

RESIDENT HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MANUAL

1. **INTRODUCTION** - Living in a manufactured home or recreational vehicle is a great way to spend your retirement years. A manufactured housing community provides each resident with a clean, comfortable and safe atmosphere to enjoy activities and new friends. Manufactured homes are constructed to withstand normal winds, yet should not be concerned as a place of shelter in the event a severe storm, tornado, or hurricane threatens your area. The clubhouse in the Communities are NOT approved shelters and should NOT be used for this purpose.

The National Weather Service has a tracking system that is able to track a storm for days before it threatens land. This gives everyone a chance to prepare for the storm, If a hurricane is heading toward your part of the state, it might be wise to leave the area as soon as possible. Use this time to take a mini-vacation or go visit a friend. The sooner you leave, the less traffic you will have to contend with, and the safer you will be. Let family, friends, and Community management know your plans.

2. A. Season - Hurricane season starts June 1, and lasts until November 30th. During hurricane season, you should be prepared to evacuate your home if the order is given. Make plans now for what you will do if and when you are ordered to evacuate your home. Such plans could be leaving the area for awhile, or going to public shelter. If you are planning on going to a public shelter and you have special needs, you **MUST** go to a **SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER**.

(Inform the Manager of the Community if you need any help.) Before hurricane season begins, you should locate the closest shelter and drive the route you would need to take to get there during the storm. While driving the route, beware of the items that may cause a hazard during a storm. (I.e. a low spot in the road that could flood during heavy rains).

If you plan to evacuate the area, find the route that is recommended and then drive it so you become familiar with it. Make arrangements with your veterinarian to house your pet during a storm as they are not allowed in the public shelters.

The following list of items will be useful to you in a public shelter:

- _____ Medications (two week supply)
- _____ Lightweight cots or folding chairs
- _____ Blankets or sleeping bags
- _____ Flashlight and extra batteries
- _____ Personal hygiene items
- _____ Extra clothing
- _____ Special dietary foods (non-perishable)
- _____ Books, deck of cards, or a small board game
- _____ Potable radio
- _____ Snack foods

DO NOT TAKE

- Alcoholic beverages
- Pets
- Weapons
- Extra food, other than dietary items and snacks
- Valuables

B. HURRICANE WATCH - When a hurricane watch is announced, it means hurricane conditions are a real possibility and may threaten a region within 36 hours. A specific area and period of danger will be announced.

At this time, you should do the following:

- _____ Fill your car's gas tank
- _____ Check flashlight and radio batteries and have extras on hand
- _____ Stay tuned to radio and TV stations for weather statements and emergency information
- _____ Refill prescriptions drugs and obtain special medications
- _____ Outline emergency plans with your family
- _____ Arrange for the safety of your pets
- _____ Gather things you will need if you go to a shelter or a home of a friend or relative

C. HURRICANE WARNING - A hurricane warning is issued when winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. An evacuation of some regions of the state may take more than 24 hours, due to high density of the population and limited number of roads. Therefore, you must be ready to leave if an evacuation order is issued- even if the weather does not appear threatening at the time. At this point in time, you should do the following:

- _____ Protect windows by taping; take down awnings
- _____ Clear yard of loose objects
- _____ Plan to evacuate, if ordered

D. EVACUATION - If an evacuation order is issued for your area, make sure your home is secure and then leave immediately. In addition to the governmental mandated evacuation order, an employee will go through the community announcing that an evacuation order has been issued. A large number of vulnerable west coast residents must be evacuated before a hurricane strikes. All residents of mobile home and RV communities are required by law to leave if an evacuation order has been given for your area. Failure to evacuate is a punishable offense and could lead to fines and/or imprisonment. All residents are required to leave upon the first evacuation notice. As you exit the community during an evacuation, an employee or a resident volunteer will be standing at the entrance to check your name off of a list, and to ask you where you are planning to go.

Residents will NOT be allowed back into the community once they leave. All common buildings within the community will be locked and secured for the duration of an evacuation period. At this point in time, you should do the following:

- _____ Turn off water, gas, electricity
- _____ Take important papers with you, including insurance papers, and identification with your local address. (Proper ID will help you regain access to the community after the storm.)
- _____ Let relatives know where you are going.
- _____ Evacuate without delay.

- 3. TORNADOES** - A tornado watch means that tornadoes and severe Thunderstorms are possible in your area. You should be on the lookout for any signs of a tornado. When a tornado watch has been announced, you should secure any loose items that may be outside. If you spot a tornado, take cover immediately. **DO NOT** stay in a manufactured home or an RV during a tornado. Take shelter in a solid building, staying away from windows and doors. If a solid building is not available, find a low lying ditch, in which to take cover. During a hurricane, be alert for Tornadoes to appear.

A tornado warning means that tornadoes have been detected in your area, and you should take cover immediately. Tornadoes Pop up fast in Florida with little or no warning.

- 4. FLOODS** - Floods can be deadly and destructive. Floods can happen in Communities that are not even located near a body of water. During times of heavy rain, water can back up for many miles And flood areas that are normally safe from flooding. Most Home owners' insurance will not cover water damage to a Home unless it is caused by a leak in the roof. Flood insurance is needed to cover a home from flood waters.
- 5. OTHER HAZARDS** - Although hurricanes, floods and tornadoes are large threats to human lives and property, there are also other Hazards. For instance, in Florida, semi-trucks can haul hazardous materials with little or no restriction. If a semi-truck Hauling hazardous material had an accident in the vicinity of the Community, it could be a health hazard to everyone living In the Community. You should be prepared to evacuate the Community at a moments notice if this were to ever happen.
- 6. AFTER THE STORM** - If you go to a public shelter during a storm, the Officials in the shelter will inform you when it is safe for you to leave the shelter. They will not let you leave until the storm has passed. Stay away from disaster areas unless you live or work there.

If the Community you live in was hit by a storm, You will not be allowed back into the Community until management has determined it is safe to return. Be careful of Electrical wires that may be lying on the ground and could be live. If your home was damaged during the storm, the public shelters will remain open to provide temporary housing. Beware of snakes, animals and insects that may be driven to A higher ground during floods. If communication lines are still Available, advise family and friends that you are safe.

- 7. INSURANCE** - Evaluate your insurance coverage before hurricane Season arrives. Most policies have a 3 - 5 day waiting period before they become effective. It is advisable to have replacement cost and additional living expenses on your insurance policy. This may cost a little more on your annual Premium, but could save you a lot in the event of a disaster. If the Community you live in is a low lying area, you may also wish to have flood insurance. Ground level rooms should have All items of value placed inside the home prior to leaving for the summer or evacuating your home during a storm.

Thank you for your cooperation.