During a Hurricane....

Is it okay to FLUSH?

A guide to sewer use during a hurricane, tropical storm or flood

The Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District (KLWTD) and Islamorada, Village of Islands are at work before, during and after a storm to keep the central sewer collection system and processing plant fully operational.

**KLWTD service area:** Mile Marker 106 to the north end of the Tavernier Creek Bridge

**Islamorada service area:** south of the Tavernier Creek Bridge to the south end of Lower Matecumbe Key

While the wastewater system is designed to operate during most significant storm events, there are a few conditions where service may be interrupted. It is important for our customers to understand these situations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
<th>More Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Sewer facilities are on generator back-up and are regularly tested and prepared for power interruptions. <strong>If you have an on-site</strong> (grinder pump) system, you will need to conserve sewer usage until power is restored to your home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTREME WIND WITH RAIN</td>
<td>Reduced Usage Recommended</td>
<td>Heavy rain with extreme winds (over 50 mph) can pose a threat to power generators. The system may be temporarily interrupted during these periods but will be restored immediately after.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOODING</td>
<td>Reduced Usage Recommended</td>
<td>Rising water above the in-home drains can allow for the infiltration of large amounts of water into the sewer system. During periods of flooding, portions of the collection system may be temporarily shut down to avoid overwhelming the system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANDATORY EVACUATIONS And RECOVERY</td>
<td>Reduced Usage Recommended</td>
<td>During periods of mandatory evacuations, service may be interrupted. The system will be restored, usually before reentry is allowed to the general public.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Reduce Usage Recommended" means: Water usage should be for sanitary purposes only. Minimize toilet flushing, use of washing machines and dishwashers. Refrain from washing cars, boats, decks or buildings.

- ✔ Do not park or place debris on or next to air terminals, utility boxes or manhole covers.
- ✔ Notify your wastewater district of leaks or system failures.
- ✔ Never drain storm waters into the sewer system – it’s against the law.
- ✔ Follow us on Facebook for updates.

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**Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District**

Office:
(24-hour service)
305-451-4019

[www.klwtd.com](http://www.klwtd.com)
facebook.com/kiwastewater

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**Islamorada Village of Islands**

Office:
305-664-6450

Emergency:
305-359-0813

[www.islamorada.fl.us](http://www.islamorada.fl.us)
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2018
ATLANTIC HURRICANE
SEASON NAMES

These are the names of tropical storms or hurricanes that may form in the Atlantic Ocean in 2018. Names are alphabetical, and alternate between male and female. Needing the entire list in a season is rare.

ALBERTO
BERYL
CHRIS
DEBBY
ERNESTO
FLORENCE
GORDON
HELENE
ISAAC
JOYCE
KIRK
LESLIE
MICHAEL
NADINE
OSCAR
PATTY
RAFAEL
SARA
TONY
VALERIE
WILLIAM
So long IRMA!

Hurricane Irma devastated the Caribbean and the Florida Keys in September 2017, but thankfully, we’ve heard the last of “Irma” as the name joins a long list of retired storms.

Each year, the World Meteorological Organization names the Atlantic storms, alternating male and female names in a six-year rotation. When a particularly bad storm wreaks havoc in a given year, that name is retired and taken out of rotation.

After the 2017 season, the WMO decided to retire Irma, Nate, Harvey and Maria. Irma and Harvey will go down in history as two of the costliest hurricanes ever to hit the shores of the United States, according to LiveScience.

The list of retired names includes a number of storms that heavily impacted the Keys, including Katrina, which devastated New Orleans after twisting and turning in the Gulf. That was in 2005, one of the worst years for hurricanes in the chain of islands, as one after another pummeled the Keys. It started with Dennis, then Katrina, then Rita and finally ended with Wilma, one of the first times the WMO has had to go through the entire alphabet due to the number of storms. All the names were retired at the end of that year.

So far, more than 85 names have been retired since the naming system began in 1954.
For several hundred years, according to the National Hurricane Center, storms were named for the saints on whose day the storm occurred. It was also common practice to simply use the year, as in the Great Labor Day Hurricane of 1935. In 1953, storms were named using only women’s names. The first female hurricane was named “Maria,” the heroine of the 1941 novel “Storm” by George Rippey Stewart, according to NOAA. That practice came to an end in 1979, when men’s names were put into alternating rotation.

