2020 Hurricane Guide

June 1 - November 30
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Is it OK 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 (grinder pump) system, you will need to conserve sewer usage until power is restored to your home.</strong></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 re-entry 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.**

Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District
Office: (24-hour service)
305-451-4019
www.klwtd.com
facebook.com/klwastewater

Islamorada Village of Islands
Office: 305-664-6450
Emergency: 305-359-0813
www.islamorada.fl.us
facebook.com/IslamoradaFloridaKeys
There is no strong correlation between the number of storms or hurricanes and U.S. landfalls in any given season. One or more of the 16 named storms predicted to develop this season could hit the U.S. or none could make landfall at all.

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.

A couple of examples of why you need to be prepared each year occurred in 1992 and 1983.

The 1992 season produced a relatively quiet hurricane season overall with only six named storms and one subtropical storm. However, one of those named storms was Hurricane Andrew, which devastated South Florida as a Category 5 hurricane. The same was the case in 1983, when there were only four named storms, but one of them was Category 3 Hurricane Alicia, which hit the Houston-Galveston area and caused almost as many direct fatalities there as Andrew did in South Florida.
Conversely, the 2010 Atlantic season was quite active, with 19 named storms and 12 hurricanes. Despite the high number of storms that year, not a single hurricane and only one tropical storm made landfall in the United States.

The U.S. averages one to two hurricane landfalls each season, according to NOAA’s Hurricane Research Division statistics. In 2019, there were two U.S. hurricane landfalls – Barry in Louisiana and Dorian in North Carolina. Hurricane Dorian, however, had a profound impact on the Bahamas before forging a path to Cape Hatteras. In 2018, four named storms impacted the U.S. coast, most notably hurricanes Florence and Michael within a month of each other.

All of us in the Keys recall 2017, when seven named storms impacted the U.S. coast and Puerto Rico, most notably hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, which battered Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively.

Before that, the U.S. was on a bit of a lucky streak.

The 10-year running total of U.S. hurricane landfalls from 2006 through 2015 was seven, according to Alex Lamers, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. This was a record low for any 10-year period dating to 1850, and considerably lower than the average of 17 per 10-year period dating to 1850.

None of the U.S. landfalls from 2006 through 2015 were from major hurricanes.

The bottom line is it’s impossible to know for certain if a U.S. hurricane strike will occur this season. Keep in mind that even a weak tropical storm hitting the U.S. can cause major impacts, particularly if it moves slowly and triggers flooding rainfall.

How Much of a Role Will El Niño or La Niña Play?
El Niño/La Niña, the periodic warming/cooling of the equatorial eastern and central Pacific Ocean, can shift weather patterns over a period of months. Its status is always one factor that is considered in hurricane season forecasting.

As of early spring, a weak Modoki El Niño was in place, but waters in March slowly cooled. Phil Klotzbach, a Research Scientist in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, developed the two-week forecasts currently being issued during the peak months of the hurricane season between August-October. Klotzbach noted that a transition to neutral (neither El Niño nor La Niña) or potentially even weak La Niña conditions is likely by this summer or fall.

None of those named storms achieved hurricane status, while three intensified into major hurricanes.

The 2019 Hurricane Season
Last year’s Atlantic hurricane season was the fourth consecutive year of above-average and damaging seasons, tied with 1969 as the fourth-most active Atlantic hurricane season on record in terms of named storms with 18 named storms and 20 tropical cyclones in total.

Six of those named storms achieved hurricane status, while three intensified into major hurricanes.

The season’s first hurricane, Barry, formed in mid-July in the northern Gulf of Mexico and struck Louisiana. Barry caused one death and produced flooding in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, with damage totaling about $600 million.

Long-range forecasters at NOAA were generally in agreement with Klotzbach, suggesting that neutral conditions are anticipated through the first half of the hurricane season (June through August), with either neutral or La Niña conditions possible in the second half (September through November).

