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# What You Don't Know Can Hurt You



**An All-Hazards  
Readiness Guide**

# Important Contact Information

## For an Emergency or Life Safety Issue, Dial 9-1-1

Community Information Hotline	Dial 2-1-1
Brevard County Fire Rescue (Non-Emergency)	321-633-2056
Brevard County Crime Tip Line	800-423-8477
Brevard County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)	
North Area	321-264-5100
Central Area	321-633-7162
South Area	321-952-6371
Florida Information Line (Active During Disasters)	800-342-3557
Florida Power and Light (Report an Outage)	800-468-8243
Florida Price Gouging Hotline (To Report)	866-966-7226
Florida Highway Patrol (From Any Cell)	*FHP
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	850-245-2118
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	850-488-4676
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	800-621-3362
Florida City Gas	888-352-5325

### Text Alerts



To receive text message updates on your cell phone, text Follow BrevardEOC to 40404 (normal text messaging rates apply).



### Social Media

Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter



Like "Brevard County Emergency Management" on Facebook.

## Online Resources

There are many tools available on the internet to help you and your family prepare for, respond to, and recover from any kind of disaster. Below are suggestions to help get you started:

Brevard County Emergency Management	<a href="http://www.embrevard.com">www.embrevard.com</a>
Florida Division of Emergency Management	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">www.floridadisaster.org</a>
Federal Emergency Management Agency	<a href="http://www.ready.gov">www.ready.gov</a>
National Weather Service Melbourne	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/mlb">www.weather.gov/mlb</a>
National Hurricane Center	<a href="http://www.nhc.noaa.gov">www.nhc.noaa.gov</a>
ASPCA	<a href="http://www.aspca.org">www.aspca.org</a>
Humane Society	<a href="http://www.humanesociety.org">www.humanesociety.org</a>
Center for Disease Control	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>

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Read through the hazards to learn what you would do before, during, and after an incident occurs!



# Step 1: Know Your Risks

The first step to understanding risk in our community is to learn about the potential hazards. This All-Hazards Readiness Guides is designed to provide you with an overview on:

- Preparing for any hazard
- Staying safe during an incident
- Recovering from an incident
- Increasing resiliency through preparedness

This Guide is a companion document for the Pathways to Preparedness, which outlines actions to take today to prepare yourself for any hazard.

## Resources for Risk Determination

- Review this All-Hazards Readiness Guide to learn more about hazards to Brevard County
- Visit the Brevard County Emergency Management website ([www.EMBrevard.com](http://www.EMBrevard.com)) for more detailed information
- Engage with the experts, such as Emergency Management and the National Weather Service – Melbourne, through social media, online website, or community events.

Preparedness can reduce fear and increase resiliency from the impacts of disasters. Communities, families, and individuals should know what to do during an emergency situation.

# Step 2: Build a Kit

A disaster supply kit is a collection of essential items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Assemble your kit, and review it annually. If you evacuate, take your kit with you.

## Basic Disaster Supply Kit

- Water: one gallon of water per person, per day, for at least three days
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, a weather radio, and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, & plastic ties
- Feminine supplies & personal hygiene items
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter, or solar charger
- Cash
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, etc.

## Additional Supplies

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Shot records for pet(s)
- A carrier for each pet
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children
- Paper and pen/pencil

## Step 3: Have a Plan

Having a plan for what to do in the event of an emergency is the most important step you can take. Think about the situations which can affect our community and how that would affect your household. If separated, make sure you have a designated meeting point and that everyone knows where it is.

To develop a disaster plan, think through the questions below, write out the steps, discuss them with your household, and then practice your plan every year.

### Household Plan

- How will my household get emergency alerts and warnings?
- How will my household evacuate if ordered?
- Where will my household go if evacuating?
- How will my household get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will my household reunite after the emergency?

### Business Plan

It is also important to develop a plan for your business. You can access a simple business planning tool at [FLGetaPlan.com](http://FLGetaPlan.com). There are five main areas to think about when developing a preparedness program:

- Program Management
- Planning
- Implementation
- Testing and Exercises
- Program Improvement

## Plan for an Evacuation



Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently, and residents along the coast will need to evacuate when a hurricane approaches. Listen to local officials for evacuation orders and relevant information, and do as directed.

