



TOOLKIT TO NAVIGATING THE 2020 HURRICANE SEASON DURING COVID-19



**Office of Congresswoman
Mucarsel-Powell**
Florida's 26th District

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Dear Friends,

Hurricane season officially begins on Monday, June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an especially active hurricane season, with an estimated three to six major storms (Category 3 or higher) and nearly 70 percent chance that at least one of those major storms strikes the U.S. coast.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is facing unprecedented challenges as we respond to additional disasters, anticipate emerging adversities, and prepare for the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season. Safely evacuating and sheltering people during an outbreak will likely require more space, transportation, and staff than during a difficult event. State emergency managers and other leaders in disaster response have considered creative and urgent approaches to account for necessary social distancing such as testing and temperature checks at shelter spaces and more non-congregate sheltering across regions.

Although the circumstances have changed due to the virus, U.S. federal, state, local, tribal and territorial officials and emergency managers will still work in tangent to fulfill their respective duties and help those affected by the disaster. As our nation continues to respond and recover from COVID-19 while planning for the oncoming hurricane season, every individual must make sure they have personally prepared their families, homes, and businesses.

There are several critical steps you can take to make sure you and your families are safe. I can understand how difficult it must be for communities to motivate and get emergency plans together in the midst of a pandemic. I hope for this toolkit to help constituents of Florida's 26th district make arrangements as airtight and smooth as possible.

Quick FL-26 Contacts:

FL State Department of Health

850-245-4444; online at <https://wa-oit-contactus-prd.azurewebsites.net/>

Miami-Dade County Health Department

305-324-2400; online at <https://miamidade.floridahealth.gov/contact-us/index.html>

Monroe County Health Department

305-293-7500; online at <http://monroe.floridahealth.gov/contact-us/index.html>

Florida Division of Emergency Management

1-800-342-3557, <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/information-line/>

Miami-Dade County Emergency Management

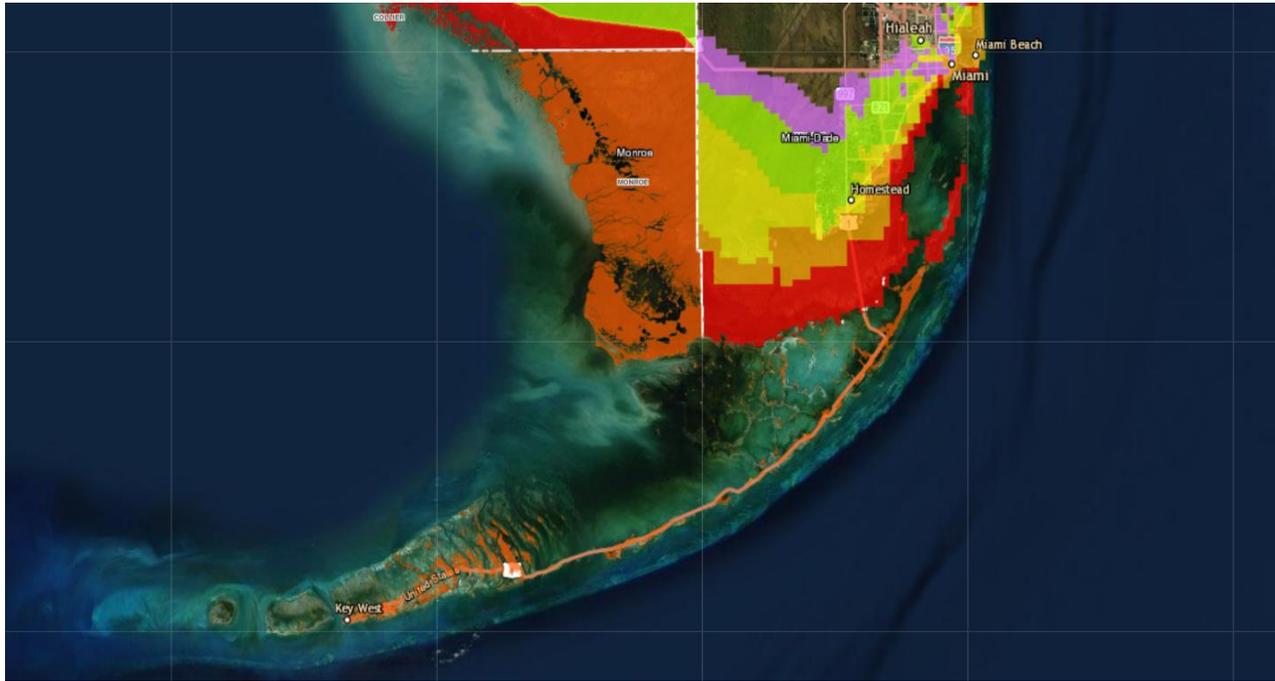
1-305-468-5900, <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/emergency/home.page>

