

# Lake Point Tower

## Monthly Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 11

A Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of Lake Point Tower Condominium

June 2024

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **PROPERTY STAFF**

Manager......Rosario Idiaquez propertymanager@lakepointtower.net

Maint. Sup. ......Jose Garcia

#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tues, Thurs ... closed for administrative



#### **Lake Point Tower**

Condominium, Inc. 100 Golden Isles Drive Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

## Lake Point Tower Top 10 Hurricane Preparations for Unit Owners/Residents

- 1. Ensure you have current Condo Insurance/Renters' Insurance. This is critical to protect the items inside your unit. If the building sustains destruction, the Association's insurance requires that units be rebuilt to have only sub-flooring (no carpet, tile, or wood floors); there would be no electrical fixtures; no cabinets, countertops, or sinks; no water heater or appliances. Your own coverage would ensure your unit is returned to pre-hurricane damage status.
- **2.** Update Your Contact Information with the LPT Property Manager. Residents should ensure your ACCURATE phone number, address, and email address are provided to our Property Manager by phone at (754)232-3313 or via email at propertymanager@lakepointtower.net. We can't notify you if we don't know how to reach you!
- **3. Hurricane Shutters & Patio Furniture.** If you will not be in your unit during Hurricane Season (June 1 November 30), owners should consider removing all furniture from your patio and lowering/securing your hurricane shutters. This will preclude you from having to pay someone to do it for you at the approach of a storm. Please note our maintenance crew will not assist in any shutter installations.
- **4. Photograph Your Home & Valuables.** It's much easier to prove what was damaged and/or lost in the storm if you have physical evidence by way of a photograph. Don't forget TVs, appliances, artwork, and furniture. Make this a yearly habit to ensure you capture all new/replaced items.
- **5. Obtain a Local Hurricane Guide.** Most news outlets and municipalities in Florida produce hurricane preparedness guides that include evacuation plans, shelter locations, important contact numbers, and survival kit recommendations, including the City of Hallandale.
- **6. Vulnerable Population Assistance.** This registry allows people who are disabled, frail, or have health issues to register in advance with their city so that emergency workers may plan a better response to vulnerable residents in a recovery effort following a hurricane or other emergency. The Registry is not a guarantee of services, but it enables emergency workers to better respond in a recovery effort. Register on line at https://www.broward.org/Hurricane or by calling the Broward County Emergency Hotline at 311 or 954-831-4000 (TTY 954-831-3890)
- 7. Create a Survival Kit. Keep a survival kit in your home that you can grab in the event of an evacuation. It should include a change of clothes, water, flashlight,

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#### Hurricane (cont. from page 1)

batteries/charge cords for electronics, canned goods, proper identification, and important documents (e.g., birth certificates, social security cards, insurance policies, proof of ownership/residency of your condo), cash and medications. You may want to also include a first aid kit, rain gear, and snacks

- **8. Back up Computer Files.** Create a routine to back up your computer files. This will be helpful in the event you lose your computer/hardware due to a storm. Ensure your backup is saved to a thumb drive or to the cloud for safekeeping.
- **9. Establish an Evacuation Plan.** Lake Point Tower Condominium is in Zone A which means a resident will be evacuated at the approach of a Category 1 or above hurricane. Don't wait for the approach of a storm to have an idea of where and when you will evacuate.
- 10. Prepare Your Vehicle. Locals know that gasoline lines get longer the closer the storm gets to us. Avoid the rush, as soon as you hear of a storm approaching, fill up your gas tank. While you are at it, check your tire pressure and windshield wipers for wear. These simple suggestions will make your evacuation much easier for you.
- 11. Prepare Your Boat. Make sure your boat is properly secure.

#### BEFORE THE STORM DEVELOPA HURRICANE PLAN

#### **STEP 1 Hold a Family Meeting**

Discuss the hazards of hurricanes. Encourage children to talk about their fears and explain some of the things you'll be doing to keep everyone safe. Start a written list of things you'll need to take care of before hurricane season and encourage everyone in the family to contribute their ideas.

#### STEP 2 Discuss Whether You'll Need to Evacuate

Determine whether you live in an evacuation zone and, if so, where you will go if an evacuation order is given. Going to a family or friend's house or hotel outside the evacuation area is your best choice. If you choose to go out of town, do so well in advance of the storm. Since shelters provide for only basic needs, this should be your choice of last resort.

