

of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



SERVPRO 2021 Hurricane Guide **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND TERMS** 2 Emergency Contacts **Storm Terms Hurricane Categories** PREPARING FOR THE STORM 5 Prepare Your Home & Vehicle **Disaster Supply Checklist Prepare Your Pets Evacuation DURING A HURRICANE** The Storm Is Here 10 Important Utility Tips 11 Portable Generator Safety AFTER THE STORM 12 After The Storm Tips 13 Storm Recovery 14 Protecting Your Property **HOW SERVPRO CAN HELP** 15 Why Choose SERVPRO



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

Polk County

Emergency Management Paul Womble@polk-county.net www.polk-county.net Paul Womble, Director, Director Phone 863-298-7000 800-780-5346 Polk County Sheriff 863-298-6200 Polk County Special Needs Program Pre-registration 863-298-7027 Disaster Services 863-294-5941 EMS/Fire 863-401-2222 Polk County Utilities 863-299-4100 Polk County Waste 863-284-4319 Lakeland Water Utilities 863-834-8316

Hardee County

Emergency Manager	863-773-6397
Hardee County Fire Rescue	863-773-4362
Hardee County Sheriff	863-773-4144
Hardee County Health Department	863-773-4161

Polk County Water...... 863-298-4100

United Way



863-648-1500

www.uwbc.org



Salvation Army

863-853-2214

800-728-7825

Highlands County

Public Safety	863-385-1112
(Fire Rescue, Emergency Management)	
Sheriff's Office	863-402-7200
Public Information	863-402-6833
Sebring Police Department	863-471-5107
Sebring Fire Department	863-471-5105
Lake Placid Police Department	863-699-3757
Avon Park Fire Department	863-453-6557
Department of Health	863-386-6040

Utilities Issues

Avon Park Utilities	863-382-5901
Sebring Utilities	863-471-0166
Lake Placid Utilities	863-441-2075
Duke Energy	800-700-8744
Florida Power & Light Company	888-488-7703
Glades Electric	863-946-6200
Peace River Electric	800-282-3824

Additional Resources

FEMA Assistance	
Crisis Cleanup	
Report Price Gouging	
Free Legal Assistance	866-550-2929
Office of Insurance	877-693-5236

myfloridacfo.com





FIND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE NATIONAL DISASTER DISTRESS HELPLINE

If you or a loved one is having a difficult time coping with recent disasters emotionally or mentally, the Disaster Distress Hotline is available 24/7 and in many languages. Individuals can call the helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746. If you speak Spanish, you can access the helpline at the same number or by texting Hablanos to 66746. This helpline is staffed by trained crisis counselors.



STORM TERMS



TROPICAL STORM WATCH

Tropical storm conditions are possible and may affect your area within the next 48 hours.



TROPICAL STORM WARNING

Tropical storm conditions are expected in your area within the next 36 hours.



HURRICANE WATCH

Hurricane conditions are possible in the area. Watches are issued up to 48 hours in advance of the anticipated storm-force winds.



HURRICANE WARNING

Hurricane conditions are expected in the area. Warnings are issued up to 36 hours in advance.



EYE

This is the clear center of the storm that arrives with calmer conditions. Remember, an eye passing over you signals that the storm is only half over.



Spiraling bands of clouds, rain, and thunderstorms extend out from a hurricane's eye wall. These bands stretch for hundreds of miles and sometimes even contain tornados.



EYE WALL

The Hurricanes Eye Wall is a ring of thunderstorms swirling around the eye of the storm. The wall of the Hurricane holds the strongest winds and heaviest rain.



STORM SURGE

A deadly rush of ocean or gulf water that occurs when a storm makes landfall. This often floods coastal areas and sometimes areas further inland.



HURRICANE CATEGORIES

Hide from the wind...

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale estimates potential property damage based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major because of their potential for significant loss of life and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, and require preventative measures.



Category 1: Very Dangerous Winds will Produce Some Damage

Winds: 74-95 mph

Buildings could have damage to roof, siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles can result in power outages that could last for several days.



Category 2: Extremely Dangerous Winds will Cause Extensive Damage

Winds: 96-110 mph

Buildings could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.



Category 3: Devastating Damage will Occur

Winds: 111-129 mph

Buildings may sustain major damage, including loss of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.



Category 4: Catastrophic Damage

Winds: 130-156 mph

Buildings can sustain severe damage with loss of roof structure and some exterior walls. Trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed, isolating residential areas.

