



Indian River County
 Emergency Management Division
 4225 43rd Avenue
 Vero Beach, FL 32967
 (772) 226-3900
 www.indianriver.gov



Disaster Planning Guide for Homeowner's Associations

Where will you be when disaster strikes?

Whether it be home, work or school, are you prepared for a disaster situation? Indian River County is vulnerable to a host of hazards. Among them are: Weather related events (thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), hazardous materials incidents, flooding, structure fires, etc.

Given the possibility of our community experiencing any one of the above hazards, the preparation of a disaster preparedness plan will minimize your losses.



Hurricane Jeanne, 2004

Planning minimizes
 your losses...
 do it today!!

The following suggestions are offered to assist you with the development of your plan.

Does your Plan have Provisions for the Following:



- Designating a disaster coordinator. This person may be an officer, director or other trained person to implement your disaster plan.
- Designating an information coordinator. This person will serve as a liaison between the residents and the Board and will also be the contact person to coordinate the needs of the residents. This person should also encourage residents who qualify to register for the county Special Needs shelter program.
- Designating a location from which the Board will operate during a disaster.
- Assigning the task of logistical support during a crisis; including, food, water lighting, fuel, etc. at your disaster gathering place.
- Designating at what point the Board will gather at the pre-determined location and establishing a warning system used to alert Board members (pagers, e-mail, telephone trees, alarms, etc.) including contact names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers for notification of disaster events.
- Preserving and protecting vital records in an emergency is essential for rapid return to normalcy after an emergency. To assure that those records deemed essential are properly safeguarded designate a safe location for all important documents and records (a safety deposit box is ideal).

See Plan, Page 2

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Hurricane Jeanne, 2004



Plan

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Your inventory should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The location of, and account numbers for, all bank accounts, including investments. ✓ Copies of all insurance policies, account numbers and contact person. ✓ A roster of any professional contacts you may need to contact (accountant, attorney, property managers, etc.). ✓ Video and/or photographic records of the community and all office equipment. ✓ Back-up tapes of all computerized records. <input type="checkbox"/> Securing a safe location (preferably a safety deposit box) for important documents and records. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establishing primary and back-up communications (radio, cell phone, etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Specifying who is responsible for pre-storm preparations. This includes: Annual tree pruning, securing of yard items, installation of shutters, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Indicating evacuation routes from the development to the main road way. <input type="checkbox"/> Designating a post-disaster meeting place for insurance agents, resident briefings, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting with the Board attorney to determine the powers of the Board to act in an emergency. <input type="checkbox"/> Examining your insurance to determine that there is adequate coverage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Designating a person responsible for obtaining cost estimates to repair property for which the association is responsible. <input type="checkbox"/> Designating a person to coordinate any short-term loans with the association's financial institution or Small Business Administration. |
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For assistance with preparing a family disaster plan, go to:
www.floridadisaster.org

Is your family prepared for a hurricane?

What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone—the general term for all circulating weather systems (counterclockwise in the North Hemisphere) over tropical waters. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

- › **Tropical Depression** — An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.
- › **Tropical Storm** — An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.
- › **Hurricane** — An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or greater. In the western Pacific, hurricanes are called “typhoons,” and similar storms in the Indian Ocean are called “cyclones.”

Hurricanes are products of the tropical ocean and atmosphere. Powered by heat from the sea, they are steered by the easterly trade winds and the temperate westerlies as well as by their own ferocious energy. Around their core, winds grow with great velocity, generating violent seas. Moving ashore, they sweep the ocean inward while spawning tornadoes and producing torrential rains and floods. Hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30. Each year on average, ten tropical storms (many of which become hurricanes) develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico. Many of these remain over the ocean. However, about six hurricanes strike the United States coastline every 3 years. Of these, two are likely to be major hurricanes (category 3 or greater on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale).

Warning Terminology:

- › **Tropical Storm Watch** — Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 48 hours.
- › **Tropical Storm Warning** — Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours.
- › **Hurricane Watch** — Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 48 hours. During Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued.
- › **Hurricane Warning** — Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 36 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by local officials.

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

What to do now:

- Learn the county's evacuation routes and be familiar with the names and locations of public shelters.
- Encourage family, friends and neighbors who may be eligible for the Special Needs shelter to register by calling (772) 567-2154.
- Pre-register with the county's pet-friendly shelter if you plan on using that facility by calling (772) 388-3331, Ext. 10.
- Designate a meeting place in case you are separated by a disaster.
- Notify relatives of your disaster plans.
- Gather your important papers and secure in a water-proof and fireproof location.
- Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity to your home.

Prepare a disaster supply kit:

Assemble supplies you think you may need in a disaster situation. Some suggestions include:

- A first-aid kit and prescription medications.
- A battery-powered radio and flashlight (extra batteries, too!).
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- A supply of non-perishable foods and a manually operated can opener.
- Extra cash. Banks will not be open if there is no electricity.
- Water—one gallon per person per day.
- Tools such as chainsaw, hammer, tarps, nails.
- Emergency and family/neighbor phone numbers.
- Food and supplies for pets.

