

TROPICS HOME CARE SERVICES, INC.



**HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GUIDE**

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Pre-Hurricane Watch

- The Hurricane Preparedness Plan Information from Tropics Home Care Services, Inc. (the Agency) is given to client or family member.
- The Hurricane Preparedness Priority Form is completed by client or family member. He or she is instructed by a representative from the Agency to notify us with any changes in condition, location or emergency information.
- Instructions are given to client or family member regarding the five (5) day supplies needed prior to a hurricane watch. Supplies should be made available regardless if they decided to stay at home, with friends, family or at a shelter.
- Information on special needs shelters including a list of items to bring is given to client or family.
- Oxygen dependent clients are instructed to have a back-up portable tank in the event that electricity is not available and to notify the supplier of his or her location during an emergency.

Hurricane Watch

- The Hurricane Preparedness Priority Form is reviewed with the client or family member and is updated to reflect any changes to the previous plan.
- The client or family member is instructed on the supplies needed when evacuating to a friend, family or shelter.
- The client or family member is instructed to maintain and keep updated a medication, supply and equipment list. These lists must be made available upon request to the Agency and the Local Emergency Management Agencies.
- Make sure all Durable Medical Equipment (DME) such as oxygen, suction, beds, etc. are functioning properly and transfer of equipment has been arranged if applicable.
- Transportation arrangements are made to transfer client to and from shelter if applies.
- Client or family member was informed that we will make every reasonable attempt to assure that all clients needing continuing care will receive it, either by caregiver(s) through the agency or through arrangement made by client or family member.
- Client or family member was informed that there may be limitations of services and conditions in a special needs shelter; the level of care may not equal what they receive in home; conditions in shelter may be stressful and may even be inadequate for their needs and that special needs shelters are an option of last resort.
- Client or family member was informed that when winds are sustained at 40 miles per hour, police, firemen, ambulance and the Agency personnel will not go out or make regular scheduled visits.

INTRODUCTION

An emergency is an occurrence, whether natural or man-made, which creates widespread or local destruction or interruption of utilities, phones services, clean water or an occurrence that interfere with the Agency's ability to maintain normal operation. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, your personal safety is our number one priority. Tropics Home Care Services, Inc. (the Agency) will continue to provide services as long as condition permits. Hurricane season in the Atlantic officially begins June 1st and ends November 30th each year. Prior and during hurricane season our staff will be providing information to assist you with your Hurricane Preparedness Plan.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HURRICANE WATCH AND A HURRICANE WARNING?

Hurricane Watch: When hurricane conditions are possible within the geographic area within 48 hours.

Hurricane Warning: A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours.

Since your personal safety is our number one priority, we use the following criteria according to the National Hurricane Center to dispatch caregivers to ensure continuous care is provided.

Category	Wind Speed	Types of Damage
1	74 to 95 mph	Very Dangerous Wind
2	96 to 110 mph	Extremely Dangerous Winds
3 (Major)	111 to 129 mph	Devastating Damage
4 (Major)	130 to 156 mph	Catastrophic Damage
5 (Major)	157 mph or higher	Catastrophic Damage

Emergency Management Priority Evaluation Criteria:

- HIGHEST PRIORITY**
 - Clients who require continuous supervision, who uses electronic equipment, on life-sustaining, supportive device such as oxygen, respiratory support, IV fluids, etc.
 - Clients living in low lying areas, near the intra-coastal, the ocean, barrier Islands, mobile or manufactured homes.

- MODERATE PRIORITY**
 - Clients who live alone, who's safety will be compromised if service is interrupted, or who live in an evacuation zone.
 - Clients who are limited in their ability to ambulate.
 - Clients who have one or more physical limitations.
 - Clients who have no family or friends to care for them.

- LOW PRIORITY**
 - Clients who are able to arrange their own evacuation plan with the assistance of family or friends.
 - Clients living in a facility will participate in the facility disaster plan.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR A HURRICANE

