
An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified area. The hurricane watch is typically 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. The hurricane warning is typically issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Source: National Hurricane Center (nhc.noaa.gov)



Find your closest Evacuation Center on the map.

#	Evacuation Center	Address
1	Fruitville Elementary School	601 Honore Ave., Sarasota
5	Brookside Middle School	3636 S. Shade Ave., Sarasota
6	Southside Elementary School	1901 Webber St., Sarasota
8	Riverview High School	1 Ram Way, Sarasota
9	Booker High School	3201 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota
22	Phillippi Shores Elementary	4747 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
25	Gulf Gate Elementary School	6500 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota
33	North Port High School	6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port
34	Heron Creek Middle School	6501 W. Price Blvd., North Port
36	Woodland Middle School	2700 Panacea Blvd., North Port
38	Atwater Elementary School	4701 Huntsville Ave., North Port



County Evacuation Guidelines

Potential Storm Surge Heights (in feet)

EVACUATION LEVELS	Potential Storm Surge Heights (in feet)	Evacuation Guidelines
A	Up to 10'	Evacuate red areas and all mobile home/RV residents
B	Up to 14'	Evacuate red and orange areas and all mobile home/RV residents
C	Up to 18'	Evacuate red, orange, and yellow areas and all mobile home/RV residents
D	Up to 26'	Evacuate red, orange, yellow, and green areas and all mobile home/RV residents
E	Up to 32'	Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green, and purple areas and all mobile home/RV residents

Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones

Evacuation Routes

Find your home's Evacuation Level at: scgov.net or ags3.scgov.net/knowyourlevel

My Evacuation Level is (fill below):

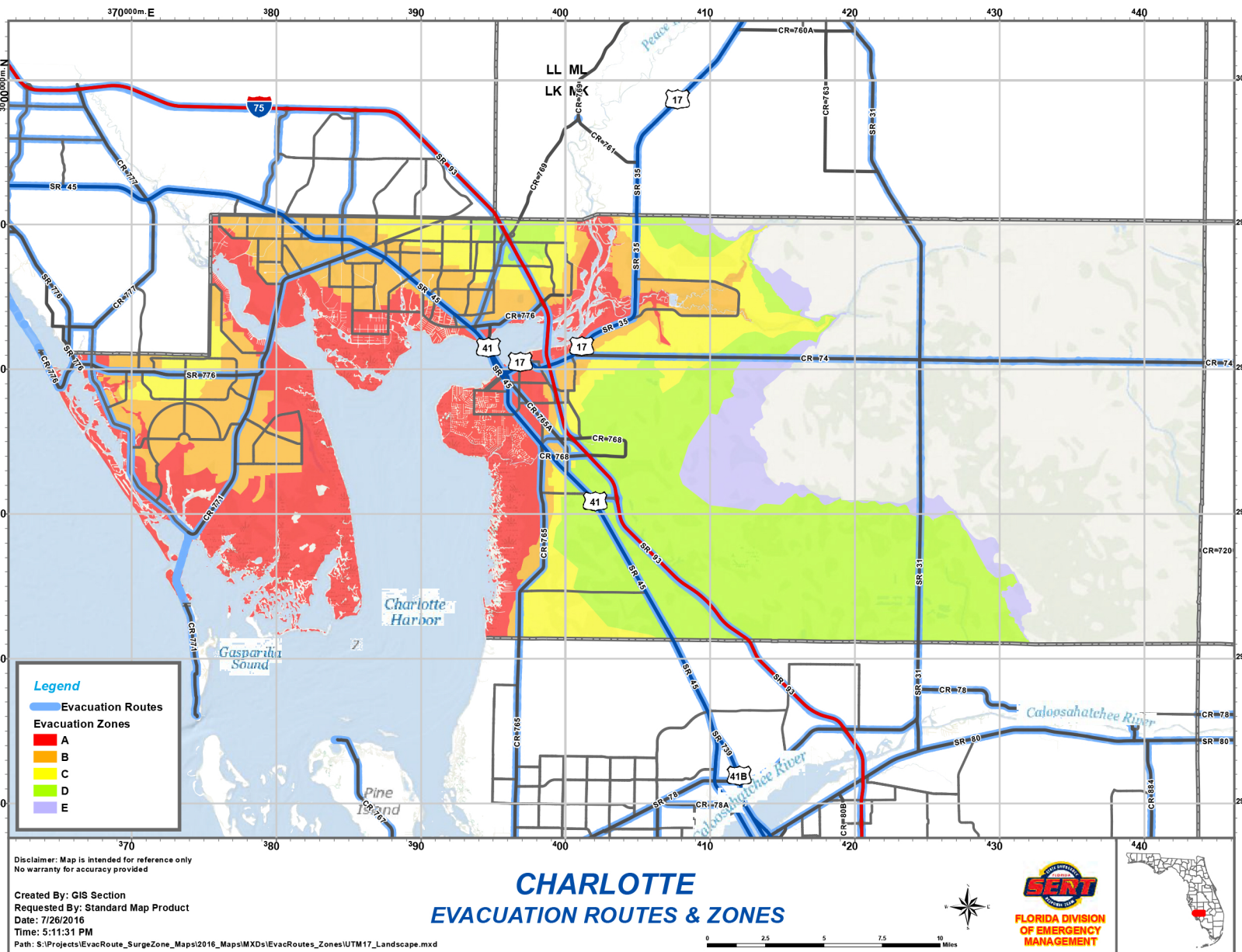
Residents in mobile homes, RVs, and manufactured homes **MUST EVACUATE** no matter where they are located in the county.

twitter.com/scgovEOC
facebook.com/SRQEmergencyServices



The information within this guide should be used as reference only and is subject to change without notice. Always check with local Emergency Management Services, tune to ABC 7 and visit MySuncoast.com for updated information during severe weather events.

Charlotte County Shelter & Evacuation Information



The information within this guide should be used as reference only and is subject to change without notice. Always check with local Emergency Management Services, tune to ABC 7 and visit MySuncoast.com for updated information during severe weather events.