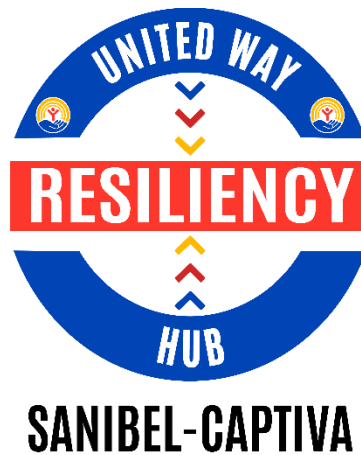




2026 FISH OF SANCAP Hurricane Preparedness Resource Packet

Sanibel, FL 33957 • 239-472-4775

FISH OF SANCAP is an equal opportunity provider



HURRICANE INFORMATION PACKET CONTENTS 2026

Hurricane Client Form: return completed to FISH (address below)
Include cell phone numbers and emails for your Contacts.

Privacy Notice: return signed to FISH in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Special Needs Shelter Application Information: The special needs shelter application can be found at: <https://shelterapp.leegov.com> and **should only be filled out for new applicants using the online application at the URL above.** For Hospital Shelter, a doctor's written letter must be included with the application, and you must have a caregiver accompany you. **Those who were registered last year can call** Tiffany Grant: Senior Administrative Specialist Lee County 239-533-0640 **TO MAKE UPDATES TO EXISTING MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTER APPLICATION**

- Special Needs Brochure - client keeps**
- Basic Advice for Hurricane Preparation —** List of important things to consider
- List of County Shelters** – Pet owners must follow the protocols for bringing pets to any shelter. Please read all the pet information included in the packet and have your pet supplies ready in advance of an evacuation.
- Check List for Service Animal / Pet Shelter and Needs, plus a Pet Brochure.**
- List of Possible Hotels & Information to help you make an informed decision**
- Hurricane Information Phone Numbers/Web Sites /Social Media/Apps**
- Emergency Supplies Check List/ Medicare website to get prescription medications in Disaster area**

PO Box 58 • Sanibel, FL 33957
239-472-4775 • info@fishofsancap.org • www.fishofsancap.org
FISH OF SANCAP is an equal opportunity provider



HURRICANE INFORMATION PACKET CONTENTS 2026

Hurricane Client Form: return completed to FISH, PO Box 58, Sanibel, FL 33957. *Include cell phone numbers and emails for your Contacts.*

Privacy Notice: return signed to FISH in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

2025 Residential Hurricane Pass information: There are no changes to the hurricane passes. **The residential ones will still be the 2024 green passes.** Residents can obtain a pass at the REC center in addition to the Police Station. They can also request them online via the hurricanepass@mysanibel.com email address

Special Needs Shelter Application Information: The special needs shelter application can be found at: <https://shelterapp.leegov.com> and **should only be filled out for new applicants using the online application at the URL above.** For Hospital Shelter, a doctor's written letter must be included with the application, and you must have a caregiver accompany you. **Those who were registered last year can call an Administrative Specialist at Lee County 239-533-0640 TO MAKE UPDATES TO EXISTING MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTER APPLICATION**

Hurricane Evacuation Check List from Lee County

Special Needs Application

Basic Advice for Hurricane Preparation — List of important things to consider

Lee County Shelters – Pet owners must follow the protocols for bringing pets to any shelter. Please read all the pet information included in the packet and to have your pet supplies ready in advance of an evacuation.

Check List for Service Animal / Pet Shelter and Needs.

List of Possible Hotels & Information to help you make an informed decision – Both local (Lee County) and out of area (Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Ocala)

Hurricane Information Phone Numbers/Web Sites / Social Media /Apps and additional sources of information

Emergency Supplies Check List/ Medicare website to get prescription medications in Disaster area

Secure Your Home - Securing your Florida home for hurricane season is crucial, especially if you're planning to be away during the summer months. Proper preparation can protect your property from storm damage and give you peace of mind while you're gone

The Essential Guide to Hurricane Preparedness – Definitions and what to expect

After the Storm: What to Do Following a Hurricane in Florida - Once a hurricane has passed, the danger may not be over. In fact, some of the most severe threats—like flooding, downed power lines, and structural damage—occur *after* the storm