Few, especially in the Keys can forget Hurricane Dorian, the most intense tropical cyclone of the season which proved to be the costliest natural disaster in the history of the Bahamas. It became the only Category 5 hurricane to strike the country ever, with winds peaking at 185 mph. Overall, Dorian caused about $4.72 billion in damage and 84 fatalities, mostly in the Bahamas.
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**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*

**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.

**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.monroecountyem.com](http://www.monroecountyem.com) or call 305-289-4591.

**SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY**

Monroe County Emergency Management 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.monroecountyem.com](http://www.monroecountyem.com)

**MONROE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION HOTLINE:**

**1 - 8 0 0 - 9 5 5 - 5 5 0 4**
Summer at the southern tip of the Florida Keys becomes a numbers game, with an emphasis on 1 through 5. Residents 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>SUSTAINED WIND SPEED (MPH)</th>
<th>POTENTIAL DAMAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>74-95</td>
<td>Minimal, with some roof leakage, gutter damage, snapped tree branches and toppled trees with shallow roots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>96-110</td>
<td>Moderate, with major roof and siding damage; uprooted trees could block roads; power loss possible for days to weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>111-129</td>
<td>Devastating damage, with gable and decking damage, many more uprooted trees and extended power outages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>130-156</td>
<td>Catastrophic damage; roofs and exterior walls will be destroyed; trees will snap; power outages for weeks to months. Large area uninhabitable for weeks or months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>157 OR HIGHER</td>
<td>High fraction of framed houses will be destroyed; power outages for weeks to months; and huge swaths uninhabitable for same period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NOAA’s National Hurricane Center
WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

WHERE DO YOU NEED US?

Sea Tow is proud to serve the boating community throughout the Florida Keys, from Key Largo to Key West.

Our Coast Guard-licensed Captains are immediately available after a storm to help with your recovery efforts. We recover vessels sunk at your dock, in the mangroves or land-based. We have equipment to safely re-float, pump-out and get your boat back on the davits or trailer even before power is restored. Commercial services are also available for large scale work including vessel transport and barge/crane services.

We live here, we boat here. Call Sea Tow and speak with one of our seasoned Captains about preparing for a storm and ultimately how to protect your boat.

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Sea Tow Islamorada/Marathon  
305-289-2055

Sea Tow Lower Keys  
305-745-2070

Sea Tow Key West  
305-295-9912

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Hurricane names are chosen by the World Meteorological Organization. There are six lists of names for Atlantic and Pacific storms. Every six years, the lists of names repeat, although the list does not include the names of particularly destructive storms, which are retired.

Names are assigned to storms in alphabetical order as the storms occur. In other words, the first storm of the season will be given the first name on the list, starting with the letter A, the next will be given the name starting with B, and so on. If more storms occur in one season than there are names on the list, the newest storms are named after the Greek alphabet (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, etc.).

Tropical storms are given names when they display a rotating circulation pattern and wind speeds of 39 miles per hour (63 kilometers per hour). A tropical storm develops into a hurricane when wind speeds reach 74 mph (119 kph).
Don’t wait until the last minute to ask “How can I help?”

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Medical and public health backgrounds are needed
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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 storm’s path.
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Electronic means of payments may not be available if there is a power failure. Be sure to have cash and your checkbook on hand for purchases.

Secure Important Documents
Make copies of your insurance papers, Social Security cards, birth certificates, mortgages, and other important documents. Originals can be stored in a First State Bank Safe Deposit Box**.

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It is important now more than ever to have a Hurricane Plan in place. Sheltering under pandemic conditions means being prepared in a new way. Monroe County Emergency Management will be following new safety protocols for evacuation at county shelters. If you can shelter SAFELY with friends or family, do. Shelters should be a last resort but if you need to come to a shelter we are making it safe for you.

**PROTOCOL FOR THE ACTIVATION OF EVACUATION CENTERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Once an evacuation center is opened, evacuees will be asked to follow the guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control and Florida Department of Health. Individuals entering the evacuation center can expect to be screened for fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you have these symptoms, you should inform evacuation center staff when you arrive. Signage will be posted outlined the rules evacuees must follow.