The amount of time you have will depend on the hazard. For a hurricane, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

- Know your primary and alternate evacuation routes; choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.
- Evacuate early.
- Travel tens of miles, not hundreds of miles, and shelter locally.
  - Choose a sturdy home or hotel outside of the evacuation zone, or a public shelter.
- Remember, shelter openings are incident-specific – so tune into the local news, radio, social media, or contact the Community Information Hotline (2-1-1) for open shelter locations.

## Transportation Assistance to a Shelter

Transportation is free to all Special Needs and primary evacuation shelters, and will be provided to residents who register a transportation request either as a part of a special needs application or if a resident has no means of transport to a shelter. Transportation will only be provided to and from a shelter. No other destinations will be provided. More information about the Special Needs registry can be found on Page 5.



## Plan for Your Home

### Insurance and Inventory Tips

- Update your Homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. If you rent, obtain Renter's insurance.
- Purchase flood insurance today. With few exceptions, you must wait 30 days after you first purchase a flood insurance policy before your policy will take effect. Regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding.
- Keep a copy of insurance policies, with your agent's contact information.
- Have a household inventory and keep copies of all other critical documents. Document with photos or video.

### General Guidelines

- Trim or remove damaged trees and limbs, remove lawn cuttings, and dispose of them before hurricane season.
- Inspect your roof, and repair/replace any damaged areas.
- Remove or secure outside items, such as patio furniture, garden tools, and garbage cans.
- Anchor storage sheds and objects that are unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks.
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage.
- Remove flammable materials within 30 feet of your home's foundation, garage, and shed.
- Remember to keep generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet away from windows and doors while running, and protected from moisture.
- Reduce property damage by hardening your roof, windows, and garage doors.



## Plan for Mobile and Manufactured Homes

### Know Your Risk

- Mobile and manufactured homes face the largest risk of damage due to the impacts from high winds.
- Never ride out a hurricane in a mobile or manufactured home, even if it is not in an evacuation zone.
- According to the National Hurricane Center, no mobile or manufactured home is a safe shelter from tropical storm, hurricane-force winds, or tornadoes.
- If in a tornado watch, make a plan to stay with a in a strong structure throughout the severe weather event.
- If in a tornado warning, seek shelter in the strongest interior room. Bring a pillow/helmet to protect your head.

### Home Improvements

- Secure any items outside your home; tie them down or bring inside.
- Inspect tie-downs annually. Make sure they are anchored securely to the foundation.
- Make sure your home's skirting is in good condition and repair any damaged areas.
- Reduce property damage by strengthening your roof, windows, and doors.
- While still not a safe place to shelter, tie-downs and hurricane straps can prevent your mobile home from coming loose and causing damage or blocking the roadway.
- Consider adding a reinforced safe room to your home.

# Sheltering Options



There are three types of evacuation shelters available to the public: Primary Evacuation Shelters, Special Needs Shelters, and Pet-Friendly Shelters.

## Shelter openings are incident-specific.

Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open. Shelter openings will be announced through local television, radio stations, social media, and the Brevard County Emergency Management website. Shelters are designed to house residents of the barrier islands (including Merritt Island), those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, those in mobile or manufactured homes, or those with no other options.

If you choose to go to a shelter, follow these instructions:

- Stay as calm as possible and take your Disaster Supply Kit.
- Bring your own cots or sleeping materials.
- Bring changes of clothing and wear sturdy shoes.
- Bring what you will need to stay comfortable and entertained.
- Not all shelters will have electricity throughout the emergency.

Shelters are intended to keep you safe, not necessarily comfortable. Remember, a shelter is a life boat, not a cruise ship.

Shelter Rules – If staying in a shelter, be aware of the shelter rules:

- We are guests. Please treat the facility, equipment, and staff respectfully.
- No smoking, alcohol, or drugs allowed.
- No guns or weapons of any kind permitted.

# Preparing to Go to a Shelter



A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation, but can be noisy, crowded, and have few personal comforts. Shelters should be your last resort if you have nowhere else to go. A shelter is a stressful environment for everyone; please treat your fellow evacuees with courtesy and kindness.