- First Aid Kit supplies (*such as, sterile dressing, cleaning agent, antibiotic and burn ointment, bandages, aspirin/non-aspirin etc.*)
- Cash
- A full tank of gas
- Non-perishable food (*e.g. canned: fruits, soups, vegetables, milk, peanut butter, cookies, crackers etc.*)
- Pet food and supplies
- Flashlights or lanterns (more than one) and extra batteries
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- Matches in waterproof container.
- At least a five (5) day supply of all medications. Contact your doctor early so your pharmacy will have a supply on hand for your advance purchase.
- Sanitary and incontinence supplies (*such as toilet paper, adult diapers etc.*)
- Personal hygiene products (*e.g. toothpaste, toothbrush, denture solutions etc.*)
- Manual (non-electric) can opener for food
- Bottled water (1 gallon per person, per day for at least five (5) days.
- Soap and detergents
- Disposable gloves, wipes, tissues and paper towel
- Large and small plastic or garbage bags for waste disposal
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Protective clothing and hat
- Regular (non-scented) chlorinated bleach with dropper or halazone tablets (for purification purposes)
- Disposable plates, cups and utensils
- Several cooler and ice
- Extra eyeglasses, hearing aids with extra batteries and a whistle to signal for help
- Tarp
- Pillows and blanket
- Updated phone list of family, friends, emergency, physician and other medical support contact info.
- Cell phone and car charger
- Traditional (non-cordless) phone is imperative
- Gather all important documents: Insurance, such as home, auto, life, long term, Medicare or Medicaid, birth certificates, bank records etc. in a waterproof portable container.

**Please label all personal belongings*

Clients living in a hurricane evacuation zone, mobile home or manufactured home should evacuate during an emergency, severe tropical storms and all hurricanes. If you require transportation to a hurricane evacuation shelter please call (561) 649-9338 or (877) 870-9849 and request an application. The purpose of an evacuation plan is to move clients from a dangerous or potentially dangerous area to a place of comparable safety.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In the event that Broward or Palm Beach Counties are threatened by hurricanes, the normal environment of a traditional shelter does not lend itself to clients with medical conditions. With the support of area hospitals, the Department of Health and the Red Cross a special program was developed to facilitate clients that meet specific criteria. Clients are under physician and registered nurses supervisions.

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Special Needs Shelter (SNS) or Special Care Unit (SCU) should be used as a place of last refuge for persons that are too immobile and or have chronic stable illness, clients with medical conditions that require a continuous power supply, minor health and medical conditions requiring professional observation, assessment and maintenance, disability, mild dementia without abusive or wandering behavior, persons receiving dialysis, hospice services or persons who are bedridden and require custodial care. If the client has a caregiver, the caregiver must accompany the client and must remain with the client at the special needs shelter.

These facilities have auxiliary power and are located in areas that do not have a high risk of flooding. Client and his or her physician must complete and sign the PALM BEACH COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS APPLICATION. The Palm Beach County Health Department evaluates placement eligibility and assigns physicians and nurses to the special needs shelters.

MEDICAL CRITERIA USED TO EVALUATE SPECIAL NEEDS PLACEMENT ELIGIBILITY

- Clients who cannot be without electricity because they depend on electrically powered life support equipment within the home. (i.e. oxygen, nebulizer, c-pap, bi-pap etc.)
- Clients that are too immobile or have a chronic stable illness but are not suitable for regular shelter placement or hospitalization.
- Clients with minor medical conditions that require professional observation, assessment and maintenance.
- Insulin dependent diabetics requiring insulin refrigeration.
- Clients who are bedridden and require custodial care. Caregivers **must** accompany their clients.

Transportation Assistance: Public transportation and taxis may not be available. Transportation assistance to a special needs shelter and care unit may be provided for those who live in an evacuation or mobile home park and are disabled with no other means of transportation. If you require transportation to a hurricane evacuation shelter, please call (561) 649-9838 or 1 (877) 870-9849.

Pre-Registration is required for participation in these Special Needs Shelters

See below for application or to pre-register for special needs programs in Palm Beach County:

Palm Beach County Emergency Center
Special Needs Shelter Program
(561) 712-6696

PBC Emergency Management
20 S. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL. 33415
(561) 712-6400 Fax (561) 712-6464

LIST OF WHAT SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS NEED TO BRING TO A SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

- Bed sheets, blankets, pillow, folding chair, sleeping bag or cot. (*shelters may provide bedding for clients only*)
- Client's medication list including doses, frequency, route, time of day and any special consideration for administration.
- Supplies and equipment list including name, phone, number of pharmacy, oxygen, diabetes suppliers.
- List of the styles and serial numbers of medical devices
- Do Not Resuscitate Form (DNR)
- Name and phone numbers of doctors
- Name and phone number of the Agency (561) 739-3270)
- Prescription, non-prescription, oxygen supplies for 5-7 days if needed.
- A copy of client's plan of care, if applicable
- Identification and current address
- Special diet, non-perishable food for caregiver and client at least five (5) days
- One Gallon of water per person per day
- Clients with sensory disability should bring a pad with pen or pencil for writing notes
- Glasses, hearing aids, batteries, dentures, prosthetics and other assistive devices
- Personal hygiene for at least five (5) days (diapers, moisture wipes, bed pads etc.)
- Disposable gloves
- Clothes
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Self-entertainment items like books, magazine, puzzles, games etc.
- Whistle

