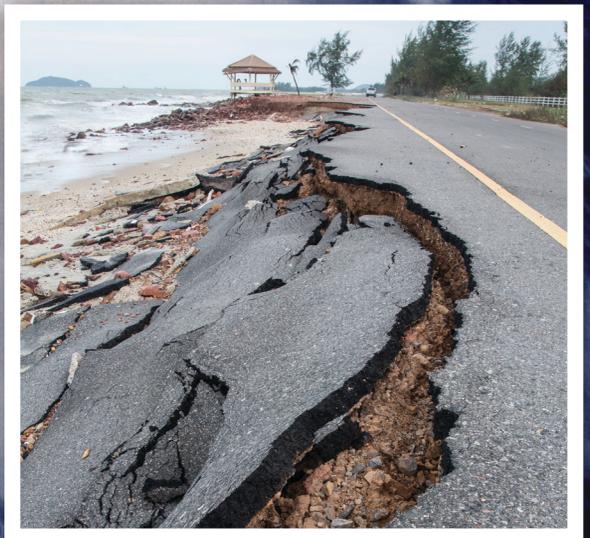


THE
RECORDER



HURRICANE
SURVIVAL
GUIDE



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A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE RECORDER · JUNE 1, 2023

HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

HURRICANE CHECKLISTS

Make checklists, get items together before the storm

One way to be prepared for a major storm is by assembling a disaster supply kit. Once disaster strikes, it will be too late to shop or search for supplies. If you have gathered supplies in advance, you and your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement.

ON THE ROAD

Prepare Ahead for the Trip. Things to assemble:

- Cash | Credit Cards
- Important Documents
- Road Maps
- Jumper Cables
- Tire Repair Kit
- Flashlight | Batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Fire Extinguisher
- Blankets | Sleeping Bags
- Pillows
- Toiletries
- Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Baby Supplies
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Drinking Water
- Games | Books

AT HOME

What to get together in advance of a hurricane:

- Non-Perishable Foods
- Drinking Water
- First Aid Kit
- Medications
- Cash | Credit Cards
- Flashlight | Batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Manual Can Opener
- Extra Baby Supplies
- Games | Books
- Fire Extinguisher
- Phone | Non-Portable
- Fill Tub with Water for Sanitation
- Porta-Pot for Well Water Users

AT THE SHELTER

If you are going to a shelter, consider bringing these, as needed:

- 3-Day Supply of Water
- 3-Day Supply of Non-Perishable Foods
- Medications | Specialized Supplies
- Diabetics on Insulin | Small Cooler for Insulin
- Toiletries
- Flashlight | Batteries
- Pillows | Blankets
- Sleeping Bag | Egg Crate Mattress
- Cot | Lawn Chair
- Important Papers | Identification
- Extra Clothing
- Books | Magazines | Cards, etc.

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](#)

With the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season officially beginning on June 1, local families need to know what to do and where to go should the threat of a hurricane (or any disaster) become real.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder has pulled together a collection of resources to help readers prepare.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

What does the hurricane category mean?

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a rating from 1 to 5 based on a hurricane's maximum sustained wind speed. This scale does not take into account other potentially deadly hazards such as storm surge, rainfall flooding and tornadoes.

The scale estimates potential property damage. While all hurricanes produce life-threatening winds, hurricanes rated Category 3 and higher are known as major hurricanes. Major hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage and significant loss of life simply due to the strength of their winds. Hurricanes of all categories can produce deadly storm surge, rain-induced floods and tornadoes. These hazards require people to take protective action, including evacuation from areas vulnerable to storm surge.

Here's a look at each level:

Category 1 | 74-95 mph

Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

Category 2 | 96-110 mph

Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be

snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

Category 3 | 111-129 mph

Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

Category 4 | 130-156 mph

Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Category 5 | 157 mph or higher

A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](#)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHELTER LOCATIONS

The following shelters are designated as official hurricane shelter locations by the Department of Emergency Management. If possible, evacuate to the home of a friend or family member outside of the evacuation area. A shelter should be your refuge of last resort if you have absolutely nowhere else to go.

Monitor the county's emergency management website, local radio and television stations, or contact the Department of Emergency Management at 904-824-5550 to find out which shelters are open when an evacuation order is given.

Public schools in St. Johns County serve as evacuation shelters. Remember, the school closest to your home may not necessarily be an evacuation shelter.