Residents need to take their own supplies to a shelter, some of which may be found in your disaster supply kit:

- Bring your own pillows, sheets, blankets, portable cot or air mattress, chaise lounge, folding chairs, or sleeping bags. Cots or beds are not provided.
- If on a special diet, bring a supply of nonperishable food that will be sufficient for 3 days per person.
- All required medications (2-week supply) and medical support equipment
- Personal hygiene items like toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, towels, brush/comb, dentures, etc.
- Entertainment items like games, cards, books, magazines, etc.

## Persons with Disabilities, Barriers, or Impairments

By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation. Inventory what you use every day to live independently. Identify the essential items you will need for at least three days. Stock custom essentials in your kit like: durable medical equipment, assistive technology, etc. Have a method to communicate your impairments and needs.

Remember, being ready is the key to maintaining your independence.



## Make a Plan for Your Pets

Having a plan is important and that plan should include your pets. Pet owners are strongly advised to make prior arrangements for sheltering their pet during emergencies.

To find information on hotels that will accept pets, visit:

- Pets Welcome - <http://www.petswelcome.com>
- Bring Fido - <http://www.bringfido.com>

It is strongly encouraged that you make a list of potential hotels ahead of time, and begin calling immediately prior to evacuating. Be sure your plan includes a backup option in case you can't care for your animals. Pets should not be left behind unattended.

Pet-friendly shelters are designed to accommodate household pets. Owners are responsible for the feeding, care, clean-up, and behavior of their pets. Shelter openings are incident-specific. Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open.

If you go to a pet-friendly shelter you will need:

- Current rabies vaccination certificate
- Shot records
- Leash and collar
- County animal license tags
- Medications
- Crate or cage for each animal
- Pet food
- Cleaning supplies
- Newspaper or pet pad
- Comfort items for your pets

For information on disaster preparedness for large animals or livestock, visit:  
[www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Preparedness/Pets](http://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Preparedness/Pets)



## Individuals with Special Needs

The Brevard County Special Needs program is for residents with specific health and/or medical conditions needing assistance with sheltering in times of an emergency or disaster during an evacuation. Residents who meet the Special Needs criteria and have no other alternative for a safe shelter should register with Emergency Management. Once registered, annual updates are required to keep information current and up-to-date. Transportation to shelters can be provided.

Applications can be requested from Brevard County Emergency Management either online at [www.embrevard.com](http://www.embrevard.com) or by calling 321-637-6670. You can also talk to your home health care agency, hospice agency, medical supply company, or other caregiver, who can assist with completing an application.

## For Special Needs Clients with Pets

As part of the Special Needs registration application, there will be space provided to share information about your pets. Due to health concerns, pets are NOT allowed in Special Needs shelters, so when it comes time to go to the shelter, you will receive a call which will verify your need to be taken to a shelter and pet information. You will be given an approximate time that you will be picked up and Animal Services will pick up your pet. You will need to have your disaster kit, your pet, and their items ready. Once the emergency has passed, and you have returned home, Animal Services will return your pet.



## Step 4: Stay Informed

During a disaster, the Brevard County Emergency Management website will display all the latest information. If you do not have access to the internet, call 2-1-1 for this information.

### Text Alerts



To receive text message updates on your cell phone, text [Follow BrevardEOC](https://www.brevardfl.gov/emergencymanagement) to 40404 (normal text messaging rates apply).



### Social Media

Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter

Like "Brevard County Emergency Management" on Facebook.

## AlertBrevard Notifications

You can be notified about emergencies by registering for AlertBrevard. If you have an unlisted number, or rely on a cell phone as your main telephone, it is critical that you register your number at [www.embrevard.com](http://www.embrevard.com), by clicking on the "Alert Sign Up" button.

## NOAA Weather Warnings

The best way to receive warnings for hazardous weather is to have a NOAA Weather Radio. The NOAA Weather Radio is the National Weather Service's direct link to the public, and provides severe weather watches and warnings. The primary frequency for Weather Alert Radios in Brevard County is 162.550MHz and the SAME (FIPS) code is 012009.