Flood Insurance Rate Map – Unincorporated Lee County

Flood Zones Defined

Flood Zone Map With Key



HURRICANE CLIENT

Office Use Only: Client Type (A, POI or Info) _____ **Packet Mailed** _____

Date Info Gathered _____ **Person who gathered Information:** _____

Client Last Name _____ **First Name(s) 1)** _____ **2)** _____

Date(s) of Birth: 1) _____ **2)** _____ **#Male** _____ **#Female** _____

I (we) live in a _____ Mobile Home/Trailer _____ Condo _____ Apt _____ Private Home

Subdivision/Condo Name _____ **Address** _____ **Unit #** _____

City, State, ZIP _____

(SANIBEL RE-ENTRY ZONE _____ **Has Pass** Yes _____ or No _____)

Email #1: _____ **Email #2:** _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell #1** _____ **Cell #2** _____

Dates not on Sanibel June 1 thru Nov. 30 _____ **Here All Year** _____

SIGNED UP FOR STORM ALERTS FROM THE CITY: Yes _____ or No _____)

Caregiver _____ Y _____ N / **Contact** _____ Y _____ N / **Relative** _____ Y _____ N

Caregiver Name/Agency: _____

Caregiver's Phone _____

Doctor's Name: _____

Doctor's Phone: : _____

Medical Condition(s) || List all: _____

Equipment Needed: || List all: _____

1.) Primary Contact Person: _____ **Relationship/To whom** _____

Contact Person's Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Person's Home Phone (_____) _____ **Cell Phone (_____)** _____

Primary Contact Person's Email: _____

2.) **Primary Contact Person:** _____ Relationship/To whom _____

Contact Person's Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Person's Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Primary Contact Person's Email: _____

What is your Evacuation plan? _____

Back-up Plan:

Plan after storm in the event home damaged/unlivable

- Pet(s)? ___ Y ___ N How many? **Dog(s)** _____ **Cat(s)** _____ **Other(s)** _____
- **EACH PET:** Carrier? ___ Y ___ N Leash? ___ Y ___ N Vaccination Certificate(s) ___ Y ___ N
- **EACH PET:** **Evacuation supply** of pet's food, water, meds & other supplies? ___ Y ___ N

Additional Comments _____

CLIENT PRIVACY NOTICE

The information you are providing on the F.I.S.H. of Sanibel-Captiva, Inc. client application will be shared with the City of Sanibel, the Sanibel Police Department, the Sanibel Fire Department, and all related staff and agencies involved, to prepare for, and in the event of, a hurricane emergency. Additionally, statistical information from this application, which does not identify you personally, may be shared with others who are entitled to review such information.

Please sign and date this form and return it in the same enclosed pre-addressed envelope as your completed Client Information Form.

Client Signature: _____ *or*

Authorized Signer: _____

Date: _____



BASIC ADVICE FOR HURRICANE PREPARATION

1. **Do Not Wait** until the last minute to prepare – start ahead of Hurricane season (begins June 1st.) Put together organized containers or rolling carry-on suitcases of supplies, ready to grab in the event of an evacuation. ***Be sure to check expiration dates on foods and batteries.***
2. **Have a written copy** of all phone numbers of family, friends, neighbors, doctors, pharmacies, banks, etc. kept in a waterproof pouch or special waterproof container.
3. **Shortly Before, During and After a storm**, ATMs and credit card machines may not be available, so before evacuating, be sure to have cash with you and to keep it secure.
4. **Know your employer's** Emergency Disaster Plan to ensure you know what is expected of you during an emergency, and if it may affect your Family Emergency Disaster Plan.
5. **Keep your car's gas tank filled** as a matter of habit so you don't have to rush out at the last minute and get stuck in long lines trying to get gas to evacuate the area.
6. **Renters**, know how to contact your landlord and have it written down. Know your responsibilities as a renter in securing belongings, your liabilities, and those for which your landlord is responsible. Know who is responsible for debris clean up both inside the rental and in the yard/common area.
7. **Homeowners** – have a copy of all insurances (flood, wind, homeowners, health, auto, recreational vehicles, etc.) and your landscapers, pool service, cleaning service, etc. If you have a dock and/or boat, know your coverage and what to do in the event of an evacuation. Know your deductible and who is responsible if a neighbor's tree falls on your property. Know who to contact to help with yard debris and interior damage. Have tarps in case of roof damage - you may not be able to find tarps after a storm.
8. **The City of Sanibel has a list of licensed contractors. NEVER give cash in advance to anyone who comes by and offers to help. Use only City of Sanibel approved licensed contractors.** Be sure to have a copy of the city's list in advance. If you have a local contractor with whom you have worked, you may want to call or email them to get on a list, in advance of possible evacuation, for post storm work you may require.
9. **Wind Driven Rain Damage** – even shuttered windows and storm windows or sliding doors may be vulnerable to wind-driven rain that could damage the interior of your home. Know if you are covered by your insurance or if you must pay out-of-pocket.
10. **Condo Owners** – know your association's responsibilities and those for which you are liable in the event of an evacuation and possible damage to your unit, both interior and exterior. Ask about unit owners' insurance if you do not have it.
11. **Photos and Videos** of all belongings both inside and outside your home are invaluable for insurance purposes. Keep your photos updated. Bring the photo/video records with you in an evacuation in a waterproof pouch or container. **After a storm, document all damage to your property, both outside and interior as soon as possible – a written list, photos and/or video.** These before and after photos/videos can then be compared for your insurance claims.
12. **After the storm**, keep a list of estimates for repairs from each contractor you may need to use, from roofers to carpenters to landscapers. Know exactly what is covered, what is not, what is completed, what still needs to be completed.