General Evacuation Shelters

- **Bartram Trail High School**
7399 Longleaf Pine Pkwy., St. Johns
- **Creekside High School**
100 Knights Lane, St. Johns
- **Cunningham Creek Elementary**
1205 Roberts Road, St. Johns
- **Durbin Creek Elementary School**
4100 Race Track Road, St. Johns
- **Fruit Cove Middle School**
3180 Race Track Road, St. Johns
- **Hickory Creek Elementary School**
235 Hickory Creek Trail, St. Johns
- **Mill Creek Elementary School**
3750 International Golf Pkwy., St. Augustine

- **Osceola Elementary School**
1605 Osceola Elementary Road, St. Augustine
- **Otis Mason Elementary School**
207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine
- **Patriot Oaks Academy**
475 Longleaf Pine Parkway, St. Johns
- **Pedro Menendez High School**
600 S.R. 206 West, St. Augustine
- **Tocoi Creek High School**
11200 St. Johns Parkway, St. Augustine
- **Pet-Friendly Shelters**
- **South Woods Elementary School**
4750 S.R. 206 West, Elkton

- **Timberlin Creek Elementary School**
555 Pine Tree Lane, St. Augustine

Special Needs Evacuation Shelters

- **Freedom Crossing Academy**
1365 Shetland Drive, St. Johns
- **Pacetti Bay Middle School**
245 Meadowlark Lane, St. Augustine

The special medical needs shelter is for persons with medical needs that cannot be met in a general shelter. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged for assignment to a special medical needs shelter, prior to a disaster.

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](#)

GUEST COLUMN

Important things for home or business owners to know



By Wayne Terry

2023 NOAA Prediction: Hurricane season starts June 1, 2023, and ends on November 30, 2023. The NOAA outlook predicts a likelihood of 12-17 named storms: 5-9 hurricanes and 1-4 major hurricanes.

If you have lived in Florida for a long time, you already know to be prepared with getting plenty of water, food, gas, etc.; however, what if your home or business is damaged?

If you own a home, you most likely have a regular homeowner's insurance policy. If a pipe breaks in your home, you are most likely covered for all but your deductible. However, if you have rising water due to a storm, your insurance policy, most likely, will not cover this. When I think of Jacksonville I don't think "if" it's going to happen, I think "when" is it going to happen.

I highly recommend purchasing a flood policy for your home whether or not the city says you are in a "flood zone." As the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services, most of the storm floods I come across the building owner says, "This has never happened to me before." Or "This has never happened in this neighborhood before." It is important to know that if you have a flood policy it still might not cover all the costs associated with a flood; however, it will cover a good portion. This is something you should talk to your insurance agent about. Flood insurance is very inexpensive, and I would call this a great safety measure.

If your home or business is flooded from a storm, I would not recommend trying to take care of the damage yourself. Call a professional restoration company such as PuroClean Emergency Services. Restoration companies deal with insurance companies all the time and know the proper ways to make sure your insurance company is taking good care of you. Do not take a fast payout offer, as they are usually lower than what it would cost to restore a property properly.

Although water losses are assigned a category of 1, 2, 3 and sometimes 4 (not to be mixed up with the category of a hurricane), water coming in from the outside is always at least a 3 if not 4. This is because the water coming in from outside could have pesticides, animal urine, automobile oils and gases and other unknown ingredients. Anything this water touches should be discarded with the exception of structural items, which should be disinfected and dried out as soon as possible.

The last thing to know is that if FEMA is involved and your flood has been sitting there long enough to cause mold, FEMA will not cover mold-related activities. It is important to discuss this with your restoration company at the time of inspection so if there are any additional charges you know what they are.

Wayne Terry is the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services in Jacksonville. For more information about his restoration company, go to www.PuroCleanES.com or call 904-573-3566. This company is available for emergencies or questions 24 hours a day.



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Photo courtesy of Patriot Roofing Services, Inc.

Roofs are one of the primary layers of defense between a family and a storm, so it is important to keep them maintained.

Roof maintenance, awareness part of storm prep

By Anthony Richards

With another hurricane season under way, there are certain things that a resident should be aware of as they prepare and that includes their roof.

According to Mark Tuzzolo, owner and general contractor at Patriot Roofing Services, Inc., there is not much a homeowner can do at times to prevent damage during a storm from taking place, but there are certain steps they can take to limit the amount of damage that may occur in the event of a natural disaster.

That includes having a roof go through a checkup by a roofing company every year or every couple of years.

“It’s all about making sure there are no glaring issues that may exist, which could become a real problem in the event of a storm rolling through,” Tuzzolo said.

Just as homeowners are completing their checklists to make sure they are as prepared as possible in the case of a storm this hurricane season, so does Tuzzolo, by going around and buying tarps from Home Depot to have on hand for when emergencies arise.

“That way at least we can cover up their roof in the event of damage, so that they stay dry at least until their insurance company has a chance to come out and assess the situation,” Tuzzolo said. “From now until mid-November, we stay pretty busy.”

Tuzzolo has been a general contractor since 1985 and began Patriot Roofing 12 years ago.