#### **STEP 3 Ensure Your Assets are Protected**

Inventory your home possessions and videotape, record or photograph items of value. Review your insurance policies before hurricane season starts to ensure you have adequate coverage. Once a hurricane watch has been issued, insurers will not issue new or additional coverage.

#### STEP 4 Assess Your Home for Vulnerable Areas

Do a walk-through of your home and property to evaluate your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions you will take.

#### STEP 5 Make a Plan to Protect Your Vehicles

Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat or RV. Check your vehicle insurance policy and keep it in the same safe place as your homeowner's policy.

#### **STEP 6 Secure Your Home**

Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and your property (shutters, generator, tree-trimming), and to keep as comfortable as possible during recovery.

#### **STEP 7 Determine Vulnerable Persons in Your Home**

Discuss whether anyone in your home has special needs in an emergency because of a medical condition, or because they are elderly or disabled. Make arrangements in advance to accommodate those needs.

#### **STEP 8 Make a Plan for Your Pets**

Determine how you will address your pet's needs and make a plan in case you have to evacuate. Be sure to plan for large outdoor animals as well, such as horses, pigs and cows.

#### **STEP 9 Gather Your Supplies**

Determine your family's food, water and medical needs and assemble your hurricane kit according to those needs. Make a checklist which includes essential items.

#### STEP 10 Notify Others of Your Plan

Let family or friends know what your hurricane plan is so they can check on you in the aftermath of the storm. Establish an out-of-town contact.

#### PLAN FOR THE STORM'S APPROACH

Every family in Hallandale Beach should be prepared to be self-sufficient for seven days after a major storm, so recovery efforts can focus on those who can't help themselves.

- Plan in Advance If you live in an evacuation zone and an evacuation is ordered, you are required by law to evacuate. Public shelters are a refuge of last resort. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort, and only a limited number of shelters accept pets. Service animals for the disabled are accepted at all shelters.
- Identify a Safe Room If you plan to stay at home, identify the safest room in your home. This is generally an interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Make plans to take shelter in this room in the event of a direct hit.
- Request Assistance if Needed If you require special assistance in evacuating, or need to stay at a Special Needs shelter, call Broward County Human Services Department at 954-357-6385 (TTY 954-357-5608). If a member of your family is elderly, frail, or disabled and may become vulnerable in the aftermath of a storm. Register them with Broward County's Vulnerable Population Registry. Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select RESIDENTS AT RISK, or call 311 or 954-831-4000.
- Stock Your Hurricane Kit Plan on supplies including

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#### Hurricane (cont. from page 2)

food and water that will sustain your family for up to seven days, and a two- week supply of medicines.

- If Evacuating Out of the Area, Leave Early Plan to leave as early as 48 hours in advance, and no later than the issuance of a Hurricane Watch. Keep in mind that a hurricane's path is uncertain, and you could inadvertently evacuate to an area where the storm may eventually strike. Take along your hurricane kit.
- Document Assets Make a visual or written record of your assets for insurance purposes. Photograph the exterior of your home, including landscaping or structures that may not be insurable but impact the value of your property.
- Protect Important Papers Photocopy important papers such as insurance policies and store them with a friend or in a safe deposit box outside of the hurricane area. Or protect important family and financial documents inside a waterproof container or watertight re-sealable plastic bag. If you evacuate, take these documents with you.
- **Secure Your Home** Shutter windows and glass doors, and anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside.
- **Prepare a Water Supply** Know who your water service provider is so you will know if a "boil water" order

- applies to your home. Check your water bill if you are unsure. As the storm approaches, fill pre-sanitized sinks and tubs with clean water for bathing and flushing toilets.
- **Set Appliances** Turn refrigerators and freezers to the coldest settings in anticipation of a power outage.
- Get Cash & Gas Banks, ATMs, and gas pumps do not operate without electricity.
- Charge Phones Charge your cell phone and wireless phone batteries.
- Check on Neighbors Check on your neighbors especially the elderly and those with special needs.
- Notify Others of Your Plans Have an out-of- state friend as a family contact, so all family members have a single point of contact. Notify this contact and other family members and friends of your plans.
- Plan for Your Pet If you plan on sheltering with your pet, all pet-friendly hurricane shelters are on a first-come first-served basis. For an up-to-date list of pet-friendly hurricane shelters in Broward County go to www.broward.org and click on SHELTER LOCATIONS. Pets accepted include dogs, cats, domestic birds, rabbits, gerbils, guinea pigs, mice and hamsters. Service animals



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#### **Hurricane** (cont. from page 2)

are permitted in General Population Shelters so long as the pet meets the requirements under Federal law.

