



The Clay County Department of Public Safety's,
Division of Emergency Management
Presents...

The Clay County Hurricane Preparedness Manual

The Clay County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management hopes that you find this information helpful and informative. Although the information presented in the booklet is believed to be reliable and current, we make no guarantee as to its absolute applicability.

BEFORE A HURRICANE THREATENS

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. Generally, the state of Florida can expect to be threatened by a storm anytime during this period. Take these steps now to prepare before a hurricane watch or warning is announced:

- Restock your emergency supplies such as water, nonperishable food, manual can opener, flashlights, batteries, portable battery-operated radio, first aid kit, medical prescriptions and aids. Ensure that you have enough supplies to last a week at a minimum.
- Obtain and store materials necessary to properly secure your home.
- Prepare and practice family emergency and evacuation plans. Plan where you will go. If you have no transportation, arrange with a relative, friend, or neighbor to transport you and your family in case you need to evacuate.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall and impact your home. Do not trim trees and shrubs after a hurricane watch or warning has been announced. Trash pickup will be suspended and your trash may potentially become dangerous projectiles propelled by the hurricane's high winds.
- If you have special physical/medical needs and anticipate needing help in the event of an evacuation, you may want to consider registering in advance with the county to possibly qualify to use the Special Needs Shelter. Applications are available on the county's website at www.claycountygov.com. Annual registration is required.
- If you have elderly relatives or friends who will stay with you during a storm, keep a list of their prescribed medicines and photocopies of their prescriptions and include them in your emergency plans. Plan now how you will take care of their property and pick them up.
- Review your insurance policy to ensure it provides adequate coverage. Remember, most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding.
- Make arrangements for the safety of your pet. Currently, the county has three pet friendly shelters available. All require annual pre-registration. Registration forms are available on the county website.

Plan to evacuate if you...

- ✓ Are advised to evacuate by emergency management officials.
- ✓ Live in a mobile home.
- ✓ Reside in a flood zone.
- ✓ Live in vulnerable housing.
- ✓ Live in a low-lying area.

Plan your evacuation alternatives now...

- ✓ Make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives
- ✓ Relocate outside the projected hurricane impact area. Leave early to avoid heavy traffic and roads that could be blocked by early floodwater. Gridlock is a serious

- problem. Don't get caught on the road by the storm. Follow evacuation advice closely.
- ✓ As a last resort, go to an open Clay County Public Shelter. Public shelters will be available for people who have no other place to go. If you must seek public shelter, watch you local news channel, listen to local radio stations or call the Clay County Emergency Management Office for announcements telling which shelters will be open. **REMEMBER:** Do not go to a shelter until you have heard an announcement stating that it is open.

WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS

There are two types of official warnings:

1. A "hurricane watch" means that there is a possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated.
2. A "hurricane warning" means that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

Pay close attention to official announcements on local news stations, from the National Hurricane Center and your Emergency Management Office. Do **not** pay attention to rumors.

When a hurricane watch is announced, take these steps:

-Food and Water

- ✓ Turn your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings, opening only when absolutely necessary.
- ✓ Freeze water in plastic jugs and use them to fill empty space to keep food cool
- ✓ Prepare your emergency water supply before the hurricane strikes. Plan for one gallon of drinking water per person, per day.
- ✓ Additionally, sterilize any bathtubs, jugs, bottles, cooking utensils, and other containers. Scrub thoroughly, sponge and swab with unscented bleach, then rinse. Let the tub and other containers dry then fill them with water. This water can be used for sanitary purposes.

-Property

- ✓ Begin latching your shutters or installing pre-cut plywood over your windows, sliding or French doors.
- ✓ Unplug your television before taking down your satellite dish or outdoor antenna. You should check with your local satellite dealer for the best advice on taking down a larger dish.

- ✓ If you have a CB antenna, telescope it down and lower it away from any power lines. Be careful not to make contact with a power line – you could be electrocuted.
- ✓ Do not drain your swimming pool completely. Turn off electricity to your pool equipment and cover your pool pump if it is exposed. Add extra chlorine to your pool to prevent contamination.
- ✓ Bring in objects that can be blown away, such as garbage cans, garden tools, lawn furniture, and plants. Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- ✓ Prepare your vehicle. Fill your fuel tank early. Gasoline may not be available for days after the hurricane strikes due to power outages.

-Store Valuables and Documents

- ✓ Place valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers and store them in the highest possible spot. Use plastic bags for large items.
- ✓ Make sure you have adequate cash as ATM's may not be working.

DURING A HURRICANE

Weather conditions may deteriorate rapidly, even hours before the arrival of a hurricane's worst weather. Stay indoors. Remember, the major cause of death due to a hurricane is inland flooding. An interior room or a room without windows is usually the safest place in your home.