Catastrophic Damage: Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



Category 5: Catastrophic Damage

Winds: More than 157 mph

A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.

Catastrophic Damage: Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



PREPARE YOUR HOME & VEHICLE

Prepare Your Home

- > Stay informed about approaching storms by monitoring NOAA Weather radio or local television and radio stations for updates and evacuations.
- Become familiar with your community's disaster preparedness plan and know your evacuation route. Select a common meeting place or single point-ofcontact for all family members. If you have pets, have a plan for their evacuation as well.
- Fill your gas tank and charge your cell phone so you're ready in case of evacuation.
- Keep important documents, such as legal papers, birth certificates, marriage license, financial papers and insurance policy information, as well as valuables such as jewelry, in waterproof containers.
- Maintain an emergency supply kit that will sustain you and your family for a 72-hour period.

Before you leave

- Move outside items to safety, such as patio furniture, plants, and grills.
- Turn off electricity at the main circuit breaker or fuse box.
- Turn off gas at the appliances.
- Remove perishable items from your refrigerator and freezer.
- Close all interior doors in your home.
- Trim large trees and shrubs. Close and secure all awnings and tie down any loose items that may become projectiles in a high wind.
- For cars left at home in your garage, park them against the garage doors to keep them from buckling inward and potentially blowing them off the tracks.

Prepare Your Vehicle

- Fill up with fuel before you leave town. You should keep your tank at least half full during the entire hurricane season.
- Check your vehicles fluid levels and ensure there is adequate coolant in the radiator.
- > Check your tire pressure.
- Ensure you have a jack, a lug wrench, and know where they are in the vehicle.
- Carry enough water and non-perishable food for you and your passengers in case you become stranded.
- > Have a working flashlight and extra batteries.
- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle and use emergency flashers. Tie a white cloth on the antenna or door handle and raise the hood.







If you're traveling with children be sure to pack items to help keep them entertained

- Reading materials, puzzle, games, coloring books, and electronics with extra chargers and batteries.
- Fun road games like Highway BINGO and I Spy. Go Online to find lists and ideas.
- Low sugar snacks and sugar free drinks.
- A change of clothes and additional pair of shoes.





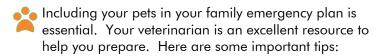
DISASTER SUPPLY CHECKLIST

Essentials	Safety	Sanitation
☐ Cell phone and charger ☐ This hurricane guide ☐ Battery-operated radio	First aid kit (one for your home and one for each car)	☐ Disinfectant ☐ Household chlorine bleach ☐ Soap, liquid detergent
Flashlight	☐ Whistle	Toilet paper, towelettes, paper towels
Extra batteriesCash	Compass	Personal hygiene items Cloth towels (at least 3)
Map of the area	Food	Feminine supplies Plastic bucket with tight lid
Baby Needs	Minimum 7-day supply of	Plastic garbage bags, ties
Formula, diapers, bottles, medication and powdered	nonperishable food that requires no refrigeration and little or no water	(for personal sanitation use)☐ Hand sanitizer
milk.	☐ Dry cereal	_
Medical Needs	Peanut butter Canned fruits	Supplies
Insulin	Canned vegetables	☐ Insect repellent and sunscreen☐ Aluminum foil
Prescription drugs in original containers	Canned juice	Paper, pencil
Heart and blood pressure needs	Ready-to-eat canned meats Ready-to-eat soups (not concentrated)	Plastic sheeting and tarp
☐ Denture needs ☐ Extra glasses	Quick energy snacks	Medicine dropper Needles, thread
Contact lenses and supplies	Graham crackers	Matches in a waterproof container
☐ Doctor's phone numbers	Important documents	☐ Plastic storage containers
Clothing & Bedding	☐ Important telephone numbers ☐ Record of bank account numbers	☐ Ziplock bags
☐ Plastic garbage bags, ties☐ Sunglasses	Family records (birth, marriage,	Tools
Rain gear	death certificates)	Assorted nails, wood screws Pliers, screwdriver, hammer
Sturdy shoes or work boots Blankets or sleeping bags	Inventory of household valuables with digital pictures and video	Paper, pencil
Complete change of clothing	Copy of will, insurance policies	Heavy rope
and footwear	Records of credit card account numbers and companies	☐ Tape, duct tape and plumber's tape or strap iron
Cooking Preparation	Copy of passport, social security	Patch kit and can of seal-in-air
☐ Paper cups, plates and plastic	cards, and immunization records Current utility bills	for tires Shut off wrench to turn off
utensils, and napkins Non-electric can opener, utility knife		household gas & water
Barbecue for outdoor use only with	Pet Needs	Vou mou wont to include
charcoal and lighter, or sterno stove	Food, leash, collar/ harness, carrier, food and water containers	You may want to include
→ Pot or pan→ Manual can opener		Family photos, jewelry and select irreplaceable personal items
☐ Barbecue and cooking utensils	Water	☐ An external hard drive
Entertainment	7 gallons per person, minimum,	
Games & books, cards	in a food-grade, plastic container	
Portable electronics	Additional water for sanitation	



