

THE LEON COUNTY 2024-25 DISASTER SURVIVAL GUIDE



PREPARE



ACT



RECOVER

LEON  **Ready**
LEONREADY.COM

wfsu
PUBLIC MEDIA

88.9

For emergency updates on the radio.
In addition, iHeartMedia stations will
provide emergency updates.

FIRST AID KIT



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Hi there! I'm Billy the Bucket, Leon County's official disaster preparedness mascot. Throughout the Disaster Survival Guide, you'll see my best hurricane prep tips, which are all watertight - just like me! Visit LeonReady.com/KidsCorner to request information about a school visit and for more resources for the whole family, including my coloring book.



#HURRICANESTRONG™

**Leon County is proud to be the nation's
first #HurricaneStrong community**



FLASH™
Strengthening Homes &
Safeguarding Families



FEMA

Disaster Survival Guide
produced by:



Leon County Government

Emergency Management
Public Safety Complex
911 Easterwood Dr.
Tallahassee, FL 32311

850-606-3700

Leon County Community
and Media Relations
Leon County Courthouse
5th floor
301 S Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

850-606-5300

**Emergency
Information Portal**
LeonCountyFL.gov/ei

**Citizens Connect
Mobile App**
Available for Apple and
Android devices

Emergency Alerts
LeonCountyFL.gov/Alerts

People Focused.
Performance Driven.

LeonCountyFL.gov

A Prepared Community is a Resilient Community

VINCENT S. LONG

County Administrator



The Leon County Disaster Survival Guide you are holding gives you the critical information needed to be prepared before, during and after a disaster. After three consecutive hurricanes and a historic tornado outbreak, the guide has proven to be one of the best tools to keep you and your family safe and informed.

With our lead role in emergency response, caring for the lives and livelihoods of our community is nothing new to Leon County. That commitment remains as we enter the 2024 Atlantic hurricane

season. At the County, we know firsthand the importance of resilience in the face of disaster. The upcoming hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 through November 30 (peaking from August to October), is anticipated to be the most active season in 28 years. According to Colorado State University (CSU), the season is expected to produce 23 named storms. Among these, 11 have the potential to become hurricanes and five could grow into major hurricanes. As we have learned from Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Irma (2017), Michael (2018), Idalia (2023), and the May 10 tornadoes (2024), it only takes one storm to cause lasting damage and threaten lives and property in our community.

That's why every year, Leon County brings you the Disaster Survival Guide. In the pages

ahead, you will find information to keep you and your family safe and resilient. Prepared alongside community public safety and healthcare experts, the guide is a roadmap to preparedness resources, consisting of crucial information, such as evacuation routes, how to get and use sandbags, reviewing your insurance policies for disaster coverage, and much more. Now is the time to plan and prepare using this guide as a framework. At Leon County, we focus on extracting every possible lesson from disasters to better prepare for the future.

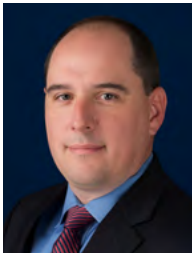
After every disaster, the County performs an extensive analysis of our emergency operations through a comprehensive after-action report. Those reports have led to nearly 300 findings and more than 200 recommendations to make us even more prepared and resilient for the next

emergency. In 2018, this commitment to learning and improving led to FEMA and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) designating Leon County as the first #HurricaneStrong community in the nation. The designation also recognizes the hard work of our community to be more disaster resilient and of our Board of County Commissioners for their leadership in building resilience and emphasizing public safety.

While our County will inevitably continue to face challenges surrounding disasters and public health, we are committed to learning, improving, and leveraging our partnerships to meet the needs of our citizens. As a citizen in our community, do your part by reading this guide closely, reviewing your plans, and staying informed and prepared for the 2024 hurricane season!

KEVIN PETERS

Director
Leon County
Emergency
Management



Each year, Leon County's Disaster Survival Guide provides essential information to help you be prepared before, during and after a disaster. At Leon County, we say "Prepare. Act. Recover." because being prepared before disasters happen is the best way to be resilient. While the County and its many local, state, and federal partners continue to prepare and plan for disasters year-round, it's important to

remain ready and well-informed for the upcoming hurricane season.

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be a highly active season, and it only takes one landfalling hurricane to make it an active season for us all. Last year, we saw the impact of Hurricane Idalia in the Big Bend, which made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane, causing record-breaking storm surges and high winds in nearby counties. Experts say that the storm had the potential to be much worse than it was. In 2022, Hurricane Ian devastated parts of Florida as the state's most expensive storm and the third-costliest storm in U.S. history. While Leon County is a

non-coastal community, history has repeatedly demonstrated that storms can penetrate deep into the interior of our region, causing significant damage. Fortunately, we have a resilient community filled with local officials, neighborhood leaders and community partners who work together during times of disaster to keep us safe, provide critical information, and answer our community's needs.