**Evacuees must adhere to the following evacuation center rules during the COVID-19 pandemic:**

- You will be screened prior to entering the evacuation center and rescreened during your time there. If you show signs of illness, you may be separated into an isolation area away from other evacuees.
- Spend the majority of your time in your assigned spaces. When leaving your assigned space, ensure social distancing by staying six feet away from others.
- Evacuees must wear a face covering. Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for physical distancing.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds or utilize hand sanitizer.
- Maintain social distancing of six feet while in common areas.
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President

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LIC. NO. ENG II 303C
Monroe County Emergency Management provides detailed information about its shelter requirements for pets in the event of a hurricane warning. Here are some of them:

**BE PREPARED WITH A PET PLAN**
The survival of you, your family and your pets could depend on a personal disaster plan. And as a pet owner, that plan must include them too. Being prepared can save their lives.

In the event of a disaster, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them with you. Leaving pets behind is not recommended and is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse. Prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

**REQUIREMENTS TO PLACE A PET IN A COUNTY PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER**
- Pets must be pre-registered
- The owner must provide proof of residency within the evacuation zone
- Medical and current vaccination records for each pet must be presented

Annual rabies vaccinations and visible Monroe County dog license are required by Monroe County Code. Cats are also required to have annual rabies vaccinations.

**PETS ACCEPTED (PETS MUST BE PROPERLY CAGED)**
- Dogs
- Cats
- Gerbils, hamsters, mice, and rats
- Guinea pigs and small rabbits (small sized, under 10 pounds)
- Ferrets
- Birds

**PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS**
*Monroe County Pet-Friendly Shelters for Category 1 & 2 (In-County)*
- Key West High School, 2100 Flagler Avenue
- Sugarloaf School, 225 Crane Boulevard, MM19
- Coral Shores High School, 89591 Overseas Highway, MM89.9 in Tavernier
- Marathon High School, 350 Sombrero Road

*Out-of-County Pet-Friendly Shelter for Category 3, 4 & 5*
- E. Darwin Fuchs Pavillion, 10901 SW 24th Street, Miami

**PET SHELTER RULES**
Pet owners must always prepare to care for and maintain control over their pets. In order to avoid injury to response personnel or the public from anxious or aggressive pets, owners are required to:
- Carry proper ID collar and current rabies tag
- Have proper ID on all belongings
- All pets will remain contained in approved carrier except at scheduled times
- During scheduled relief times, pets will be properly confined with leash, harness
- Muzzle aggressive or anxious pets
- At least two days food supplies
- Water and food bowls
- Any necessary medication(s)
- Newspapers and plastic trash bags for handling waste
ANIMAL SUPPLY CHECKLIST

Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

- Medications and vaccinations records (stored in a waterproof container), and a first aid kit
- Proof of vaccination is required before pets are accepted at boarding kennels and pet shelters
- Proper Identification, collar, and tags
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to ensure that your animals can’t escape
- Have newspapers, plastic bags, cleansers, cat litter/pan, and disinfectants available to handle pet waste
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost
- Food (two-week supply), potable water, bowls, and manual can opener
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable, and a pet crate

CARING FOR BIRDS IN AN EMERGENCY

Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier. During warm weather, carry a plant mister to mist the birds’ feathers periodically. Do not put water inside the carrier during transport. Provide a few slices of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content. Have a photo for identification and leg bands. If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels and change them frequently. Try to keep the carrier in a quiet area. Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.

ABOUT OTHER PETS

Reptiles: Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase, but they must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach the evacuation site. If your snakes require frequent feedings, carry food with you. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking as well as a heating pad. When you are transporting house lizards, follow the same directions as for birds.

Pocket Pets: Small mammals (hamsters, gerbils, etc.) should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered. Take bedding materials, food bowls, and water bottles.
HURRICANE DISASTER

Do’s and Don’ts

Hurricane disaster do’s and don’ts can save lives, when properly applied. Proper preparation can prevent harm to houses, property and people. Before, during and after a big one hits, making the right choices can avert disaster.