Today, the center says that the six lists of names are maintained and updated by the WMO through an international voting committee. The lists contain French, Spanish, Dutch and English names because “hurricanes affect other nations and are tracked by the public and weather services of many countries,” according to NOAA. That’s why it’s not uncommon to see names such as Ione, Klaus, Fifi, and Gustav used for storms.

The letters Q, U, X, Y and Z are not used in the rotation as there are not enough names starting with those letters to use them. If in any given year, there are more than 21 named storms, the default is to then go to the Greek alphabet. According to Accuweather, the only year that the Greek letters had to be used was in 2005, when they had to use the first six.

This hurricane season begins with a fresh list of names, and you’ll never see “Irma” again.
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- Personal Property • Environmental & Toxic
- Business Interruptions • Catastrophe Assessment
- Additional Living Expenses • Employment Practices / General Liability

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PREPAREDNESS TIP

In case of a disaster, it’s important to have a family emergency plan in place, as well as an emergency kit that includes a 3-day supply of food and water, a first-aid kit, prescriptions, flashlights, blankets and batteries.

IRMA RECOVERY

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Fewer than 57% of more than 942,000 Hurricane Irma insurance claims worth $8.6 billion have been closed with insurance payments, state records show.
Henry Rodríguez, CPAU, CEOP, CIAQAM, is a Catastrophe Recovery Insurance Professional and the Chief Executive Officer of Municipal Claims Management Services Inc., based out of Miami, Florida.

Rodriguez has developed a wide range of expertise representing Municipalities, Private Individuals, Home Owner Associations (HOA's) and Commercial Properties. He has gained diverse professional experience and is well versed in Insurance, Construction, Building Materials, Security and Medical fields. These experiences enhance Mr. Rodriguez's already stellar qualifications as an Adjuster, Appraiser and Umpire. Rodriguez assists municipalities in securing proper assistance for rapid catastrophe recovery, works with local workforce, manages recovery efforts, and identifies and recruits Subject Matter Experts. Rodriguez also works with FEMA and other government agencies in coordination of catastrophe recovery.

In 2016, Rodriguez was awarded the Council-certified Emergency Operations Professional (CEOP) designation by the American Council for Accredited Certification (ACAC). This prestigious, board-awarded certification recognizes Rodriguez's knowledge and field experience in Emergency Operations Management and Disaster Response Preparedness.

Current appraisal projects in Southern Florida include Hamilton on the Bay Waterfront Apartments, the Oceanside Plaza Condominiums, The Savoy Hotel on South Beach, and the Palm Spring Mile Mall. Rodriguez also has projects in New York and Tennessee.

Henry's team includes well know Conch’s Attorney John M. Siracusa, Esq. and world renown Engineer Gerald Zadikoff.

Siracusa is a named partner at the South Florida law firm of Janssen & Siracusa, P.A. Siracusa's area of practice includes Admiralty and Maritime Law, Complex Commercial Business Litigation, Personal injury, Wrongful Death, Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith Subrogation, Regulatory Takings and Land Use.

Gerald Zadikoff, PE, F-ASCE Chief Executive and Principal Engineer for GM Selby Inc., was recently named a Board Certified Diplomate, Coastal Engineering (D.CE) of the Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port and Navigation Engineers, a subsidiary of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

The ACOPNE Diplomate Board Certification is the highest certification given to a professional engineer, as a respected expert professional engineer within this field of civil engineering.

A few projects by Zadikoff in Key West include a forensic engineering evaluation of 1800 Atlantic Condominiums, Key West Steamplant Condominiums, design and electrical upgrades to Jackson Square, and a redesign to White Street Pier.

Rodriguez, Zadikoff, and Stracusa are all based in Southern Florida and are no strangers to Key West.

Henry Rodríguez
Municipal Claims Management, Inc.
Office 305-969-2288
claims@municipalclaims.us
www.irmarecoverysite.com

Municipal Claims Management Services, Inc.
Summer at the southern tip of the Florida Keys becomes a numbers game, with an emphasis on 1 through 5. Residents of the coastal, hurricane-prone area, especially those in the isolated island chain of the Florida Keys, quickly grow accustomed to the term “Category 1.” But even the most seasoned and cynical residents cringe when they hear the catastrophic possibility of a Category 5 hurricane. The five categories of hurricanes—often shortened in conversation to Cat. 1, Cat. 2, Cat. 3, Cat. 4 or Cat. 5—are known as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

Wind engineer Herb Saffir and meteorologist Bob Simpson designed the scale to gauge a hurricane’s strength and potential for property damage. To be classified as a hurricane, a tropical cyclone must have maximum sustained winds of at least 74 mph (Category 1). The highest classification in the scale, Category 5, consists of storms with sustained winds exceeding 156 mph.