## Community Information Hotline

Before, during and after a hurricane, residents may dial 2-1-1 to reach the Community Information Hotline. The hotline is a partnership of Brevard County Emergency Management and 2-1-1 Brevard, a nonprofit 24-hour helpline. Specialists have the most up-to-date information on topics such as sandbags, evacuation routes and shelters, as well as how to get help after a storm. During Hurricane Matthew in 2016, 2-1-1 staff and volunteers answered almost 4,500 calls.

## Step 5: Get Involved

Building a culture of preparedness is how we make Brevard a more resilient community. A trained, informed, and engaged public is the best way to empower individuals to lend support. There are many ways to get involved so you can make a positive difference. Learn more at: [www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Volunteers](http://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/Volunteers)

### You can help:

- Volunteer with existing disaster support organizations such as United Way, 2-1-1 Brevard, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross.
- Build a volunteer team with your faith-based or community group, and join the Brevard Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
- Join or start a preparedness project. Find an event or identify local resources, build a team, choose a project, set goals, and serve your community.
- Talk to your neighbors so that they know their risks and encourage them to be prepared.
- Make a financial contribution to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief. This is the most efficient way of helping people in need after a disaster.
- Before donating any goods, including food or clothing, wait for instructions from local officials or check with a specific organization.



# Tropical Cyclones

Tropical cyclones are massive storm systems that form over the ocean and move towards land. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale rates tropical cyclones' maximum sustained winds on a Category 1-5 scale. The higher the category, the greater potential for property damage. Threats from tropical cyclones include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness
- Decide early whether you will evacuate, and where you will go if ordered to leave
- Prepare your home (pg. 3)

## During

- If you don't live in an evacuation zone, find a safe room within your home (an interior room, closet, or bathroom)
- Do not go outside during the storm until the National Weather Service confirms the storm has left the area.

## After

- Return home when local officials say it is safe.
- Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.



## Quick Facts



- The difference between a tropical storm and a hurricane is wind speed:
  - Tropical storms usually bring winds of 39-73 mph
  - Hurricane wind speeds are at least 74 mph
- Know your terms:
  - Watch - conditions possible within the next 48 hours.
  - Warning - conditions are expected within 36 hours.
- The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October.
- Tropical cyclones rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around the eye. The rotating storm clouds create the "eye wall," which is the most destructive part of the storm.
- Evacuate if you live on the barrier islands, along the river, in a flood-prone area, or in a mobile/manufactured home.



Although there are a lot of myths and misconceptions about Brevard County and its hurricane history, Brevard was impacted by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, which caused an estimated \$75 million in damages. Neither Kennedy Space Center nor the spirits of the Ais Indians protect Brevard from hurricane damages.

From August 18-23, 2008, Tropical Storm Fay stalled on top of Brevard, producing near record-setting rain that exceeded 20 inches and caused extensive inland flooding.



# Storm Surge



Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water associated with tropical cyclones. Storm surge is not a giant wall of water, but rather a methodical, rapid rise of water that will occur along the ocean and rivers.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- Know your maps, know if you live in a storm surge zone.
- The potential storm surge flooding map is different from FEMA flood insurance rate maps and hurricane evacuation zone maps.

## During

- Run from the water, hide from the wind. Evacuate when directed.
- Shelter in a sturdy structure outside of the storm surge zone.
- Go tens of miles, not hundreds of miles, to find your safe shelter.

## After

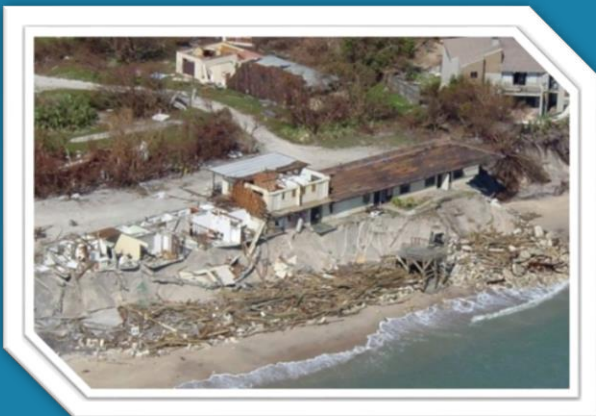
- Keep children out of the water.
- Don't attempt to drive through flooded roads – turn around, don't drown.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.