PREPARE YOUR PETS

BEFORE



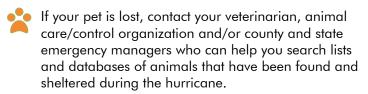
- Evacuate with your pet outside of the evacuation zone.

 An emergency temporary shelter should be a last resort.

 Have a cage/carrier for each pet a means of containment will be needed anywhere you go. Each county should have a temporary emergency shelter for pets. Local vets or SPCA will list open shelters.
- Instead of shelters, consider boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, pet-friendly hotels, stables for horses or small livestock and homes of friends and relatives.
- Choose an identification method for each animal.

 Examples: micro-chipping and ID tags on collar. Have photos of yourself with your animals to prove ownership if you become separated. Keep your animals' immunizations, especially rabies, current and be sure to have copies of all important documents.
- Maintain a disaster 'go kit' for each pet in a quickly accessible site: cage/carrier large enough to stand and turn around in, leash, harness, bowls, 3-days of water and food, medications, health records/care instructions, microchip numbers, litter box/letter and clean-up supplies.

AFTER



Familiar scents and landmarks may be different after a hurricane, making it easy for your pet to become confused and lost. Please watch your animals closely. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Pets that are typically quiet and friendly may become aggressive or defensive. Be sure pets have a safe shelter and plenty of water.



DURING

- In the immediate post-landfall period, there may be areas of extreme damage from winds or flooding. The immediate focus for emergency workers during the time will be human safety.
- When circumstances allow, there will be personnel trained in animal emergencies to assist emergency workers and citizens with animal needs.
- These may include rescue of displaced animals, ID, treatment, temporary shelter and care, and reunification with owners.
- Information about options for assistance with animals will be provided as soon as possible from EMD by way of news briefings and telephone hot lines.

OTHER RESOURCES



SPCA FLORIDA

863.646.7722 www.spcaflorida.org



PETSWELCOME.COM

PETSWELCOME.COM is a great resource for finding pet friendly shelters and hotels.

EVACUATION

Evacuation Plans

How do I know when to evacuate?

Don't wait! It is NOT safe to wait. Plan to leave early. Mandatory evacuation orders will come from your local officials. Evacuations will be based on zip codes. Please be prepared to leave immediately.

Should I evacuate?

Do not wait until a mandatory evacuation is issued. Monitor conditions and leave whenever you can. Hurricanes and disasters can be extremely unpredictable and can become much more dangerous in a matter of hours.

Where should I go?

You may evacuate to any city you choose. If you do not have hotel reservations or family you can stay with, you may evacuate to the public shelters.

What route should I take?

There are no mandatory routes you must take when evacuating from your city. In fact, there are several different routes you may take. When weather is good, take your family on an outing to check routes and become familiar with roadways and fuel locations.





When evacuating you should:

- Coordinate your departure with the people who will be traveling with you.
- Notify an out-of-area person of your evacuation plans.
- Make arrangements for your pets.
- Pack your disaster supply kit into your vehicle.
- Secure your home.
- Double check your evacuation route and leave.

Should I carry food and drinks in my car?

Yes! Stopping for food or drinks during a large scale evacuation may significantly delay you in getting to your destination. Some restaurants and stores along hurricane routes may be closed and those that are open are likely to be very crowded. Additionally, once you leave the evacuation route to purchase food or drinks, it may be difficult to re-enter the flow of traffic.

What can I do to help others?

Check on friends and neighbors, and assist them if you can to make sure they can evacuate. If you cannot, help them get in touch with the local emergency management office.