Passage of the hurricane eye: If the center (eye) passes through your area, continue to stay indoors. Wind and rain may stop for periods ranging from a few minutes to more than an hour, but beware as the wind will suddenly pick up again, possibly with greater force than before.

Stay inside a well-constructed building that is outside a flood zone. In structures such as a house, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds can produce deadly missiles and structural failure.

If winds become strong:

- Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway. Take a battery-powered radio, TV or a NOAA Weather Radio, phone and a flashlight with you to your place of refuge. Keep a clear escape path in case of fire.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly double doors, inward opening doors and garage doors.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room or basement, such as a bathroom, closet, or under the stairs.
- If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of a building.

- Lie on the floor under tables or other sturdy objects.

AFTER A HURRICANE

Remain indoors until the official “all clear” is given. Continue to monitor television and/or radio for official announcements from the National Hurricane Center and all local officials. *If you have evacuated, do not return home until officials announce your area is ready.* Be sure to have proof of residency, such as a driver’s license.

Remember: Take extra care when driving after a hurricane. Slow down. *If a stoplight is out, treat the intersection as if it were a four way stop.* Also remember that many street signs may have been destroyed by the storm.

Telephone communication:

- **Do not** use your telephone unless you have an emergency. **Do not** call 911 except for life-threatening situations.
- **Do not** report individual interruptions in electric, gas, water, or telephone service. The companies have plans to restore services as quickly as possible.
- **Call utility companies to report downed power lines, broken glass or water mains.**
- Report individual trouble only after service has been generally restored to your area.

Boil water order:

- Water supplies may be contaminated during a hurricane. If necessary, the Public Health Department may issue a boil water order immediately after a hurricane passes. While an order is in effect, use only pre-stored water and dry or canned food.

Avoid injuries:

- Many injuries occur after the storm passes. Careless equipment use causes the greatest number of post-storm injuries. Be careful with open flames.
- Avoid carbon monoxide injuries, by using hibachis and gas grills outside, never inside your home.
- When cutting fallen trees, be extremely careful, especially if you are using a chain saw. Serious injuries can occur when these powerful machines snap back or when the chain breaks.

Portable power generators:

- Only utilize a generator if you have in-depth knowledge and experience in installing and operating one.
- Connecting a portable or recreational vehicle (RV) generator to home wiring can injure utility workers and is a fire hazard. Before using an RV or portable

generator, it is important to turn off the electricity at your main circuit breaker or fuse box.

- Disconnect portable generators before turning on power to your home. A portable generator should be operated OUTSIDE the house (you can then run a heavy duty, properly grounded extension cord to power your electrical appliances).

Electrical safety after a hurricane:

- *Do not touch fallen or low-hanging wires of any kind under any circumstances. A wire that seems harmless could be crossed with a live wire.*
- *Treat every power line you see as deadly. Whether it's on the ground, hanging loose or attached to an object, do not touch it.*
- Stay away from puddles with fallen wires in them. Call your local power company immediately to report hazards such as downed power lines.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

If you sustained losses or damage in a county which was declared as federal disaster area, you may be eligible for federal and state disaster aid. For information or to apply for assistance, call the Federal Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-621-FEMA, TDD 1-800-462-7585. When you apply for assistance, please have the following available:

- Social Security Number (Including Spouse)
- Address and zip code of the damaged property
- Directions to the damaged home or property
- Telephone numbers where you can be reached during the day.

It is important to keep in mind that if available, federal disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate you for your entire loss.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Flood insurance is available to any property owner located in a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). All areas are susceptible to flooding, although to varying degrees, in fact 25% of all flood claims occur in the low-to-moderate risk areas. Flooding can be caused by heavy rains, melting snow, by inadequate drainage systems, failed protective devices such as levees and dams, as well as by tropical storms and hurricanes.

There's a big difference between having to buy flood insurance because the law says you must and choosing to buy flood coverage because it's in your best interests to do so. We recommend that all property owners purchase and keep flood insurance because it is the best means of recovery from flood damage.

TERMS TO KNOW

Tropical Wave: A cluster of clouds and thunderstorms in the tropics without a defined circulation.

Tropical Depression: An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less

Tropical Storm: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph

Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 36 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning within 24 hours.

Hurricane: An intense tropical weather system of thunderstorms with a well defined surface circulation and maximum sustained wind speeds of 74 mph or higher.

Storm Surge: Larger than normal waves which result from water that is pushed towards the shore by the force of the winds swirling around a storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create storm tides which can potentially cause severe flooding.

Hurricane Watch: Means that there's a possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated.

