

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS Guide

Plan Today. Be Safe Tomorrow!

# 2025



*Preparedness is the key to resilience—together, we can weather any storm.*



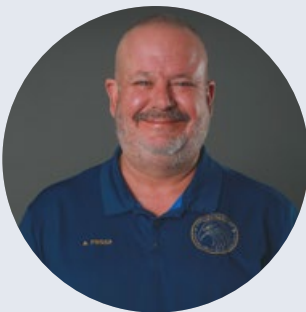
**Mike Carballa, P.E.**  
County Administrator

Disasters can strike anytime, so preparation is key to minimizing their impact. This guide outlines steps to take before, during, and after a disaster to ensure safety and recovery.

Take time to learn your evacuation zone—it's different from your flood zone. Knowing your zone helps you plan routes, find shelters and save time during an emergency. See pages 14–15 for details.

Community collaboration is vital during disasters. By sharing resources and following emergency plans, we can recover faster. For updates, sign up for Alert Pasco at [bit.ly/AlertPasco](https://bit.ly/AlertPasco), follow us on social media, and download the MyPasco App.

*Mike Carballa, P.E., County Administrator*



**Andrew Fossa**  
Emergency Management  
Director

Pasco County Emergency Management is committed to helping you prepare, respond and recover against all hazards. This guide is designed to help you create a plan and stay ready for any threats. Our team is here to answer your questions—feel free contact us anytime.

Don't forget to sign up for push alerts and Alert Pasco. Links to these resources can be found in this guide and on [MyPasco.net](https://MyPasco.net).

*Andrew Fossa, Emergency Management Director*



**PASCO COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, New Port Richey**



## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS VIDEOS.

For more information,  
see page 4.

## ALERT PASCO

ALERT PASCO is a mass notification service that allows us to alert you with emergency updates as they happen.

**Click the button to sign up for Alert Pasco, or  
visit [Mypas.co/AlertPasco](https://Mypas.co/AlertPasco) today!**



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@CONNECT  
WITH YOUR

# COMMUNITY

## ALL HANDS ON DECK!

When disaster strikes, it's all hands on deck – that means everyone, from our local government to community groups, schools, businesses, and of course, all of our residents.

Visit the Department of Emergency Management website at [PascoEmergencyManagement.com](https://PascoEmergencyManagement.com) for more info.

We believe in the power of volunteers to make our community ready for anything. Your involvement can mean we're all set to respond, recover and stand strong in the face of any emergency.

Let's not forget about the specific needs of our neighbors – children, seniors, those with disabilities, and those dealing with health challenges. Want to help out? Spread the word at your school, workplace, club, or place of worship. Together, we're building a safer and more resilient community. Ready to join in?



## TOGETHER!

### CERT PROGRAM: Be a Disaster Preparedness Superhero

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program prepares citizens for disasters with training in fire safety, search and rescue, team organization, and medical aid. When first responders aren't available, CERT members step up to help their communities. Be that helping hand!

### ACS: Where Ham Radio Meets Civic Duty

Founded in 1952, the ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) is a reserve communications group supporting government agencies in emergencies. When activated, certified volunteers provide essential communication services. Passionate about ham radio and civic duty? ACS may be for you!

### G-317: BASIC COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING

**Free** quarterly CERT training is available for interested citizens. Topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety, medical operations, search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism.

### VIDEO VIGNETTES

Pasco County offers a series of short Disaster Preparedness videos on YouTube and the Emergency Management web-page—each under two minutes!



These short videos cover disaster kits, sandbags, pet evacuations, and Special Needs info. They complement—not replace—your Disaster Guide.



# KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

# FLOODING

## LEARN HOW TO PREPARE AND STAY SAFE WHEN THE WATERS RISE

FLOODING IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON AND DANGEROUS NATURAL DISASTERS.



### COASTAL FLOODING

High tides, heavy rainfall and onshore winds can flood low-lying coastal areas, increasing the effects of coastal flooding.

### STORM SURGE

A storm-driven rise in water levels above the normal tide, caused by wind, waves and low pressure. Its impact worsens at high tide and accounts for 90% of hurricane-related deaths.

### STORM SURGE vs STORM TIDE

Storm surge is a storm-driven rise in water above predicted tides. Storm tide combines storm surge with the astronomical tide, potentially causing extreme coastal flooding, especially at high tide, with water levels reaching 20 feet or more.

For more information, contact Emergency Management at:

 **727-847-8137**

### IMMEDIATE ACTION

If you are in danger from flood waters, get to higher ground.

**Stay away from flood-prone areas, including low spots, ditches, etc.**

Take dry clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream or drive in water. The depth is not always obvious. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet.



### INSURANCE

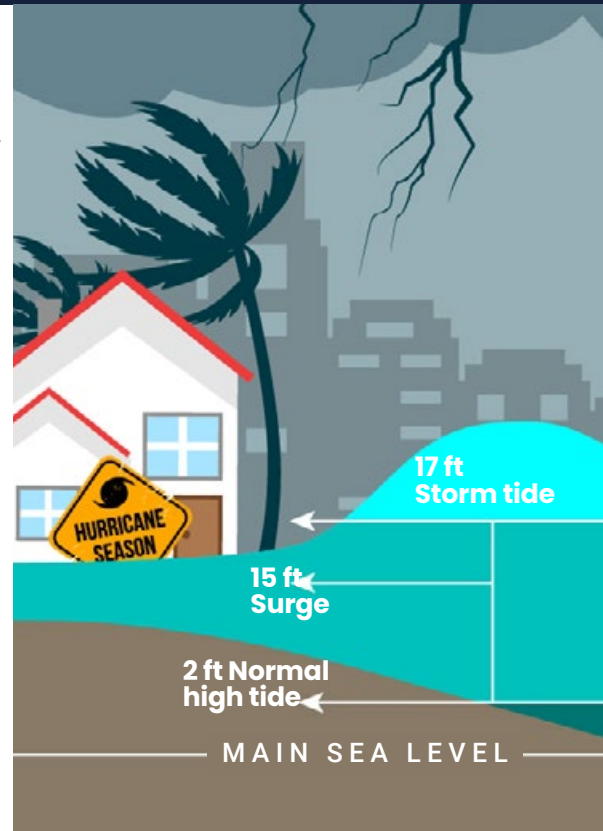
Purchase flood insurance tailored to your home or business. Understand your policy and coverage, and ask your agent for written copies if needed. Many policies can't be changed close to a disaster, so don't wait. For more info, visit the FEMA website and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

### RIVER FLOODING

Excessive rainfall causes water levels to overflow river banks, occurring gradually or rapidly.

### FLASH FLOODING

Heavy rainfall in under 6 hours can cause fast-moving torrents in rivers, streets, or canyons. Flash floods can occur minutes after excessive rain begins, with rapid and dangerous impact.



### AWARENESS

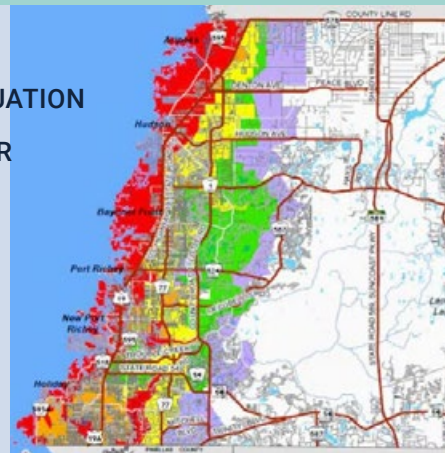
Residents of Pasco County's coastline and tidal rivers are most at risk from the high winds, flooding, and storm surge that come with hurricanes. It is important to understand that every hurricane/tropical storm is unique.

The following map information can be accessed through [MyPasco.net](http://MyPasco.net)

- Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Base Flood Elevations
- FEMA Panel Numbers
- LIMWA & LOMC
- Special Flood-Related Hazards
- Historical Flood Information
- Natural Floodplain Functions

Additional map information & assistance can be requested on [MyPasco.net](http://MyPasco.net) or by contacting Pasco County Building Construction Services at **727-847-8126**

### EVACUATION ZONE FINDER



# KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

# FIRE

## AWARENESS

Pasco County has two major fire hazards. Both wildfires and house/structure fires are often preventable if you take the necessary precautions.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION

If you see flames or smell smoke:

- **GET OUT**

- **STAY OUT**

- **CALL 9-1-1**

- **Yell “Fire” several times!**

- Take the stairs—never use elevators. Leave belongings behind.