## Quick Facts



- Storm surge is the number one concern with any storm, and the primary reason to evacuate.
- Storm surge is the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical cyclone.
- It poses a significant threat for drowning.
- Storm surge can cause water levels in rivers to rise and cover adjacent roadways. This can affect causeway approaches, which would isolate the barrier islands.
- Strength of storm is not related to depth of storm surge. Weak storms can produce high surge, and strong storms can result in low surge.



In October 2016, Brevard County experienced storm surge around 5 feet due to Hurricane Matthew, and over \$24 million in beach erosion.

During the 2004 hurricane season, Hurricane Frances produced storm surge around 8 feet near the Sebastian Inlet, and 6 feet in Cocoa Beach.

Find more historical events on our website.





# Tornadoes

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air, and often (but not always) is visible as a funnel cloud. Tornadoes have the ability to develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. The damage from a tornado is a result of the high wind velocity and wind-blown debris. Tornadoes can occur any time during the year, and they tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings. The Enhanced Fujita scale is a common way of measuring the strength of tornadoes. The scale ranges from EF0 tornadoes that may cause minimal damage through to EF5 tornadoes, which cause massive amounts of damage.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- Designate an area in your home as a shelter; it should be a room which is strongest structurally.
- Keep your disaster supply kit in your tornado shelter.
- Conduct tornado drills; practice responding to the room as if there were a threat.



## During

- If you receive a Tornado Warning via Wireless Emergency Alert to your cell phone, you are in the possible path of a tornado. Take shelter immediately!

## After

- Call 9-1-1 if there are any injured.
- Stay away from damaged buildings or compromised structures.
- Use telephones only for emergency calls, text messaging is preferred.



## Quick Facts



- Know your terms:
  - Tornado Watch – typically large, covering numerous counties.
  - Tornado Warning – Take action now! Tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.
- Florida leads the nation in the number of tornadoes per year.
- Most of Florida's tornadoes only last a couple of seconds, and rarely stay on the ground for a prolonged period of time.
- A tornado which occurs over water is often called a waterspout.
- Most tornado deaths occur at night.
- A NOAA weather radio can save your life.

### Tornado danger signs:

- Wall cloud
- Large hail
- Loud roar, often described as sounding like a freight train
- Visible funnel, often with debris below it
- Rain or low lying clouds can often obscure the funnel
- Oncoming clouds of debris could be visible, even if the funnel is not

Tornadoes in Brevard County have caused 12 fatalities and 638 injuries as recorded between 1950 and 2004.

Two people were injured and 52 homes were damaged when a Tropical Storm Fay-related EF-1 tornado touched down in 2008. Brevard experienced two EF-0 tornadoes in 2010 on January 22 and March 28, which resulted in minor commercial and/or residential damage, vegetative debris, and severed power lines.



# Floods



Anywhere it rains, it can flood. Floods can be associated with an increased water level from an established waterway, such as a river or lake. Flooding can occur from tropical cyclones, rapid accumulation of heavy rainfall, dam/levee breaks, storm surge, and outdated/clogged drainage systems. Flooding is Brevard County's most frequent hazard.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- Know your flood zone and risk.
- If flooding is imminent, turn off all utilities at the main power switch.
- Purchase flood insurance. Regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding or wind-driven rain.

## During

- If flooding occurs, go to higher ground.
- Do not attempt to walk across flowing streams.
- Avoid contact with floodwaters.
- Evacuate immediately when the waters start to rise.

## After

- Don't attempt to drive through flooded road – turn around, don't drown!
- Be cautious in areas where floodwaters have receded.
- Check for structural damage before reentering your home.
- Prevent mold by removing wet contents immediately.



The most widespread flooding event was the result of record-setting rain during Tropical Storm Fay in 2008.

On October 24, 2005, Hurricane Wilma produced 10-13 inches of rain which fell across the central and north parts of the county, and about 200 homes were flooded in Cocoa.

On August 25, 1999, numerous thunderstorms passing over Melbourne produced nearly 8 inches of rain. This no-named storm event caused minor flooding damage in 49 homes, and flooded numerous roadways.