The scale addresses only the potential for wind damage. It does not address other hurricane-related impacts, such as storm surge, rainfall-induced flooding or tornadoes.
# Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Scale

The Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Scale is a 1-5 rating based on a hurricane's present intensity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustained Wind Speed (MPH)</strong></td>
<td>74-95</td>
<td>96-110</td>
<td>111-129</td>
<td>130-156</td>
<td>157+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential Damage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Devastating Damage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Catastrophic Damage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Catastrophic Damage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People &amp; Pets</strong></td>
<td>Possibility of being struck by flying/falling debris</td>
<td>Substantial risk of injury or death to people &amp; pets from flying/falling debris</td>
<td>High risk of injury or death to people &amp; pets from flying/falling debris</td>
<td>Very high risk of injury or death to people &amp; pets from flying/falling debris</td>
<td>Very high risk of injury or death from flying/falling debris even if indoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homes</strong></td>
<td>Minor roof leakage and gutter damage.</td>
<td>Major roof and siding damage.</td>
<td>Gable and decking damage.</td>
<td>Roofs and exterior walls will be destroyed.</td>
<td>High fraction of framed houses will be destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trees</strong></td>
<td>Snapped tree branches and topped trees with shallow roots.</td>
<td>Uprooted trees could block roads.</td>
<td>Uprooted trees could block roads.</td>
<td>Most trees will snap or uproot.</td>
<td>Nearly all trees will snap or uproot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power &amp; Water</strong></td>
<td>Damage to poles and lines. Power loss possible for days.</td>
<td>Near-total power loss with outages possible for days to weeks.</td>
<td>Electricity and water unavailable for for days to weeks.</td>
<td>Power outages for weeks to months. Large area will be uninhabitable.</td>
<td>Huge swaths uninhabitable for weeks to months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: NOAA’s National Hurricane Center*
Strategies for Hurricane Preparedness

1. **Health Protection:**
   - **Assessment:** Monitor your health status daily.
   - **Self-Isolation:** Stay at home if you have a communicable disease.
   - **Hygiene:** Wash hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
   - **Sick Days:** Call in sick if you have a fever or other symptoms.

2. **Safety Measures:**
   - **Evacuation:** Plan a safe route and have an emergency supply kit.
   - **Evacuation:** Know your evacuation routes and have a plan to move to higher ground.
   - **Public Safety:** Follow local authorities' instructions for evacuation.

3. **Communication:**
   - **Emergency Numbers:** Memorize emergency numbers and have them readily available.
   - **Communication:** Use alternative means of communication if the power goes out.

4. **Miscellaneous:**
   - **Legal Issues:** Ensure your legal and financial affairs are in order.
   - **Religious Issues:** Keep your religious practices and rituals in mind during the storm.

---

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  - **Big Pine Key**
    - **30975 Avenue A**

- **For valuable hurricane information visit our Corporate Headquarters website at www.ioausa.com**
It looks like we can expect an active hurricane season this year, according to the Colorado State University Department of Atmospheric Science.

The university released its predictions in late April, showing the potential for seven hurricanes, 14 named storms, 70 named storm days, and three major hurricanes, according to their annual spring report. If prediction models hold true, 2018 will be slightly quieter than last year, which saw 17 named storms, 10 hurricanes and six major hurricanes, including the first two major hurricanes to hit the continental U.S. in 12 years, and yet slightly above average for major hurricane landfall.

CSU models their predictions on prior years with global oceanic and atmospheric trends that are similar to the current year. However, predicting the number of potential storms is vastly different than predicting landfall events, although statistically, the more active the hurricane season, the higher the probability for landfall. As CSU’s report states, “As is the case with all hurricane seasons, coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them. They should prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted.”