THE STORM IS HERE

of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands

Emergency management officials typically recommend that Florida residents who do not live in an evacuation zone stay home during most tropical storms and hurricanes, with the exception of those who are in poor health, elderly, or in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Preparation

- Check your disaster supplies and bring them into a central "safe room."
- Install your aluminum hurricane shutters. If you do not have aluminum hurricane shutters, board up windows and doors (including garage doors) with plywood.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Keep them closed as much as you can so your food will last longer if the power fails.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water for sanitation purposes (e.g., to flush toilets).
- Turn off and properly secure propane tanks. Place tanks in an easily accessible location, as you may need to use them after the storm to heat canned goods, cook food and/or boil water.
- If you own a generator, fill gas containers and secure them in a safe, easily accessible location.
- Top off your gas tank in case of a shortage after the storm.
- Unplug small appliances (e.g., lamps and electronics) in rooms you do not plan to use during a storm. This will help to protect your belongings from harmful surges when power is restored.
- Charge all cell phones.

Designate a "safe room" in your home. Select an interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or walk-in closet. In the event that your roof develops a hole or completely blows off, have a mattress readily available in the safe room to function as a barrier against flying debris and wind.

During the Storm

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or your local emergency news station for information on the progress of the storm from the National Weather Service.
- Avoid using mobile devices except for emergencies. Consider turning them off to conserve power.
- Stay indoors at all times. Keep away from windows and any glass doors.
- Close all of your interior doors, as well as blinds and curtains.
- Move to an interior room or hallway in the lowest level of your home. Sleep here if possible.
- Bring a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector into the room or hallway.
- If any damage occurs, extinguish candles or other light sources that use flames and generate heat.
- Immediately switch to flashlights in the dark to avoid harm from potential gas leaks.
- Never use an elevator during a storm.

Hurricanes can affect inland areas more than



One inch of water can cause up to

\$25,000



of damage



IMPORTANT UTILITY TIPS

of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands

If...the power goes out

You will need a battery-powered radio, flashlight, batteries, cell phone and battery charger, nonperishable food and water. Check your emergency kits to make sure you can make it at least a week without power. You will need a way to cook and boil water in the weeks to follow so having an outside grill or camp stove will be useful. You will want items to keep you occupied: books, board games, etc.

If...the power stays out for six hours

If there is food in the refrigerator, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler. Put a thermometer in the cooler to make sure it stays below 40°F. Meats and other perishable foods can stay above 40°F without spoiling for two hours.

If...the power stays out for two days

If there is food in the freezer, it can be stored safely for two days if you keep the freezer door shut. Once the storm passes, cook any unspoiled food outside and consider sharing with your neighbors. From this point forward you will need non-perishable food. (When you know a hurricane is coming, if you have a lot of frozen food, use it to prepare your meals. Otherwise you risk having it spoil in a power outage.)

If...the water supply is affected

It is always possible that the drinking water supply could be affected during a disaster. Monitor the news for boil water notices, which means there is a possibility of contamination. In this case you should be prepared to disinfect the water.

Boil —Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil for one minute to ensure bacteria, viruses or parasites are gone.

Bleach —Add 1/8 tsp. of unscented bleach per gallon of water and let stand for 30 minutes; bleach should contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. This is less effective than boiling, but will work if there is no way to boil water. Bleach can also be used as a disinfectant for cleaning by mixing nine parts of water to one part bleach.

If water is out, use your emergency supplies.

If...there is a 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 backup in your home. Use a portable toilet, like one used on a boat or camper, or set one up by using one of the following methods:

- 5-gallon 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 cat litter. It cannot be flushed after the sewer system is running. Once given the OK by officials, dispose of the emergency toilet's contents into your household commode. Thoroughly sanitize your emergency toilet with bleach before storing or disposal.

If...phone, cable & cell service is down

Use a battery- or crank-powered radio. Radio broadcasts are usually the last communication source to go down. Get a portable radio and lots of batteries. Mobile Text Messaging—Texting often works when other services do not. If your phone's digital clock works, then you can send and receive texts.



PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT, KEEP YOUR GENERATOR OUTSIDE

ALWAYS

- > Keep children away from generator.
- > Run a generator in an open, well ventilated area.
- ➤ Use good condition electrical cords, rated for the current required by your connected devices.
- > Use an isolation device between your generator and your power company's service conductor.
- > Read and follow the generator owner's manual.
- Have a qualified, licensed electrician make any electrical wiring modifications.
- > Call your local electrician if you have any questions.
- Perform proper generator maintenance.

