



## NEW RESIDENTS & HURRICANE SEASON

**Welcome to Florida! As you settle into your new home, it is important to be prepared for hurricane and tropical storm season which runs from June 1st to November 30th. To help in your preparations, here is a comprehensive guide to help you stay safe and informed:**

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- Storms have different categories based on their characteristics. Tropical Storms have wind speeds of 39-73 mph. A storm is classified as a hurricane at winds of 74 mph or more.
  - There are 5 categories for a hurricane, with each category being more intense than the former.
  - Both tropical storms and hurricanes exhibit extreme weather and have the possibility of negatively affecting both life and property. They should be taken seriously no matter the how "strong" or "weak" they may appear.
  - Have an emergency kit in your home with supplies and important documents. See our [checklist](#) for a list of suggested items to keep in your emergency kit.
  - Consider some home preparations in advance of a storm, like securing outdoor furniture and other loose items, keeping trees and shrubs maintained to prevent debris, utilizing storm shutters or boarding up windows, and checking your roof and gutter integrity. Also photograph your home and car in case any damage occurs.
  - Know your evacuation plan. Knowing what evacuation zone your property is located in and being aware of your nearest shelter and how to get there (without using technology in the case of an outage) can be life-saving. If you have pets at home, or someone with special medical equipment needs, there are different shelters that can accommodate. Be sure to know which shelters do, as not every shelter is the same.
  - Have a list of emergency contacts.
  - Stay informed through reliable sources like the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and your local news.
  - Keep a tank full of gas and cash on hand in case of any service disruptions.
  - Consider a battery-operated radio to keep updated in case of a power outage and cellular service disruption.
  - Keep important documents in a safe place.
  - Heed the warnings of officials. Local government organization will be giving out directives during a storm. These can be from whether or not to evacuate, when to evacuate, when it is safer to "shelter in place," or even "boil water" advisories after the fact.
  - After a storm passes, be mindful about hidden dangers. Flood waters can be contaminated with sewage or contain hidden debris that can be harmful. Downed power lines can have "live" wires hidden under debris. Some roads or bridges may not be safe to traverse. Some dangerous wildlife may be displaced and found in places not usually found.
  - Contact your homeowner's insurance provider or broker in case of damage.