He has seen a lot of changes take place during his dozen years in the business, but one of the most impactful has

occurred in the past couple of years as insurance companies have begun to force people to pay more attention to their roofs than ever before.

“Here is Florida, from an insurance standpoint, roofs are the biggest risk,” Tuzzolo said.

In recent years most insurance companies in Florida will require a homeowner to get a new roof after 15 years or else no longer be insured.

“It’s a good way to make people more aware, because let’s face it, roofs are not as sexy as redesigning your kitchen or bathroom, because you don’t quite see the everyday effects of it,” Tuzzolo said. “But it does protect you from the weather, and that is a big deal.”

Due to Florida being a peninsula and its history with hurricanes, there are certain measures and precautions taken that are unique from other states.

“Some states don’t even require you to pull a permit to put on a roof,” Tuzzolo said. “We have much more stringent codes we have to apply here.”

According to Tuzzolo, houses built in the state before 2005 were required to have nail spacing of 12 inches apart, but it has since been changed to six inches apart, and shingles now require six nails instead of four.

“It makes the structure stronger against hurricane-force winds,” Tuzzolo said.

Patriot Roofing helps protect residential and commercial owners throughout the Northeast Florida area, with a coverage area spanning from south of St. Augustine up north to St. Mary’s and west to Macclenny.

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Planning is critical prior to the arrival of a named storm

Every year, local residents are reminded of the community's vulnerability to hurricanes. As the county grows and develops, knowledge and planning become increasingly important.

Those who live in coastal or low-lying areas, areas that flood frequently, or in manufactured homes, may be asked to evacuate. To be "prepared," residents should have a plan.

Have a Plan

A disaster can strike quickly and without warning. You can be forced to evacuate your

neighborhood or be confined to your home. What will you do when disaster strikes? Where will your family be when disaster strikes? Are you prepared?

Begin by gathering some basic, yet vital information. Know if you live in an evacuation area or not. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. If you are asked to evacuate, where will you go? Know the evacuation routes you will take. Do you have a family member with special needs? Do you have pets? Does your plan include them?

Write a family plan based on this informa-

tion. For helpful information and guidance in preparing "Your Family Disaster Plan," view the county's Hurricane Preparedness Guide, which can be found at <https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com/pdf/SJC-Hurricane-Preparedness-Guide.pdf>.

Also, go to any of the following sites:

Family Communications Plan for Parents

Does your family know how to get in touch with each other? Go to <https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com/pdf-fema/parentsplan.pdf>

Family Communications Plan for Kids

How to get in touch with your family. <https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com/pdf-fema/kidsplan.pdf>

Get a plan

Go to Florida Disaster.org.

Red Cross

Make a disaster preparedness plan. Go to: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com)

What to know about storm surge

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com)

Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. Additionally, wind-driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides.

Because much of the densely populated Atlantic coastline lies less than 10 feet above mean sea level, the danger from storm tides is tremendous.

Wave and current action associated with the tide also causes extensive damage. Water weighs about 1,700 pounds per cubic yard; extended pounding by frequent waves can demolish any structure not specifically designed to withstand these forces. The currents created by the tide combine with the action of the waves to severely erode beaches and coastal highways. Many buildings withstand hurricane force winds until their foundations, undermined by erosion, fail.

The level of surge in a particular area is also determined by the slope of the continental shelf. A shallow slope off the coast will allow a greater surge to inundate coastal communities. Communities with a steeper continental shelf will not see as much surge inundation, although large breaking waves can still present major problems. Storm tides, waves and currents in confined harbors severely damage ships, marinas and pleasure boats.

Storm surge also affects rivers and inland lakes, potentially increasing the area that must be evacuated.

The more intense the storm, and the closer a community is to the storm's right-front quadrant, the larger the area that must be evacuated. The problem is always the uncertainty about how intense the storm will be when it finally makes landfall. Emergency managers and local officials balance that uncertainty with the human and economic risks to their communities. This is why a rule of thumb for emergency managers is to plan for a storm one category higher than what is forecast.



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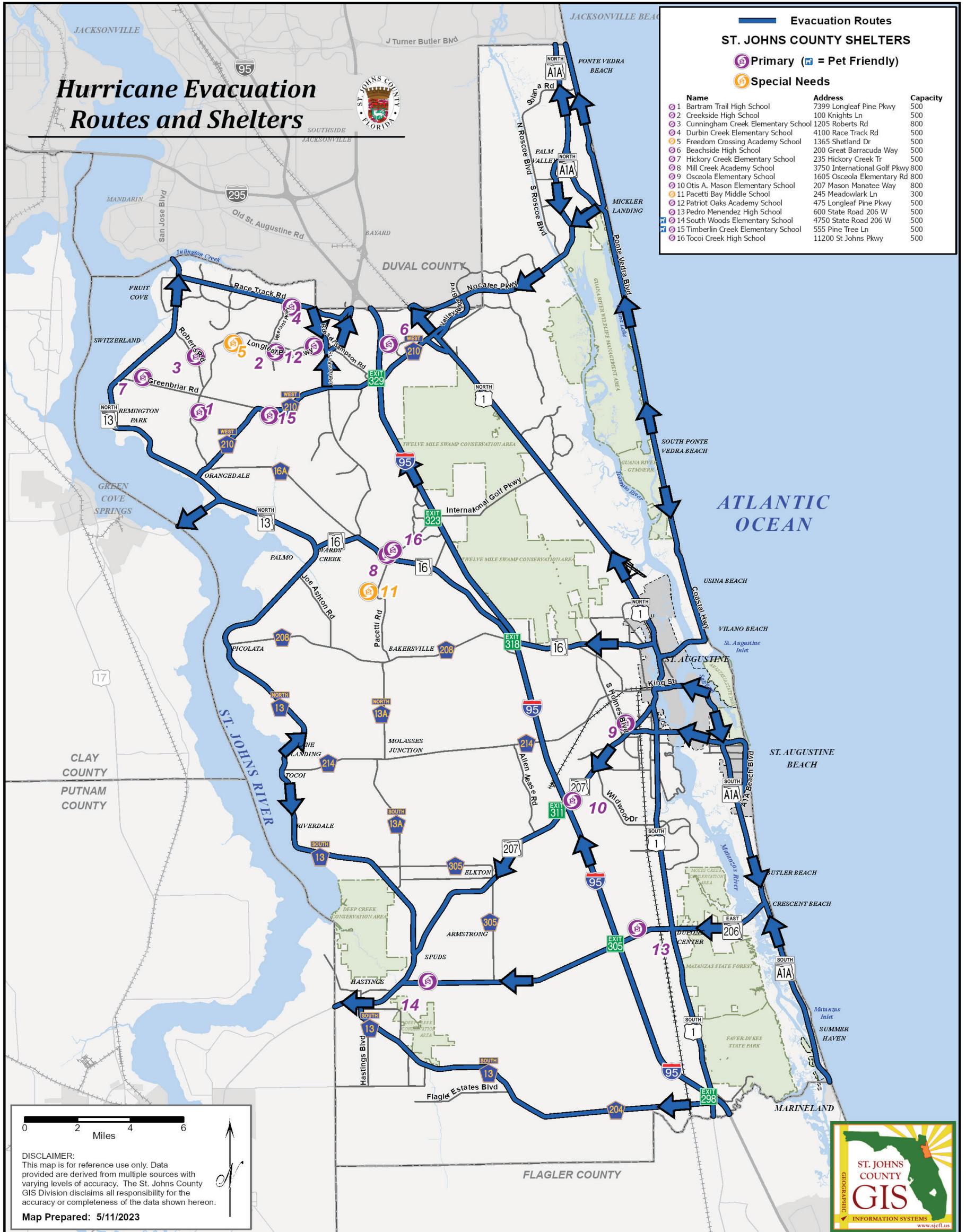
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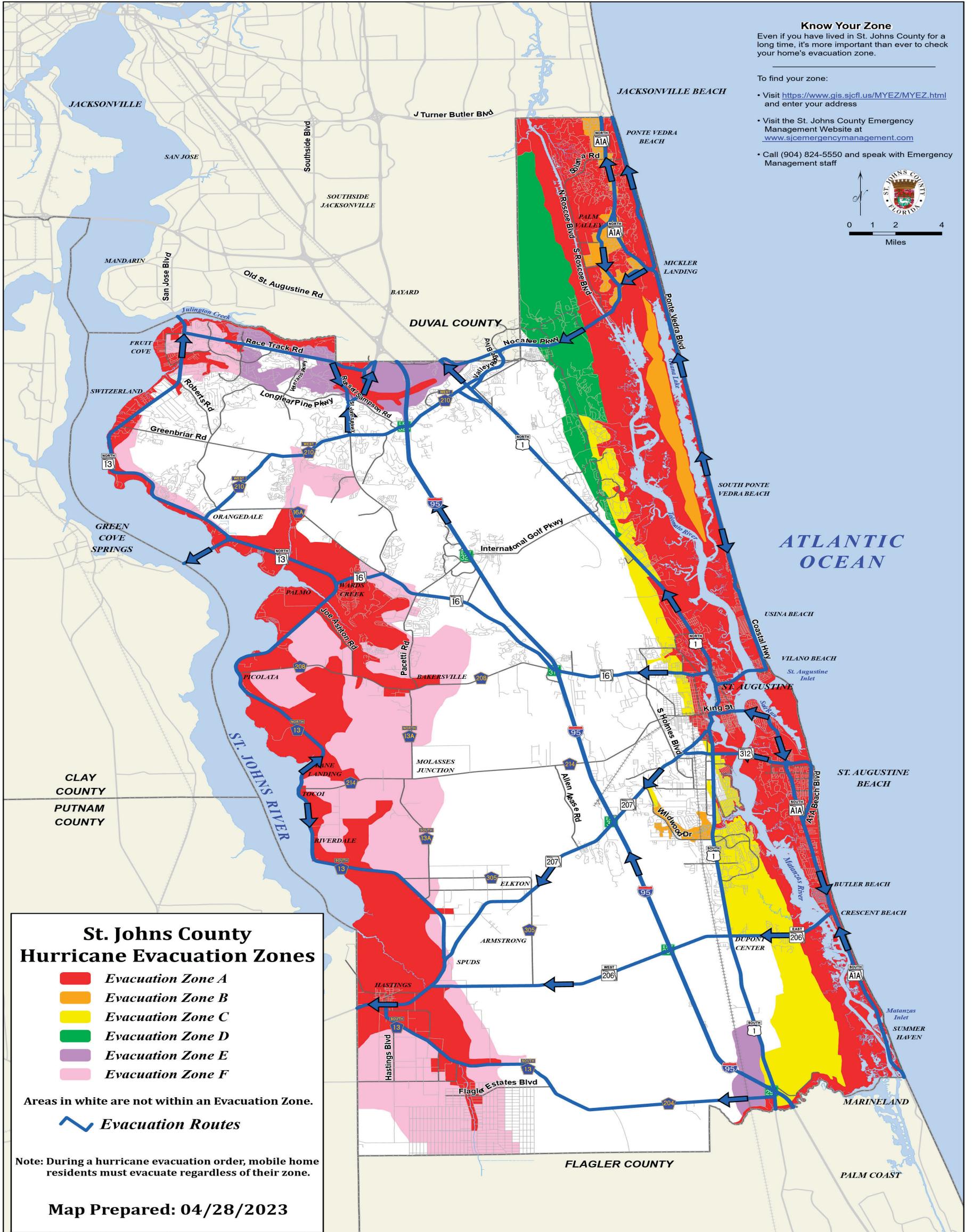
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What you need to know about shelters

A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation. Shelters are noisy, crowded and have few personal comforts. It is important to note that shelters should be your refuge of last resort if you have absolutely nowhere else to go. For your comfort, if possible, it would be preferable to arrange to stay outside the area of danger.

Being in a shelter is stressful, so evacuees are asked to treat others with courtesy and kindness.

Food and Water

During a storm, the water supply may be interrupted. You are responsible for bringing bottled water to the shelter in the event this should happen. One gallon per person per day is recommended. You should also bring a three-day supply of nonperishable foods or healthy snacks for yourself, your caregiver and any family member accompanying you. Though food is usually supplied, it may take several hours for meals to be prepared.

Notification

In the event of an evacuation, shelter openings will be announced. It is very important to monitor the local television and radio stations for weather updates, evacuation orders and shelter information.

You can also monitor sjcemergencymanagement.com or call 904-824-5550.

In St. Johns County, select public schools serve as our evacuation shelters. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the shelter locations. Remember, the school closest to your home may not necessarily be an evacuation shelter.

Shelter Rules

- You must sign in when you arrive and



sign out when you leave

- No disorderly or disruptive behavior
- No smoking in the shelters
- No alcohol or drugs
- No guns or weapons of any kind

Public Shelter Information

No registration is required for a public shelter. Once an evacuation order is given, and the public shelter locations have been announced, proceed to shelter location.

If you need to go to a public shelter but do not have transportation, register with the county by way of printable mail-in form or call 904-824-5550.

Special Needs Shelter Information

St. Johns County Department of Emergency Management, St. Johns County Public Health Department and other county agencies and volunteers have established special medical needs shelters for use during an evacuation.

A Special needs shelter is different than

a public shelter; it is a refuge for people who have specific medical needs that cannot be met in a public shelter.

The special needs shelter is not for people who need 24-hour dedicated care, require hospital beds or ventilators or have other complex care needs. These people must discuss other sheltering arrangements with their caregiver, health care provider or physician. If ambulance transportation is required, this should be discussed at that time, also. These arrangements should be made well in advance, not when the order to evacuate has been announced.

A limited number of cots are available and are offered on a first come-first served bases, so there is the possibility there will not be cots available for everyone in the shelter, so prepare your supplies accordingly. Hospital beds will not be available.

The shelter has an emergency generator to supply power to medical equipment. There may be times in order to conserve

available power, that air conditioning will not be available.

The special needs shelter is not a substitute for regular health care. Basic medical assistance and monitoring will be available. The shelter is not equipped with advanced medical equipment and is not staffed to provide advanced levels of care.

Pet Shelters

Pets are only allowed at designated pet-friendly shelters. St. Johns County has two. The following two schools are designated as pet friendly shelters:

- South Woods Elementary School, 4750 S.R. 206 West
- Timberlin Creek Elementary School, 555 Pine Tree Lane

Pre-registration is not required to go to a public pet friendly shelter. You only need to register if you need transportation assistance during an evacuation.

Pet owners are required to shelter with their pets and care for them. You may not drop off your pets and leave.

Farm animals and exotics (primates, snakes, spiders, insects, etc.) are not permitted at pet friendly shelters.

Pet requirements include:

- Airline-approved pet carriers
- Cage liners
- Proper ID collar and rabies tag
- Leash
- Food supplies — at least three days
- Water and food bowls
- Pet medications — If necessary
- Disposable litter trays (aluminum pans work well)
- Litter or paper towels
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Comfort items for your pet (such as blankets and toys)

— Adapted from sjcemergencymanagement.com

Building or rebuilding, observe hazard mitigation

Hazard mitigation means reducing the loss of life and property by taking measures to lessen the impact of disasters.

Why Is Mitigating Important?

As Floridians rebuild after a hurricane, they can take steps to make their homes stronger. On average, every \$1 spent on mitigation helps save \$6 in future disaster-related repairs.

Know Your Risk

The first step is identifying what you need to protect your home from. Your local floodplain manager and emergency manager can give you information on the wind and water hazards possible in your community.

Be sure to consult with a licensed contractor and the local building de-

partment before making any structural changes to understand requirements and obtain any necessary permits.

For information on selecting contractors, disaster cleanup, flood insurance, building back stronger and safer, and other ways to reduce future risk, call a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist at 833-336-2487.

Mitigation Options

Protect your home from:

Flooding — Elevate or floodproof heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and/or mechanical units, ductwork, electrical systems and other utilities to protect against flood damage and reduce repair costs. For more information, read “Protect Your Property From Flooding,” which can be found

at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/fema_protect-your-home_flooding.pdf

Wind — Install hurricane shutters to protect windows and glass doors as a practical way to prevent damage from strong winds. Also, consider reinforcing garage and double-entry doors to prevent failure under wind pressure. Check out “Protect Your Property from Severe Winds” for more tips. It can be found at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/fema_protect-your-property_severe-wind.pdf

Storm surge — This is the most destructive part of coastal flooding. The first step to protect your home against storm surge is identifying the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for your home. You can do so by looking up your ad-

dress on the National Hazard Layer. Go to <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer>.

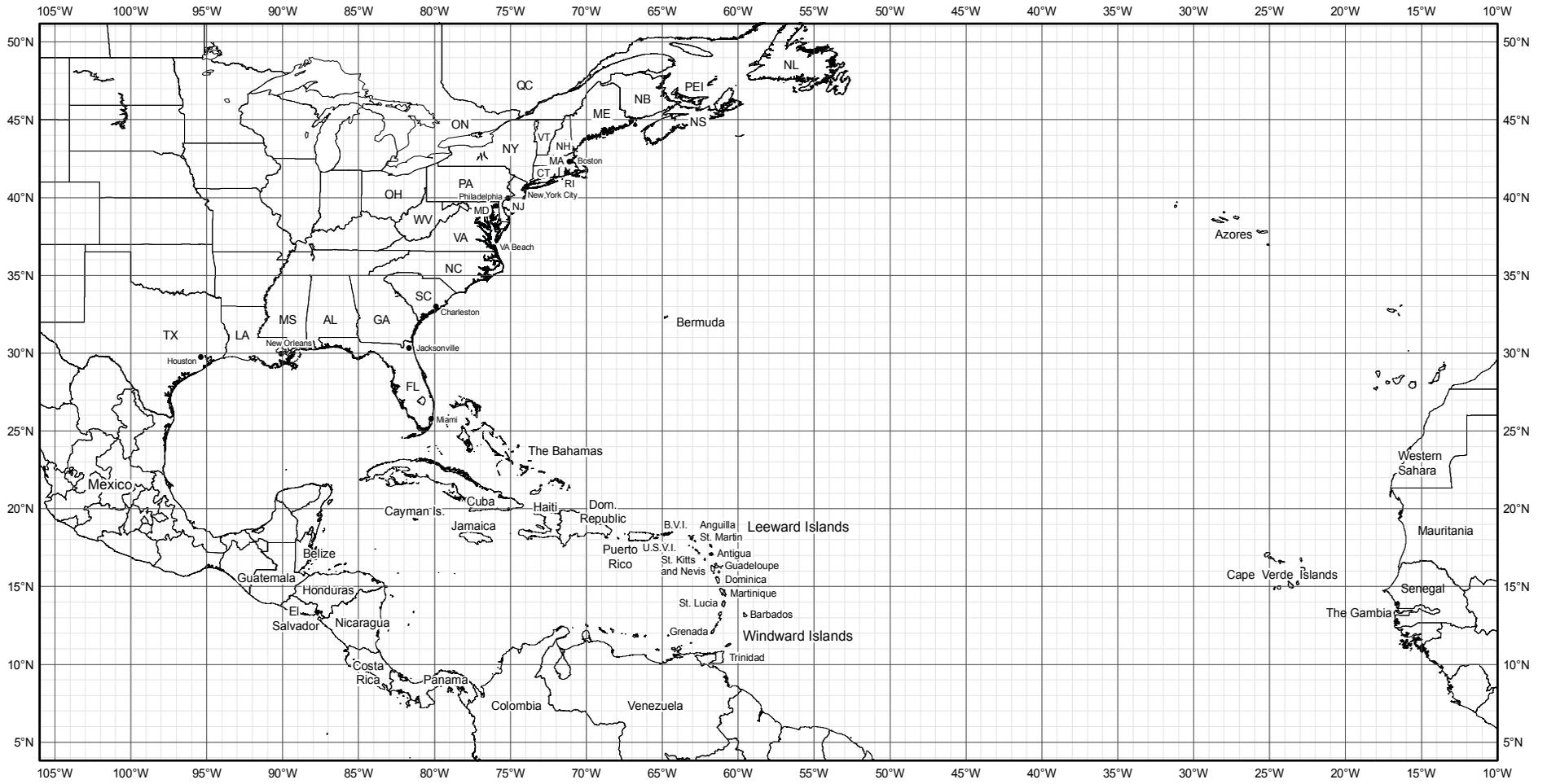
Florida has a 1-foot freeboard plus BFE, and some communities have a higher freeboard requirement. For the proper height to elevate your structure, contact your local floodplain manager. Knowing your flood elevation will help you determine how high to elevate your house, outdoor A/C units and more.

For assistance finding and understanding your flood elevation, email FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov or call 877-336-2627. Go to Protect Your Property from Storm Surge for more details. It can be found at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_protect-your-property-storm-surge.pdf



Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart

National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida



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Attendees visited St. Augustine wastewater plant on Riberia Street for a tour.

Chamber hosts 'Beyond Weathering the Storm: How to Thrive, Not Just Survive'

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the organization's Historic St. Augustine Area Council hosted a free meeting and community roundtable in April at Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios on the topic of storm mitigation measures, "Beyond Weathering the Storm: How to Thrive, Not Just Survive."

The member and guest event was also open to the public and included a discussion about short- and long-term solutions plus simple to sophisticated methods to protect homes and businesses from flooding, storms and hurricanes. Potential funding opportunities to strengthen local businesses and private residences, along with updates on actions being taken by St. Johns County and the City of St. Augustine to prepare were also covered.

The presentation addressed storm preparation and mitigation solutions for businesses and residents. Speakers provided attendees with resources such as a list of loans and grants available to support their properties for long-term resilience.

"Our business owners know the drill," said Isabelle Renault, Chamber president and CEO. "They have their list of supplies, including plastic tarp, foam spray and lots of sandbags to protect their properties. Going beyond that is critical. When the ocean waters are calm, businesses must consider reducing their risk and exposure by implementing mitigation measures."

Invited speakers included Marge Cirillo, a consultant at Florida Small Business Development Center; Jessica Beach, chief

resilience officer, and a professional engineer with the City of St. Augustine; and Westly Woodward, floodplain manager with St. Johns County Growth Management.

After the talk, event transportation sponsor Old Town Trolley Tours of St. Augustine and Historic Tours of America, hosted 20 attendees on a short trip to the St. Augustine wastewater plant on Riberia Street for a tour. Participants learned how the protective measures implemented by city staff are applicable to residents' and business owners' properties.

The measures include the use of hardening methods and advanced pumping stations, among many others.

"St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to its members and helps to inform businesses and residents about many topics for a diverse group of industries, people and interests," said Renault. "With all our programs, we serve as an integrated influence and a strong voice. Our board and council leaders work hard to sustain and grow many value-added services to support economic development with a mission to thrive in our county."

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FPL prepares for hurricane season with storm drill training

More than 3,500 Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) employees participated in the company's comprehensive annual storm drill designed to test their response to a simulated hurricane. The weeklong drill is an important component of FPL's extensive year-round training to ensure employees are ready to respond when customers need them most.

During the exercise, "Hurricane Flynn" — a mock Category 4 storm — made a simulated landfall in Southeast Florida. FPL employees tested and role-played how they would respond, including their restoration efforts, operations, logistics, communications and customer service.