You will see Leon County's dedication to being #HurricaneStrong reflected in the 2024-25 Disaster Survival Guide. This document affirms the County's commitment to listening, planning and building upon our past successes. From understanding the forecast to knowing what you need in

your disaster bucket, this guide provides all you need to know to be prepared for whatever disaster may come your way.

Bring the 2024-25 Disaster Survival Guide with you while traveling and give copies to your friends, family and neighbors. The guide is divided into sections, focusing on different aspects of storm readiness, and features important information to help you prepare, act and recover.

To stay up-to-date before, during and after a disaster, visit LeonCountyFL.gov/ei. If you need help planning and preparing for a disaster, contact Leon County Emergency Management at 850-606-3700.

PREPARE

PLAN NOW BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

Plan now. When disaster strikes, it is too late to prepare. This section will help you plan to keep you and your family safe during disasters. Be prepared by having a plan and disaster bucket for your family.

Build Your Bucket

Leon County encourages citizens to put disaster supplies in a waterproof and durable five-gallon bucket. Keep these essential items in a bucket near an exit door in your home or in your vehicle.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand crank emergency radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Special family needs (diapers, feminine hygiene items, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust masks for each person | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof bag with family documents, including driver's license, insurance information, out-of-area contact, medical information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games and toys | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keys (home and car) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic trash bags | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local map | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent marker | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet supplies | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photos of family members and pets | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable phone charger | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ponchos | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rope/paracord | |

Boost your readiness by ensuring you have batteries and other essential items stocked in your disaster preparedness bucket!



2024 North Atlantic Hurricane Names

Alberto	Helene	Oscar
Beryl	Isaac	Patty
Chris	Joyce	Rafael
Debby	Kirk	Sara
Ernesto	Leslie	Tony
Francine	Milton	Valerie
Gordon	Nadine	William

Watch or Warning?

Knowing the difference between a watch and a warning can help keep you safe. Whether a watch or warning, listen closely to instructions from local officials using a TV, radio, cell phone or other communication device.

Tropical Storm Watch:

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning:

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within the specified area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Watch:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected

somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Tornado Watch:

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued.

Tornado Warning:

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Proceed to a safe room immediately.

Flood Watch:

A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Flood Warning:

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flash Flood Warning:

A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area, move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden, violent flood that can take minutes or hours to develop.

Insurance

5 Questions to Ask About Your Policy

1. What is my standard deductible?
2. What is my hurricane deductible?
3. Do I need flood insurance?
4. Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?
5. Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

Not all insurance policies are created equal. Check your policy or talk to your agent to make sure you have sufficient coverage and to determine if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on premiums. Learn more about insurance policies from the Insurance Information Institute at iii.org.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from rising flood waters. If you own a home in a flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to carry a flood policy. Even if you don't live in a flood zone, consider the additional coverage. Anywhere it rains, it can flood. To learn more about flood protection, visit LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection.

Don't wait until it is too late to buy a flood insurance policy. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period before your policy goes into effect.

Renters: Questions to Ask

1. Do I know my rental property's risk of flooding or storm surge? Do I know my evacuation zone?
2. Do I need flood insurance and renter's insurance to cover damage to my personal property?
3. Will my landlord protect the windows in a storm? If not, where would I go during a hurricane?



Insurance Helpline

The Florida Department of Financial Services' toll-free Insurance Consumer Helpline is available year-round to assist Florida's insurance consumers. Insurance specialists are available to answer questions or concerns regarding insurance coverage and advocate on a consumer's behalf to resolve a dispute with an insurance company. Consumers may contact an insurance specialist at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236) toll-free, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you live in Leon County but have a phone number starting with a non-Florida area code, call 850-413-3089.

For additional information on preparing for a natural disaster, visit the Department of Financial Services' website at MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers and click Disaster Preparedness.

Sandbags



Sandbags can redirect stormwater and debris flows away from homes and other structures if they are correctly filled, placed and maintained. However, sandbags will not seal out water, and residents should not rely on sandbags to save their home from major flooding, especially fast-moving hurricane storm surge flooding. Consider the severity of

flood conditions before deciding whether sandbags would provide effective protection.

Filling

- Fill sandbags one-half full.
- Fold the top of the sandbag down and rest the bag on its folded top.

Placing

- Take care in stacking sandbags.
- Limit placement to three layers unless you have a building or wall to use as a backing.
- Tamp each sandbag into place, completing each layer before starting the next layer.

- Clear a path between buildings for debris flow.
- Lay a plastic sheet in between the building and the bags to control the flow and prevent water from seeping through openings, like sliding glass doors.

Limitations

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed to continued wetting and drying.
- Sandbags are for small water flow protection – up to two feet. Protection from more significant water flow requires

a more permanent flood prevention system.

- Wet sandbags are very heavy. Use caution when lifting to avoid injury.