- If a door or handle is warm, use another exit. Never open warm doors. If all exits are blocked, stay in the room, close the door, seal gaps with a wet towel, and **CALL 9-1-1**. Signal for help with a cloth or flashlight.

- Once outside, go to your meeting place. If unreachable, follow your family emergency plan.

- If your clothing catches fire, **STOP, DROP, and ROLL!**



## HOUSE/STRUCTURE FIRE

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), homes can ignite due to conditions up to 200 feet from the foundation.

Teach kids about fire dangers and safe use of matches and candles.

Use flashlights, not candles, during power outages.

Store batteries properly.

Clean dryer vents regularly and check cords for frayed wires.

Keep fire extinguishers on every level and ensure they work.

## FIRE DRILLS

Make sure everyone knows at least two escape routes from your home or business. Share your plan with family members or neighbors.

## EVACUATION PLAN

The time to plan for a fire emergency is now. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family or colleagues what actions

you will need to take as you **make your Disaster Plan**. Contact numbers are extremely important. Have working smoke alarms in your home and test them monthly.

Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Unlike evacuating for a hurricane, with fire you may only have a moment's notice. Two escape routes out of your home and out of your neighborhood are preferable. **Include**

**your pets** or service animals in your evacuation plan.

## FIRE WISE CONSTRUCTION ROOFING AND VENTS:

Class “A” fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Inspect shingles and tiles. Replace or repair any that are loose or missing. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.







Many Local Forestry and Fire Agencies implement Fire-Risk Assessments. They can provide you with information specific to your property. Make a plan to prevent and prepare in the event of a wildfire.

If you have acreage, coordinate firefighting with Florida Forest Service. Keep copies of keys and a list of combinations. You can make arrangements and contracts in advance if you would like to offer use of equipment (water tanks, tractors, etc.). Include a map of water sources on the property and GPS locations.

#### FIREWISE VEGETATION

- Maintain 30 feet or more of defensible space around any structures.
- Keep your defensible space free of leaves and debris.
- Mow and irrigate (within limits of any existing water restrictions).
- Clean roofs and gutters and keep them

free of leaves, pine needles, twigs and branches.

- Structures should be built with fire-resistant materials for roofs, siding and decks.
- Maintain a clean yard.
- Remove any combustibles including wood, propane tanks, gas grills, motor homes, boats, ATVs and cars under or near structures.
- Trim branches 10' from the ground.
- Remove any vines that are climbing up trees or structures.
- Mulch with crushed stone, gravel or chunky bark.
- Install spark arresters on chimneys.
- Landscape with FIREWISE plants.
- Keep highly flammable plants away from structures.
- Have a driveway 12 feet wide.

#### DECKS AND PORCHES:

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks or porches and between deck board joints.

#### SIDING AND WINDOWS:

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies. Radiant heat from the flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

#### EMERGENCY ACCESS:

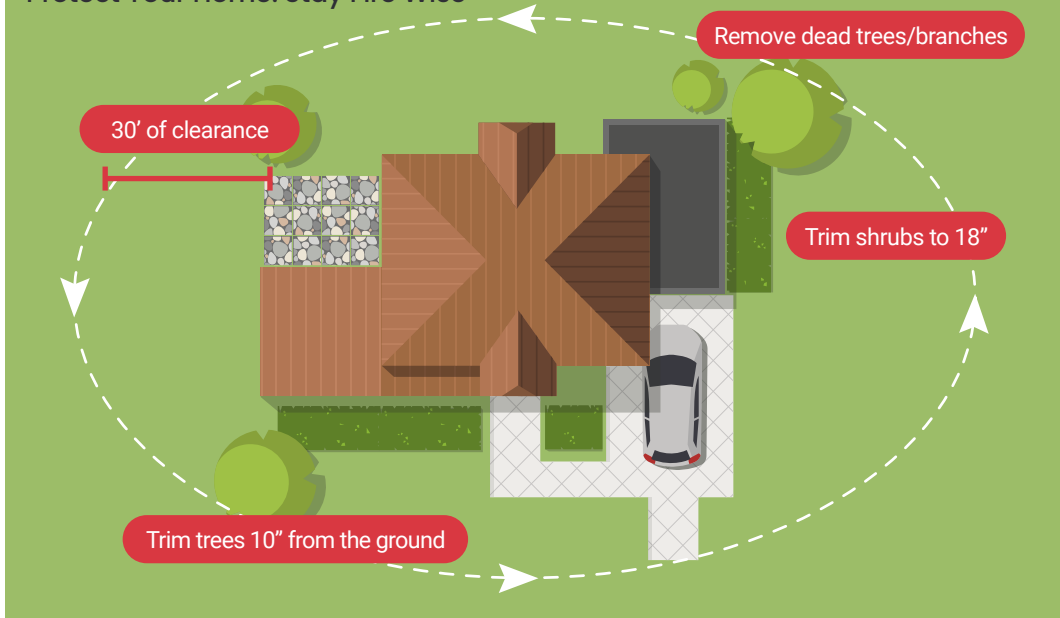
Ensure your home and neighborhood have legible, marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12' wide with a vertical clearance of 15' for emergency vehicle access.

#### WILDFIRES

Every year, thousands of acres of woodland and homes are destroyed by wildfires. The causes of wildfires vary and can include arson, lightning and irresponsible debris burning. The spread of a fire through the woods can happen any time of year. The culmination of hot, dry weather patterns make it more likely. Wildfires often go unnoticed at first and can spread quickly through trees, brush and homes.

You can check with your local fire department to get more information about burning on your own property. Restrictions for burning may apply during certain times of the year when the risk for wildfires is increased.

#### Protect Your Home: Stay Fire Wise



#### IMMEDIATE ACTION

##### WILDFIRE SAFETY

- If a wildfire approaches:  
Shut windows/doors (leave unlocked), remove flammable curtains, and move furniture to the center.
- Leave lights on for visibility, turn off gas/pilot lights, and close vents. Evacuate and inform your emergency contact.
- For rural areas/farms:  
Open gates for livestock; load animals into trailers. Close gates behind horses—they may run into danger. Move equipment away from combustibles and shut off gas/propane.



## KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

# HURRICANE

### BE PREPARED!

#### AWARENESS

Over the past 200 years, research estimates that 1.9 million people have been killed by hurricanes, which kill more people than any other type of storm. Pasco County has been directly hit by 34 tropical cyclones since 1872 and has responded to 37 others within 50 miles.

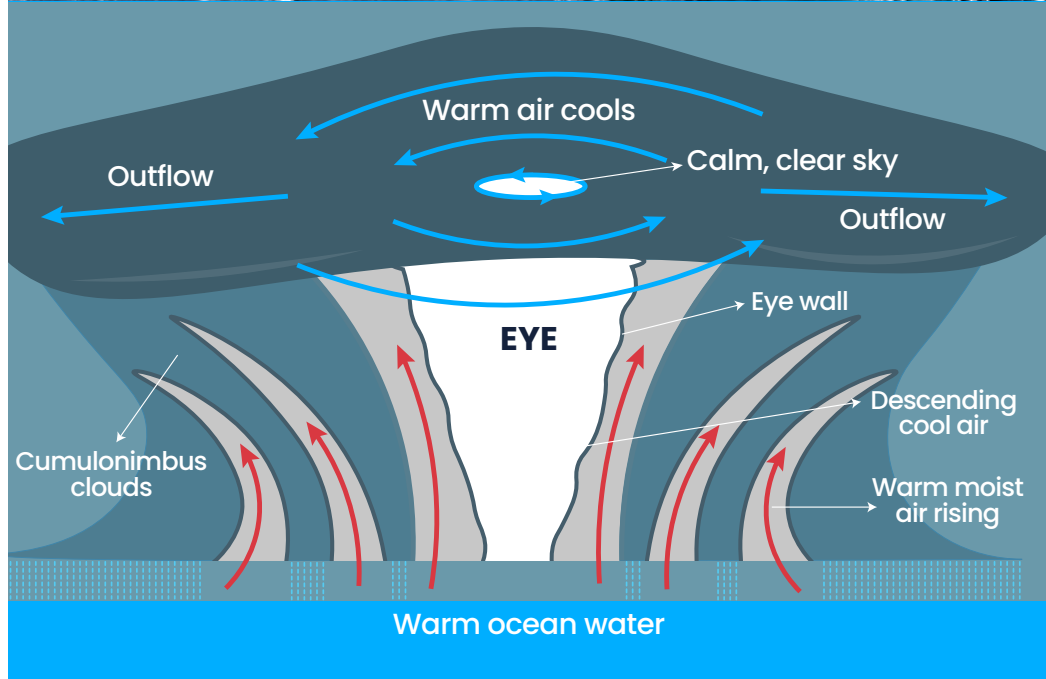
Hurricane Helene tracked 100 miles off the coast of Pasco County in 2024. Storm surge causes devastation, damaging over 9,000 structures and leaving around 29,000 without power.