Florida has nearly twice the number of hurricane landfalls as any other state historically, with 145 between 1856-2008, compared to Texas with 80, Louisiana with 74 and North Carolina with 63. It makes sense, then, that according to CSU, the state has the highest probability of landfalls, with a 62 percent chance for a Category 1, 2 or 3 and a 27 percent chance for a Category 4 or 5, much higher than any other state.

In other words, if you are a resident of Florida, your likelihood of being impacted by a hurricane is very high, but that impact can be mitigated by the early warning systems in use by the National Hurricane Center and the preparations that individuals and businesses can make in advance.

Hurricanes have made landfall in Florida during seasons with low activity predicted as well as high, so preparation is truly the key to survival. One has to look no further than the advance warnings for Hurricane Irma, which gave residents five days notice, for the low number of deaths attributed to the storm.

Although the forecast for 2018 will be updated and adjusted either higher or lower several times during the hurricane season, don’t let the predictions get in the way of having evacuation plans, food and water storage and cash set aside for an emergency. It’s never too early to plan but it can be too late.
To track a hurricane, plot the latitude and longitude coordinates as provided by the National Hurricane Center. The coordinates designate the location of a storm's center and are included in the advisories issued by the NHC as a storm approaches. As you plot each location, connect the dots to follow the storms path.
HURRICANE FINANCIAL CHECKLIST

✔ Hurricane Loans
A Mortgage, Home Equity Line of Credit, or Personal Loan can provide peace of mind knowing that money is on hand to prepare and, if necessary, recover quickly from a hurricane. A First State Bank loan can help you to secure your home before a storm, purchase generators, or make repairs after a storm. Apply for a mortgage or a personal loan online @KeysBank.com.

✔ Digital Banking
Online, Mobile, and Text Banking, Mobile Deposit, Direct Deposit, and BillPay ensure that payroll and other important banking transactions can happen automatically or on the go. Log in or enroll today at KeysBank.com or with the KeysBank Mobile App to access your accounts 24/7, even if you have to evacuate.

✔ Debit Cards
First State Bank debit cards are essential for quick cash access when banks are closed or if you have to evacuate. Remember, FSB debit cards work at over 1,100 Publix Presto! ATMs with NO fees and you can get cash back with your debit card purchase at many businesses. Instant issue cards are available at our 11 Keyswide locations. Get yours before it’s time to evacuate!

✔ Credit Cards
When evacuations become necessary, a credit card is critical for emergency funds, travel expenses, and supplies. First State Bank offers personal and business credit cards to meet both your everyday and emergency needs.

✔ Emergency Cash & Checkbook
In the event of a power failure, electronic means of payment like credit and debit cards may not be available. Be sure to have cash and your checkbook on hand for purchases.

✔ Secure Important Documents
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*Safe deposit contents are not FDIC insured.

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STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES NOW

Preventing the loss of life and minimizing the damage to property from hurricanes are responsibilities that are shared by everyone. If you have to evacuate, you should do so without delay. It is important for you to have a plan that makes you as safe as possible. Preparedness includes having the supplies on hand to weather any storm. Finally, stay informed.

EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS KIT FOOD
- 7-day supply of non-perishable foods
- Can opener
- Plastic plates, cups, and utensils
- Water 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day enough for 5 days

COMMUNICATION
- Portable, battery powered AM/FM radio
- NOAA All Hazards Alert Radio
- Landline phone with a long cord
- Extra batteries for flashlights, lanterns, radio
- Extra cell phone battery or car charger
- Whistle
- Current photo in case you are separated
- Cat litter and box
- Pet bed and toys
- Personal Hygiene
- Hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes
- Toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags
- Dental care and vision products
- Travel-size beauty supplies
- Blankets

FIRST AID
- First aid kit
- Backup prescriptions

CLEAN AIR ITEMS
- Nose and mouth protection masks (N-95 rating)
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape

BABY ITEMS
- Formula, bottles, powdered milk
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Diaper rash ointment

LIGHTING
- Flashlights for each with extra batteries
- Waterproof matches or a utility lighter

FAMILY SAFETY ITEMS
- Smoke detector with battery for each floor
- Carbon monoxide detector with battery backup
- Fire extinguisher
- Non-scented bleach for sanitization
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Shovel and other basic tools

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS
- Road maps
- Basic repair items (tools, tire patch kit, engine oil)
- Emergency Road Safety Triangles
- Games, books, puzzles
- Pet Needs
- Pet carrier and leash
- Pet medications

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- Pet medications

DOCUMENTS
- Important telephone numbers
- Record of bank account numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, and death certificates)
- Record of credit card accounts and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods,
- Copy of will, insurance policies, deeds, and stocks
- Passports, social security, and immunization records

HELP protect the health of your community during emergencies & in times of need.