Sandbags are made available by Leon County and the City of Tallahassee for heavy rain. Leon County sandbags are limited to 15 bags per household. Residents are encouraged to bring their own shovels as a limited number of tools for filling bags are available. County locations will be staffed. Sites will remain open until officials determine that sandbags are no longer needed. Updates about sandbag availability will be provided during an emergency at: LeonCountyFL.gov/ei.

ACT

STAY OR GO?

Making the Decision

When a hurricane is approaching, will you stay in Leon County or drive miles away to another location? Evacuating to a safe shelter locally or in a neighboring county has advantages; you will avoid traffic jams and highways crowded with vehicles from other counties joining the evacuation. Even if you leave the area, the storm could shift and still put you in harm's way. The next section will guide you through the steps you should take as a storm is approaching and the choices you'll have to make.

Understanding the Forecast

5-day Cone Actions

When the Big Bend area is in the 5-day cone of a hurricane forecast, it indicates a high probability that the hurricane will impact our region within the next five days. This is a crucial moment to put your plans and preparations into action.

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your disaster bucket and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you or a family member have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and, if needed, register for a special needs shelter. See page 8 for more information.

3-day Cone Actions

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast will increase, and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.

- Gather special supplies for children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all the materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

Hurricane Watch Actions

(48 hours ahead)

- Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.

- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you plan to travel or be transported to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

Hurricane Warning Actions

(36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

When a Hurricane Strikes

- Prepare for the storm before the arrival of tropical force winds. When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge and crashing waves can damage buildings, trees, cars and other infrastructure.

Hurricanes Have Two Main Parts:

1. The eye of the hurricane is an area of nearly calm winds in the center of the storm where the lowest pressure resides. The eye of a hurricane averages about 20 miles in diameter and often has very few clouds.
2. The second part is the wall of very tall clouds that surrounds the relatively calm eye. This region, known as the eye wall, is where the hurricane's strongest winds and heaviest rain occur.

Did you know that 40% of all landfalling hurricanes in the United States hit Florida? That's why it's especially important for us to have a disaster plan.



Evacuation Order

- If you're being transported to a public shelter, be ready to leave when contacted.
- Determine if your residence is affected by the evacuation order — does it include your area, or do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are traveling out of the local area, leave immediately to avoid traffic jams.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times.
- If you must evacuate and do not have access to transportation due to age,



disability, or other special needs, you should register now with Leon County Emergency Management. See next page for more information.

Plan To Stay If ...

- You live in a structure that was built after 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- You do not live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- Your home is not vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You have reduced the threat of falling trees by trimming and/or removing dead, dying or diseased trees.

- You have mitigated the effects of severe winds on your home by installing hurricane shutters on windows and bracing your garage door.
- You have prepared a multi-hazard Disaster Response Plan for yourself, your family and your pets.
- You have prepared a disaster bucket that includes cash, a supply of food, water and a 1-month supply of prescription medicines.
- You have identified a safe room within your home.

Plan To Go If ...

- An evacuation order has been issued.
- You live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- You live in a structure that was built prior to 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- Your home is vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You can leave early enough to meet an estimated regional clearance time of 24 hours. (It is very dangerous to be on the highway during a storm.)

Mobile Homes Are Not Safe Havens

A Category 1 hurricane, like Hermine, with winds of 74 to 95 mph, can rip apart a mobile home. FEMA reports that manufactured structures like mobile homes — no matter how new it is — are unsafe during a hurricane. Also, tornadoes can spin off from hurricanes. Straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from high winds associated with a hurricane. In 1992, 97% of all manufactured homes in Hurricane Andrew's path in Dade County were destroyed, compared to 11% of single-family, non-manufactured homes. If a hurricane threatens Leon County, all mobile and manufactured home residents should plan to evacuate to a safer location.



Voluntary

Mandatory

If You Plan To Evacuate...

- Maintain a full tank of gas.
- Bring identification, insurance papers and other important documents for every family member.
- Bring adequate water, snacks, cash and medications.
- Obey all special traffic signs and law enforcement orders.



Evacuees Should Be Prepared For...

- Extremely heavy traffic. Residents in highly vulnerable areas should leave the area sooner rather than later.
- Limited access to gas stations, restaurants and restroom facilities.



Sheltering

- Toiletries and diapers if you are sheltering with young children.
- Prescription medications, identification and any important documents you deem necessary.
- Additional snacks, especially if you have a special diet.
- Blankets, pillows and/or sleeping bags. Accommodations at the shelter will be limited.
- Books, puzzles or other entertainment that do not require electricity.