#### HURRICANE KIT CHECKLIST



- Drinking Water: At least one gallon per person, per day, for at least seven days.
- Extra water is needed for food preparation and personal hygiene. Use food-grade containers to store drinking water. You can use clean, airtight containers such as two-liter soda jugs, but not milk containers. If you re-use disposable plastic bottles, do not keep them for more than a month.
- Food: At least enough for seven days, including non-perishable packaged or canned food, canned or shelf milk, cereal, etc.; and snack foods.
- Special Needs Supplies: Keep a seven-day supply of special items for babies and the elderly. This includes formula, food, wipes, diapers, etc., as needed.
- Toiletries: Have enough toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, etc., to accommodate your family for a week.

- A manual can opener and bottle opener
- Paper and plastic goods such as plates, bowls, napkins, paper towels and eating utensils
- Unscented household bleach and medicine dropper. (For water purification needs.)
- Extra bedding such as blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, etc., in case you must evacuate.
- Clothing, including rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- First Aid Kit
- Medicines and prescription drugs at least a two-week supply
- Hand Sanitizer
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Disposable batteries, car charger, or solar charger for your cell phone
- Hardline telephone with jack (NOT cordless)
- Books, games, and/or toys
- Pet food, cat litter, and other pet care items that will last for at least a week
- Toolkit including cord, rope, a hammer, wood nails, a saw, a hatchet or axe, a crowbar, chainsaw blades, a tarp, duct tape, and heavy work gloves
- Plastic trash bags and ties
- Extra re-sealable plastic storage bags, heavy-duty aluminum foil, and disposable aluminum
- pans
- Extra charcoal or propane gas for outdoor cooking. Sterno can also be used. Never cook with any of these items inside your home, as the smoke and fumes are deadly.
- Fire Extinguisher (ABC Type)





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#### Hurricane (cont. from page 4)

- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mosquito repellent with DEET, and sunscreen
- Any special equipment or items you may need

#### **IMPORTANT REGISTRATIONS**

**SHELTER REGISTRATION:** Develop a shelter plan, even if your plan is to shelter at home. If you plan to evacuate to a shelter, preregistration is not required; however, preregistration is encouraged if you plan on going to a Special Needs Shelter. Call the Human Services Department at 954-357-6385 (TTY 954-357-5608). If you pre-register, you are not obligated to go to the shelter in an emergency. You can change your plans without notice if you make other arrangements.

**TRANSPORTATION REGISTRATION:** Transportation Registration: Preregister for paratransit transportation, if you think you may need it. As with shelter registration, you are not obligated to take advantage of the service if your plans change. To pre-register, call 954-357-8400 and press 2.

**VULNERABLE POPULATION REGISTRY:** Residents who are disabled, frail, or have health issues should register in advance with the Vulnerable Population Registry. The Registry is not a guarantee of services, but it enables city emergency workers to better respond to vulnerable resident needs in a recovery effort. For more information or to register, visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select RESIDENTS AT RISK, or call 311 or 954-831-4000

**UPDATES:** Follow the City of Hallandale Beach on https://www.hallandalebeachfl.gov and on social media for important public safety information before, during, and after the storm.

#### WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

**Special Preparations for the Disabled** 

IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY OR SPECIAL NEEDS, YOUR EMERGENCY PLANS MUST FIT YOUR UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES. PLAN AHEAD WITH YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND PHYSICIANS.



- Talk to your physician or health care provider about a realistic plan for your safety.
- Carefully evaluate your shelter options and make plans. Reasonable modifications will be made for shelter residents with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- If you undergo routine treatments (such as dialysis), are a home healthcare client, or require oxygen supplies, call

- your service provider to discuss plans for continuing service for you in an emergency.
- Create a Personal Information Card with all your health information (doctors, insurance policies, medications, etc.).
- Place identification labels on any medical support equipment you would take to a shelter with you, such as wheelchairs, walkers, and nebulizers.
- If you have a service animal, make sure the animal has a collar with identification.
- Have proof that the animal's vaccinations are up to date, and a copy of written instructions
- for your animal's care.
- Collect your emergency supplies of prescription and non-prescription medications on hand, especially during hurricane season (June 1st through November 30th).
- Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and select RESIDENTS AT RISK for more tips.