To volunteer, contact Florida Keys MRC at 743-1111 x 203 or mrc@fkahec.org
For more information on the Florida Keys MRC, go to www.fkahec.org or www.medicalreservecorps.gov

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For local community safety announcements (radio and television) for updates.
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DO'S BEFORE THE STORM HITS
Having the right supplies can make all the difference if a storm becomes disastrous.

- Keep on hand water, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, flashlights, batteries and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Always have adequate medical supplies, particularly a first aid kit.
- Sterilize the bathtub and fill it with water.
- Water can be put into a toilet's refill tank to keep flushing without power.
- Charge cell-phones.
- Pull out cash for general use.
- Fill cars with gasoline.
- Be aware of needs specific to all residents.

HURRICANE PREPARATION DISASTER DO's & DON'TS
Hurricane disaster do's and don’ts can save lives, when properly applied. Preparing can prevent harm to houses, property and people. Before, during and after a big one hits, making the right choices can avert disaster.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND HOUSES OFTEN CAN BE PREVENTED WITH A LITTLE FORETHOUGHT.

- Turn off propane tanks.
- Bring in outdoor objects that could become projectiles and anchor what can’t be moved.
- Turn fridges to their coldest settings and well insulate them with things that will hold the cold much better than air.
- Be cognizant of the elevation and local hazards like rivers, lakes and floodplains.
- Straps and additional clips can help secure a roof to the rest of a frame.
- Both the placement and trimming of bushes and trees can create wind barriers.
- Ensure gutters and downspouts are free of leaves, sticks and other debris.
- Add a protective layer over windows, such as installed shutters, impact-resistant windows or nailed boards that are in decent condition.
- Preinstalling shutter fasteners allows for easier and quicker installation.
- Shingles and soffits help distribute quickly accumulating rain.
- Seal with caulk or other means any cracks between windows, doors and pipe entries which could funnel aggressive winds indoors.
- Secure and brace external doors.

IF A HURRICANE INTENSIFIES, EXTRA PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BECOME ESSENTIAL TO KEEP FAMILIES SAFE.

- Keep handy personal and governmental emergency contacts.
- Develop an effective evacuation plan with reliable evacuation routes.

photography by Rob O’Neal
DO’S DURING THE STORM

- Use a TV or, if the power goes out, a battery-operated radio to pay attention to the weather and emergency alerts.
- Use a Weather Radio app for current weather information.
- Close interior doors to minimize potential windflow.
- Watch for downed power lines and structural damage.
- Try to smell potential gas leaks.
- Take photos for insurance purposes afterward.

DON’TS

- Don’t decide that local government evacuation orders don’t matter.
- Don’t run indoor generators without carbon monoxide detectors, as some have slowly poisoned homeowners.
- Don’t hang out near windows during the storm.
- Avoid rooms particularly susceptible to falling trees.
- Avoid electrical equipment that may possibly lead to electrocution.
- Especially if in a building with a foundation in a floodplain, don’t assume basement flooding will be very gradual, as flows can increase quickly and have trapped families.
- Don’t drink water from the tap until the water supply has been deemed safe by local authorities.
- To avoid unnecessary panic, don’t overhype storms.
- Don’t go boating or surfing - get off the water.
- After the storm, don’t touch loose or dangling electrical wires.
- Don’t step in puddles possibly touching damaged electrical equipment.
- If the power goes out for a long time, beware of spoiled food in the refrigerator.
- Don’t forget to consider and quickly remedy potential long-term damages from mold.
- Avoid entering buildings that smell like gas.

Risks of electrocution, gas explosions, supply shortages, preventable damages to property, falling and tossed debris, rushing waters, flood damages and their corresponding threats can accompany hurricanes. Being tactful before and during the storm can minimize the physical threats and the damages.
Hurrericane season is upon us. Everyone who lives in the Florida Keys is on a first-name basis with any number of past storms, but few may actually understand what differentiates a tropical storm from a hurricane.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities). Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than 39 mph are called tropical depressions. Those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms.