**DO’S BEFORE THE STORM HITS**

Having the right supplies can make all the difference if a storm becomes disastrous.

- Keep plenty of water, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, flashlights, batteries and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio on hand.
- Always have adequate medical supplies, particularly a first aid kit and prescription medications.
- Sterilize the bathtub and fill it with water.
- Water can be put into a toilet’s refill tank to flush without power.
- Charge cellphones.
- Pull out cash for general use.
- Fill cars with gasoline.
- Be aware of needs specific to all residents.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Bring in outdoor objects that could become projectiles and anchor what can’t be moved.
- Set fridges on 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.

**DO’S DURING THE STORM**

- Use a TV or, if the power goes out, a battery-operated radio to hear 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.

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• 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 big, 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 venture outside into a hurricane.
• After the storm, don’t touch loose or dangling electrical wires.
• Don’t step in puddles possibly touching damaged electrical equipment.
• Don’t drive unless necessary because of potentially flooded roadways.
• 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.
• Last but not least, don’t put off reporting electrical, gas or water utility problems indoors and outdoors.

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 smart and prepared before and during the storm can minimize the physical threats and the damages.

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For valuable hurricane information visit our Corporate Headquarters website at www.ioausa.com

Photo by Rob O’Neal
All residents of Monroe County who don’t already have a Reentry Windshield Sticker need to obtain one for their vehicle. They do not expire. Do not wait until a storm is approaching.

These stickers will be needed in the event that checkpoints are required to assure safe re-entry into the Florida Keys following a destructive storm.

Residents can obtain one sticker for each registered vehicle by providing proof of residency: Florida driver’s license, utility bill, rental agreement, tax bill, etc. The stickers are color-coded for possible zone-by-zone reentry.

If a storm devastates a particular area of the Florida Keys, the color-coded re-entry stickers will allow law enforcement to authorize people to return to relatively intact areas of the Florida Keys sooner than those who live in more damaged areas.

Several factors are considered in the re-entry process, including if emergency personnel, supplies, and equipment have been brought in and set up, if rescue crews have had enough time to assist any trapped or injured people in the affected area and, most importantly, if it is safe for residents to re-enter a particular area.

WHERE TO GET REENTRY STICKERS

Residents in Key West: Stickers are available at Key West City Hall, 1300 White St., or the Key West Police Department, 1604 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Residents from Ocean Reef to Stock Island: Monroe County Sheriff’s substations or at the Department of Motor Vehicle/Driver License service centers listed below. Monroe County residents who are not currently in the County also can get them via mail, with details below. For residents who live in Ocean Reef, stickers also are available at Ocean Reef Public Safety, 110 Anchor Dr. in Key Largo.

Monroe County Sheriff’s Office locations
The Sheriff’s stations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays for sticker pickup.

Monroe County Sheriff’s Office Headquarters: 5525 College Road, Key West
Freeman Substation: Lower Keys Area, District 1: 20950 Overseas Highway, Cudjoe Key
Marathon Substation: Middle Keys Area, Districts 4 and 5: 3103 Overseas Highway, Marathon Islamorada, District 6: 86800 Overseas Highway, First Floor, Islamorada
Upper Keys, District 7: 50 High Point Road, Suite 100, Tavernier

Department of Motor Vehicle and/or Driver License Service Centers
Key Largo: 101487 Overseas Highway
Key West: 3439 South Roosevelt Blvd.
Key West: 1200 Truman Avenue, Suite 101
Plantation Key: 88800 Overseas Highway
Marathon: 3101 Overseas Highway (Tax Collectors Office)

By Mail
You can mail proof of Monroe County residency — Florida driver’s license, utility bill, tax bill, etc. — to Tamara Snider, Monroe County Sheriff’s Office Headquarters, 5525 College Road, Key West, FL 33040. Include your return address and contact information, in case of questions. The appropriate colored re-entry sticker will be mailed to you.