**Hurricanes form in warm tropical waters, producing violent winds, waves, rains and flooding.**

Hurricane paths can be predicted but are influenced by changing weather patterns.

#### TO DO LIST

- ✓ Make family plan—who does what and where will your family ride out the storm.
- ✓ Locate your water meter and electrical shutoff.
- ✓ Check with your child's daycare or school to find out about their disaster plans.
- ✓ Trim trees and store loose objects.
- ✓ Install or test your smoke detector.
- ✓ Use a camera to record your home and share video with friend or family member who lives out of town.
- ✓ Photocopy important papers and store safely.
- ✓ Prepare "to-go" items for your pet if you plan to go to a shelter.
- ✓ Obtain cash.
- ✓ Prepare a "go-pack" in case you need to evacuate.
- ✓ Establish an out-of-state contact person to call in case of an emergency.



#### THE SCIENCE OF THE STORM

Florida experiences about 40% of all hurricanes that make landfall in the U.S. While the storm itself typically lasts 12–24 hours, its effects can persist for days. Wind and rain may start before the storm arrives and continue afterward. A hurricane begins to break apart upon landfall but can remain dangerous if part of it stays over water, maintaining its strength and causing flooding and higher storm surges.

#### THE EYE OF THE STORM

The hurricane's center, or eye, is calm. Surrounding it is the eye wall, a ring of clouds with high winds and heavy rain, often the most destructive part. The northeast side is the most likely to cause damage due to tornadoes, high rainfall and storm surges. NEVER venture outside if you're in the eye of a storm.

Hurricanes can be unpredictable. For updates, visit: [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)



## HURRICANE SEASON

JUN 1  
NOV 30

### 2025 ATLANTIC TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES:

ANDREA  
BARRY  
CHANTAL  
DEXTER  
ERIN  
FERNAND  
GABRIELLE  
HUMBERTO  
IMELDA  
JERRY  
KAREN  
LORENZO  
MELISSA  
NESTOR  
OLGA  
PABLO  
REBEKAH  
SEBASTIEN  
TANYA  
VAN  
WENDY



**YOU WILL RECEIVE A WARNING!  
FOR A TROPICAL STORM OR HURRICANE**

### EVACUATIONS

If county officials issue an evacuation order for your area, it is highly recommended that you heed these instructions. Emergency officials may not be able to get to you during the storm. This order is released in an effort to help you take necessary precautions. You should begin your preparations to protect your safety and belongings. To see if you're in an evacuation zone, visit: [MyPas.co/Map](https://www.mypas.co/map)

9-1-1 may not be available if communications are damaged during a storm. You may find yourself in a situation where help cannot reach you. One plan is never enough. Always have a backup plan in the event the path or structure of the storm changes.

### BUSINESS OWNERS

If you own a business, follow your Business Continuity Plan. For more information on how to create a Business Continuity Plan, go online to:

[DisasterSafety.org](https://www.disastersafety.org)

[FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

[FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org)

[Ready.gov](https://www.getready.gov)

## BUILD UP YOUR HURRICANE KIT

Be ready for any emergency that might happen. It's an easy way to stay prepared!



### STORM SCALE

#### SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

Tropical Depression	< 38 mph
Tropical Storm	39–73 mph
Cat. 1 Hurricane	74–95 mph
Cat. 2 Hurricane	96–110 mph
Cat. 3 Hurricane	111–129 mph
Cat. 4 Hurricane	130–156 mph
Cat. 5 Hurricane	156+ mph



### HURRICANE WATCH

Predictions have determined that your location is in a possible path of the storm within the next 48 hours. Have a plan in place if the WATCH becomes a WARNING.

### HURRICANE WARNING

You are in the projected path of the hurricane. A WARNING will be issued to the affected areas 36 hours in advance. All hurricane watches and warnings are issued by the Hurricane Center.

# KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

# SINKHOLE

SINKHOLES LOWER THE GROUND BUT RAISE OUR AWARENESS FOR A SAFER FUTURE!

## AWARENESS

A subsidence is a common, naturally occurring geologic phenomenon. Also referred to as a sinkhole, or a depression. A sinkhole is a hole in the land surface. The hole can be shallow, deep, or wide. They are the result of limestone under the surface dissolving in acidic water.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION

If you encounter a depression, sinkhole or subsidence, **call 9-1-1**.

Inform the call taker if there is immediate danger or if any buildings or infrastructure are affected.

**Public Property:** The county will assess and repair damages.

**Private Property:** The owner is responsible for repairs and should contact their insurance company.

## HOW SINKHOLES FORM

### FORMATION OF SINKHOLES

Excessive rainfall or drought can increase the chances of a hole forming. They are considered a geological hazard with the potential to cause damage to properties, roads and structures. They have even caused injuries to include loss of life.

### DANGERS IN DEPTH

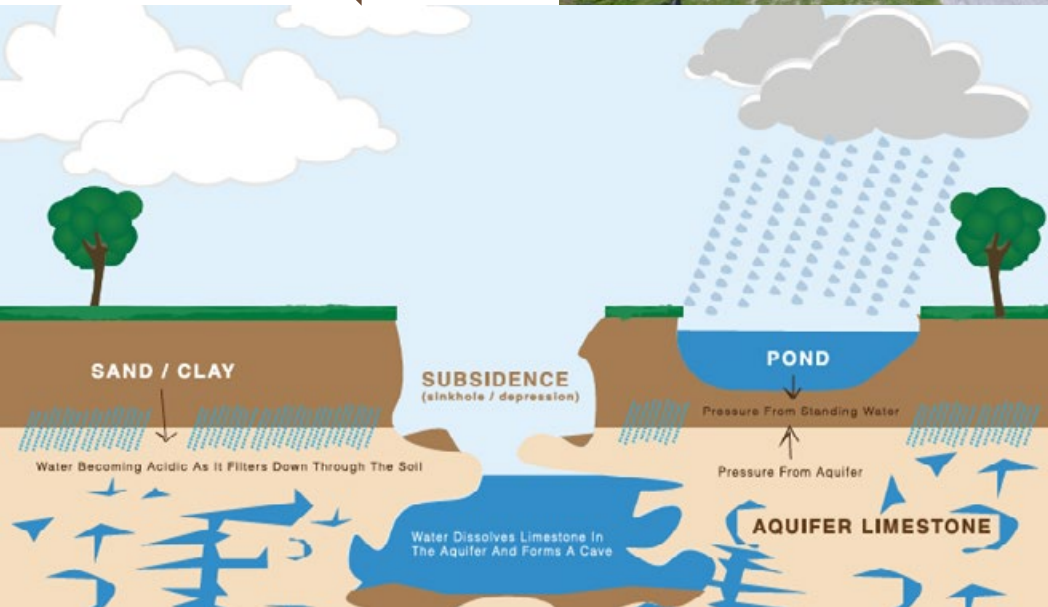
There is no way to know in advance if your home/business/property will be affected by a sinkhole. However, there are maps available which show where previous sinkholes have been reported.



### FIXING A SINKHOLE

It can be costly to repair damages caused by a sinkhole. It is important to check with your insurance company in advance to verify your coverage.

If you believe that you have a depression or a sinkhole on your property, it is vital that you keep your distance and call the proper authorities to verify that the land is stable. Your insurance company should send the appropriate professionals to survey, take soil samples and establish a plan of action to begin repairs.







# SEVERE WEATHER

## KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

### FOG

During a heavy fog advisory, visibility is reduced to a 1/4 mile or less. A dense fog can be hazardous to drivers, pedestrians, mariners and aviators. Make sure your headlights, not high beams, are turned on and reduce speed if necessary.

### HAIL

Hail is an accumulation of ice pellets that can range in size and fall in showers. Hail is typically seen either leading up to or directly before a severe thunderstorm or tornado forms. Seek shelter immediately if you see hail falling from the sky.

### HIGH WINDS

High winds can occur with or without warning and exceed 58 mph. They can have the same effects as a thunderstorm or tornado. Older homes are more at risk of damage if they have not been updated to code. To minimize damage in high winds, keep your home in good repair. Tack down loose roofing, trim trees, and keep gutters clean.