SHELTEREE NEEDS TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

- If the client has a caregiver, the caregiver shall be allowed in the special needs shelter.
- The caregiver will have floor space provided. The caregiver must provide his or her own bedding like a cot, sleeping bag, etc.
- Service dogs are allowed in the shelter. However, check with your Local Emergency Management Office to see if other pets are permitted.
- Bring personal snacks, drinks and other special dietary food for at least five (5) days.
- Caregivers who regularly assist client in home are expected to continue to provide the same care in the shelter.

If client is bedridden and in an evacuation zone or living in a mobile or manufactured home, please ask family member or emergency contact to assist with the evacuation arrangements.

If client is oxygen dependent, the caregiver or family member will assist with ordering portable back-up tanks for use in the event of power outage. If client is dependent on life sustaining equipment which requires electricity, make sure you are registered with the power company. Make sure your backup equipment and batteries charged and in good working condition. If there is a power failure in Palm Beach County you can call the power company at (561) 697-8000 and (954) 797-5000 for power outage in Broward County.

BROWARD COUNTY

Special Needs Shelters are for those persons dependent on life support systems or any medical device that requires electricity. Clients and their physician must complete a **Broward County Special Needs Application** for placement eligibility.

Transportation assistance to and from a special needs shelter may be provided for those who live in an evacuation zone, mobile home, frail, elderly or disabled with no other means of transportation. Public transportation and taxis may not be available.

Pre-registration is required for participation in these special needs programs.

To obtain an application or to pre-register for special needs programs in Broward County, please call:

Broward County Services

(954) 357-6385

TTY (for the hearing impaired)

(954) 357-5608

Broward County Director - Charles Lanza

201 NE 84th Avenue, Plantation, FL. 33324

Phone: (954) 831-3900

Fax: (954) 382-5805

Please Note: A special needs shelter should be used as a placement of last refuse. The evacuee will not receive the same level of skilled care received from staff in the home, and the conditions in a shelter may be stressful.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IF A HURRICANE APPROACHES?

STAY AT HOME

If you do not live in an evacuation zone, a mobile or a manufactured home or have special needs, you may be able to stay at home and take the following precautions.

- Gather all the supplies that you will need early.
- Establish a “safe room” in an interior room with no windows.
- Make sure that your home is secured and shuttered or windows and doors can withstand a hurricane.
- Ask family, friends and neighbors to assist with preparation if necessary.
- Make sure that family and friends are aware that you are staying home during the storm.

Please make the necessary arrangement prior to a hurricane to have your caregivers stay with you during a hurricane, if applies. Caregivers are not allowed to travel once sustained winds reach 40 mile per hour.

STAY WITH LOCAL FRIENDS

If you plan to stay with family or friends during a hurricane, take the following precaution.

- Call family or friends in advance to make sure they are ready for you.
- Have a backup plan in case they are out of town.
- Have your supply checklist completed.
- If you or your loved ones have dementia, ask to have a room just for you and your loved ones and take the same safety precaution you have at home.
- Bring your own food, water, personal care, personal hygiene items, etc.

RELOCATE OUTSIDE THE AREA

If you live in an evacuation zone, manufactured or mobile home you must relocate and take the following precautions.

- **LEAVE EARLY**
- Have a full tank of gas and a current easy to read map.
- Know where you are going. If you are going to a hotel, please make sure you have a reservation.
- Take the necessary precaution outline in your enclosed hurricane checklist.

GO TO A SHELTER

To find out if you reside in a hurricane evacuation zone, you may contact the Palm Beach Division of Emergency Management at (561) 712-6400.

If you plan to go to a shelter you may need to pre-register. If you have pets, please pre-register early at a people and pet shelter in advance. Call PBC Animal Care and Control at (561) 233-1266 for more information.

Most Red Cross Shelters DO NOT Accept Pets.

- Pre-register *early*
- Make prior arrangements or pre-register your pet at a pet friendly shelter.
- Prepare supplies that you can bring with you. (e.g. non-perishable food, water, medication, changes of clothes, personal hygiene, cot, pillows, blankets, radio, batteries, cell phone, books, and games. etc.)