For Citizens With Special Needs

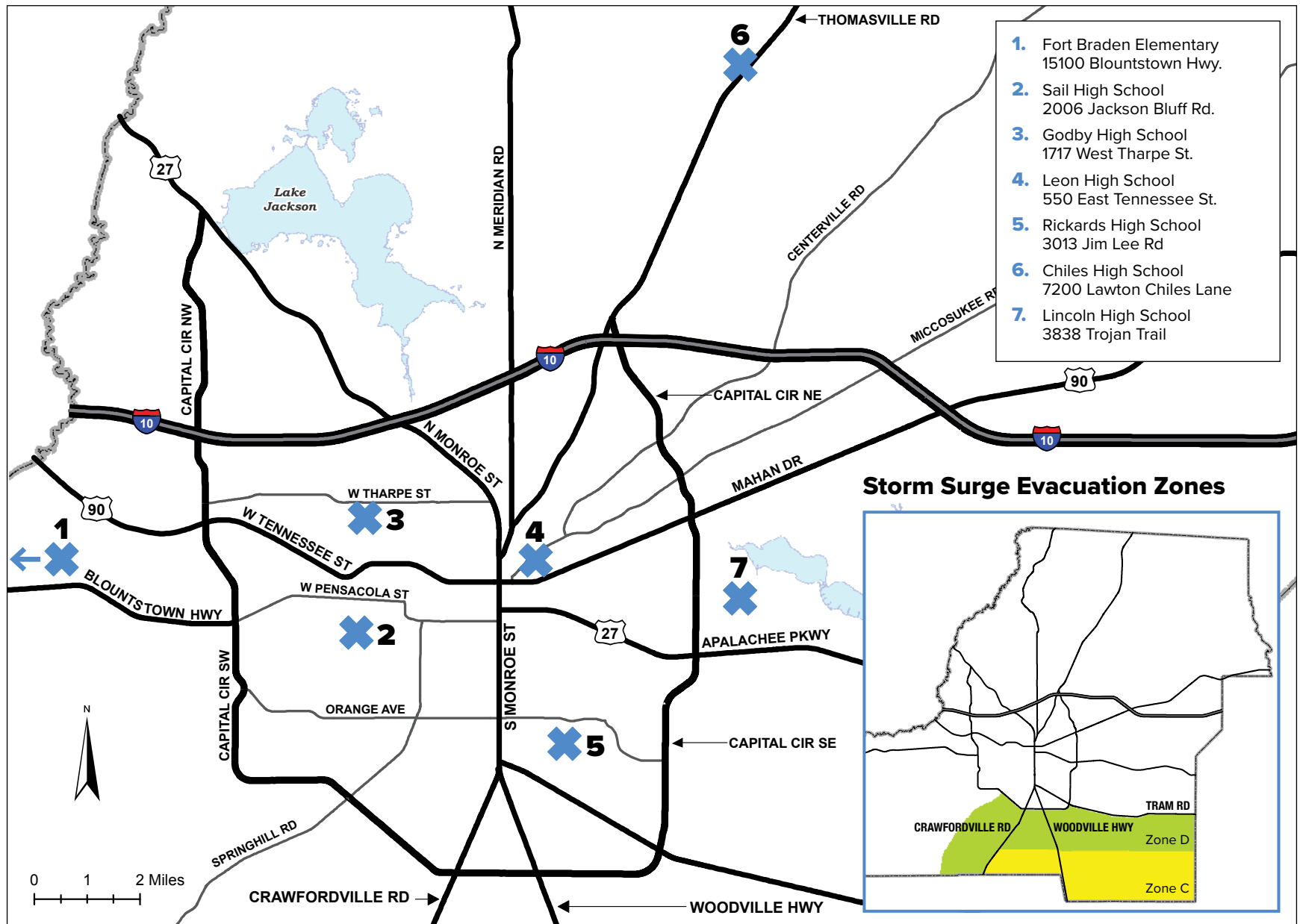
home, is medically stable but needs help with basic tasks or uses an electronic medical device and has no other evacuation options, they should pre-register for a special needs shelter at SNR.FLHealthResponse.com. All information is confidential and protected under Florida Statutes and must be updated on an annual basis. For further assistance, call Leon County Emergency Management at 850-606-3700.

Protect Your Pets

- ☐ Pet crate
- ☐ List of pet-friendly hotels
- ☐ Food and water with respective bowls
- ☐ Medications with instructions for administering
- ☐ Copies of current veterinary records that include your address and phone number
- ☐ Leash and collar with rabies tag and ID
- ☐ Picture of your pet
- ☐ Small box with litter for cats



HURRICANE SHELTERS



Please note: Not every shelter will open for every disaster. Please check LeonCountyFL.gov/ei or call 850-606-3700 to learn about shelter openings.

Storm Surge

Storm surge is the leading cause of death from hurricanes and is the reason hurricane evacuation orders are issued. The Apalachee Bay is one of the most storm surge prone areas in the Southeast. Areas of southern Leon County have been identified as storm surge evacuation zones. Know your zone!

Zone C (Yellow) – Areas east of Crawfordville Highway to the Leon/Jefferson County Line, and areas along and south of the following roads: Glover Road; Oak Ridge Road; Rhodes Cemetery Road; Meridale Drive.

Zone D (Green) – Includes all areas in Zone C, in addition to areas east of Springhill Road to the Leon/Jefferson County Line, and areas along and south of the following roads: Capital Circle SW; Capital Circle SE; Tram Road.