### LIGHTNING

Lightning can strike at any time without warning. If you hear thunder, seek shelter. On average, Florida has over 1.2 million cloud to ground lightning strikes per year. Between 2011 and 2020, an average of 27 people lost their lives annually in the United States due to lightning strikes, according to research. Florida is ranked #1 in lightning fatalities in the nation.

### THUNDERSTORMS

The National Weather Service defines a severe thunderstorm as one which produces winds of 58 mph or greater, 1" hail or larger, or tornadoes. Several factors common to all storms are strong winds, large waves and storm surge. Thunderstorms can begin at any time and cause severe damage.

### AWARENESS

Weather hazards can occur anytime, anywhere, threatening safety and property. Have a plan and know how to react. Ensure your address is clearly marked. Get a NOAA Weather Radio or a battery-powered radio with extra batteries. Many mobile phones can receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) for life-threatening conditions.

### IMMEDIATE ACTION

Tornadoes in Florida move quickly. They may be less destructive than those in the Midwest, but they are just as dangerous if you're in their path. Know where the safe room is in your home or business and be ready to seek shelter immediately.

Seek shelter in a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building. Wearing a helmet, if you have one, can offer extra protection.

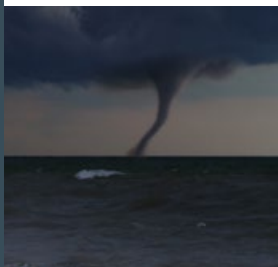
Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon them and go to the nearest sturdy building.

If you cannot quickly walk to a sturdy building, get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and drive to the closest sturdy building. DO NOT try to outrun a tornado.

If flying debris occurs while driving, pull over and park.

As a last resort: Stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows and cover your head with your hands and a blanket if possible.

If you can safely get lower than the roadway level, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.



### TORNADOES

**TORNADO WATCH:** Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms.

**TORNADO WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately if a tornado warning is issued for your area.

# KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

RUN | HIDE | FIGHT



# ACTIVE THREAT

## AWARENESS

An active threat is any incident creating an immediate danger of bodily harm, serious injury or death to the community. This can involve individuals or groups displaying weapons, making threats and intending to cause harm. A weapon is any instrument causing bodily harm. Threats can occur anywhere. Stay aware of your surroundings and be ready to act.



## IMMEDIATE ACTION

**RUN** If you are aware of a threat and have a chance to get away, RUN. This is the best option to remove yourself safely. Leave your belongings and create distance from the threat. Continually assess your options for safety. Help others escape if possible, and evacuate even if others don't follow. Warn others about the threat. When safe, call 9-1-1, give your location, describe the threat and any weapons.

**HIDE** If you can't run, find a place to HIDE. Choose a sturdy, windowless interior room. Barricade with furniture, lock and block doors, close blinds, and turn off lights. Silence devices and text 9-1-1 or share your location on social media. Stay quiet and wait for law enforcement's all clear.

**FIGHT** As a last resort, if you're face-to-face with an attacker, FIGHT aggressively. Use makeshift weapons (chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, books) to distract and disarm. The goal is to create an escape route and transition back to RUN.



## AFTER A THREAT

Keep your hands visible and empty. Law enforcement's priority is to end the incident. Officers may use rifles, shotguns, handguns, pepper spray, or tear gas. Follow their instructions and evacuate in the direction they come from, unless otherwise directed.

If those injured are in immediate danger, help them to safety and provide first aid. Seek professional help to cope with the trauma's long-term effects.

## TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

Discuss the training and drills they practice in school. Ensure they understand what to do in a threat. Teachers instruct students to follow "the ABCs of surviving an active threat":

**"A" for ALERT/AVOID**

**"B" for BARRICADE**

**"C" for COUNTER**

For more information, a detailed procedure is available at your child's school. To learn more about the training programs, go to:



# OTHER HAZARDS

## BOATING HAZARDS

- Be aware of surroundings. Hazards can occur under and around your water vessel. Travel at a safe speed to react quickly.
- Do not swim near operating boats to avoid severe injury or death.
- Weather changes quickly. Check small craft advisories and notify your emergency contact of your plans and route. Plan accordingly if severe weather is expected.
- Do not drink and boat. Operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol is against the law and punishable.

## EXTREME HEAT

- Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water even if you don't feel hot or thirsty.
- Wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen while outdoors.
- Seek shade or go indoors if the heat index is high or you feel weak.

- Never leave children or pets in a parked car; they can overheat and suffer heat exhaustion, stroke or death.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT

### IF TOLD TO EVACUATE:

Move to the designated place/shelter by public officials.

Stay calm and quickly gather essentials unless told to leave immediately.

Keep car windows and vents closed. Do not use the air conditioner until out of the evacuation area.

### IF TOLD TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE:

Stay inside until officials say it's safe to leave. Bring pets indoors.

Close all doors and windows. Seal gaps with damp towels and duct tape.

Turn off heating, cooling or ventilation systems.

If advised, cover your nose and mouth with a damp cloth.

## TERRORISM/VIOLENT CRIME

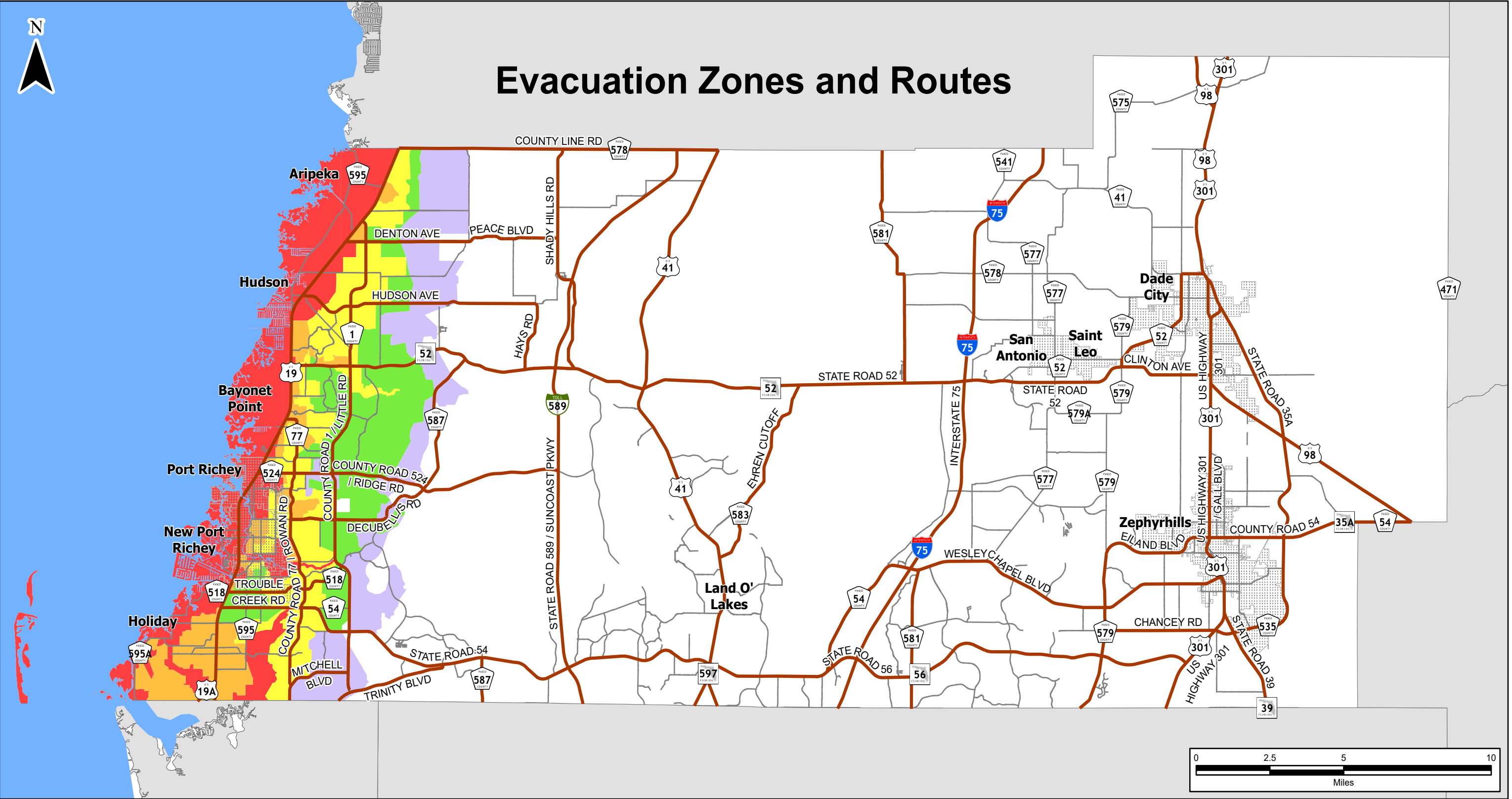
See Something—Say Something. Call local law enforcement or Florida's toll-free hotline,

**1-855-352-7233 (1-855-FLA-SAFE)**

to report suspicious activity.