## Quick Facts



- Know your terms:
  - Flood watch – be prepared. Conditions are favorable for flooding.
  - Flood warning – take action. Flooding is imminent or occurring.
- Flash floods are the most dangerous kind of floods. This type of flooding causes a rapid rise of water in a short period of time, generally with little or no warning.
- Most flood-related deaths are vehicular and occur at night.
- Brevard County participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), which means you qualify for an insurance premium reduction based on the riskiness of the area you live in.



# Wildfires

A wildfire is any uncontrollable fire in the woods or forest. The most at-risk locations are areas where development has occurred or is occurring at the edge of previously undeveloped vegetated areas.

Wildfires are a part of Brevard County's ecosystem, which is why prescribed burns are managed to reduce wildfire risk.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- Clean your roof and gutters of any vegetative debris.
- Maintain an area of approximately 30' away from your home that is free of anything that will burn (like wood piles, dried leaves, newspapers, and other brush.)

## During

- If you see a wildfire, call 9-1-1.
- If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Follow your evacuation and communications plans.
- Listen to local officials for open shelters or comfort centers.

## After

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Use caution when entering burned areas, as there may still be hot spots.
- When cleaning your home, wear a dust mask and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Photograph damage for insurance purposes.



## Quick Facts



- Only you can prevent a forest fire.
- Know your terms:
  - Fire Weather Watch – be prepared. Weather conditions could be favorable for extreme fire behavior during the next 12-72 hours.
  - Red Flag Warning (Fire Weather Warning) – be on alert. Extreme fire behavior may occur within 24 hours.
- Brevard County is susceptible to wildfires throughout the year, particularly during the months with minimal rainfall amounts (December through May).
- Wildfires can be started by a variety of causes, like lightning strikes, trash burning, cigarettes tossed onto the ground, etc.
- Plantings around your home should be limited to carefully-spaced low flammability species, and consider hardscaping using rocks, gravel, or stone instead of mulch.



1998 was a record year for wildfires in Brevard County, with approximately 70,000 acres (or 110 square miles) burned. During that summer, 32 homes and 5 businesses were lost.

In 2008, the Mother's Day fires caused \$34 million in damage in Palm Bay where 33 homes were destroyed and 236 homes were damaged. In total, over 10,000 acres were destroyed during the event.

# Tsunamis



Tsunamis are a series of waves following seismic events. Tsunamis are threats to any coastal region. From the area where the tsunami originates, waves travel outward in all directions. Once the wave approaches the shore, it builds in height, so it is important to know how to recognize it and what to do. Be aware of a sudden outgoing tide and extremely strong currents, especially if an earthquake or undersea landslide has occurred.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- If you live beachside, know the height of your street above sea level and the distance from the coast to ensure you are outside of the 300ft tsunami evacuation zone.

## During

- Evacuate the beaches to the west side of the dune line, approximately 300 ft.
- Vertical evacuation to the highest floor (at least 15 feet high) of a well-constructed building is also an option.
- Save yourself, not your possessions.
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance.

## After

- Stay away from the beach, and debris in the water or along the shoreline.
- Continue using a NOAA weather radio, local radio, television, or social media for updates.
- Avoid marinas, inlets, coves, and other bodies of water connected to the ocean due to fast moving underwater currents.



On rare occasions, tsunamis can affect the Florida east coast with wave heights above 3 feet (possibly 15 feet in isolated areas during the most significant events), along with very strong and dangerous currents.

Though rare, it is important to know the signs and be able to react quickly in the event a tsunami may impact our area.

Indian Harbour Beach is a TsunamiReady community!



## Quick Facts



- Know your terms:
  - Tsunami Watch – be prepared to act; threat not yet known
  - Tsunami Advisory – stay out of the water, and away from beaches and waterways; strong currents and waves may be present and dangerous to those in or very near the water
  - Tsunami Warning – move to high ground or inland! Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents likely.
- Earthquakes in the following areas could cause a Florida tsunami:
  - The Puerto Rico Trench
  - Cumbre Vieja Volcano in the Canary Islands
  - Azores-Gibraltar Fracture Zone
- Not every earthquake will generate a tsunami.
- The DART Buoy Deployment and worldwide seismic monitoring are being utilized to detect tsunamis.