#### **EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

#### If You Must Evacuate ...

- Have a good meal before you get on the road or go to a Red Cross shelter. Shelters open approximately four hours after an evacuation is ordered.
- Evacuate as soon as possible, preferably during daylight. Roads and bridges frequently become crowded, and traffic moves slowly.
- Unplug appliances and turn off electricity & the main water valve and gas for the stove or water heater. This will reduce potential damage to your appliances and the risk of fire from power surges or gas line breaks.
- Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone or area prone to flooding, raise furniture, photographs, and other irreplaceable items to a higher floor.
- Bring preassembled emergency supplies.
- Make sure you safety tie your boat.



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• Lock up your home and leave.

Items not permitted in shelters include firearms and explosive devices, intoxicating beverages, and illegal drugs. Service animals are permitted in all shelters. Be sure to bring food, water, bowls, and any other items necessary for their care and comfort. For a list of pet-friendly hotels and boarding kennels, visit *Broward.org/Hurricane*, select **A-Z PLANNER** and select **ANIMALS**.

#### YOUR SHELTER OPTIONS



OPTION ONE – Stay With Family or Friends Outside of the Evacuation Zone This is your best choice, and where you will be the most comfortable.

#### **OPTION TWO – Stay in a General Population Shelter**

American Red Cross general population shelters provide a basic level of care and are open to all. No preregistration is required. If you have a self-managed health condition or disability, you will likely be able to shelter comfortably in a general population shelter. When you arrive at the shelter, be sure to tell shelter personnel what your needs are. If you need transfer assistance, sign language interpretation, and other auxiliary aids, or a quiet zone for a cognitive disability or mental health need, call 311, 954-831-4000 or TTY 954-831-3940 for the most update information.

#### **OPTION THREE - Stay in a Special Needs Shelter**

If you have a medical condition that requires a greater level of care than that provided at a general population shelter, but you do not require hospitalization, a Special Needs Shelter may be appropriate for you. These shelters offer basic medical assistance and monitoring. They are staffed by qualified medical personnel and have back-up electricity for limited lighting and essential medical equipment. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany residents with special medical needs. Preregistration is encouraged but not required. Call Broward County Human Services Department at 954-357-6385 (TTY 954-357-5608).

## **OPTION FOUR – Stay in a Hospital or Other Medical** Facility

If your medical condition exceeds the level of care provided at a Special Needs Shelter and/or you require hospitalization or one-on-one care, work with your physician or medical provider to arrange the safest shelter option, which may include a hospital or medical facility.

#### TRANSPORTATION TO SHELTERS

**Bus Operations:** When an evacuation is ordered, Broward County Transit buses cease regularly scheduled service and begin emergency evacuation service from evacuation zones. The service coincides with the opening of American Red Cross shelters and will not begin before the shelters open. Under Evacuation Plan A, you can go to any regular bus stop along A1A. Under Evacuation Plan B, buses will run routes along both A1A and Federal Highway.

**Persons with Disabilities:** Broward County Transit's Paratransit Services section coordinates transportation for residents with disabilities. Call 954-357-8400.

#### SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

Preregistration for the Special Needs Shelter is open throughout the year, and while not required, is strongly encouraged to ensure that the shelter will be adequately prepared to meet your needs. All residents seeking shelter in a Special Needs facility will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the best placement for their needs. Reasonable modifications will be made for shelter residents with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As with all public places, residents with service animals accompanying them are welcome at all shelter sites. An oxygen-dependent shelter can accommodate a limited number of residents who require 24-hour oxygen or 24-hour electrical power. Residents are encouraged to bring their caregivers, and family members are welcome at all shelter sites.

What to Bring: If you will be going to a Special Needs Shelter, plan to bring the medical supplies you will need including any special foods, prescriptions, nebulizer, syringes, sterile swabs and oxygen equipment, in addition to items on your Shelter Kit Checklist.

