

Arbor Grove Condominium Association, Inc.

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arborgrovestpete.com



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Dear Arbor Grove Residents,

Unlike most natural disasters, with hurricanes we often have at least some early warning – sometimes a few hours and, if we’re lucky, a few days – so it is important to take advantage of that time to consider your options, review your safety plans and make final preparations.

Following are some suggestions and tips for you during storm season. The information has been condensed from several publications as well as the advice of experts. Information is current as of this publication, however, it is best to always call to confirm any information. You can begin now to prepare for an emergency by adopting your storm preparation plan.

The best online resource for all Emergency Information is <https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information/>

The Association makes no representation these suggestions and related information is accurate, complete or current. This information is provided only as a courtesy to you to assist with your decision making during storm season. It is solely up to the owner to understand the risks of storm season in Florida and to take the necessary measures to ensure their personal safety and the protection of their property.

Please remember that in the event of an evacuation order, all Property Management and Maintenance Personnel will be required to leave the property and will be unable to return until cleared for safety by the authorities.

Thank you,

Britt Bates, LCAM
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STORM PREPARATION PLAN - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Take storm warnings very seriously. Hurricanes have been getting higher in intensity in recent years and winds in excess of 100 mph and storm surges of 4-7 feet have been experienced recently in the Tampa Bay area.
- Ensure outdoor furniture and accessories (which can become missiles in high winds causing damage to windows and other Belle Harbor structures) are removed prior to storms with high winds. As a general practice you should bring in your furniture/accessories whenever you are away from the property during extended times, even outside of storm season.
- Ensure property management has a key or other access to your unit in the event we need to enter to inspect the common elements for any potential suspected damage as a result of the storm. This is a requirement of all owners.
- Ensure your email is updated in Vantaca to receive proper notifications.
- Turn off your water if you are away from your unit.
- Follow mandatory evacuation orders.
- Property management staff and maintenance staff will NOT be on property as they will be required to leave during mandatory evacuation orders and will not be allowed to return until the “all clear” order is issued by authorities.
- Emergency response personnel may NOT be able to reach you during mandatory evacuation orders.
- Absentee owners should have a friend or service locally to ensure their balcony furniture is removed during a storm and is properly secured.

Special Needs

Pinellas County assists residents with medical, functional or special transportation needs in an emergency. Register for the program in advance to make sure you have the resources you need during a disaster evacuation.

Please visit <https://pinellas.gov/special-needs/> for information and to register.

***Please note: The association does NOT assist with setting up any special needs requests. It is a personal responsibility.**

Transportation to special needs shelters: 727-464-3800. You do need to register first at www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds.

SHOULD I STAY OR GO?

It is important to take advantage of any time available to consider the options of staying or evacuating prior to a storm. As warnings are issued, you will need to prepare your personal property to ensure the least amount of damage to people and property. Regardless of your decision to remain in place or to evacuate, the following precautions should be followed to hurricane ready you home.

- Bring all outdoor furniture and potted plants inside. Take down any outdoor wall hangings. During a storm with high winds, these items become dangerous objects. Remember, securing personal items around your unit is your responsibility.
- Remember to close curtains.
- Ensure all important documents are in a safe and easily accessible place. You may want to place them in waterproof bags or take photos on your phone of the most important documents.
- Fill your gas tank.
- Review your “Stay” or “Go” emergency kit and replenish as necessary. (suggested items to follow)
- Read your homeowners insurance policy and be sure you understand what is covered and how to file a claim.
- Identify an out-of-area contact. Designate a friend or family member in another area who can act as a communication traffic manager and make sure that they have updated contact information for children’s schools, physician offices, employer, etc.
- Protect documentation. Make copies of all-important documents; passport, driver’s license, birth certificate, financial documents, wills, health related papers, etc. Provide copies to out of state contacts. Be sure to have your insurance policies and contact numbers in your possession.
- Create a home inventory. Create an organized photo catalog of your belongings on your smartphone with available insurance apps.

Management will do its best to communicate imminent danger to our property. It is, however, your responsibility to be informed and prepared to stay in place or evacuate should that be warranted.

IF YOU GO...

If you make the decision to evacuate the community or you are mandated to leave, there are some additional precautions you may want to take upon your departure.

- Be sure that your door is locked when you leave and you have all you need while you are away. You may not be back for some time.