The storm remains a tropical storm until the sustained winds exceed 73 mph. Once those sustained winds reach 74 to 95 mph, that storm becomes a Category 1 hurricane.

According to the Saffir-Simpson scale, the following are the wind speeds that determine a hurricane's category:

- Category 1: 74 to 95 mph
- Category 2: 96 to 110 mph
- Category 3: 111 to 129 mph
- Category 4: 130 to 156 mph
- Category 5: 157 mph or higher

"Oh my... Hurricane #Irma just entered “beast mode” ...incredible convection flaring. Satellite imagery estimates now a Category 5."

HURRICANE EXPERT DR. RYAN MAUE
Anatomy of a Hurricane

The term hurricane is derived from Huracan, a god of evil recognized by an ancient tribe from Central America. In other parts of the world, hurricanes are known by different names such as cyclones or typhoons.

NOAA, USGS, INFOGRAPHIC WORLD/POPULAR SCIENCE

A hurricane is a rotating storm system up to hundreds of miles across. A region of low air pressure at the center is called the eye. Rain bands spiral outward from the eye. The high winds of a hurricane sweep across the ocean water producing a dangerous storm surge, a wall of water that can cause massive flooding even miles inland.

The Climate Prediction Center classifies hurricane seasons as above-normal (between 12 and 28 tropical storms and between seven and 15 hurricanes); near-normal (between 10 and 15 tropical storms and between four and nine hurricanes) and below-normal (between four and nine tropical storms and two to four hurricanes).

In 2017, the season was considered to be an above-normal, extremely active hurricane season, with 17 named storms. Of those named storms, 10 became hurricanes, with six of those reaching major hurricane status. The season saw the first two major hurricanes — Harvey in Texas and Irma in the southeastern U.S. — to hit the continental U.S. in 12 years, according to the Climate Prediction Center. Puerto Rico and several Caribbean islands saw tremendous damage from the various storms.

The official hurricane season in the Atlantic is June 1 to November 30 each year, although storms have occurred in other months, albeit rare.
RIDE THE STORM OUT

OR GET OUT?

HOW TO BE PREPARED

Hurricane preparation is over. Good work. Your home is secure. The boards are up, vegetation is cut back from power lines and potential flying objects around the house are put away, picked up or tied down. Your home can now ride out the storm. But should you and can you survive comfortably in a post-hurricane power, water and possible communications outage, such as those experienced in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Deciding whether or not to stay when the evacuation order is issued should be seriously weighed with the pros and cons. However, if you and/or your family choose to stay, be ready for a post-hurricane power, water and possible communications outage. Riding it out will require additional preparations and is not recommended by emergency officials in the event of a mandatory evacuation. Emergency services and 911 personnel will not be available to respond to a crisis if something happens to you or a loved one during an evacuation and oncoming hurricane.

KEEP IT COOL

Ice is essential for a many reasons: cold water, food storage, and personal comfort. Besides the fridge and freezer, prepare two coolers, one for long-term food storage, and the other for daily access throughout the day. The storage cooler will be your alternative to constantly opening the refrigerator. The daily cooler will cool and feed you on a day-to-day basis.

Prep a combination of solid ice and cubed ice for the storage cooler. Blocks of ice last longer than cubed ice. Put gallons of water into the freezer now. Fill your Tupperware and recyclable plastic milk jugs with drinking water and put them in the freezer to create solid ice. Also, pre-freeze any non-carbonated drinks. It will help keep things cool and give you a cold drink when you need it most.

“For the week before Irma I filled every available bottle of any size with water and froze it, packed both the freezer and fridge, every available space, with frozen bottles of water. I had cold water for 5 days,” Susan Fox explains.

Sheri Sampson Stanke shares, “If you are staying, they recommend enough water for two weeks at 1 to 2 gallons of water per person per day.”

EAT HOT & HEALTHY WITH CHILLED DRINKS

Use the time pre-storm to prepare meals that can be stored in freezer bags and frozen in the main freezer. Remember, when preparing food to freeze, let the food cool and get to room temperature first. When you’re bagging food for the freezer, squeeze as much air as possible out of the freezer bags. This will reduce freezer burn. Place individual meals in spare bags and place in freezer.