FISH WILL BE OPEN AFTER A STORM AS SOON AS SAFELY POSSIBLE. Our 24-hour phone line (239-472-0404) will be open – unless the call center has been damaged by a storm.
FEMA APPLICATIONS – help will be available to get your application completed.



Lee County Emergency Public Shelters 2025

<https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/shelters/publicshelters>

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Amanecer Elementary 641 Sunshine Blvd. Lehigh Acres 33971 | Dunbar High School 3800 Edison Avenue Fort Myers, 33916 | East Lee County High 715 Thomas Sherwin Ave. Lehigh Acres, 33974 | Estero Recreation Center 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. Estero, 33928 |
| FGCU Alico Arena 12181 GCU Lake Pkwy E Fort Myers, 33913 | Gateway High School 13820 Griffin Drive Fort Myers 33913 | Harns Marsh Elementary 1800 Unice Ave. N. Lehigh Acres 33971 | Harns Marsh Middle 1820 Unice Ave. N. Lehigh Acres 33971 |
| Hertz Arena 11000 Everblades Pkwy Estero 33928 | Island Coast High School 2125 DeNavarra Pkwy. Cape Coral 33909 | Manatee Elementary 5301 Tice Street Fort Myers 33905 | Mirror Lakes Elementary 525 Charwood Ave. S. Lehigh Acres 33936 |
| N. Fort Myers Academy of the Arts 1856 Arts Way North Fort Myers 33917 | North Fort Myers Recreation Center 2000 N. Recreation Park North Fort Myers 33903 | Oak Hammock Middle School 5321 Tice Street Fort Myers 33905 | South Fort Myers High School 14020 Plantation Road Fort Myers 33912 |
| Tortuga Preserve Elementary 1711 Gunnery Road N. Lehigh Acres 33971 | Treeline Elementary School 10900 Treeline Ave. Fort Myers 33913 | Varsity Lakes Middle School 801 Gunnery Road N Lehigh Acres 33971 | Veterans Park Recreation Center 49 Homestead Road S. Lehigh Acres, 33936 |

Be Advised: These shelters will NOT all be open during any single event and are subject to change. The opening of shelters is dependent upon the nature of each specific event.

- **CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR SHELTER IS OPEN BEFORE GOING. NOT ALL WILL OPEN, NOR AT THE SAME TIME.**
- ***Weapons, smoking, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all shelters.***

PLEASE NOTE: Pet-friendly sheltering will be available in the shelters. Announcements will be made at the time. ***Check the web site and local news reports often.*** Be sure to read the pet information included in this

Hurricane Information Packet so your pet(s) requirements and needs are met, and you know what your responsibilities will be.

KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ZONE - Visit the website: www.LeeEOC.com to learn your zone.

1. Click on “Know My Evacuation Zone” in the navigation bar
2. Click on “Find My Evacuation Zone” link
3. Enter your address in the search bar - (SANIBEL IS “A” ZONE – among the first zones to be evacuated).
4. If evacuating to a friend or relative’s home, be sure they are **outside of both A & B zones.** If the storm is very severe, you may also need to leave a B zone area due to the dangers of flooding by tidal surge.