# Launch Anomaly

Space Coast residents have the unique opportunity of living near our country's gateway to space exploration; however, residents and visitors should be aware that launch accidents can and do occur. Public safety is the number one priority of all agencies associated with space launches and landings.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- Stay aware of the latest schedule of launch events.

## During

- Although a launch mishap may be startling, remain calm and shelter in place.

## After

- Stay informed via radio, TV, and/or social media, and await an 'all-clear' to be issued by local public safety officials.



## Quick Facts

- Brevard County Emergency Management activates in support of every space launch.
- Brevard County's area code 3-2-1 comes from the launch sequence, "3-2-1 Liftoff!"



# Hazardous Materials

A hazardous material is any material (flammable or poisonous) that would be a danger to life or the environment. Hazardous materials (hazmat) releases can cause acute or chronic health effects, damage to property, the environment, serious injury, and even death.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.

## During

- If ordered, evacuate immediately.
- If ordered to stay indoors, bring pets inside, and close exterior doors and windows.

## After

- Seek medical help if you have been exposed to hazardous materials.
- Follow decontamination instructions from local authorities.
- Return home when authorities say it is safe.



## Quick Facts



- Brevard County Fire Rescue maintains a Specialized Response Team (SRT) 24 hours a day for hazardous materials incidents.
- Hazardous materials are transported daily on the state's highways, railroads, waterways, and pipelines, usually without incident.





# Nuclear Power Plant Incidents



The potential danger from an accident at a nuclear power plant is exposure to radiation. This exposure could come from the release of radioactive material from the plant into the environment, usually characterized by a plume (cloud-like formation) of radioactive gases and particles. The major hazards to people in the vicinity of the plume are radiation exposure to the body from the cloud and particles deposited on the ground, inhalation of radioactive materials, and ingestion of radioactive materials.

## Before

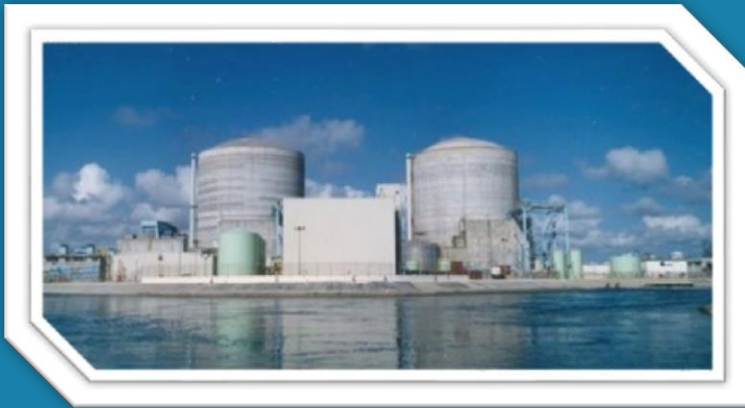
- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.

## During

- Residents south of Malabar Road are in the 50-mile radius of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant known as the Ingestion Pathway Zone. You may be advised to take actions to protect your family, pets, farm animals, and agricultural products.

## After

- Listen to public safety officials for information on when to return home.
- Don't eat food from the affected area.



## Quick Facts

- The St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant is the only nuclear power plant that could affect Brevard County. This plant is capable of producing 2,000 megawatts of electricity – enough to supply the annual power needs of more than one million homes.
- The overall probability of a radiological incident from the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant remains very low.
- Brevard County Emergency Management has a radiological contingency plan, and conducts annual exercises with all response agencies and partners.
- Brevard County would host and shelter evacuees from the 10-mile emergency planning area that surrounds the Plant, and would provide traffic control, security and, if needed, decontamination.

### Know your terms:

- Unusual Event – no public action required. An unusual event is a minor incident, such as severe weather which may impact plant operations.
- Alert – no public action required. An Alert is a minor incident which could possibly affect the safety of the plant's reactor. There is the possibility of a small, limited release of radioactive material, but there is no danger to the public.
- Site Area Emergency – you should tune into local radio, television, or social media for official announcements. A Site Area Emergency is a more serious incident, such as a major leak from the reactor coolant system, or an incident in which radioactive releases are possible, or are occurring but will not affect areas beyond the plant property.
- General Emergency - you should tune into local radio, television, or social media for official announcements. A General Emergency means that radioactive releases that could affect the areas beyond the plant property are possible or are occurring and/or a major security event has occurred.