What to do During a Hurricane Watch:

Hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to your area

- Monitor media reports for official bulletins (radio, TV, NOAA weather radio).
- Fuel your car.
- Secure your home, including lawn furniture and other loose yard items.
- Update your disaster supplies kit and replenish as necessary, especially batteries for radios and flashlights.
- Have adequate water supplies on hand (at least 1 gallon per person/day).
- Refill all medications.

What to do During a Hurricane Warning:

Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours

- Continue to monitor media reports and evacuate if instructed to do so.
- Stay indoors.
- Secure valuables if you have not already done so.
- If you evacuate:
 - › *Shut off water and electricity.*
 - › *Take small valuables.*
 - › *Bring a small bag with any essentials.*
 - › *Secure your home.*
 - › *Leave early and drive carefully to your evacuation destination.*

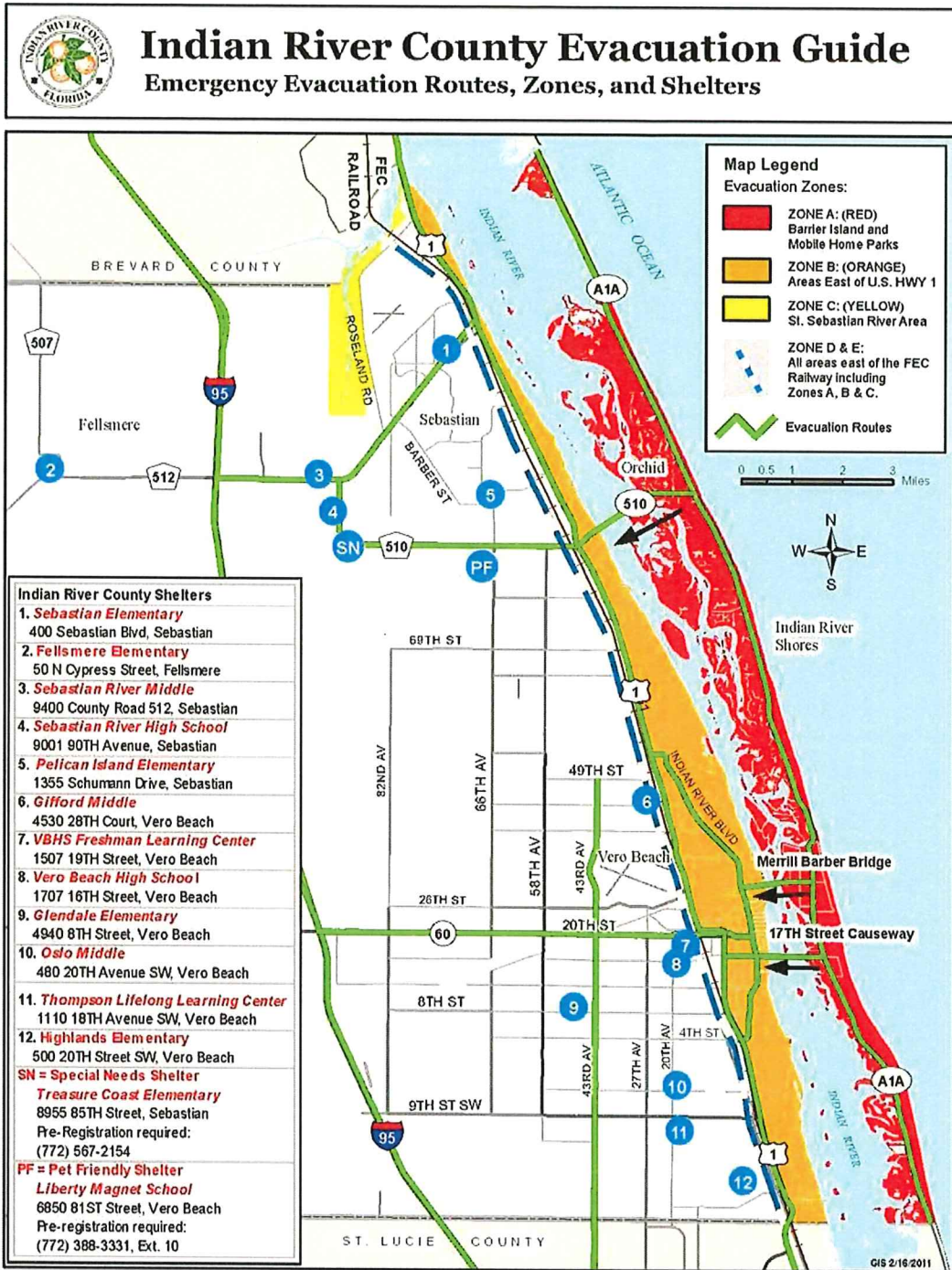
Who should evacuate in Indian River County?



Evacuate early to avoid excessive traffic.

While all residents should be prepared to evacuate for any emergency, residents of the following areas in Indian River County are most likely to be issued mandatory evacuation orders:

- Those residing on the barrier island
- Those residing east of U.S. #1
- Residents of manufactured/mobile homes
- Those living in areas known to flood



Indian River County Information Sources:

The Weather Channel
 NOAA Weather Radio
 Internet: www.indianriver.gov

Government Channel Cable 27
 FM Radio 91.9
 FM Radio 88.9



To Receive Community Alerts

If you would like to receive weather alerts and other community safety information event notifications by e-mail, register now at: www.indianriver.gov