#### SHELTER KIT CHECKLIST

Please remember that while a shelter is intended to help keep you safe during the storm, it isn't a hotel. Bring these essential items along to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

- Personal hygiene items
- Bedding such as pillows, blankets, air mattress
- Books, games
- Non-perishable snacks
- Extra change of clothing
- Baby supplies: ample amounts of baby food, formula, juice, diapers and wipes, and a stroller, portable crib or play pen
- Needed medications

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#### Hurricane (cont. from page 6)

- Driver's license, other identification
- Cash, traveler's checks
- Personal items such as extra eyeglasses, hearing aids, etc.
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight
- Important documents such as birth or marriage certificates. Social Security cards, passports, immunization records, checkbook and bank account financial statements, wills, vehicle titles, insurance policies, stocks, bonds, deeds, computer backup disk, etc.
- Emergency Hotline: 311 or 954-831-4000

## DURING THE STORM RIDING OUT THE STORM

Once the storm arrives, there are some additional measures you can take to keep everyone as safe as possible:

- Stay indoors in a secure location, or your "safe room."
   The strongest part of a house is usually away from windows and exterior doors.
- Place towels along windowsills and the bottom of doors leading outside to keep water from coming in. Have buckets, mops and sponges handy in the event of flooding.
- Elevate valuables to table tops or high places if flooding occurs.
- Do not go outside as the calm eye of the hurricane passes over, unless repairs are essential. The storm is not over. The worst can happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Be aware that tornadoes can appear anytime during a hurricane. Monitor your local station and if a tornado warning is issued, take cover in an interior hallway or on the lower level if in a tall building. Stay away from glass doors and windows. You can also take cover under heavy furniture in the center of a house.
- Leave the main breaker on unless the electricity goes off. If the electricity goes off, turn off air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, television sets and computers to avoid the possibility of damage due to power surges. If the power returns and is steady, these may be turned back on.
- Use flashlights for lighting when the power goes off. Do not use candles or any other type of open flame. The fire department may be unable to respond during a hurricane.
- Use the telephone for emergencies only. Jammed phone

- lines may obstruct emergency calls for police, fire rescue, emergency medical and Red Cross disaster units.
- Open refrigerator and freezer doors as little as possible.
- Stay away from the fuse box, main breaker and electrical outlets in the event of flooding. Normally, the electrical current will fail with flooding.

#### For Kids ...

- Children who live in the track of hurricanes feel firsthand the threat of danger to themselves and those they care about. To comfort and reassure them, try these suggestions from the National Mental Health Association:
  - o Reassure them that they're safe
  - o Be honest and open about the disaster, but keep information "age- appropriate"
  - o Encourage them to express their feelings through talking, drawing or playing
  - o Try to maintain your daily routines as much as possible
  - o Limit their exposure to media reports
- Visit Broward.org/Hurricane and scroll down to Hurricane and Kids under RESOURCES for a sampling of kid-friendly hurricane sites.

#### Retreat to Your "Safe Room"

Having a designated "safe room" in your home can help you protect yourself, your family and pets from the dangerous forces of extreme winds. It can also relieve some of the anxiety created by the threat of an oncoming tornado or hurricane. Keep these things in mind when choosing your "safe room."

- A good "safe room" location is an interior room on the first floor of the house.
- Closets, bathrooms, and small storage rooms with only one door and no windows are well suited for use as "safe rooms." Interior bathrooms have the added advantage of having a water supply and toilet.
- Keep in mind that a space selected as your "safe room" should be free of clutter for quick and easy entry, and so occupants will not be injured by falling objects. A bathroom is often a better choice than a closet or storage space.
- If you have the option, your "safe room" should not be in an area that can be flooded.
- Your "safe room" should be readily accessible from all parts of your house.

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- Your "safe room" must be adequately anchored to the house foundation to resist overturning and uplift.
- The walls, roof and door of the home must be protected against penetration by windborne objects. Taping windows is not recommended as it does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Finally, buildings do not fail due to unequal pressures inside and outside. Therefore, windows and doors should not be opened to equalize pressure. This allows wind to enter a building and increases the risk of building failure. Keep windows and doors closed!

#### AFTER THE STORM

**Keeping Safe in the Storm's Aftermath BEWARE OF FLOODING HAZARDS** 

 If there is flooding in your home or business, be sure the building is not in danger of collapsing and watch for loose and falling debris.



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- Remember that anything floods waters have reached must be considered contaminated, including food, canned goods, cosmetics and medicines.
- Call a licensed electrician if you have significant water damage to your home that might make it unsafe for you to receive electricity.
- If your home has gas service, be alert for gas fumes and call your local utility from outside the home if any are detected.
- Do not drink water from the faucet unless it has been declared safe.