NEVER

- Operate a generator indoors, within an enclosed space. Generator engines emit deadly carbon monoxide fumes that are odorless and can kill.
- ➤ Feed power from a generator directly into your electrical system or any wall outlet. This type of connection can cause a dangerous electrical backfeed into the power company's power distribution system that can cause serious injury or death to repair personnel.
- Operate a generator near combustible materials or expose it to water or rain.
- Leave excessive lengths of cord coiled while carrying current. This can cause a fire!
- Refuel a generator while it is running; allow it to cool before refueling.
- > Store fuel indoors.
- Leave a running generator unattended.



Portable back-up generators produce the poison gas carbon monoxide (CO), an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING







CAN'T BE
SMELLED



CAN'T BE **HEARD**



CAN BE STOPPED



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



AFTER THE STORM

of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands







STORM RECOVERY

Whether you are sheltered in place or returning home after evacuation, stay alert for potential damage and dangers that may arise after a storm. Subsequent rain can cause flooding after a hurricane has ended.

Returning Home from Evacuation

Wait to return home until officials lift the evacuation order and give the all-clear.

Do not use roads outside of the evacuation route unless told they are clear.

Drive slowly and cautiously. Power lines and trees often fall during storms and can endanger drivers.

Never drive into standing water; you may not know where the puddle ends and a canal starts.

Look at the outside of your home before reentering. You need an accurate assessment of potential damage in case the interior is dark due to a power failure.

Leave immediately if you notice signs of danger (e.g., standing water, the smell of gas, fire damage). Contact emergency services if there is an immediate danger.



Exiting Your Home After Riding Out the Storm

Venture outside only after officials say the storm is over and it is safe to be outside.

Contact family and friends to let them know you're okay.

Contact the American Red Cross if you are unable to reach friends or family. They maintain a shelter database to help you reconnect with loved ones.

Do not use tap water for cooking or drinking until officials say it is okay.

Only run your generator outside and away from all structures. Chain it to a large object, such as a tree, to protect it from thieves.

If you have a carbon monoxide detector, bring it into the common room closest to your generator.







PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

- > Protect your property from further damage by making reasonable and necessary repairs.
- Maintain receipts of all expenses related to temporary repairs and for any expenses incurred that are to be considered for reimbursement.
- Make a list of your damaged personal property. If possible, include the manufacturer, brand name and place and date of purchase. Photos or video or your property before the loss are most helpful.
- > Separate damaged property and keep it in a secure location. A claims adjuster will need to examine all damaged property to fully estimate your loss.

Protect Yourself From Unlicensed Contractors

The aftermath of a major storm can attract shady contractors seeking to take advantage of distressed homeowners. Watch out for these red flags when hiring a restoration contractor:

- They happen to "be in the area" and have leftover material.
- They are not affiliated with any recognized trade association.
- * Their license or insurance information cannot be verified.
- They demand that you pay in full before they make any repairs.
- They won't provide references for similar jobs in your area.
- * They offer a large discount, but don't state the total cost of the repair.

Always verify the status of a contractor's license

Florida DBPR 863-487-1395

www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr



HOW CAN SERVPRO HELP?

SERVPRO of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands professionals have the advanced training and equipment needed to restore your home or business after the storm has passed.

At SERVPRO®, we are always here to help!

Remember, planning is the most important step to staying safe, so please take the measures included in this guide to prepare early and protect your home and family this storm season.

Why Choose SERVPRO® of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands?



Because our experienced crews are dedicated to responding immediately to your hurricane damage! We understand that a fast response can help reduce the chances of further damage and reduces costs.



We specialize in water and storm damage restoration, including damage caused by hurricanes, storm surges, and wind damage. Our **SERVPRO**[®] team has extensive water damage restoration training that enables them to get you back to normal.



We have the resources and experience to handle storms and disasters 24/7.

Our SERVPRO[®] Franchise Professionals have a national network of over 1,900 Franchises across the country and elite Disaster Recovery Team strategically located throughout the country.

We will help with your insurance claims.

In the aftermath of a storm or any other disaster, the last thing you want to worry about is an insurance claim. Our office can assist with processing paperwork and overseeing your claim if assistance is requested.

SERVICING COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Call 24/7 @ 863-510-5962