Get your Vehicle Reentry Windshield Stickers
Don't wait until just before a storm!
An important message from

**Florida Keys Contractors Association**

**Monroe County Growth Management**

**Peace of Mind** is important during Hurricane Season. Be sure to hire a licensed and insured contractor to get your home and business ready during storm season.

**After the storm**: Be sure to hire licensed contractors to repair storm damaged structure.

**Ask your contractor**
- Do you have a Monroe County License?
- Do you have general liability & workman’s comp insurance?
- Are you familiar with Monroe County Building Regulations?
- Will you pull a permit if my work requires it?
- Have you done this type of work before?
- Are you self performing the entire project?
- Will you supply releases of liens for your subcontractors & suppliers?

**Work that requires a licensed and insured contractor**
Aluminium • Landscaping • Masonry • Roofing • Shutters • Windows & Doors • Seawalls & Docks and more…please call for more information.

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An important message from

**Florida Keys Contractors Association**

**Monroe County Building Department**

**Florida Keys Contractors Association**
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floridakeyscontractorsassociation.com
admin@FKCA.org

**Monroe County Building Department**
(305) 289-2501
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2020 HURRICANE GUIDE
HTI graphics are issued by local Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) when tropical cyclone (i.e. hurricane or tropical storm) wind watches and warnings, and/or storm surge watches and warnings, are in effect for at least part of their land area of responsibility.

Once available, they are updated by respective WFOs with each new forecast issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) or Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) and maintained until the threats of these hazards have locally passed. Any departure in the forecast from the actual track, size, or intensity of a hurricane can dramatically change its impacts. Through the implicit use of probability data, color-coded HTI graphics depict the potential conditions to protect against with accompanying descriptions of potential impacts needed for effective preparations. The HTI graphics account for the latest forecast at specific locations while also including a reasonable safety margin to account for any forecast errors.

What hazards are described by the HTI Graphics?
Tropical wind, storm surge, flooding rain, and tornadoes are the hazards addressed within the HTI graphics suite. Figure 1 offers an example of each hazard-based HTI graphic with the NHC Cone Graphic superimposed (from Hurricane Irma, 2017).

Since the Cone Graphic only reveals the most probable track of the center of the storm, it provides little to no information about projected impacts. The HTI graphics, however, show the geographic extent of associated hazards; their level of threat and potential impacts. Impacts often extend well beyond the area depicted in the Cone Graphic alone. The HTI color-scale corresponds to increasing levels of threat and is graduated from warm to hot colors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIND THREAT</th>
<th>STORM SURGE THREAT</th>
<th>FLOODING RAIN THREAT</th>
<th>TORNADO THREAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential for wind greater than 110 mph</td>
<td>Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 9 ft above ground</td>
<td>Potential for extreme flooding rain</td>
<td>Potential for an outbreak of tornadoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph</td>
<td>Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 6 ft above ground</td>
<td>Potential for major flooding rain</td>
<td>Potential for many tornadoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph</td>
<td>Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 3 ft above ground</td>
<td>Potential for moderate flooding rain</td>
<td>Potential for several tornadoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph</td>
<td>Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 1 ft above ground</td>
<td>Potential for localized flooding rain</td>
<td>Potential for a few tornadoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind less than 39 mph</td>
<td>Little to no storm surge flooding</td>
<td>Little to no potential for flooding rain</td>
<td>Tornadoes not expected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Examining the wind graphic (page 26; left), locations colored in purple have the potential to experience winds greater than 110 mph when accounting for both the forecast and forecast error. It is not a mere depiction of forecast conditions to be expected. Rather, it indicates that these locations should be ready for winds in excess of 110 mph, when taking into account the latest forecast and knowing that (although skilled) the forecast isn’t perfect. Simply put, locations in purple are being threatened by major hurricane force winds greater than 110 mph (at least Category 3 force), locations in red are being threatened by hurricane force winds between 74-110 mph (Category 1 or 2 force), and so on. A similar approach is used for depicting each of the remaining hazards. HTI is designed to help make preparedness actions more effective.