- Clean your refrigerator and remove perishable items
- Shut off water. If pipes or your water heater break, you can minimize damage
- Close all interior doors- This can protect against minor damage if your windows are shattered
- Close your curtains – This will help to protect against shattered glass
- Check and pack your hurricane survival kit.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS

IF YOU STAY

If you are not mandated to evacuate and decide to remain on property, you will want to ensure you are ready to weather the storm. Be prepared to remain in your home for several days. You will most likely not be able to leave due to debris and emergency crews will not be able to get to you. In addition to those general precautions previously mentioned, you will also want to:

- Check with your neighbors to determine who will also be in the complex. You will also want to ensure you are able to reach them after the storm.
- Prepare for the power to be out for several days. If you have a battery-operated fan, ensure you have sufficient batteries.
- Charge your phone. If possible, have an alternate charger.
- Ensure you have enough water for 7 days. A suggested amount is two gallons per person per day. Don't forget water for pets. Hint: freeze water in gallon containers. You will have fresh water and will be able to keep food items cold without electricity.
 - Clean and fill your tub. This water can be used for hygiene purposes and clean up.
- Be sure to have enough medications for at least 7 days.
- Be sure to have your homeowner's insurance and inventory available for after the storm.
- If you lose electricity, unplug items and turn off electronics to prevent a power surge.

HOW BAD CAN IT REALLY BE AND DO I REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE?

A hurricane is an intense low-pressure system which rotates counterclockwise, in the Northern Hemisphere, and generates wind speed in excess of 74 miles per hour.

| Category | Sustained Winds | Storm Surge | Damage |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 1 | 74-95 mph | 4 to 5 feet | Minor |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2 | 95-110 mph | 6 to 8 feet | Moderate |
| 3 | 111-130 mph | 8 to 12 feet | Major |
| 4 | 131-155 mph | 13 to 18 feet | Severe |
| 5 | Over 155 mph | Over 18 feet | Catastrophic |

The storm surge that accompanies a hurricane is a wall of water pushed inland by the hurricane causing major destruction. The storm surge is blamed for an average of nine out of every 10 hurricane related fatalities. The ocean surface, under the storm's center, is drawn upward like water in a giant straw forming a mound higher than the ocean. As the mound nears the coast, it can grow to become a storm surge 50 miles wide and 20 feet high.

Six inches of storm surge can knock people off their feet. One foot can float your vehicle, and two feet can sweep it off the road.

Ten-foot hurricane generated waves on top of the storm surge can crash into coastal areas, which are less than 10 feet above sea level along most of the Gulf and Atlantic States. Water weighs about 1,700 pounds per cubic yard. So, the storm surge and waves can demolish a building designed to withstand wind but not water. Do not make the mistake of thinking the upper floor of a high rise is a safe place to stay in a powerful storm. Refer to Important Definitions for further information about storm surges.

Hurricane evacuation orders are issued when a hurricane storm surge is a threat to humans in an evacuation zone. It is possible to live in a non-flood zone and still be in an evacuation zone. Know your zone and have an evacuation plan.

The ideal plan would be to stay with a friend or relative in an area outside the evacuation zones. If that is not an option, consider a hotel or as a last resort, a public shelter. Pet friendly hotels are listed separately. Whichever plan you choose, you need to execute your plan as early as possible. Hotel reservations should be made as soon as you know evacuation is likely. You may also want to reserve a day or two extra in the event Belle Harbor is not accessible after the storm or if your unit is without power.

PLEASE REMEMBER that zones under mandatory evacuation orders do not receive emergency services. You will be on your own if you have an emergency.

The Florida hurricane season is from June 1st through November 30. Confirm your evacuation zone (Arbor Grove is zone "B"). Go to the county website to find your zone. http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/evac_faq.htm

HURRICANE EMERGENCY KIT

Everyone living in a hurricane prone region should have a hurricane safety kit ready. Pre-packaged hurricane preparation kits may be purchased, or you can easily assemble a kit yourself. A safety kit is one of the most essential elements of preparing yourself, your family and your property for a hurricane.

Hurricane emergency kits should be prepared at least at the beginning of the season and remain ready until the end of the season. Hurricane season is June 1 – November 30 each

year. All of the listed items should be packed in portable containers that are easy for you to lift and transport.