Monroe County Emergency Management

1-800-955-5504, www.monroecountyem.com/782/Emergency-Management

STEP 1: Know Your Evacuation Zone

You may have to evacuate quickly due to a hurricane. Find out if you live in an evacuation zone [here](#). This evacuation route and zone map is based on the most up-to-date regional evacuation studies and are intended for general reference.



[Learn your evacuate routes](#) depending on where you live and practice with the rest of your household (including pets!).

The most dangerous aspect of hurricanes is storm surge – the dome of water pushed ashore by powerful hurricane winds. Storm surges can move buildings, and normally cause more damage than the winds of a hurricane itself. Florida is particularly vulnerable to surge flooding because of its coastal and low-lying geography. To stay safe from surge flooding, if you live in an evacuation zone, get out and confirm your plan ahead of time.

Immediately designate a shelter plan if you live in an evacuation zone.

Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter local. If possible, make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives who reside closest to your home who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family's plan as soon as possible.

Federal, state, and local emergency managers are considering the presence of COVID-19 in sheltering decisions. Due to the risks associated

with congregate sheltering, including standards for occupancy rates, equipment requirements, and assessment of at-risk or vulnerable populations, this approach will be adjusted. FEMA has been adjusting policies to allow state and local entities to execute non-congregate shelters including, but not limited to, hotels, motels, and dormitories. However, FEMA has recognized that some congregate sheltering will be necessary in many hurricane scenarios.

If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave. Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.

If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels/motels rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not always accept pets.

- [Click here](#) for Red Cross shelter locations.
- [Click here](#) for important shelter information from the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

If you are ordered to evacuate, **do not wait or delay your departure.** If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens – especially if you live in the Keys. **Make sure you fill up your car with gas, before you leave.**

STEP 2: Make an Emergency Plan

After you have oriented yourself and learned whether you reside in an evacuation zone, you can begin to make your official plan. Start by discussing the following questions with your family:

- **How will I receive my alerts and warnings?**
- **What is my evacuation route?**
- **What is my shelter plan?**
- **What is my family/household communication plan?**
- **Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit(s)?**
- **How will the latest [CDC guidance of COVID-19](#) affect your hurricane plan?**

As you prepare to tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities, keep in mind some important factors:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets and service animals
- Households with school-aged children

STEP 3: Fill Out Plan

[Download this readiness template](#) and fill out your emergency plan, so that all parties are clear and you can keep track of what you need to do next.

Practice this with your family and household until you have it down.

STEP 4: Gather Emergency Supplies

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight 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 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-perishables)**
- **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
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Find additional emergency supplies [here](#)