In an emergency, **CALL 9-1-1!**





- Evacuation Routes
- Evacuation Zone**
- Level A
  - Level B
  - Level C
  - Level D
  - Level E
  - None
  - City Limits

**LEGEND**

**Evacuation Levels**

- Level A - Evacuate red areas and all manufactured home residents
- Level B - Evacuate red and orange areas and all manufactured home residents
- Level C - Evacuate red, orange, and yellow areas and all manufactured home residents
- Level D - Evacuate red, orange, yellow, and green areas and all manufactured homes
- Level E - Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green, and purple areas and all manufactured homes

- Potential Storm Tide Heights (FT)**
- To 11'
  - To 17'
  - To 22'
  - To 30'
  - To 36'

**SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE**

CATEGORY	WIND SPEED (MPH)
Category 1	74 to 95
Category 2	96 to 110
Category 3	111 to 129
Category 4	130 to 156
Category 5	157 and over





# MAKE A PLAN

# DISASTERS

**Prevent panic and confusion** by ensuring everyone knows where to go and what to do in an emergency, whether at home, school or work.

**Choose a contact person** outside your area to coordinate communications during an emergency. Send them copies of important papers (ID, insurance) before a disaster strikes. Create a checklist with the following:

**Location** (street name/landmarks)

**Safety** (immediate/future threats)

**Medical** (injuries/prescriptions)

**Check-in time** (set up a time)

**Future locations and times** you can be found



## THINK AHEAD ABOUT EVACUATION:

Decide if and when to evacuate, where to go, and how to get there.

Ask friends or family if you can stay with them, or invite them to stay with you if you're in a safe area.

For more information, contact the Department of Emergency Management or visit their website.

[PascoEmergencyManagement.com](https://www.pascoemergencymanagement.com)

[FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org)

[TampabayPrepares.org](https://www.tampabayprepares.org)

[Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

## PICK TWO MEETING PLACES

- 1 One meeting place should be close to your home or business for sudden events such as a fire.
- 2 The second should be outside your neighborhood, in case you can't get home or family members get separated.



Fill in your personal information and contact info and keep with you.

## KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE

Include contact information in your phones and make emergency contact cards to carry with you. It is important that you write your contacts down on paper. Laminate the pages if you have the ability to do so. Don't just rely on electronic devices to store essential information such as a close family member's phone number and address—they may not work when you need them.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT CARD

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

BLOOD TYPE:

BIRTH DATE:

SSN:

FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

SSN:

BIRTH DATE:

BLOOD TYPE:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

NAME:

### EMERGENCY CONTACT CARD

# MAKE A PLAN

# PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

## PROTECT YOUR HOME AND BUSINESS:

Take actions to secure your property, such as checking the attic or crawl space. Consider hiring an experienced inspector or contractor. Do this well before any storm hits.

## MOBILE HOME OR RV RESIDENTS:

Evacuate for any hurricane order in Pasco County. Never stay in your mobile home or RV during a storm. Evacuate to a friend or relative's home, a hotel, or a shelter. Anchor and inspect tie downs annually.

## PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODING:

**ANCHOR AND ELEVATE:** Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, heat pumps, washers, dryers, water heaters, and fuel tanks to areas less likely to flood.

**RETROFIT:** Consider options like elevation, flood barriers, and dry or wet floodproofing to minimize flood risk. This can lower storm damage and reduce insurance rates.

**LOCAL MEDIA UPDATES:** Use local media for sandbag locations and instructions. Fill sandbags halfway (approx. 30 lbs). Lay plastic sheeting first, then layer sandbags over it like bricks. Pull the plastic over the top and tuck under the top row of sandbags.

## ANCHOR SHEDS, BARNs, AND OTHER STRUCTURES:

Secure structures on your property that can't be taken apart and stored, including:

Barn	Shed
Gazebo	Chicken Coop
Dog House	Lanai
Carport	Boat Dock



**BEFORE YOU BUILD OR REMODEL:** Protect your home/business before disaster strikes. Pasco County, the State of Florida, and FEMA offer programs to help bring your residence up to code. For safety tips, contact the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes at:

Pasco County offers property mitigation programs to reduce disaster impacts, covering hurricanes, sinkholes, tornadoes and flooding.

## WEB RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE:

<a href="https://www.flash.org">Flash.org</a>	<a href="https://www.mysafeFlorida.org">MySafeFlorida.org</a>
<a href="https://www.floodsmart.gov">Floodsmart.gov</a>	<a href="https://www.pascoEmergencyManagement.com">PascoEmergencyManagement.com</a>
<a href="https://www.fema.gov">FEMA.gov</a>	<a href="https://www.mypasco.com">MyPasco.com</a>



# MAKE A PLAN

# SPECIAL NEEDS

## SPECIAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES

If you or a family member has disabilities or health issues, plan ahead for emergencies. Seek assistance from family, friends, neighbors or local services. Caregivers and those in care facilities should review disaster plans. Register with Pasco County's Emergency Management team for special needs assistance and mention any service animals.

**For more on special needs, visit:**

## HOME HEALTHCARE & HOMEBOUND PATIENTS

During a hurricane, ensure your health is prioritized. Coordinate with your health agency, oxygen company and insurance provider about their care plans. If homebound without a health agency, consult your doctor for a plan of action. For those using electric-dependent medical gear, discuss safety measures with your physician and local power company. It's all about staying safe and prepared!

**Evacuation and Medical Care** If you evacuate, take medications, care instructions, special equipment, and bedding. **For assistance or special needs shelters, register with Pasco County's Department of Emergency Management** during non-emergency conditions. Visit [MyPasco.net](https://www.mypasco.net) for the qualifications video.

**Special Needs Shelters** These shelters provide medical monitoring, not hands-on care, so bring a caregiver. Obtain a copy of your medical records on a flash drive, keep them updated and bring them if you evacuate. For medical alert information, ask your facility for tags or jewelry, or find them at medical supply stores and online. Stay safe and prepared!

## HEALTHCARE FACILITIES COORDINATION & PLANNING

Pasco County Emergency Management reviews healthcare facility Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) to reduce hazard vulnerability. A CEMP details care provisions during emergencies, legal actions, and post-disaster priorities, and helps understand lessons from past disasters. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) sets specific criteria for different facility types.

**Pasco County Emergency Management reviews plans for various healthcare facilities, including:**

Ambulatory surgical centers

Adult daycare centers

Assisted living facilities

Nursing homes

Hospitals

Intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled

Residential treatment centers for children and adolescents

**A CEMP should address:**

Emergency evacuation transportation

Adequate sheltering arrangements

Post-disaster activities (food, water, emergency power)

Post-disaster transportation, supplies, staffing, and equipment

Resident identification, record transfer, and family inquiries

**For more information, visit:**

## WHAT TO BRING TO A SHELTER

- ✓ Medication/Diabetic Supplies (14 days' supply)
- ✓ Special Dietary Foods
- ✓ Medical Supplies (oxygen masks, e-tanks, concentrators, regulators)
- ✓ Blankets/Pillows/Change of Clothes
- ✓ Wheelchair/Walker
- ✓ Personal Hygiene Items/Wash Cloth
- ✓ List of Emergency Contacts & Next of Kin
- ✓ Physician's and Home Health Agencies' Contact Information
- ✓ ONE Caregiver (if applicable)

**Plan ahead for emergencies:  
Ensuring everyone with disabilities  
is prepared.**



# MAKE A PLAN

# IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

## DOCUMENT & PROPERTY SAFETY

Keep important documents in a fireproof safe and a second copy in a secure location away from home. Email copies to yourself or a friend, use cloud storage, or save to a flash drive, and mail it to trusted individuals. Ensure you have multiple copies of original documents.

Inventory your property and possessions. Take pictures or videos, and create a binder, folder or online storage with records. Include the item's purchase and replacement value. Include receipts for expensive items or collectibles.