PET-FRIENDLY & SERVICE ANIMALS - SHELTER INFORMATION

<https://www.leegov.com/animalservices/safety/hurricane>

In a hurricane, pets are subject to the same hazards as people and have many of the same needs. The best plan is to identify a safe location that allows pets outside the areas, such as a friend or family member's home or a pet friendly hotel. **Lee County will have Pet-Friendly Shelters.** Your pets will be in one area away from the people sheltering in every evacuation event. The locations and number of sites may vary; check the local news and the website often to see where open shelters will be located and which ones will allow pets. **Shelters will take dogs and cats only accompanied by owner.**

- Lee County Animal Services (www.leelostpets.com) manages this shelter. (239) 533-7387
- All Pet-Friendly Shelters are first come/first served. No pre-registration is allowed.
- Use of these shelters is restricted to persons living in an area that is under evacuation.
- **You must shelter at the facility with your pet** (in other words, you cannot drop your pet at the facility and shelter elsewhere). ***The pets will be sheltered in a separate location at the facility and cannot stay by you. Owners will be responsible for feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after their pets at scheduled times.***
- ❖ **Service Animals Only** may stay with an owner in either a public shelter or a Special Care Shelter.
- ❖ **Pets and Comfort Animals** are NOT permitted to be with you at the Special Care Shelters and are permitted only at the regular Shelters. Questions regarding your animal at a Special Care Shelter should be directed to 239-533-0640

Your Pets, Service Animal or Comfort Animal will need a Hurricane Disaster Kit, too. Include:

- **Lee County License and other Identification** (Talk to your vet about microchip identification)
- Have **good photos** of your pet in case you get separated.
- **All vaccinations must be up-to-date.** Have a **copy of the records** with you. **Rabies certificate from your vet is a MUST.**
- Water for several days – one gallon per day for seven days for each animal - and a bowl
- Non-perishable food for several days, including treats – and a feeding dish
- A collar and leash for each pet. Be sure identification tags are on the collars.
- Your pet's prescriptions and medications to keep your pets healthy, clean and free of parasites
- Clean-up supplies (litter box. Litter, scoop for cats) (plastic bags) to keep your pets healthy, clean and free of parasites
- **Sturdy, Impact Resistant Cage or Carrier for each animal** to comfortably hold your pet (**no soft carriers or make-shift containers**)
- Bring toys, chew toys and comfort items for stress relief; bring bedding as well.

REMEMBER:

- **Never** leave your pets outside during a storm.
- **Never** leave a cat with a dog, even if the two are normally friends.
- Dangerous animals should be secured in special crates or cages.
- Any unsecured animals posing a danger will be at risk of being destroyed.

PLEASE NOTE: All animal facilities in the path of a hurricane are subject to some degree of damage or flooding. Keep in mind, boarding kennels and animal hospitals may be without electricity or potable water and have limited personnel and supplies for days to weeks following a disaster. **Call Lee County Animal Services at (239) 533-7387 for more information on Pet Friendly Shelters.**



List of Fort Myers Area Hotels & Motels

This is not a comprehensive listing of area accommodations, but only those that are more inland from affected evacuation zone areas. *(Please see full color evacuation zone map enclosed in this packet.)* The closer to I-75 and beyond, the safer it is. **If possible, it is recommended that you shelter at a Lee County Shelter.**

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **Many will be calling to shelter at a hotel. Have a back-up plan for shelter in case you cannot reserve a hotel. CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY AT THEIR LOCAL NUMBER, *not the toll-free number or through a booking agency.* The local staff will know the storm situation and be able to respond to your questions accurately. **Give the hotel your home and cell phone numbers** to ensure the hotel can contact you if there are changes to your reservation.**
2. **ASK IF YOU COULD BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE HOTEL FOR OTHER SHELTER AT ANY POINT DURING OR AFTER A STORM. Even with a reservation of several days,** hotels are not required to be shelters and each has its own policies regarding sheltering during and after a storm, especially as electrical outages, or other issues, such as sanitation, arise.
3. **Electric** - Many hotel elevators will not be operational during a storm for safety purposes, whether the electricity is on or not. **If you have mobility issues, request a ground floor room.**
4. **Very few hotels have back-up generators,** and some are for office space only. **Double check with the hotel regarding their generator – specifically for guest rooms - before you reserve.**
5. ***If your health requires you to have air conditioning, if your medications need refrigeration, or if you have medical equipment requiring electricity, it is highly recommended*** you fill out the Special Needs Application and go to the Special Needs shelter where a back-up generator is guaranteed. Transportation is provided to the shelter, but you must be pre-registered well in advance. *(See enclosed brochure.)* Special Needs stops taking applications when a storm is 5 days away.
6. **Bring your own lanterns or flashlights** and plenty of extra batteries (be sure they are fresh). Keep your **CELL PHONE** charged if there is electrical power. **Bring an extra charged battery or two when possible.**
7. **Hotel food services** may be interrupted or completely discontinued prior to, during or after the storm hits. **You will need to bring your own supplies of NON-PERISHABLE foods and drinks for several days and personal items.** Supplies are not delivered to hotels during a storm.
8. **PETS** – Most hotels require the pet to be on a leash and/or to have a crate or may restrict the type or size of pet. **ASK if a pet fee is required since some waive the fee and/or pet restriction in a storm event. Hotels must always accept Service Animals but are not required to accept pets even during an evacuation. Any hotel may choose whether to take pets during emergencies** such as an evacuation. Be sure to ask the hotel about pets, including comfort/therapy/companion animals which are not considered service animals. You will not be