RECOVER IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER

During a disaster, services could be impacted, including electric, water and sewer. When preparing, consider that you could be without utilities for an extended period of time.

Electric Outages

For City of Tallahassee customers, report electric outages via the City's DigiTally App, Talgov.com/Outage, or by calling 850-891-4968. During major events, the City will send information directly to utility customers. Keep your contact details current by visiting Talgov.com/Update or by calling 850-891-4968.

For Talquin Electric members, you can report an electric outage by calling +1-866-899-4832 (Automated System) or +1-888-802-1832 (Live Operator) or text #OUTAGE to 85700. Sign up for text alerts at TalquinElectric.com. Download Talquin's mobile app on your iOS or Android device.

For Duke Energy customers, call +1-800-228-8485 or text OUT to 57801.

Expect longer wait times during major events.

Food Safety

TWO DAYS: The Approximate time frozen items can be stored safely if you keep the freezer door shut.

FOUR HOURS: If your refrigerator's power is out for longer than this time, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler.

Generators

If you are considering purchasing a permanently installed standby electric generator fueled by natural or propane gas, the City of Tallahassee offers a low-interest loan program for qualified homeowners. To be eligible, the loan

applicant must be a City Electric customer, and a transfer switch permit and passed Growth Management inspection is required. Loan approval is required before installation. For details, call 850-891-4968.

A portable generator can keep your appliances going after a disaster, but it comes with several dangers:

CARBON MONOXIDE: Use generators outdoors, away from windows and doors, to avoid exposure to this deadly, colorless, odorless gas. Never operate a generator indoors. Consider installing a CO2 detector in your home.

FIRE: Make sure the generator is cool when refilling the fuel tank and store flammable fuel away from fuel-burning appliances.

Calculate the total wattage of all the appliances and light fixtures you want to connect to the gener-

ator. The total should be less than the generator's stated maximum power output.

ELECTRICAL SHOCK: An electrical shock from your generator can kill you.

- Keep generator in a dry place.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, three-pronged extension cord.
- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

Remember to keep in touch! Reach out to your loved ones to check on their plans. We're all in this together!



Sewer Outage

If a sewer outage is announced, DO NOT flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be down, which could cause a sewage back-up in your home.

Emergency Toilets

Use a chemical toilet or create an emergency toilet by using one of the following methods:

5-GALL BUCKET: Line with a heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as disinfectant. Make sure it has a tight lid.

TOILET BOWL: Turn off your outside water supply and flush once to empty before lining with a trash bag. Do not use kitty litter unless it is marked as flushable.

Water Impacts

If the drinking water supply is compromised by a disaster, a boil water notice will be issued, which means there's a possibility of contamination.

BOIL: Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

BLEACH: Add 1/8 tsp. of unscented bleach per gallon of water and let stand for 30 min-

utes; bleach used should contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. This is less effective but will work if you cannot boil water.