**INSURANCE** Read your policy to understand coverage and risks. Review homeowner's or renter's insurance coverage annually with your agent to ensure protection and inquire about discounts for mitigation measures.

Before a disaster, collect photos and records for an insurance claim. Inform your insurance company that you are in a disaster area, and they can assign you an adjuster or case worker to save time later.

## STEPS TO INSURANCE PROTECTION

Insure your home for its reconstruction cost, not real estate value.

Homeowner's policy covers repairs.

Renters need insurance for belongings.

Standard policies don't cover flood damage; get flood insurance (effective 30 days after purchase).

Know your deductible and set aside funds for it.

Get coverage for building code upgrades in older homes.

Inventory your home's contents to speed up claims.

For more information, visit the Insurance Information Institute:

## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

- ☐ ATM Debit Card
- ☐ Bank Statement
- ☐ Birth Certificate
- ☐ Business Tax Documents
- ☐ Business Supply Vendor List
- ☐ Credit Card
- ☐ Deed
- ☐ Driver's License
- ☐ Durable Power of Attorney
- ☐ Health Insurance Card
- ☐ Insurance Policies
- ☐ Inventory List, Receipts, Photos, Flash Drives
- ☐ Living Will
- ☐ Marriage Certificate
- ☐ Medical Information and Directives
- ☐ Military Records
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Power of Attorney
- ☐ Proof of Address (Utility Bill)
- ☐ Social Security Card
- ☐ Stocks and Bonds
- ☐ Tax Records
- ☐ Trust
- ☐ Vehicle Registration
- ☐ Will

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS



MAKE A PLAN



SECURE DOCUMENTS



STAY INFORMED



BUILD A KIT



FILL UP YOUR CAR



PREPARE GROCERIES



CHARGE DEVICES

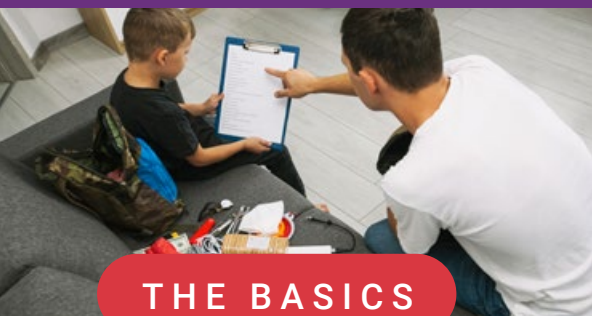


SEEK SAFE SHELTER



# MAKE A PLAN

# PACK YOUR KIT



## THE BASICS



### 14 DAYS

**MEDICATION:** Keep updated lists of family medications and dosages along with doctor and pharmacy phone numbers. Keep a two week (14-day) supply of prescription medications.



### 7 DAYS

**FOOD:** Keep enough food to feed the whole family for seven to ten days. Choose things that don't need refrigeration or cooking (canned goods, protein bars, peanut butter, etc.). Don't forget any special dietary foods or baby food and formula, if needed. Replenish every six months.



### 7 DAYS

**WATER:** One gallon of water per person, per day for drinking and water for cooking/washing (minimum 7 days). Stock up on a few cases of bottled water in the event there is a "boil water" order.



### BATTERY SUPPLY

**BATTERIES:** Have a supply of extra batteries for cameras, flashlights, radios, portable TVs, lamps, etc.

Let's talk disaster supply kit essentials! Take a look through your home and grab what you already have. For the things you're missing—start stocking up today, even if it's just a bit at a time. Store everything where you can reach it quickly. Anything from the list highlighted in light purple—that's your shelter kit must-have items. These lists are handy guides, but feel free to tweak them to suit your household's vibe. Your kit, your rules.

## HOME & SHELTER KIT — Watch the evacuation kit video:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water   | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Book and Kit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food  | <input type="checkbox"/> Important Documents (p. 19)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications   | <input type="checkbox"/> Chargers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infant Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diapers/Wipes</li> <li>• Formula/Bottles</li> </ul>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Moistened Towelettes/Wipes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash/Checks  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights & Extra Batteries   | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Map  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Electric Can Opener   | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Paper   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Hygiene Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand Sanitizer</li> <li>• Toothbrush/Toothpaste</li> <li>• Deodorant</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Games/favorite toys</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Playing cards</li> </ul> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothing/Shoes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Supply Kit (p. 21)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket/Sleeping Bag/Pillow   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mask   |

## HOME ONLY KIT

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable Radio   | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle/Distress Flag  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguisher (small canister, ABC type)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bucket with lid and kitty litter (for emergency toilet)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Car Kit  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito Repellent   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Trash Bags   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Kit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammer &amp; Nails</li> <li>• Screwdrivers</li> <li>• Cordless Drill</li> <li>• Pliers</li> <li>• Plastic Tarp</li> <li>• Duct Tape</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-Up Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mop</li> <li>• Buckets</li> <li>• Towels</li> <li>• Disinfectant</li> <li>• Non-Scented Bleach</li> </ul> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Purification Kit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tablets</li> <li>• Chlorine—plain</li> <li>• Iodine</li> </ul>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helmet   | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera   |

# MAKE A PLAN

## PETS/LIVESTOCK

### YOUR PETS

Plan for your furry friends! Pasco County Animal Services offers weekly low-cost vaccination and microchipping clinics.

Never leave your pets behind during an evacuation. It's a risk for everyone. If ordered to evacuate, take your pet and supplies to a shelter, friends, family, or a hotel. Many shelters accept pets.

If heading to a shelter, bring a crate and necessary supplies for your pet. For hotels, check: [PetsWelcome.com](https://www.petswelcome.com) for pet-friendly options.

After the storm, be cautious when letting pets outside. Watch for downed power lines, other animals, and water-borne insects. Ensure their food and water are safe from contamination. Let's keep our furry friends safe!

### PETCO LOVELOST

Animal Services takes in lost and surrendered pets daily. Lost animals are held for 72 hours before being fostered or re-homed. Petco Love Lost reunites pets with owners. Visit the website below and view lost or found pets. Register your furry friend today. For more information go to: [PetcoLove.org](https://www.petcolove.org)

### YOUR LIVESTOCK

To keep livestock safe, tag animals with IDs, keep a photo log, check fences, and remove hazards.

**If evacuating**, plan transportation early. Gas may be hard to find and traffic heavy. If staying, ensure livestock have clean water, food for at least two days, cooling options, and a warm bed.

For more information, visit [Usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)  
Check out the pet evacuation video at [Mypas.co/EMVideos](https://www.mypas.co/EMVideos)

### PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proper ID collar and rabies tag/license                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific care instructions  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination paperwork*                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers, cat litter, scoop   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrier or cage (large enough for your pet to move around) | <input type="checkbox"/> Proper ID on all belongings (include emergency contact information if you evacuate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leash  | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo of you with your pet  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ample food supply (min. 2 weeks)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic trash bag for handling waste  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water (minimum 7-day supply)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> A comfort item such as a favorite toy or blanket                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water/food bowls   | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-electric can opener   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any necessary medication(s)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Microchipping your pet is strongly recommended                                      |

*\*Ensure your pets are up-to-date on vaccinations (within the past 12 months). Pet-friendly shelters and boarding facilities require proof.*





# MAKE A PLAN

# SHELTER IN PLACE

## SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Certain hazards require you to shelter-in-place if evacuation isn't possible. Find a safe room without exterior windows or doors during a hurricane, thunderstorm or tornado.

If you live in a sound structure outside the evacuation area and not in a mobile home or RV, you may choose to stay home and take proper precautions.

### MONITOR THE WEATHER

Monitor your battery-operated radio, NOAA weather radio or TV for the latest advisories and other emergency information.

### CHECK DISASTER SUPPLIES

Make sure you have at least a seven day supply of non-perishable foods and water. Try to find foods that have good nutritional value. Consider using disposable plates, bowls, or utensils in the event that you may not be able to clean your everyday kitchen supplies. Don't forget a non-electric can opener.

### WELCOME YOUR FRIENDS

Offer your home as shelter to friends or relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes. Remind them to bring their supply kits. Make sure your windows, doors and garage doors are protected. During the storm, stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.

### STORE WATER

Bottled water and water storage containers sell out quickly in stores when a disaster is approaching. Water can become contaminated if heavy rains persist or the water systems are damaged. Homes with well water require electricity to run the well pump. Expect that if you lose power you will be unable to utilize the water from your well. Use clean containers, including your bathtub or sink, for storing water. Plan on one gallon per person, per day, for at least seven days for drinking and other uses. If you are unable to find containers to store your water, don't



panic. Page 26 of the guide gives instructions on how to boil water for drinking.