Some of the greatest hurricane dangers present themselves after the storm has passed. Keep these important tips in mind:

- Treat all downed power lines as if they were live. If you see a power line that is sparking or arcing, call 911.
- Walk cautiously and avoid standing water which may hide downed power lines or hazardous objects. Don't venture out in the dark because you might not see a power line that could still be energized.
- Debris-filled streets are dangerous. Snakes and poisonous insects may be a hazard.
- Do not drive unless it is an emergency. If the power is out, traffic lights will not be working, stop signs and street signs may have blown away. Streets will be littered with debris. Washouts may have weakened road and bridge structures.
- Take precautions to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure in city mains and the interruption of other services will make firefighting difficult after a hurricane.
- Protect property from further damage. Plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber or other materials can be used to seal or protect property that has been exposed by the storm. Make temporary repairs that won't endanger your safety.
- Notify insurance representatives of any losses.
- Take photographs or a video of damaged areas to substantiate your claim.
- Prepare a detailed inventory of damaged or destroyed property for the adjustor. Include a description of the item, date of purchase, cost at time of purchase, and estimated replacement cost.
- Be patient. Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. In a major catastrophe, the insurance industry will have emergency offices and extra adjustors available to expedite claims and speed recovery efforts.

#### TRAFFIC SAFETY

 When traffic signals are not working, intersections should be treated as four-way stops. To prevent chaos, please June 2024 Page 9 Lake Point Tower

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wait your turn.

- It is not necessary to report downed traffic signals, as Broward County Traffic Engineering's damage assessment teams will be aware of outages and will dispatch repair crews as quickly as possible.
- Avoid driving through standing water; wet brakes can take longer to slow a vehicle.
- Don't drive over fallen power lines.
- Keep speeds low, and roadway courtesy high.
- Obey officers directing traffic, or portable traffic control devices.

#### IF THE POWER GOES OUT...

**KEEP YOUR COOL.** Since hurricanes occur during the hottest time of the year in South Florida, heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses become a consideration when the power goes out and homes are without air conditioning. Problems can develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Drink cool, non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages. If your doctor limits the amount of fluid, you drink or you take water pills, ask how much you should drink when the weather is hot. Also, avoid extremely cold liquids because they can cause cramps.
- Rest.
- Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath.
- If possible, seek an air-conditioned environment such as a mall or public library, if they have power.
- Wear lightweight clothing.
- If possible, remain indoors during the heat of the day.
- Avoid strenuous activities.
- Signs of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, cool and moist skin, fast and weak pulse rate, fast and shallow breathing. If you experience these symptoms, consider seeking medical attention.
- USE RUNNING WATER SPARINGLY. During power outages, lift stations that normally pump raw sewage/ wastewater may not be operating if they are not powered by a generator. Please restrict your use of running water as the system can eventually back up into your street, or showers, toilets, and sink drains inside your home.
- DON'T DRINK THE WATER. Immediately following a hurricane, don't use tap water until you know it is safe. This includes not giving it to your pets, or using it for washing, cleaning, cooking, brushing your teeth, making ice or making formula. If a boil water order is issued for your area, follow these guidelines from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County:

- o Boil water at a rolling boil for one minute to kill infectious organisms.
- o If you don't have power, you can mix 8 drops (1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water and allow to stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, add 16 drops (1/4 teaspoon) and let stand for 30 minutes. The water will not be toxic, though it may have a chlorine odor and taste.
- o If a boil water order is issued, remember that water system boundaries do not always correspond to city boundaries. Residents who are not sure of their water service provider should check their water bill or call their individual city.
- oBSERVE CURFEWS. Listen to local radio and television stations for curfew announcements. Curfews are not unusual for communities that suffer a direct hit from a storm. Roads and highways may be blocked, and hidden dangers may exist after dark such as downed trees and power lines, especially in flooded areas. Law enforcement and emergency services may be strained. All residents and businesses are expected to follow curfew laws. Exemptions to this are essential personnel such as law enforcement, fire-rescue, hospital or other health-care workers, emergency management and others involved in recovery efforts.

#### **GAS SAFETY TIPS**

- Evacuate immediately if you smell natural gas which has the odor of rotten eggs or see a broken gas line. Ventilate the area by opening windows or opening a door. Do not light matches, turn on any light switches, or use the telephone.
- Call the gas company immediately from a telephone outside the home or business. TECO Energy/Peoples Gas crews are avail-
- Report sparking and arcing power lines immediately by calling 911.