WHAT SUPPLIES DO I BRING TO A SHELTER?

If you choose to evacuate to a shelter, you should bring the following recommended items:

- Documentation of specific medical condition
- Cot, sleeping bag or air mattress
- Lawn and lounge chair
- Blanket, sheet and pillow
- Battery operated radio
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Dentures and cleaning solution
- Eye glasses or contacts
- Games and books
- Medical equipment such as cane, walker, wheelchair, oxygen and diabetes supplies, etc.
- List of current medications and dosage, a 5-7 day supply
- Important documents
- Identification including copy of utility bill
- Non-perishable food
- Special dietary food
- Personal hygiene items
- Flashlights and batteries
- Clothes

DO NOT BRING:

- Firearms
- Alcoholic beverages
- Perishable food

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHELTERS

PALM BEACH COUNTY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (561) 712-6400

Independence Middle School

4001 Greenway Drive
Jupiter, FL. 33458

Palm Beach Gardens High School

4245 Holly Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL. 33410

Bethune Elementary School

1501 Avenue U
Riviera Beach, FL. 33404

Seminole Ridge High School

4601 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road
Loxahatchee, FL. 33405

Westgate Elementary School

1545 Loxahatchee Drive
West Palm Beach, FL. 33406

Forrest Hill High School

6901 Parker Avenue
Wellington, FL. 33405

Palm Beach Central High School

8499 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, FL. 33413

John I Leonard High School

4701 10th Avenue North
Greenacres, FL. 33463

Park Vista High School

7900 Jog Road
Boynton Beach, FL. 33427

Boynton Beach High School

4975 Park Ridge Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL. 33436

Atlantic Community High School

2455 West Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, FL. 33445

Boca Raton Community High School

1501 NW 15 Court
Boca Raton, FL. 33486

West Boca Raton High School

12811 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL. 33428

Lakeshore Middle School

425 West Canal Street North
Bell Glades, FL. 33430

Glades Central High School

1001 SW Avenue M
Bell Glades, FL. 33430

BROWARD COUNTY SHELTERS

BROWARD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (954) 831-3900

Lyons Creek Middle School

4333 Sol Press Blvd
Coconut Creek, FL. 33073

Monarch High School

5050 Wiles Road
Coconut Creek, FL. 33073

Coral Glades High School

2700 Sportsplex Drive
Coral Spring, FL. 33065

Fox Trail Elementary School

1250 S. Nob Hill Road
Davie, FL. 33324

Rock Island Elementary

Arthur Ash Middle School
1701 NW 23rd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33311

Watkins Elementary School

3520 SW 52nd Avenue
Pembroke Park, FL. 33023

Park Lakes Elementary School

3925 N State Road 7
Lauderdale Lakes, FL. 33319

New Renaissance Middle School

10701 Miramar Blvd
Miramar, FL. 33025

Everglades High School

17100 SW 48 Court
Miramar, FL. 33027

Silver Trail Middle School

18300 Sheridan Street.
Pembroke Pines, FL. 33029

West Broward High School

500 NW 209 Avenue
Pembroke Pines, FL. 33029

Plantation Elementary School

651 NW 42nd Avenue
Plantation, FL. 33317

Pompano Beach Institute of

International Studies High School
1400 NE 6th Street
Pompano Beach, FL. 33062

Millennium Middle School

5803 NW 94th Avenue
Tamarac, FL. 33351

Falcon Cove Middle School

425 Bonaventure Blvd
Weston, FL. 33326

HURRICANE PREPARATION

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

- Listen to the radio or TV for information on the hurricane.
- Check your first aid kit.
- Gather important documents in water proof container.
- Check food, supplies and water.
- Obtain cash
- Check your medication list and prescriptions for a five (5) day supply.
- Fill up your car with gas.
- Fill propane tank if you plan to use a grill.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Turn off utility main switch such as gas, water and power. Call local utility company to learn how to safely do so and when to turn on again.
- Check radio, flashlight and batteries.
- Pickup all objects from around your yard, like patio furniture, garbage cans, etc. and store inside.
- Pay attention to the instructions of officials, they are acting in your best interest.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

- Fasten all doors, windows and shutters if applies.
- Sanitize bath tub and fill with water.
- Secure storm shutters and awnings.
- Protect windows and french-doors.
- Purchase or fill clean containers with drinking water.
- Turn freezer and refrigerator to maximum.
- Fill freezer with containers of water.
- Cover valuables and furniture with plastic.
- Move valuables and furniture away from windows.
- Do not drain your pool.
- Turn off electricity to all pool equipments.
- If taking down a TV antennae, unplug your set to make sure it is not electrically charged.
- If you have a small boat (trailer size), put the boat on the ground, remove the out-board motor, lash the boat down and fill half way with water.