### SAFE ROOM

Find a safe room in your home, usually an interior, windowless, reinforced room such as a closet or bathroom on the lower floor. If you have a 2-story home, under the stairs might also be a safe place.

### DO NOT TRAVEL

Do not travel until you are told it is safe to do so.

### WAIT UNTIL DANGER IS OVER

Wait for official word that the danger has passed. If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker. If you lose power, turn off major appliances (such as the air conditioner and water heater) to reduce damage from surge when power is restored.



# MAKE A PLAN

# EVACUATE

## TIME TO EVACUATE

Sometimes hazards give you no other option than to evacuate your home, business, or community. Your plan to shelter-in-place might not be possible. Prepare yourself to evacuate if you are in danger. There are two types of evacuation. One requires immediate evacuation in the event of an unforeseen emergency. This can include things such as:

- House/structure fire
- Flash flooding
- Sinkhole
- Tornado
- Wildfire

The second type of evacuation often allows time in advance to plan and prepare. This typically occurs with the following disasters:

- Hurricanes
- Large wildfires
- Heavy rainfall/flooding

## IF YOU MUST EVACUATE

If you live in an evacuation area, a mobile home, or an RV, when an evacuation order is given, don't panic. Move at a steady pace and ensure you leave enough time to get to where you will shelter from the storm. DO NOT take chances with your life by staying at home or by waiting until it's too late to make it safely to your place of refuge! For public transportation information, visit GOPASCO: [GoPasco.com](http://GoPasco.com)

## LEAVING COASTAL AREAS

If you are leaving the area, take your supplies with you. Move inland away from the storm surge and flooding. It is recommended that residents evacuate tens of miles, not hundreds if possible. Roads will be heavily congested and you run the risk of being caught on the highway without a safe refuge. You could also drive into the storm's path if it changes.

## FINDING SAFETY IN A PUBLIC SHELTER

Make sure your destination is not within a zone that has been ordered to evacuate. Shelters will be open, but they can fill quickly. Not all shelters are opened for every incident. Therefore, the closest one to you may not be an option.

Local officials will announce if any shelters are opened. As they fill up, people may be asked to seek other shelters. Space is limited for the number of persons a facility can hold. Verify that space is available prior to arriving at a shelter. Each person will be given a designated space of 20 sq. ft. for their personal belongings. This space is about the size of a standard door. ALL Pasco County shelters accept pets. For more information, see the Home & Shelter Kit on page 20. To view the special needs shelter registration video, visit:

## VACANCY AT A HOTEL OR MOTEL

If you plan to go to a hotel or motel, you will need to check for availability and make your reservations well in advance. Some hotels/motels have standing reservation hurricane programs and some relax their pet restrictions in an emergency. Again, make sure your destination is not in an evacuation zone.

## CHECK BEFORE YOU LEAVE

**PETS:** Bring supplies and vaccination records.

**PAPERS:** Take driver's license, medical info, insurance policies, and property inventories.

**IRREPLACEABLES:** Pack photos and keepsakes.

**NOTIFY:** Inform friends and relatives where you're going.

**UTILITIES:** Turn off electricity, water, and gas if advised. Lock windows and doors.

**NEIGHBORS:** Ensure they have a safe ride.

**STAY INFORMED:** Follow local radio and TV for emergency updates. Sign up Alert Pasco for real-time alerts and additional information.





# MAKE A PLAN

# FINAL PREPARATIONS

## PRECIOUS COMMODITIES BEFORE & AFTER A STORM

Have an emergency charger for cell phones and mobile devices. Consider a solar-powered alternative.

Cash. With no power, banks may be closed; checks and credit cards may not be accepted, and ATMs may not be operational.

Charcoal, matches, propane, and grill. Do not use indoors.

Ice. If the power goes out, ice can help preserve food in the freezer or cooler. It can also be used for water.

Talk to your doctor about your needs, and fill medication in advance.

Gas. For the days leading up to a disaster, try to keep your gas tank full on your vehicle.



## THE STORM IS APPROACHING

- ✓ Keep a radio on for weather updates from local stations and NOAA Weather Radio.
- ✓ Review your checklists and ensure your Disaster Supply Kit is ready.
- ✓ Gather any last-minute supplies. Fill bathtubs and sinks with clean water.
- ✓ Expect power outages; adjust your fridge to the coldest settings and avoid opening doors.
- ✓ Refill prescriptions for at least two weeks.
- ✓ Withdraw cash as ATMs and banks may not work.
- ✓ Secure your yard by removing potential airborne items.
- ✓ Protect windows and doors with plywood or storm shutters.
- ✓ Fill your car's gas tank and check oil, coolant and tires.
- ✓ Ensure your Emergency Car Kit is in the vehicle.
- ✓ Secure your boat early, as drawbridges will close after an evacuation order.
- ✓ Never sweep yard debris into the street or storm water system to avoid clogging.



**Make a Plan**



**Build a Kit**



**Be Informed**

## RECOVERY OPERATIONS

You may not be able to evacuate before a disaster. Immediately after, first responders will search for individuals in danger, which may take time if you're in a hazardous area. Call 9-1-1 if you see someone needing assistance or damage to public property like roads, bridges or powerlines.

## LOOTING & CRIME

Do not loot. Looting is treated as burglary and can include charges like petty theft, burglary, larceny, or grand theft. Report looting or crimes by calling 9-1-1.

## COUNSELING & SUPPORT

Living through a disaster can be overwhelming. Take time to process and reach out to family and friends. Speaking with someone outside your support group can also be helpful. Outreach centers and free counseling services are available throughout the county.

**Immediate Counseling, SAMHSA  
Disaster Distress Hotline:**  
**1-800-985-5990**  
**Text TalkWithUs to 66746**

**FEMA Helpline: Provides assistance with  
state or federal disaster support.**  
**Open Monday through Saturday,**  
**7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**1-800-621-3362**

## COMFORTING CHILDREN

Everyone reacts differently after a disaster. Children's reactions vary by age and may include fear of another disaster, loss of interest in activities, nightmares, or regressive behavior. Talk to your children honestly about the disaster and your emotions. Encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings. Try to maintain a routine schedule.

## POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE

After a disaster, you may be without power, water, sewer, phone and other services. Immediate response may not be possible, so be prepared to be self-reliant.

Several programs offered by the

Federal Government, State of Florida, and Pasco County can assist with repairs after flooding or storm damage. Each situation is unique, and filing an application does not guarantee funding.

## INSURANCE CLAIM

**Collect photos of your property and store them in multiple locations** (folder, binder, online, email, cloud storage). Keep more than one copy of original documents.

During widespread disasters, insurance companies may alter claim management. Track all communications and

request tracking or confirmation numbers

Inform your insurance company if you need shelter or living arrangements. Coverage varies and long-term stays in hotels can be expensive.

Some insurers offer upfront assistance for materials like tarps and generators. Use these funds to prevent further damage while your claim is processed. Understand that claims take time, especially during widespread disasters. Maintain communication with your adjuster and keep organized records.





**RE-ENTRY**

**Be Patient:** You can't return to your home or business until search and rescue operations are complete and hazards are cleared. It may take time for emergency crews to reach your neighborhood.

**AUTHORIZED PERMISSION**

When allowed to return, access may be limited to residents and business owners. Residents need a government-issued photo ID and a utility bill with your name and address. Businesses need a valid photo ID, proof of ownership/rental, county business tax license, and authorized names on business letterhead.

**TRAVELING ON ROADS & BRIDGES**

Avoid driving, especially through water. Roads may have debris. Treat intersections with inoperable signals as 4-way stops. Report damage or debris to Public Works at **727-847-2411** or use the **MyPasco App**. Don't attempt to remove debris or repair damages.

**DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

**Always use caution.** Allow professionals to remove debris before completing the assessment. Contact authorities if you cannot complete your assessment safely.

Once you return to your home or business, survey the damage from the outside and enter with caution. Take pictures or video to document any damage for insurance claims.

Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry the area. **If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and call 9-1-1** and your natural gas provider from a safe location.

**If there has been flooding, do not use electricity.** Contact a qualified licensed electrician to inspect the electrical system and appliances before turning the power back on.

**SAFETY FIRST**

**Fire Safety:** Use battery-operated flashlights and lanterns instead of candles. Don't burn garbage or debris. Use grills and firepits with precautions, and never leave a fire unattended. Keep grills and generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from the home. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Stay Alert:** Listen to local media for emergency information. Avoid standing water. Always supervise children. Do not wade in floodwaters or sewer drains.