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars. Keep a kit in each place.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">General</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> At least two weeks supply of medication, medical supplies used regularly and a list of allergies <input type="checkbox"/> List of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight <i>Do not use candles and be sure to have enough batteries</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <i>Battery operated or hand cranked radio, a NOAA weather radio</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <i>Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm</i> 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">First Aid</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile gauze pads <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoallergenic adhesive tape <input type="checkbox"/> Triangular bandages <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing needle <input type="checkbox"/> Moistened towellettes <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer <input type="checkbox"/> Tube of petroleum jelly <input type="checkbox"/> Safety pins <input type="checkbox"/> Soap <input type="checkbox"/> Latex gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin or other pain reliever <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-diarrheal medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Antacid <input type="checkbox"/> Laxative <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton balls <input type="checkbox"/> Q-tips 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Important Documents</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance cards <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records <input type="checkbox"/> Bank numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of social security card <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Other personal documents <input type="checkbox"/> Set of car, house, and office keys <input type="checkbox"/> Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of will <p style="font-size: small; color: gray;"><i>*Items should be kept in a water proof container</i></p>
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Pet Care Items</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food and water <input type="checkbox"/> Proper identification <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records/microchip info <input type="checkbox"/> A carrier or cage <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle and leash <input type="checkbox"/> Water and food bowls <input type="checkbox"/> Medications <input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for your service animal 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Food and Water</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Food <i>Enough for at least seven (7) days, nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-electric can opener <input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates <input type="checkbox"/> Napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic cups <input type="checkbox"/> Utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Water (1 gallon per person) 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Vehicle</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Clothing</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Include seasonal or rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots. 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Phone Numbers</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a list of important phone numbers including: county emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contact, friends & family 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COVID-19 Supplies</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Face masks <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer

Don't miss out on Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday May 29 – June 4! Disaster preparedness supplies will be exempt from sales tax so you can prepare for hurricane season. For more information & a list of qualifying items, visit - <http://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep>.

STEP 5: Review Documents and Prepare Financially

Americans at all income levels have experienced the challenges of rebuilding their lives after a disaster or other emergency. **In these stressful times, having access to personal finance, insurance, medical and other records is crucial for starting the recovery process quickly and efficiently.**

1. Gather financial and critical personal, household, and medical information.
2. Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. It is important to have small bills on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food.
3. Obtain property (homeowners or renters), health and life insurance if you do not have them. Not all insurance policies are the same. Review your policy to make sure the amount and types of coverage you have meets the requirements for all possible hazards. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding, so you may need to purchase flood insurance from the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).
4. For more helpful financial preparedness tips, download the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#) to get started planning today.

Vital Documents Checklist: An emergency or disaster can erase the vital documents and records of our lives instantly if we have not prepared in advance. Using this checklist, collect all the important papers that apply to you. Make copies and store them in a weatherproof bag – even a large, plastic Ziplock works. Keep this packet of documents somewhere easily accessible so that you can access them in a hurry →

- Personal identification like passport, driver's license and voter ID card
- Personal Medication Record and medical and immunization records
- Social Security card
- Health insurance cards
- Financial records like recent tax returns, bank statements, retirement accounts, credit card numbers and records of any stocks and/or bonds
- Insurance policies
- Deed(s) to your house or other properties
- Family records like wills, birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, child custody, and death certificates.
- Legal titles (home, auto) and/or lease agreements.
- Important phone numbers of family members, friends, doctors, insurers — anyone who needs to know where you are

- Records of passwords and personal identification numbers (PINs)
- Video and photo inventory documenting your valuables and the interior and exterior of your home
- Cash and/or traveler's checks

STEP 6: Strengthen Your Home

Strengthen your home by decluttering drains and gutters, bringing in outside furniture, and installing hurricane shutters. Please use [FEMA homeowner's guide to retrofitting](#) to make changes to your home to protect it from flooding and other hazards.

- Elevation is raising your home so that the lowest floor is above the flood level. This is the most common way to avoid flood damage.
- Wet floodproofing makes uninhabited parts of your home resistant to flood damage when water is allowed to enter during flooding.
- Relocation means moving your home to higher ground where the exposure to flooding is eliminated altogether.
- Dry floodproofing is sealing your home to prevent flood waters from entering.
- Levee and floodwall protection means constructing barriers to prevent flood waters from entering your home.
- Demolition means razing your home and rebuilding properly on the same property or buying a home elsewhere.

Remember to get tech ready, as well. Keep your cell phone charged when you know a hurricane is in the forecast and purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

STEP 7: Recognize Warnings and Alerts

There are some available resources to receive real-time alerts for oncoming hurricanes.

