



CITY OF  
**FLORIDA CITY**

GATEWAY TO THE FLORIDA KEYS AND THE EVERGLADES



May 3, 2018

**COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

**PART 2 of 3 PART SERIES - *External Household and Electric Items & Pets preparedness***

**City of Florida City Residents,**

Much of the critical work needed to enable recovery from a natural disaster actually comes before the disaster strikes, not afterward. We are seeing increases in disaster frequency and severity that directly result in higher degrees of damages and emergency repair costs, while **the demand from the community to efficiently respond is greater than ever.**

**This easy-to-use guide** will prepare our community for effective response to hurricane threats, help you facilitate an effective preparedness, and help ensure your safety, protect your home and belongings. These can be a useful tool to bring our community together in the disaster planning stage in order to minimize the overall economic impact of a storm on your home, and the entire community.

**EXTERIOR HOME & PROPERTY**

- Board up windows by having ready to install, cut-to-fit 5/8" marine plywood or use code approved Hurricane or Storm Shutters (masking tape is not recommended)
- Have all trees and shrubs on your property trimmed regularly to reduce potential damage if they should fall
- Check for loose shingles on Roof and install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce potential roof damage.
- Reinforce or strengthen all exterior doors
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clean any clogged areas to prevent flooding and pressure on awnings
- Secure the Garage Door Brace
- If possible park your car inside the garage to minimize potential damage
- Purchase a portable gas powered generator or install an entire home generator
- Identify a place to store lawn furniture, toys, gardening tools, yard art and trash cans (away from stairs and exits) to prevent them from being moved by high winds or becoming projectiles
- Determine how and where to secure your boat, RV, motorcycle or trailer
- Consider building a FEMA Safe Room or ICC500 Storm Shelter

**City of Florida City Community/Residential Disaster Preparedness Guide May 2018**

- If in a designated Flood Zone install a water alarm and sump pumps with battery backup as well as “check valves” in sewer lines to prevent floodwater from backing up into your drains.
- Disconnect natural gas and propane tanks, swimming pool pumps, outdoor lights and anything operated electrically

## **PET CARE**

### **Have a Plan for Your Pets**

Animals also are affected by disasters. Use the guidelines below to prepare a plan for caring for pets and large animals.

- Your pet can sense your emotions, so maintaining a calm demeanor can lead to a less-panicked pet
- Identify a shelter that will take your pets if you do not plan on taking them with you in case of evacuation
- Find out which local hotels and motels allow pets and where pet boarding facilities are located. Be sure to research several such facilities outside your local area in case local facilities close or also evacuate
- Gather all pet supplies including enough food, water and treats for at least 3-5 days. Remember their food and water bowls as well as toys
- If you have cats make sure to have plenty of cat litter and a litter box, or for dogs newspapers, grocery bags and trash bags
- Make sure you have at minimum easy access to a pet carrier and leash; if possible keep them on or in it in case of evacuation
- Place ID tags on appropriate collars
- Get a Rescue Alert Sticker and place in a visible location like a window near your front door
- Ensure your pet has proper up-to-date veterinarian records to prove vaccinations are current and list any medical conditions and medications.
- Have a recent photo of you and your pet in case you become separated as well as the name and phone number of your veterinarian
- If you have pet insurance, have access to the insurance company contact information and policy number
- Know that, with the exception of service animals, pets are not typically permitted in emergency shelters as they may affect the health and safety of other occupants. Find nearby shelters that will take your pets in an emergency

## **FINANCIAL READINESS**

- Withdraw cash from the bank ahead of time as ATM's may not be operational due to power loss
- Get fuel for your car, generator and other gas-powered tools
- Fill natural gas and propane tanks
- Keep all important documents relating to your Bank Accounts, Investments, Insurance etc. in a waterproof Ziploc or in a plastic bag and double wrap them to protect against water damage.
- **Check your insurance coverage.** Whether you're a homeowner or renter, contact your agent to ensure you're adequately covered and understand exclusions.
- **Set aside money in an emergency fund.** This can be difficult to do on a tight budget but can be well worth the effort.
- **Set aside an emergency-only credit card.** If possible, designate one credit card for emergency use only.
- Discuss with your employer if you have financial concerns and be sure to notify them if you will be evacuating

- Get your benefits electronically. A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, significant way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes.