

## **Take Action Now Be Prepared and Stay Informed**

Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. Hurricanes can produce winds exceeding 155 miles per hour as well as tornadoes and microbursts. Additionally, hurricanes can create storm surges along the coast and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall. Floods and flying debris from the excessive winds are often the deadly and destructive results of these weather events. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall.

It is with all this in mind that residents need to be prepared. How does one prepare for a hurricane? The answer is that a plan must be done in advance of a hurricane! Planning on what to do when a hurricane watch or warning is issued is simply too late!

**All residents of Longboat Key reside in a Level A Evacuation Zone.** This means that Longboat Key is in a low lying area.

- If you are ordered to evacuate, secure your home and leave immediately.

**Remember:** Mobile home residents may be ordered to evacuate earlier than the general population depending on anticipated weather conditions.

**Decide NOW where you would go** if ordered to evacuate go with a friend or relative, a hotel out of the region or as a last resort, to a shelter. If you are going to leave the region or go to a hotel, you must leave early. Determine your route. Just keep in mind that shelters are not fun and not very accommodating.

**Prepare your Disaster Supplies Kits:** Check periodically during the season and obtain any items you need. Specialize your kits with what YOU and YOUR family need.

Residents must understand that the concern of emergency officials is the safety of the residents and visitors of Longboat Key.

The water surge along with the winds during a weather event, such as a hurricane will cause emergency services to change strategies and cease operation for a period of time until conditions become safe for responders. Fire Rescue will cease operation when the winds reach 45 MPH sustained.

**As has been said in the past, if residents see the tail lights of a fire truck going over the bridge leaving Longboat Key, they have waited too late to evacuate.**

Leave early and plan ahead!!

## DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

One of the most important tools for emergency preparedness is the Disaster Supplies Kit. Below are the most important items. Stock up today and store in a water-resistant container! Replenish as necessary, especially at the beginning of hurricane season.

- Two weeks supply of prescription medicines
- Two weeks supply of non-perishable/special dietary foods
- Drinking Water & containers: 1 gallon / per person / per day for two weeks
- Flashlights and batteries for each member of the family
- Portable radio and additional sets of batteries
- First aid book and kit including bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, non-aspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication
- Mosquito repellent & citronella candles
- Two coolers (one to keep food; the other to go get ice)
- Plastic tarp for roof / window repair, screening, tools, nails, etc.
- Water purification kit (tablets, chlorine (plain) and iodine)
- Infant necessities (medicine, sterile water, diapers, ready formula, bottles)
- Clean up supplies (mop, buckets, towels, disinfectant)
- Camera and film
- Non electric can opener
- Extra batteries for camera, portable TV & flashlights, etc.
- Plastic trash bags
- Toilet paper and paper towels

### **If you evacuate you also should take:**

- Pillows, blankets, sleeping bags or air mattress
- Extra clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, etc.
- Folding chairs, lawn chairs or cots
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- Quiet games, books, playing cards and favorite toys for children
- Important papers (driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies and property inventories)

### **Precious commodities before and after a storm:**

- Cash (with no power, banks may be closed, checks and credit cards unaccepted, and ATMs may not be operational).
- Charcoal, wooden matches and grill
- Ice