  To report an outage, call 800-4-OUTAGE (468-8243).
- able to respond to natural gas emergencies. For 24- hour service, call 1-877-832-6747. If you are unable to contact your gas company, call 911.
- Be patient. Expect delays in getting calls through because of the high demand.
- Use your phone only for necessary calls, leaving lines open for emergency calls.
- Your phone line may be inoperable if your phone equipment requires power. Plug a hardline phone (not cord-

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less) directly into the phone jack to verify whether you have service.

- Use your cell phone to send text messages which often get through when voice calls won't.
- Use your cell phone car charger to charge your cell phone.

#### **OUICK TIP - FOOD SAFETY**

Always keep a thermometer in your refrigerator. The temperature should read 41° Fahrenheit or below; any higher and bacteria may begin forming. Thawed food can usually be eaten if it is still "refrigerator cold". However, you should discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture. Remember: *When in doubt, throw it out!* 

#### PICKING UP THE PIECES

Put Debris in its Place. In the wake of the hurricane, debris

pick-up will vary by city. While trash and debris may not be picked up immediately due to sheer volume, if properly bundled, it will eventually be removed. As a resident, you can expedite the clean-up process by properly separating debris into:

- Yard debris, cut and stacked (including limbs, branches and other vegetative materials); collect small and loose material in bags and place on swales.
- **Building debris** and building contents (fence material, roof tiles, screens, windows, carpet, broken
- framework, torn porch/pool screening).
- Regular garbage and trash: Place the separated debris piles on the swales, away from power lines, mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, valves, water meters, gas lines and storm drains. The collection of debris may cause temporary road closures on narrow neighborhood streets while heavy equipment is used to remove downed trees. Try to be patient during these temporary disruptions.

### **BULK PICK UP**

#### **BULK HOUSEHOLD WASTE**

Furniture (sofas, tables, beds, desk, chairs, lights), White goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers, water heaters), toilets, bicycles, mattresses, household goods, mirrors, wire and cable, cabinets



**DO NOT MIX** bulk items with storm debris **DO NOT** place more than 24 hours in advance



-Bulk items have been separated -Placed within 24 hours of scheduled pick-up

### STORM DEBRIS

#### **SEPARATE**

#### **HURRICANE DEBRIS**

Fencing, roof tiles, screens, posts, siding, pool enclosures, sheds, gazebos, awnings

and **VEGETATION DEBRIS** 

Branches, tree trunks, tree limbs, vegetation



**DO NOT MIX** hurricane and vegetation debris



-Hurricane debris and vegetation debris have been separated



**DO NOT MIX** garbage bags and vegetation debris



-Vegetation debris has been separated
 -Only vegetative items found in pile

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#### Hurricane (cont. from page 10)

#### **USE LICENSED CONTRACTORS**

To file a complaint against a Broward contractor, go to http://www.broward.org/consumer and click on COMPLAINTS (954-831-4000); or Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/contact-us (850-487-1395). In addition, consider the following when working with a contractor:

#### Disaster Recovery Resources

Stay tuned to local media for announcements about disaster relief and recovery services that may be available to you. These may include distributions of water and food, mobile medical services, Operation Blue Roof, and FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers. Details are announced once recovery efforts are underway. The Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development has established a network of disaster Business Recovery Centers. The centers are designed to provide services including business disaster recovery information and access to financial assistance programs. Centers will become operational at the onset of a disaster recovery.

- Check their references.
- Ask how long the contractor has been in business.
- Check the contractor's reputation with local suppliers.
- Check with your local building Department.
- Get all proposals, contracts or agreements in writing and read all the fine print.
- Obtain a current copy of the contractor's insurances including worker's compensation, property damage and liability.
- Avoid any contractor who requires large advance payments.
- Avoid paying cash and make all payments by check to the company contracted to do the work. Do not write a check to cash or to an individual's name.

#### **NEED TO KNOW – Emergency Contacts**

American Red Cross Hurricane Hotline (954) 797-3800
Animal Care & Regulation (954) 359-1313
Emergency Hotline (954) 831-4000 or 311
Emergency Management Division (954) 831-3900
Special Needs Registry (954) 831-3902
FP&L (800) 468-8243





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