Hurricane Warning: Means that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

HURRICANE SHOPPING LIST

- Baby Food and Formula
- Fuel for Cars and Generators
- Flashlights
- Battery powered Radio or TV
- Battery powered Lanterns
- Batteries for Radio, Flashlights
- Plastic Drop Cloth
- Books, Magazines, Cards & Games
- Window Protection

- Trash Bags
- Bottled Water (1 gallon of water per person per day, to last at least a week)
- Bleach (without lemon or any additives)
- Manual Can Opener
- Soap and Detergent
- Charcoal and Lighter Fluid
- Disposable Diapers
- Disposable Plates, Glasses and Utensils
- Disposable Washcloths
- Ice Chest and Ice
- Masking Tape
- Matches
- Non-electric Clock
- Prescription Medicines
- Toiletries
- Cash (ATM's may not work)
- Sterno
- First Aid Supplies
- Water Containers

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

- Canned Meats and Fish
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Soups
- Canned Puddings
- Canned, Powdered or Shelf-pack Milk
- Dried Fruit
- Powdered or Individually Packed Drinks
- Cookies, Crackers, Snacks
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Coffee and Tea
- Pet Food

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES TO KEEP HANDY

- Emergency Cooking Facilities
- Portable Cooler
- Tools, including a Hammer and Nails
- 100 ft of Rope
- Sleeping Bags and Blankets
- ¾" Plywood Boards to board up windows etc. (Buy early, cut to size and have anchors installed or clips ready)
- Mosquito Netting
- Tarp (Canvas or Plastic)
- Water Purification Tablets (can be purchased at your local pharmacy)

- Extra Mosquito Repellant
- Extra Prescription Medicine
- Extra Duct Tape

PET SAFETY TIPS

Clay County has pet-friendly shelters which upon order of evacuation, will be made available to the public. If activated, these shelters will be equipped to accept typical house pets such as cats, dogs, hamster and birds. Reptiles and other exotic pets will not be allowed in the shelters. All pets must have proof of vaccination and registration, be properly crated/caged and will be maintained by the owner. Owners must provide all necessary food and supplies to sustain their pet. Use of the Pet friendly shelter requires annual registration, which can be obtained by clicking on the departmental link for Clay County Animal Control via the county’s website at www.claycountygov.com, or by calling 904-269-6342 for a copy of the registration form.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO CALL

Stay tuned to local television and radio stations for the latest weather bulletins and information concerning shelters, evacuation zones, etc.

Clay County Emergency Management Office Toll Free	(904) 284-7703 1-877-252-9362
American Red Cross	1-888-843-5748
Salvation Army	(904) 276-6677
Federal Emergency Management Agency TDD	1-800-621-FEMA 1-800-462-7585
Clay County Sheriff’s Office	(904) 264-6512
Orange Park Police Department	(904) 264-5555
Green Cove Police Department	(904) 529-2220
Emergency (Use ONLY if you have a genuine emergency)	911

**All numbers are subject to change.

2009 Shelter List

If you plan to evacuate to an emergency shelter, keep in mind that specific shelter openings will be announced according to the severity and circumstances of the storm. All shelters are not open during every storm. Stay tuned to your local media or contact the Clay County Division of Emergency Management at (904)284-7703 to find out which shelters are open in your area.

A shelter is a refuge of last resort. The environment can be challenging. Take water, nonperishable food and the necessary clothing, emergency supplies and medications adequate for you and your family for at least 72 hours. Don't forget blankets, bedding, books, flashlights and quiet games for your children.

Orange Park Area

Argyle Elementary	2625 Spencer Plantation Boulevard, Orange Park
Montclair Elementary	2398 Moody Avenue, Orange Park
Oakleaf School	4085 Plantation Oaks Boulevard, Orange Park
Oakleaf Village Elementary	410 Oakleaf Village Parkway, Orange Park
◇ Orange Park High School	2300 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park

Middleburg Area

Coppergate Elementary	2250 County Road 209 North, Middleburg
RideOut Elementary	3065 Apalachicola Boulevard, Middleburg
Tynes Elementary	1550 Tynes Boulevard, Middleburg

Green Cove Springs Area

◇ Clay High School	2025 State Road 16 West, Green Cove Springs
Green Cove Springs Junior High	1220 Bonaventure Avenue, Green Cove Springs
Lake Asbury Junior High	2851 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs
Shadowlawn Elementary	2945 County Road 218, Green Cove Springs

Clay Hill Area

Clay Hill Elementary	6345 County Road 218, Jacksonville
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Keystone Heights Area

◇ Keystone Heights High School	900 S.W. Orchid Avenue, Keystone Heights
McRae Elementary	6770 County Road 315 C., Keystone Heights

† The Clay County Special Needs Shelter is the Thrasher-Horne Building located on the Campus of the St. Johns River Community College at 283 College Drive, Orange Park. The use of this shelter requires annual registration with the Clay County Division of Emergency Management.

◇ Denotes a Pet-Friendly Shelter