The upcoming hurricane season is the first since Hurricane Ian made landfall in Southwest Florida as the fifth strongest storm to ever hit the United States. Six weeks after Ian, Hurricane Nicole struck the east coast of Florida as the first November hurricane to hit the state since 1985.

"The 2022 hurricane season is still fresh in the memory of many Floridians, especially those who lost loved ones or who are still recovering from hurricanes Ian and Nicole," said Armando Pimentel, president and CEO of FPL. "We learn lessons from every storm season. At FPL, rigorous training and cutting-edge technology help us to enhance our response each year, but no electrical system is hurricane-proof, and storms will result in power outages. We urge all Floridians to



Photo provided by FPL

More than 3,500 FPL employees participated in a mock Category 4 storm drill recently.

start planning for the upcoming hurricane season now and consider how best to prepare their families, homes and businesses. The work we put in today will pay off as we face another hurricane season together."

Since the historic 2004-05 hurricane seasons, when seven storms hit FPL's service area, FPL has made significant investments to strengthen the power grid against extreme weather and improve day-to-day reliability. These include:

- Hardening main power lines that serve critical community facilities and services
- Installing more than 200,000 intel-

ligent devices along the energy grid to detect and prevent power outages and minimize restoration times when outages occur. These devices helped customers avoid nearly 550,000 outages during the 2022 hurricane season.

- Placing more neighborhood power lines underground through the Storm Secure Underground Program, which has completed more than 1,200 projects through the end of 2022.

"The most important preparation for extreme weather is sustained, long-term investments to build a stronger and smarter energy grid, as we have seen time

and again," said Manny Miranda, executive vice president of power delivery for FPL. "We continue to train our men and women — as we've been doing at our storm drill this week — so that when a storm hits, we can get the lights back on faster for our customers who depend on us, and the Florida economy can return to normal operations quickly."

As part of the training exercise, FPL showcased and demonstrated innovative technology used to assist with storm restoration, including its new drone-in-a-box and the Mobile Command Center emergency vehicle that provides FPL with on-scene command and control during major events and emergencies. In addition, FPL unveiled its EVolution trailer, the state's first electric vehicle (EV) mobile-charging trailer that provides "on-the-go" fast charging during evacuations for the growing number of EV drivers.

Customers urged to connect with FPL

FPL reminds its customers that every storm is different, along with the potential damage it can cause. Staying connected with FPL can help customers make decisions, before, during and after a storm:

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Nearly \$7B in federal support has helped Floridians after Hurricane Ian

More than \$6.97 billion in federal support to Floridians continues to help households, communities and the state of Florida recover from Hurricane Ian, which struck the state Sept. 29.

The support includes \$1.06 billion in FEMA Individual Assistance for 384,477 households to help with rent and repairs, \$1.77 billion in low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, \$3.4 billion in payments from the National Flood Insurance Program, and \$738 million to reimburse the state and local governments for the costs of debris removal and emergency response.

Temporary housing is a priority and 709 families have been given the keys to travel trailers, manufactured housing units or apartment homes provided by FEMA

for hurricane survivors. More homes are being prepared for occupancy. More than 4,500 households have stayed in hotel rooms provided by FEMA, though most have found longer term housing.

FEMA is providing funds for the state's non-congregate sheltering in travel trailers.

"This has been an enormous effort on the part of many federal agencies, assisting the state with response and recovery," said Federal Coordinating Officer Tom McCool. "As part of emergency response, we funded state operations to restore power, transportation, and access to island communities. Federal medical teams helped medical facilities in Lee County continue to treat patients. The U.S. Coast Guard helped get supplies to islands. When the state asked if we could pay for the trailers they are using for survivors, we said yes. We are doing everything we can to get help to people who need it and we will be on the job for as long as it takes."

Debris removal in the hardest-hit areas was expedited when FEMA allowed for waivers in the application process by some local jurisdictions, saving as much as six months in the debris removal pro-

cess. More than 32.3 million cubic yards of debris has been removed, including almost 12.4 million cubic yards in Lee County.

Of the \$1.06 billion provided to households through Individual Assistance, \$449 million has gone to 97,878 Lee County households.



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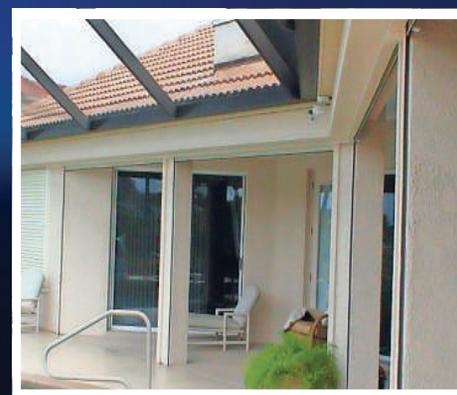
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