“Now that I have a grill, I’ll be able to grill some meals if the power comes back. I’ll pre-wrap the things in the freezer in trash bags. If the power comes back and it re-freezes, I’ll be able to tell and toss. If it spoils, it will save a lot of gagging when cleaning and tossing!”

NOW WHAT?

So you stay and the storm knocks out power and water. Have your daily cooler packed and ready to access. Keep the storage ice, water, and food in the refrigerator resist the temptation to open the doors. It will stay colder in there for now.

If you make the call to evacuate as the storm changes paths or strengthens a few days prior, heed Michael Robinson’s advice: “I’d say that I would do a better job of getting things out of the freezer. I thought it would be the normal three-to-five-day thing. Next time I leave, I’ll pre-wrap the things in the freezer in trash bags. If the power comes back and it re-freezes, I’ll be able to tell and toss. If it spoils, it will save a lot of gagging when cleaning and tossing!”
Stay Ahead of the Storm

☐ **Order Checks.** Keep checks on hand to pay for emergency expenses, to get cash and to have your account and routing numbers available.

☐ **Secure Additional Funds.** Carry a Keys Visa® Credit Card, and have a Keys Personal Loan or Redi-Cash Line of Credit to help pay for unexpected expenses.

☐ **Bank Anywhere.** Enroll in Online Banking and download our Mobile App at KeysFCU.org to pay bills, manage your accounts and transfer funds anytime, anywhere.

☐ **Link your Accounts.** Link your Keys FCU accounts with your accounts at other financial institutions to transfer money electronically.

☐ **Get Connected.** Store our contact information and follow our Social Media sites to learn how we can help you before, during and after the storm.

#Keys Strong

For Assistance

📞 Call 305-294-6622
🌐 Go to KeysFCU.org
📍 Visit any branch in Key West, Big Pine or Marathon
**CATEGORY 1 & 2 STORMS,**

shelters available are:

**Key West High School**  
2100 Flagler Ave, Key West

**Sugarloaf Elementary**  
US1 & Crane Blvd, MM19

**Coral Shores High School**  
US1, MM 90, Tavernier

**Marathon High School**  
350 Sombrero Rd, Marathon  
*Pet Sheltering available for each shelter*

**SHELTERING PETS**

Monroe County Emergency Management in conjunction with Monroe County School Board have identified areas to shelter pets in the Keys for Category 1 & 2. Pets must be properly caged along with up-to-date shot records.

For more information on Pet Sheltering refer to our website [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EM](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EM) or call 305-289-6012.

**CATEGORY 3, 4 OR 5 STORMS,**

there are NO shelters in Monroe County that would be safe. Evacuation becomes MANDATORY for everyone and you will then be directed to the appropriate shelter on the mainland. Sheltering options may include, Florida International University, the E. Darwin Fuchs Pavilion at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, 10901 SW 24th St., Miami, FL 33165 (which will allow residents to shelter with their pets), and other facilities within Miami Dade County, based on their availability on a per storm basis.

**SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY**

Monroe County Social Services has a “Special Needs Registry Program” that will offer assistance to persons with special needs living in the Keys during evacuation and sheltering. To be part of this program you must pre-register.

Call 305-292-4591, or visit our website [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EM](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EM).

**MONROE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION HOTLINE:**

1-800-955-5504
heating meals. Have thick tin foil on hand to heat your prepared foods on the grill or stove. Never use grills or camp stoves inside.

**LET THERE BE LIGHT**
Check your battery supply. Fresh batteries can be frozen stored in freezer bags long before any storm hits to increase their life. Push out as much air as possible and place the batteries in the freezer at the beginning of hurricane season. If they are needed, make sure to bring them up to room temperature in the bag to reduce “sweating” prior to installing.

Although open flames, such as candles, require more attention, tea candles pose the least fire risk if positioned properly. Place the candle on a sturdy, heat-resistant surface.

If you are fortunate enough to possess a generator, make sure it is tuned up and tested prior to hurricane season. We all fill up our cars prior to any storm. So purchase a siphon at any automotive store you could use in an emergency to drain gasoline from your car and supply fuel for your generator if the power outage lasts longer than anticipated.