# Terrorism

Terrorism is the use of force and violence to intimidate to further political or social agendas. A cyber-terrorist attack is the disruption of computer networks, telecommunication systems, or internet services, intended to cause widespread damage and impacts in the community.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- If you see something, say something.

## During

- Remain calm.
- If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Be vigilant; look out for secondary hazards.

## After

- Listen to public safety officials for information on when to return home.
- Avoid the affected areas.



## Quick Facts



- Domestic terrorism is terrorism that is practiced in your own country against your own people.
- International terrorism is terrorism that is practiced in a foreign country by terrorists who are not native to that country.
- There are many different types of terrorism, such as agroterrorism, biological, chemical, nuclear, radiologic, narco, state-sponsored, and cyber-terrorism.
- Terrorist planning activities include surveillance, seeking information, tests of security, acquiring supplies, suspicious behavior, dry run, deploying assets, and terrorism funding.



# Civil Disorder

Civil disorder is the result of groups or individuals within the population who may feel that their needs or rights are not being met. Civil disorder can also occur in reaction to political movements or special events that attract large crowds, or as a result of an unemployment or economic crisis. When groups or individuals disrupt the community to the point where intervention is required to maintain public safety, the event has become a civil disorder.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- If you see something, say something.

## During

- Stay inside. Close and lock all windows and doors.
- Be vigilant.

## After

- Listen to public safety officials for information.
- Avoid the affected areas.



## Quick Facts



- The most common type of civil disorder is a riot. Riots can cause extensive social disruption, loss of jobs, death, and property damage.
- There have been no recorded instances of civil disorder in Brevard.

# Extreme Temperatures



In Florida, we can experience extreme temperatures, which can impact our most vulnerable populations, and affect critical support systems, such as the power grid. Extreme cold conditions are caused by strong cold fronts that move through the state and northerly winds behind the front which brings cold air and blustery winds southward into Florida. Extreme heat is defined as temperatures that are approximately 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for a prolonged period of time.

## Before

- Review your 5 Steps to Preparedness.
- Find alternate housing, if you do not have access to heat or A/C.

## During

- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Postpone outdoor activities.

## After

- Listen to public safety officials for information.
- Be aware of future weather conditions.

## Cold Weather Quick Facts

- Know your terms:
  - Wind Chill - When strong winds combine with cold outside conditions, the heat loss from a person's skin can be accelerated. This is called the wind chill. The wind chill can make it feel like it is much colder outside than what the actual temperature is.
  - Freeze – A freeze occurs anytime the temperatures fall below freezing (32° F) for a prolonged period of time.

## Hot Weather Quick Facts

- Never leave children or pets alone in parked vehicles.
- Stay indoors as much as possible, and limit exposure to the sun.
- Extreme heat can trigger power outages or blackouts due to the increase in energy demand.

## Returning Home

You won't be able to return to your home or business until safety hazards, such as debris, are cleared.

- Residents – Carry valid ID with your current address.
- Businesses – Have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/ rental, County or City business tax receipt, names of individuals authorized for access on letterhead.

## Once Back Home

Once you arrive back home, walk around the outside first to survey damage and enter with caution. Enter the home carefully and check for damage. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home. If your home has been flooded, have a licensed electrician complete an inspection.

The following items are other things to check inside your home: If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open a window and leave immediately. If appliances are wet, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If water or sewage pipes are damaged, turn off main water valve. Throw out all food and other supplies that you suspect may have become contaminated or come into contact with floodwater. Clean up household chemical spills. Disinfect items that may have been contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria, or chemicals. Also clean salvageable items. Take pictures of the damages, and call your insurance agent. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.

# Your Pathways to Preparedness

Know your risks.



Build  
a kit.



Have  
a plan.



Stay informed.



Get involved.



Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter



Like “Brevard County Emergency Management” on Facebook.



Text FOLLOW BREVARDEOC to 40404 to receive text message updates on your cell phone.



During disasters, call the Community Information Hotline by dialing 2-1-1

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