

Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District News Letter

941-751-7675



Hurricane Season Preparation

Hurricane season is fast approaching. It's time to act and be prepared! Do you know where your emergency shelters are located? Are they pet friendly? What do I need to prepare for the season?

There are a lot more questions that need answers!

Here are some great websites to help you get prepared:

Ready.gov

Mymanatee.org (go to Dept. Public Safety)

Redcross.org

FloridaDisaster.org



Generator Safety

Down power lines, power company blackouts and summer storms can lead to power outages. Here are helpful hints for using a portable generator:

- Use in well ventilated locations outside away from doors and windows.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm in your home. Follow manufactures instructions for correct placement.
- Turn off generator and cool down before refueling. Never refuel while generator is hot.
- Store fuel in proper container intended for that use.
- Store fuel for generator outside of living areas.

Watches & Warnings

Tropical Storm Watch – An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are possible within a specified area within 48 hours.

Hurricane Watch – An announcement that hurricane conditions are possible within a specified area within 48 hours.

During a watch, you should prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued. **Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once tropical storm force, watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.**

Tropical Storm Warning – An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are expected within a specified area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning – An announcement that hurricane conditions are expected within a specified area within 36 hours.

During a warning, you should complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area in directed to do so by location officials. **Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.**

Extreme Wind Warning – Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall are expected within an hour. Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

Once winds reach a certain level, emergency vehicles will not be able to respond. Do not wait till the last minute to evacuate if ordered to do so.

When it rains, it pours! It could also flood!

A flood is a temporary condition where two or more acres of normally dry land are inundated by water or mudflow. Many conditions can result in flood: hurricanes, heavy rains or a clogged drainage systems.

Because you haven't flooded in the past doesn't mean you won't in the future. Flood risk is not based on history alone. Changes in building and development, topography, river flow or tidal surge can affect a flood.

Know your risk. Check your local flood hazard maps to determine your degree of risk in your community. Go to Mymanatee.org and check your area for flood risks.