For additional information about hurricane preparedness, please see ready.gov/hurricanes and always follow the recommended actions of local officials during an event.

How do I access the HTI Graphics webpage when my area is threatened?
The HTI Graphics suite can be accessed using the following web portal: weather.gov/srh/tropical.

It can also be accessed from most coastal WFO websites via weather.gov by clicking on a region of interest. The links will be made readily accessible from most WFO front pages during active hurricane or tropical storm events. When you reach this portal, you will see the following tabs across the top of the page:

Click on the Threats and Impacts tab to display HTI information. By default, the wind hazard is initially displayed, but users can quickly select any of the radio buttons just above the graphic to retrieve information on other hazards of interest.

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**WHAT IS A HURRICANE?**

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.
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/access-your-account 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 call or text.
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/outage-center/report-power-outages/

✓ 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.

✓ Understand the order of restoration.
In the event of a major storm with widespread outages, work is organized to restore power to the greatest number of members in the least amount of time. FKEC also prioritizes restoring power to life and safety situations and essential community services. Following this, crews work to restore power to individual members with isolated issues.

Popular FKEC Storm Devices:
- Meter Based Surge Protection is offered through a device installed at your meter to provide a level of defense for your entire homes electric system.
- FKEC “GenSafe” Device is a meter collar device which allows FKEC members to safely and easily connect a portable generator to their home.

Learn more at www.FKEC.com/services/ or call (305) 852-2431 to order the device today (supplies may be limited).

305.852.2431 • www.FKEC.com
As we all deal with challenging demands of the coronavirus, the June 1 start of hurricane season is coming and it’s important to get prepared. Because of COVID-19, getting prepared will look a little different than in other years. With that thinking in mind, the South Florida Red Cross has tips to help you.

“Disasters won’t stop, even during a pandemic,” said Joanne Nowlin, CEO of the South Florida Red Cross. “Before the Hurricane season starts on June 1, make your preparations now and consider the coronavirus situation as you do. Early reports are predicting a busy year with as many as four storms reaching major hurricane strength. Let’s do our part and be prepared for any type of emergency or disaster that may come our way.

**MAKE A PLAN** In light of the coronavirus, you may have to adjust any previous plans you made.

- If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit (see below).
- Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you need to share transportation.
- Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you are able to stay with them. Check and see if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or people at higher risk in their home, make other arrangements. Check with hotels, motels and campgrounds to see if they are open. Find out if your local emergency management agency has adapted its sheltering plans.
- Check with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and update emergency plans due to Coronavirus.
- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes. Remember, if it’s not safe for you to stay home, it’s not safe for your pets either.

**BUILD A KIT** Assemble two kits of emergency supplies and a one-month supply of prescription medication. Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now. Start with this basic supply list:

- Stay-at-home kit: Include everything you need to stay at home for at least two weeks with items such as food, water, household cleaning and disinfectant supplies, soap, paper products and personal hygiene items.
- Evacuation kit: Your second kit should be a lightweight, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly. Include everything you need to be on your own for three days.

**BE INFORMED** Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities.

- Use the Red Cross interactive map to identify likely disasters in your area.
- Learn about your community’s response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been adapted because of COVID-19.
- Find contact information for state, local and tribal governments and agencies, and for state emergency management agencies.
- Because of COVID-19, stay current on advice and restrictions from your state and local public health authorities as it may affect your actions and available resources and facilities.

Take a First Aid and CPR/Course online to learn what to do in case emergency help is delayed. Download the Red Cross Emergency App for instant access to weather alerts for your area and where loved ones live. Expert medical guidance and a hospital locator are included in the First Aid App in case travelers encounter any mishaps. These apps are available to download for free in app stores or at redcross.org/apps.
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Please call us at (305) 295-1090 and a customer service representative will assist you — or update your own information online at KeysEnergy.com/TeleLink