AFTER THE HURRICANE PASSES

- Remain in shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave.
- Pay special attention to the instructions of public officials and the media.
- Do not touch fallen or low hanging electrical wires under any circumstances.
- Do not touch any tree in contact with or near power lines.
- Beware of weakened structures: roads, porches, bridges or even trees and branches.
- Use cell phones for emergency only.
- Call police or utility company immediately to report hazards such as live power lines, broken water mains, and broken gas or overturn gas tanks.
- Continue to conserve refrigeration and check food for spoilage after power is restored.

PREPARING YOUR PETS FOR THE STORM



If evacuation is necessary, shelters will not take just any kinds of pets.

Please call PBC Animal Care and Control at (561) 233-1266 for more information.

- Pre-register your pet(s).
- Arrange to leave your pet with friends or family.
- Place your pet in a bathroom. *(usually the strongest room in the house)*
- Feed your pet moist or canned food to preserve water and leave plenty of water for a day.
- If you are remaining at home, keep your pets within sight as the noise of the storm might frighten them.
- Keep a good supply of newspaper or litter for sanitary needs.
- Be sure your pet has his or her identification tag on regardless of your plan.



PET SHELTER INFORMATION

Pets need to be pre-registered in advance of a hurricane for a pet friendly shelter: disaster shelter for pets and people. The pet friendly shelter is for people living in mandatory evacuation zone or in mobile homes.

Some Requirements are:

- Pet owners are required to bring a kennel, cage or carrier, food for 5-7 days, bedding, bowls, toys and any special medications, muzzle and leash.
- Birds must have a health certificate and a carrier cage with cover.
- No reptiles or livestock (*horse, cattle, sheep, goat, pig, chicken etc.*) will be accepted.
- All dogs and cats must have a current rabies vaccination and license tag, microchip, muzzle if applies and provide date of last application of flea and tick preventative medication.

You can apply on line to pre-register at www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/animal/PetShelter.htm

PEGGY ADAMS ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

3200 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach

(561) 686-3663

www.hspb.org

TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

21287 Boca Rio Road, Boca Raton

(561) 482-8110

www.tricountyhumane.org

DELRAY BEACH ANIMAL CONTROL

434 S. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach

(561) 243-7330

BOYNTON BEACH ANIMAL CONTROL

415 NE 4th Street, Boynton Beach

(561) 742-6210

PALM BEACH COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

7100 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach

(561) 233-1266 Ext.4

www.pbcgov.com/SNAP

BROWARD COUNTY

Broward County Humane Society

(954) 989-3977

PET SHELTER

The following list of pet shelters/facilities may be contacted in the event of a hurricane or any emergency.

Tropics Home Care Services Inc. does not endorse or assume any liability regarding your choice of pet sheltering facility.

Name	Address	Phone	Website	Type of Pets	Comments
Animal Hospital of the Palm Beaches	4080 Jog Road Lake Worth FL. 33467	561.965.5800	http://animalhospitalofthepalmbeaches.com/	Dogs Cats	Boarding and grooming Full service medical facility
Coral Breeze Animal Hospital	8893 S. Military Trail, Boynton Beach FL. 33436	561.738.9400	www.coralbreeze.com	Dogs Cats	Boarding Grooming and Veterinary services
Harmony Animal Hospital	1401 W Indiantown Rd. Jupiter FL 33458	561.746.5501	www.petvets.com	Dogs Cats	Boarding and Grooming Drive up service for Meds
Healing Arts Veterinary Center	2216 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. West Palm Beach. FL 33409	561.684.1755	www.havcenter.com	Dogs Cats	Boarding and Grooming Canine Rehabilitation
K-9 Spa & Training Center	4390 Northlake Blvd Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410	561.622.5678	www.K9Spa.us	All Pets	Boarding and Grooming and Training
Paws 4 Play	185 N US Hwy 1 Tequesta, FL 33469	561.222.2020	www.paws4.play.net	Dogs	Boarding and Grooming

TROPICS HOME CARE SERVICES, INC.

9848 Majestic Way
Boynton Beach, FL. 33437-3328

Main: 561 739-3270 Facsimile: 561 739-3271

info@tropicshomecare.com

www.tropicshomecare.com