**Wildlife Awareness:** Be cautious of displaced wildlife like snakes, insects, alligators, or animals on higher ground due to floods. If threatened by a dangerous animal, **call 9-1-1**. Report injured or endangered animals to Animal Services.

**Water Safety:** Avoid drinking tap water until officials confirm it is safe. Drink bottled or boiled water. Boil water for one minute to kill organisms, and store it in clean, sanitized containers.

**PURCHASING A GENERATOR**

Generators provide power during outages and can be portable or stationary. Portable generators are more affordable and gas-powered. Stationary generators need professional installation and can be powered by gas, propane or solar.

Choose the right generator by considering the appliances or equipment you'll use and whether you need multiple or varied outlets

**GENERATOR SAFETY**

Perform routine maintenance and safety checks on your generator.

Never connect a portable generator to building wiring to avoid dangerous backfeed.

Plug appliances directly into the generator. Avoid power strips or split extension cords.

Place generators outside, away from doors, windows and vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Turn off and cool down the generator before refueling. Check the oil every time you add gas.

Keep the generator in a dry area and conserve fuel by alternating appliance use.

Store fuel safely outside in labeled, approved containers, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

Stationary generators require professional installation and must run on gas, propane or solar.

Secure portable generators to prevent theft after a disaster.

**PLAN TODAY.  
BE SAFE TOMORROW!**



## CLEANUP & REPAIRS

**Know your insurance policy** and what's needed to submit a claim. Take photos of all damage before repairs and keep receipts. Make temporary repairs to ensure safety and prevent further damage.

## DEBRIS REMOVAL

Use safety equipment like gloves, goggles, boots, long sleeves, and pants when removing debris. Stay hydrated, rest, and ask for help when needed. Don't burn trash.

## CURBSIDE DEBRIS

The county will provide instructions for debris placement after a disaster. Debris placed on the right of way needs to be sorted into piles based on the type of debris. Only debris at the curb will be picked up. Find instructions for each disaster at: [MyPasco.net](http://MyPasco.net)

## TREE REMOVAL

Be careful with chainsaws and follow safety precautions. Call professionals to remove large trees. Avoid downed power lines.

## PERMITTING & CONTRACTOR FRAUD

Permits are always required for any kind of demolition or permanent repairs, reconstruction or roofing. You can contact the permitting office to improve your home prior to a disaster or repair it after a disaster. Hire only licensed contractors. Don't pull the permits for them. This should be their responsibility. Get a written estimate or contract. Insist on start/completion dates and payment terms in the contract. Do not pay in full before work begins and do not pay the final balance until the work is done. **NEVER pay with cash.** If you suspect a contractor of fraud, contact the State of Florida Consumer Fraud hotline at **1-866-966-7226**.



# Debris Removal Guidelines for Private Residential Properties

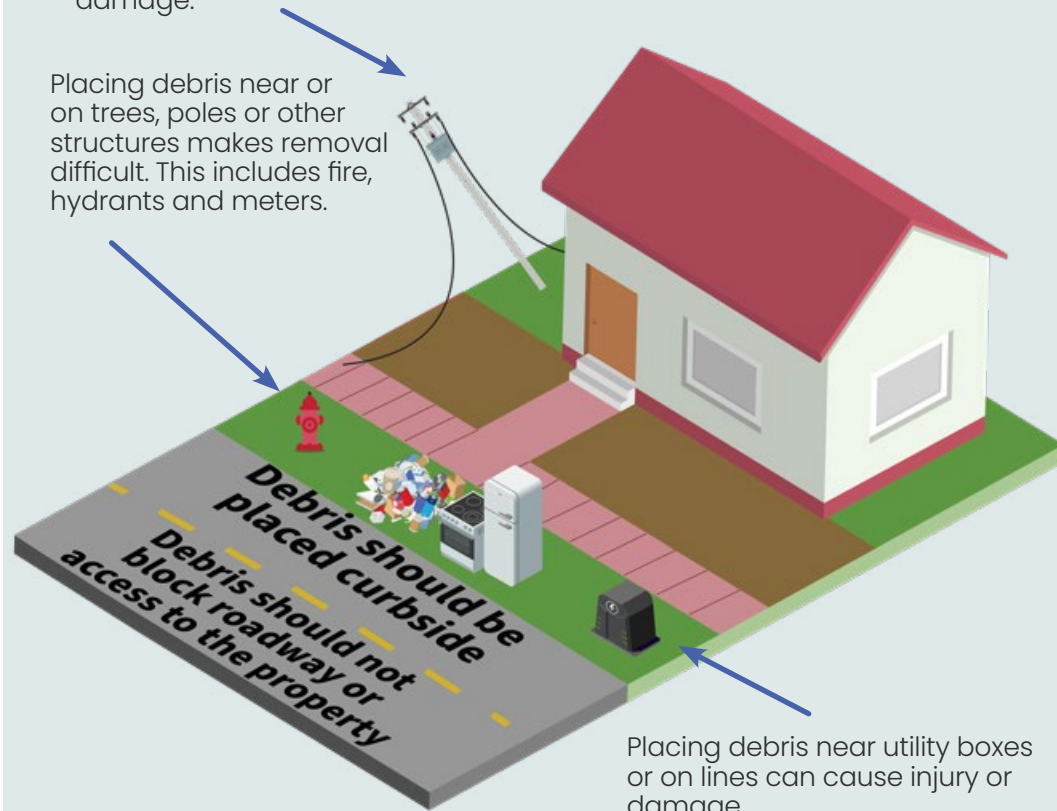
In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these rules.

## Debris Separation

Please separate debris into the categories shown below.

Never touch, cut, remove or place debris on downed lines.

- Can result in injury or death
- Placing debris near utility boxes on lines can cause injury or damage.



### Large Appliances

Refrigerator, washer/dryer, air conditioner, stove, water heater, dishwasher. Do not leave doors unsealed or unsecured.



### Construction Debris

Building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing.



### Vegetative Debris

Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants.



### Hazardous Waste

Oil, battery, pesticide, paint, cleaning supplies.



### Electronics

Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player.



[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)  
[dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov)  
[disastersafety.org](http://disastersafety.org)  
[egov.pascocountyfl.net/alertpasco/](http://egov.pascocountyfl.net/alertpasco/)  
[facebook.com/pascocounty](https://facebook.com/pascocounty)  
[fema.gov](http://fema.gov)  
[petcolove.org/lost/](http://petcolove.org/lost/)  
[flash.org](http://flash.org)  
[floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov)  
[floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org)  
[iii.org](http://iii.org)

[mysafeflorida.org](http://mysafeflorida.org)  
[mypasco.net](http://mypasco.net)  
[pascosheriff.com](http://pascosheriff.com)  
[petswelcome.com](http://petswelcome.com)  
[ready.gov](http://ready.gov)  
[redcross.org](http://redcross.org)  
[salvationarmyusa.org](http://salvationarmyusa.org)  
[stopthebleed.org](http://stopthebleed.org)  
[tampabayprepares.org](http://tampabayprepares.org)  
[usda.gov](http://usda.gov)  
[voa.org](http://voa.org)  
[weather.gov](http://weather.gov)

# INFO

211 Referral Line	2-1-1
Pasco County Customer Service	727-847-2411
Pasco County Emergency Management	727-847-8137
American Red Cross	727-848-8354
Animal Services	
Dade City	352-521-5194
Land O' Lakes	813-929-1212
New Port Richey	727-834-3216
Catholic Charities	352-686-9897
Disaster Distress Hotline	800-985-5990
Duke Energy	800-228-8485
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes	877-221-7233
FEMA Helpline	800-621-3362
Florida Consumer Fraud Hotline	866-966-7226
Florida Terrorism Hotline	855-352-7233

Highway Patrol	352-797-5738
NOAA Weather Radio FIPS	Code 012101
Pasco County Public Transportation	
West Pasco	727-834-3322
East Pasco	352-521-4587
Central Pasco	813-235-6073
Salvation Army (New Port Richey)	727-815-8539
Sheriff, Main Office	727-847-5878
Non-Emergency	727-847-8102
Solid Waste	727-847-8123
Special Needs Registration	727-847-8137
TECO	888-223-0800
To Report TECO Power Outages	877-588-1010
United Way	727-845-3030
Withlacoochee River Electric	352-588-5115
Bayonet Point District	727-868-9465