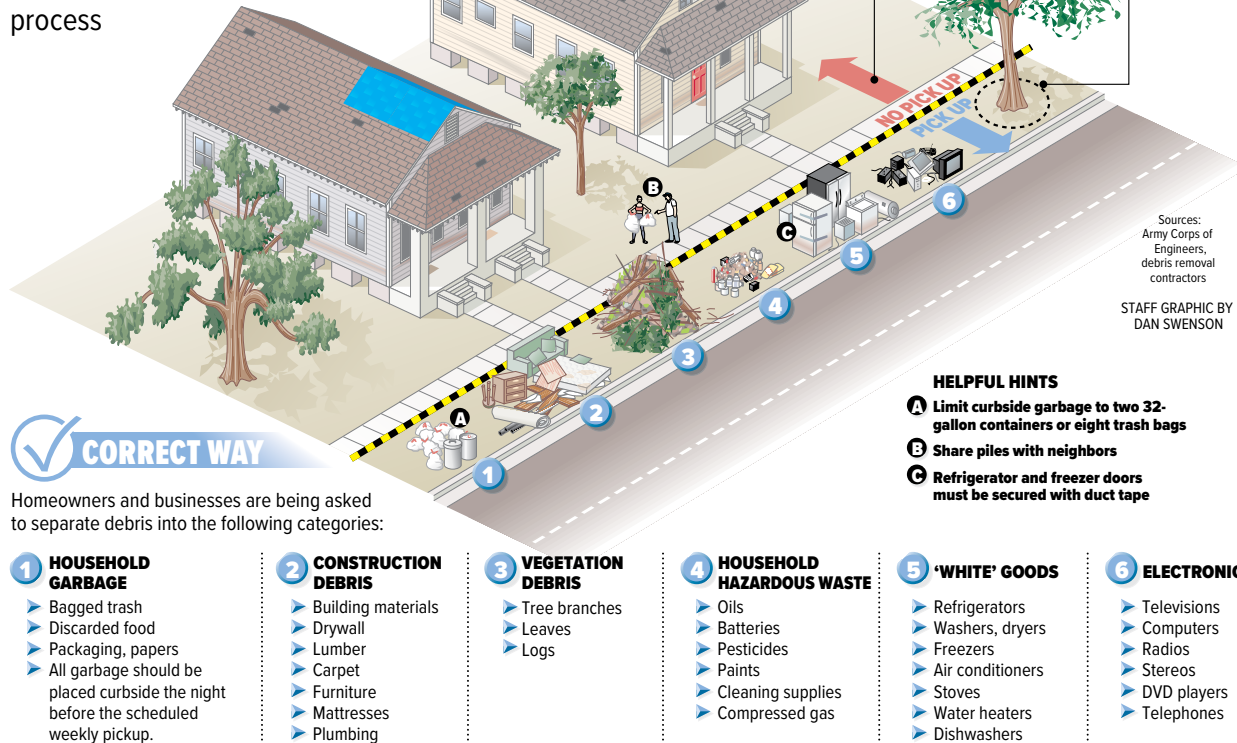
Safe Driving

After a storm, roads may be littered with debris and many routes may be flooded. Avoid unnecessary travel and, if you must venture out, always obey "Road Closed" signs.

Never drive through standing water. Turn around, don't drown! Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all-way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Following these specific guidelines when hauling hurricane-related debris and household garbage to the curb will make for a speedier removal process



Help Your Neighbor

Once you and your family are safe, help friends who are especially vulnerable and need help recovering. A disproportionate number of fatalities in recent hurricanes have occurred among senior citizens. When possible, help the senior citizens you know and friends with financial limitations.

Preparing Debris for Curbside Pickup

Debris removal is integral during the response and recovery phase of a disaster. Initial response begins during the disaster event when crews are activated to cut and toss debris off the roadway. Routes to critical facilities (such as hospitals) and other priority routes are addressed first. This process ensures police, firefighters, EMS and other first responders crucial to the response can navigate the roadways safely.

During the recovery phase, eligible disaster-related debris will be collected from residential neighborhoods. Debris should be placed curbside and separated in the following categories: construction, vegetative, household hazardous waste, appliances/white goods, and electronics. During this process, DO NOT bag debris or put debris in containers. Depending on the severity of the event, it may take multiple passes before all debris is collected.

Price Gouging

In a declared state of emergency, it is illegal to sell necessary goods or services at increased prices. If you believe a business or individual is price gouging, call the Attorney General's Office at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226).

Hire Licensed Businesses

If repairs to your home or property are needed, hire reputable and licensed people and avoid any contractor or appraiser who says they can adjust your insurance claim. You can verify a contractor's license and check to see if there are any complaints against them by calling the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395.

Who To Call

- 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies or 850-606-5800 for non-emergency public safety assistance.
- Citizen Information Line for the latest emergency updates, 850-606-3700, or use 7-1-1 Florida Relay.
- Contact 2-1-1 Big Bend for 24-hour social services assistance by dialing 2-1-1 or 850-617-6333.
- For City of Tallahassee Utility information, call 850-891-4968.
- For Talquin Electric, call 1-888-802-1832.
- For Duke Energy call 1-800-228-8485.

SURVIVING ALL HAZARDS

While hurricanes pose a major threat to Leon County, there are other potential disasters that threaten lives and property. From violent tornadoes to hazardous chemical spills, it is crucial to know what to do when warnings are issued.

- Identify a meeting location, should an incident prevent you from getting home.
- Build a disaster bucket for potential disasters.

- Locate a safe room you can retreat to in the event of severe weather events, such as thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Florida, especially during the summer. The Sunshine State sees about 1.2 million lightning strikes in an average year, and we lead the nation in lightning-related deaths. About 10 percent of thunderstorms are severe with winds of 58 mph or stronger and 1-inch hail. Keep an eye on the weather forecast before you venture outdoors and heed nature's warning when you hear the sky start to rumble.

Seek Shelter

Every thunderstorm produces lightning. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to

strike. Go inside or find shelter immediately. Wait 30 minutes after hearing the last crash of thunder before going back outdoors.

When thunder roars, go indoors!

If you're indoors during a thunderstorm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.

If Stuck Outdoors ...

- Get off any elevated areas.
- Do not shelter under an isolated tree or other tall objects.
- Get as far away from water and metal objects as possible.



Downed Power Lines

- Do not touch downed power lines.
- Assume all downed power lines are energized.
- Contact your utility provider to report downed power lines. See page 10 for contact information.

Infectious Disease Outbreaks

Pandemics and infectious outbreaks are serious threats to public health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) leads efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to such outbreaks. Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for details. If you feel unwell, stay home and contact your health-care provider. Vaccines train our immune systems to combat viruses, and the CDC provides annual recommendations for vaccinations from infancy to adulthood. Learn more at [CDC.gov/Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/Vaccines).