Here is a list of some essential items:

- Include at least two gallons per day per person as well as clean water for pets.
- Prepackaged, dried or canned food should be available. Energy bars and snacks should be available. You may not have electricity for your stove. Ensure enough for each person to eat for three days. Attached is a more complete list of food suggestions.
- Create a first aid kit. Include prescription medications, over-the-counter painkillers, rubbing alcohol, eye wash kit and vomit-inducing medication in case of accidental poisoning.
- Have several flashlights on hand with batteries. They are a safer alternative to candles if power is down.
- Whistles can be used to signal and direct attention during and after the storm passes.
- A battery or crank powered radio will allow you to listen to weather alerts and directives from authorities that may save your life.
- Have enough to power flashlights and battery-operated radios for three days.
- Make sure you have CASH. Do not rely on ATMs after a hurricane, as power may be down.
- Ensure you have cleaning supplies. Include disinfectant and garbage bags to manage waste and germs.
- Create a small toolbox with the essentials and a pair of work gloves. You will also need tape, rope, closed-toe shoes or work boots.
- Two forms of identification may be required to prove residency if Belle Harbor re-entry is restricted by law enforcement. At least one photo ID should be available.
- A two-week supply of prescription medication and a written list of what you are prescribed. Be sure to have your pharmacy information in case of an emergency refill. Don't forget hearing aid batteries.
- Copies of insurance policies and contact information for your physicians and family members. These should be stored in a waterproof bag. If you are taking your pet, you will need a written record of their vaccinations as well as supplies and medications.
- Bug spray
- Rain gear and waterproof footwear.
- Sunscreen
- A paper map of the area.
- Notepad and pen or pencil.
- Paper towels, toilet paper, sanitizing wipes or liquid, feminine products.
- Cell phone and chargers. (Car chargers are essential when we have extended power outages.)
- Manual can opener
- Disposable flatware, plates and cups
- Several changes of undergarments, clothing, and footwear
- Extra oxygen tank for those dependent on them
- Books, cards, or other forms of non-electrical entertainment
- Pillows, blankets, air mattresses for public shelters accommodations
- Pet food, medication and supplies such as toys and cat litter.

All contents of a hurricane survival kit should be packed neatly into easily accessible plastic storage bins and should be easily transportable.

EVACUATION SHELTER INFORMATION

Evacuations are ordered when a storm surge is a threat to human safety and survival. Recommended and mandatory evacuations are issued in zones A through D. You can find your zone by calling Pinellas County Evacuation Inquiry Line at 727-453-3150. Key in your phone number without the area code. You can also find the information at www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone.

If you will require a special need shelter, you must register in advance by calling 727-446-3800 or going to www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds.

Public shelters should be a last resort. They are not hotels. They provide basic shelter space, some toilet facilities, some food and very few amenities. You must bring your own bedding. If you are going to a pet friendly shelter, you will need to bring a crate and vaccinations records.

| Shelter Name | Address (Google Maps) | Shelter Type |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Belleair Elementary | 1156 Lakeview Rd, Clearwater | General Shelter |
| Campbell Park Elementary | 1051 7th Ave S, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| Carwise Middle | 3301 Bently Dr, Palm Harbor | General Shelter |
| Clearwater Fundamental Middle | 1660 Palmetto St, Clearwater | General Shelter |
| Dunedin Elementary | 900 Union St, Dunedin | General Shelter |
| Dunedin Middle | 70 Patricia Ave, Dunedin | Special Needs |
| Fairmount Park Elementary | 575 41ST St S, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| Gibbs High | 850 34th St S, St. Petersburg | Pet Friendly |
| Jamerson Elementary | 1200 37th St S, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| John Hopkins Middle | 701 16th St S, St. Petersburg | Special Needs |
| Largo High | 410 Missouri Ave, Largo | Pet Friendly |
| Lealman Innovation | 4900 28th St N, Lealman | General Shelter |
| McMullen-Booth Elementary | 3025 Union St, Clearwater | General Shelter |
| Melrose Elementary | 1752 13th Ave S, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| Mildred Helms Elementary | 561 Clearwater Largo Rd S, Largo | General Shelter |
| New Heights Elementary | 3901 37th St N, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| Palm Harbor Middle | 1800 Tampa Rd, Palm Harbor | General Shelter |
| Palm Harbor University High | 1900 Omaha St, Palm Harbor | Pet Friendly |
| Sanderlin K-8 | 2350 22nd Ave S, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| Sexton Elementary | 1997 54th Ave N, St. Petersburg | General Shelter |
| Skycrest Elementary | 10 N Corona Ave, Clearwater | General Shelter |

Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center
Department of Emergency Management
727-464-3800

HURRICANE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 800-621-3362 (TTY users, 1-800-621-7585)

Pinellas County Evacuation Inquiry Line 727- 453- 3150

Pinellas county web site is www.pinellascounty.org