However, newer cars have an anti-rollover valve on all the openings into a gas tank. These valves also act as a siphon prevention system, which is the reason why some siphon devices don’t work.

According to preparedness.com, the trick to siphoning gas in newer vehicles is to use a small diameter, stiff hose like the ¼-inch hose that runs to your refrigerator icemaker. Cut the end at a sharp angle and spin, or “corkscrew,” the hose as you insert it. Test your skills each year if you decide to rely on this for the generator gas.

You may also consider a propane generator. Propane comes in cylinders that make it virtually impossible to spill and if it is spilled, propane immediately evaporates. It’s clean burning. It costs about half as much as gasoline per gallon. There are some portable generators that allow you to use both fuels, giving you the accessibility of gasoline for everyday uses with the availability of propane during a crisis.

**STAY CLEAN**
Prior to the storm, fill the bathtub and sinks with tap water. This water can be used for cleaning up, brushing teeth, and giving yourself a sponge bath.

Bleach is essential. Like ice, it will serve as another multi-purpose supply on your checklist. Once applied, bleach will help kill the mold, a sideeffect of the torrential downpours.

Once you have secured the waste and recycle bins before the storm, pop the tops open. Let them fill with storm water then add bleach. The treated storm water can be used to clean mold and flush the toilet. To flush the
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toilet, remove the back lid from the toilet, fill with bleached storm water up to the water line and flush. It does not rely on power, just gravity.

Kris Wagoneer from Key West who stayed during Irma shared this tip: “One thing that helped boost our spirits was non-rinse laundry detergent from the company Eucalan. It was just so nice to have fresh clean, nice-smelling clothes when we had no power. It made us feel more human.” Eucalan was developed from an Australian home remedy for a no-rinse laundry product for woolens.

Once the heat of the day has passed, give yourself a sponge bath. This can be done in a couple of ways. Get wet, wipe with soap and rinse with your stored water. Another way is to have a supply of baby wipes on hand to clean the body. A good trick is to put the wipes in the day cooler before using them. You will not only be clean, but cooled.

CELEBRATE HOW PREPARED YOU WERE
If the power comes back on, no problem. You will have food and cold drinks for a week. Move cooler foods back into the fridge and freezer, turn the lights back off and enjoy because the best hurricane party is for the one that didn’t hit us.

What You Should Know Before the Power Goes Out

Make sure FKEC has your current phone numbers. When you call FKEC the phone system automatically matches your phone number to your electrical equipment. For faster restoration, make sure the number(s) you are most likely to call from to report an outage are registered to your account. Update at www.fkec.com/Forms/update-contact-info.cfm or call 305-852-2431

Make sure FKEC can access your meter equipment. To make repairs FKEC must have 24 hour access to your meter.

If your power goes out, check your breakers first. Approximately 33% of all power outages are caused by breaker issues, which are the responsibility of the member to resolve.

Report the outage by calling or texting. Call 305-852-2431 or Text “outage” to 45183 to report your outage. Note, your mobile number must be pre-registered with FKEC to report via text. www.fkec.com/Cooperative/report-outage.cfm

Safety first! Stay clear of all downed power lines or electrical equipment. Call 911 to report a downed power line if you feel the situation presents a clear and imminent danger. Then report the wire down to FKEC by calling (305) 852-2431.

Other FKEC Storm Resources

Meter Surge Protection
Provides a level of defense for your entire homes electric system.

“GenSafe” Device
Enables a portable generator to be safely connected to your home at the electric meter.

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- Upgrading electric poles throughout KEYS’ service area to concrete poles capable of withstanding category 5 hurricane-force winds;
- Conducting helicopter and infrared surveys of equipment to identify and repair issues before storms;
- Upgrading lightning protections at electric substations and on electric poles;
- Testing and replacing electrical transformers to ensure they do not fail during storms; and
- Maintaining a FREE tree trimming program all year round to avoid preventable power outages.

...and here’s how YOU can help PREVENT outages:

- Keep your trees trimmed to at least 10 feet away from all electric lines.

If limbs are intruding on electrical lines, do not attempt to trim them yourself.

Instead call KEYS so a trained tree trimmer can safely trim the limbs away from the lines at no cost.

Call KEYS at (305) 295-1010, visit KeysEnergy.com to submit your tree trimming request today, or scan this QR code to link up effortlessly!