Cyber Safety

Sometimes, a disaster only strikes you or your household, like compromised or hacked online accounts. Cyberattacks can be a disaster for you and your family! In order to stay cyber-safe, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) urges you to follow these tips:

- Implement multi-factor authentication on your accounts. A password isn't enough to keep you safe online; by adding a second layer of identification, you're decreasing your chances of someone improperly accessing your account.

- Update your software. Bad actors can easily exploit flaws in the system, so ensure that the operating systems on your phones, tablets, laptops, and other devices are kept up-to-date.
- Think before you click. Make sure that the webpage or email you are interacting with is legitimate to avoid being caught in a phishing scam. This also applies to apps. Only download apps from reputable vendors through a legitimate app store.
- Use strong passwords and update them regularly in order to ensure that your devices are protected. Strong passwords are at least 16 characters long and include a string of mixed-case letters, numbers and symbols.

Terrorism and Active Shooters

Unlike a hurricane, there may be no warning for a terrorist attack, but you can plan ahead by taking the steps referenced earlier: emergency contacts, emergency alerts, a meeting place and a disaster bucket. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something, say something. Report suspicious activities to the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement at 1-855-FLA-SAFE (352-7233).

If dangerous behavior occurs, whether a shooting or another act of violence, leave as quickly as possible. Be on the lookout for secondary or additional threats as you escape. When you reach a safe location, call 9-1-1 and report the emergency.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can form quickly during thunderstorms anytime of year, creating high velocity wind and blowing dangerous debris. In Florida, the average warning time before a tornado hits is 12 minutes. You may only have moments to make a life-or-death decision.

Safe Rooms

Designate a safe room where you can stay during a tornado in your home or other places you go frequently. Good safe room options include bathrooms, interior hallways, the center of a building, and spaces on the ground floor away from windows.

If you cannot reach your prepared safe room, follow these basic guidelines:

- **Get In:** Get as far inside a strong building as you can, away from doors and windows.
- **Get Down:** Get to the lowest floor.
- **Cover Up:** Use whatever you can to protect yourself from flying or falling debris.

Mobile Homes and Vehicles

Mobile homes are not safe from the violent winds of a tornado. When tornadoes are possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building to protect yourself from flying debris. Do not try to run or outmaneuver a tornado in your vehicle.

Floods

Flooding is a year-round threat. Sometimes floods develop slowly, and forecasters can anticipate where a flood will happen before it occurs. Oftentimes flash floods can occur within minutes and sometimes without any sign of rain.

Know Your Flood Risk

- For your FEMA Flood Zone, visit LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection.
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, consider sandbags or another type of barrier to keep water out of your home in minor flood events. Depending on site conditions, be aware that it can take several weeks for flood waters to recede. If you live in a flood prone area, plan accordingly.
- Remember: Homeowner's Insurance policies don't cover flood damage. Consider extra flood coverage. See page 5 for more information.

Stay Out of the Water

- Don't drive through standing water and make sure to obey "Road Closed" signs. It only takes a foot of water to make vehicles float. Turn around, don't drown!
- Don't walk through flood waters. It only takes six inches of water to knock you down.
- Don't go into any room if water has submerged electrical outlets or cords.
- After a flood, stay out of standing water or structures until authorities advise it's safe. Standing water could contain toxins, chemicals, dangerous debris and wildlife.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Shelter-in-place if local authorities ask you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from entering. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for further instructions through local media and emergency notification systems.

Wildfires

Low humidity and high winds during times of droughts and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. With so many trees in Leon County, the threat of wildfires is always present. Take some time to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home. Wildfires can spread quickly!

- Identify at least two escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Practice fire drills so everyone knows what to do.
- If advised, evacuate immediately.

Learn Before You Burn

Escaped yard waste from burn piles is one of the leading causes of wildfires. Learn more at BeWildfireReadyFL.com.

STAY ENGAGED

The agencies below are critical during any disaster. Please consider learning more about volunteering with these nonprofits partners.



**American
Red Cross**

850-878-6080

RedCross.org/NorthFlorida

When disaster strikes, volunteers play a critical role in response and recovery efforts, providing emergency assistance and supplies to impacted neighbors. Consider joining the American Red Cross as a disaster volunteer before your community needs you. Employees with the State of Florida, Leon County, and the City of Tallahassee are eligible for 15 days of disaster leave by becoming a Red Cross Volunteer.



2-1-1 or 850-617-6333

or text 898211 ■ 211BigBend.org

Just as you would call 911 for emergencies, you can call 211 for human services resources, disaster information, and assistance. We are available 24 hours a day to listen and provide emotional support, crisis counseling, suicide prevention, and information and referrals to thousands of programs and services, like food assistance, mental health, transportation and more. You do not have to be in a crisis to call; there is no eligibility criteria, and our services are free. We help you navigate through the maze of community services in a non-judgmental manner. Because life is 24/7, so are we!