[The FEMA App](#) – Alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide

[NOAA Weather Radar Live & Alerts](#) – Serious weather station app that will give you updates in advance.

[NOAA Weather Radio](#) – Nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

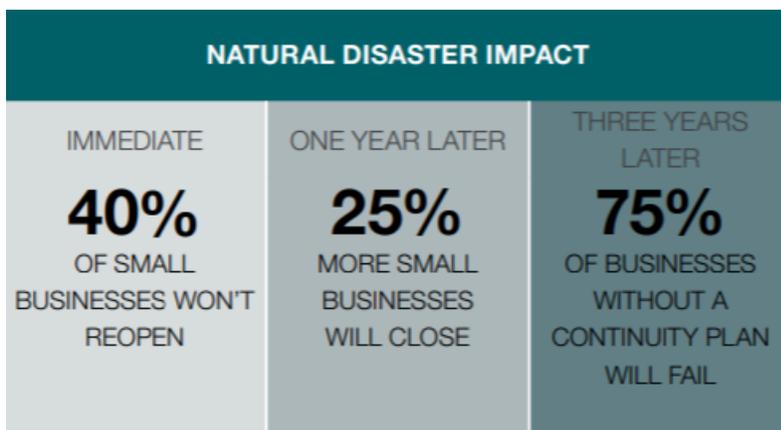
[Miami Dade County Emergency Alert System](#) – Enables Miami Dade residents or visitors to receive emergency texts or emails regarding public safety issues, recommended public protective actions or other emergency information.

[Monroe County Emergency Alert System](#) – Provides alerts about emergencies and other important community news by telephone, email, or text.

STEP 8: Prepare Your Business

Significant portions of the United States are at risk for the effects of tropical storms and hurricanes. It is important that organizations throughout the country, including associations, businesses, and community groups, understand the risks and potential impacts and prepare accordingly.

The Ready Business Program for Hurricane and the Preparedness and Mitigation Project Plan allow users to take action to protect employees, protect customers, and help ensure business continuity.



- [Hurricane Ready Business Toolkit](#)
- [Spanish Hurricane Ready Business Toolkit](#)

More Tools for You and Your Community:

Hurricane Season Preparedness Digital Toolkit

- [National Weather Service Hurricane Preparedness Week](#)
- [Hurricane Safety Graphics](#)
- ["When the Waves Swell" hurricane preparedness video](#)
- Ready.gov ["Don't Wait. Communicate" public service announcement](#)
- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- Learn what to do before, during, and after a hurricane by visiting: [ready.gov/hurricanes](#) & [listo.gov/hurricanes](#)
- Get the kids involved in hurricane preparedness planning with [Ready Kids](#)
- [Download the FEMA app](#) for disaster resources, weather alerts, and safety tips
- Check your insurance coverage by visiting: [www.floodsmart.gov](#) and share information with the [Flood Insurance Outreach Toolkit](#)

Resources for Different Households

- 1) Households with an individual with disabilities: <https://www.ready.gov/disability>
 - a. [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
 - b. [Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.](#)
 - c. [Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities](#)
 - d. [Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.](#)
 - e. [National Organization on Disability](#)
 - f. [Florida Department of Health Special Needs Shelter Program](#)
- 2) Preparedness for seniors: <https://www.ready.gov/seniors>
- 3) Households with pets: <https://www.ready.gov/pets>
 - a. <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/pet-plan/>

Disaster Resource List

American Red Cross

1-866-438-4636

Florida Department of Financial Services Disaster Assistance

1-877-My-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236) or (850) 413-3089

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)

TTY: 1-800-462-7585

To Verify Coverage/Report Claims Citizens

Property Insurance Corporation

1-866-411-2742

State of Florida Emergency Information

1-800-342-3557

To Verify Contractor License Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

(850) 487-1395

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

1-800-435-7352

Florida Department of Elder Affairs Helpline

1-800-963-5337

Florida Department of Financial Services Fraud Hotline

1-800-378-0445

Heart of Florida United Way

2-1-1 – Text friendly

Florida Legal Services' Disaster Recovery Hotline

888-780-0443