850-222-0304

SalvationArmyFlorida.org/Tallahassee

The Salvation Army of Tallahassee serves disaster survivors and relief workers with food, emotional support and other critical services. The Salvation Army's disaster team consists of staff and volunteers who conduct wellness checks, feed hot meals, drinks and snacks directly from our canteen, provide spiritual care and assist in distributing food, water, clothing and clean-up kits to residents who are affected or have been displaced by a disaster.



850-606-1970

VolunteerLEON.org

During an emergency, VolunteerLEON organizes the Citizens Information Line and coordinates the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). COAD provides a structure for non-profit organizations and the faith-based community to prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster. COAD focuses on coordinating efforts to best serve communities. Nonprofit partners include: 2-1-1 Big Bend, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Catholic Charities, Florida Baptist Active in Disaster, Goodwill, Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, and more.

Have a Plan for your Business

Small businesses are vital assets to our economy and community. But did you know most businesses do not have a plan for emergencies, such as a hurricane?

Early preparation is the smartest way to protect employees and ensure business continuity.

Identify Your Risk: Think through how a local disaster would impact your organization.

Develop A Plan: Depending on the hazard, develop a plan to mitigate risk to staff, structures and services.

Take Action: Making a plan is not enough. Follow through by taking action on established plans when disaster strikes.

The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is committed to serving and supporting our local business community before, during and after a disaster strikes. Visit Ready.gov/Business for more info on preparedness.

Business Disaster Toolkit

Do you have questions about how to prepare your business for hurricane season? FloridaDisaster.biz provides valuable information regarding preparedness, response and recovery from hurricanes and other disasters. OEV is your source for vital business information for hurricane preparation and recovery.

For additional information on local business assistance during disasters, please contact the OEV at:

- Info@OEVForBusiness.org or 850-219-1080

STAY INFORMED



- **Critical Updates:** announces the most important community updates, such as comfort stations, points of distribution, price gouging alerts and road closings.
- **Storm Debris Management:** after disasters, this section details debris collection and removal.
- **Sandbag Locations:** lists locations and addresses for sandbag distribution, including a map of sites.
- **Power Outages:** direct links to outage maps from City of Tallahassee and Talquin Cooperative.
- **Evacuations:** provides a map of evacuation routes for Leon County and other real-time updates.

Citizens Connect App

Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App, your best source of emergency news and alerts. The most critical information will be delivered by push notifications directly to your phone or tablet.

The Leon County Citizens Connect App puts up-to-the-minute emergency information at your fingertips, such as weather alerts, road closings, sandbag locations and so much more.

The County's App provides a single source of emergency information verified by public safety agencies, emergency management professionals and other crews in the field.



LeonReady.com

Emergency Information Portal

LeonCountyFL.gov/ei

Twitter: @LeonCounty

Facebook: @LeonCountyFL

Mobile App:

Leon County Citizens Connect

Citizens Information Line:

850-606-3700

Emergency Alerts

LeonCountyFL.gov/Alerts



**CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE**

Talgov.com

Twitter: @CityofTLH

Facebook: @CityofTLH

Mobile App: DigiTally

850-891-0000

wfsu 88.9
PUBLIC MEDIA

If you are unable to use your smartphone, tablet or computer, timely and critical updates will be provided by emergency management officials on 88.9 WFSU-FM radio. By partnering with WFSU, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee will help ensure that any citizen with radio access stays informed before, during, and after a disaster.

In addition, iHeartMedia stations will provide emergency updates.

DOWNLOAD DIGITALLY
Tallahassee's premier disaster reporting mobile app.



From finding your bus to paying your bills, this free app puts the City at your fingertips. Power out? Tree trouble? Take a picture of City issues, and we'll handle it.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

850-606-3700

LeonCountyFL.gov/ei | LeonReady.com

**Capital Area Chapter of
the American Red Cross**

850-878-6080

RedCross.org/NorthFlorida

2-1-1 Big Bend

Dial 2-1-1

850-617-6333 (NEED)

211BigBend.org

**Franklin County
Emergency Management**

Apalachicola

850-653-8977

FranklinEmergencyManagement.com

**Gadsden County
Emergency Management**

Quincy

850-627-9233

GadsdenCountyFL.gov

**Jefferson County
Emergency Management**

Monticello

850-342-0211

JeffersonCountyFL.gov

**Liberty County Emergency
Management**

Bristol

850-643-2339

LibertyCountyFLEM.com

**Madison County
Emergency Management**

Madison

850-973-3698

[MadisonCountyFL.com/
Emergency-Management](http://MadisonCountyFL.com/Emergency-Management)

**Taylor County Emergency
Management**

Perry

850-838-3575

[Facebook.com/
TaylorCountyFLSheriff](https://www.facebook.com/TaylorCountyFLSheriff)

**Wakulla County
Emergency Management**

Crawfordville

850-745-7100

[WCSO.org/
Emergency-Management](http://WCSO.org/Emergency-Management)



LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

People Focused. Performance Driven.

In Partnership With



**American
Red Cross**