able to take your pet outside during a storm. Be prepared to clean up after your pet indoors. Be honest about the breed, type, and number of pets. (Bring cat litter, pet pads and disposable bags to meet your pet's needs for several days.)

9. **DO NOT CALL FISH FOR A RIDE DURING A HURRICANE EVACUATION. FISH volunteers do NOT transport during evacuations. Call Island Taxi at (239) 472-4160.**
10. Whether you choose to go to a hotel or a shelter, **have all your prescriptions filled and other necessary medications or medical supplies with you in original bottles/containers.** and any other personal supplies you may need. Storms are unpredictable and your stay may become longer than anticipated. Be prepared. *Review the checklist included in this packet* – and add to the list other items you may need - to make sure you have everything for your evacuation and possible extended stay.
11. Once all your questions are answered and you have made a reservation, **print out your confirmation to show the front desk in case computer access is interrupted.**

| Fort Myers Area Hotels & Motels Many offer AAA, AARP and/or Senior Citizen Discounts. These special discounts may not be available during emergency evacuation conditions. RESERVATIONS A MUST Call the hotel directly at their <u>LOCAL NUMBER</u> for information and reservations, not through a toll-free number or 3 rd party booking agent. <u>BRING YOUR CONFIRMATION WITH YOU. HOTELS ARE NOT LEE COUNTY SHELTERS and are NOT FREE accommodations.</u> | | | Pet Friendly | Backup Generator |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | BAYMONT BY WYNDHAM FORT MYERS AIRPORT 9401 Marketplace Road • Fort Myers, 33912 | 239-215-4869 <i>close to Daniels Pkwy & I-75</i> | YES <i>Dogs no cats</i> | NO |
| 2. | Home 2 Suites - Hilton 10400 Aircraft Ct • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-208-5454 <i>close to I-75</i> | YES <i>w/ fee</i> | NO |
| 3. | CANDLEWOOD SUITES FORT MYERS I-75 9740 Commerce Ctr Court | 239-210-7777 <i>Colonial Blvd. east of I-75 opposite the Forum entrance</i> | YES <i>w/ fee</i> | NO |
| 4. | COMFORT INN & SUITES - Airport 10081 Intercom Dr. • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-236-1788 <i>Daniels to Treeline, one block, right turn to Intercom</i> | Service animals only | Lobby only |
| 5. | COURTYARD by MARRIOTT – FORT MYERS 4455 Metro Pkwy • Fort Myers, 33916 | 239-275-8600 <i>Colonial & Metro</i> | YES | NO |
| 6. | COURTYARD by MARRIOTT 10050 Gulf Center Dr. • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-332-4747 <i>At Gulf Coast Town Center, Exit 128 on the SE Corner of Alico and I-75</i> | YES <i>w/ fee</i> | NO |



| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 7. | DAYS INN & SUITES by WYNDHAM FORT MYERS 10150 Daniels Pkwy • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-791-5000 <i>east of I-75, before Treeline</i> | Service animals only | NO |
| 8. | DRURY INN & SUITES FORT MYERS 9950 University Plaza Drive • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-267-1340 <i>I-75 and Alico Road</i> <i>Elevators will work for a while if electric goes out</i> | YES | NO |
| 9. | HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES – Airport 11456 Global Pkwy • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-327-0198 <i>close to I-75</i> | NO | NO |
| 10. | HAMPTON INN & SUITES FORT MYERS 4350 Executive Cir. • Fort Myers, 33916 | 239-931-5300 <i>east of Metro. Colonial to left on Veronica Shoemaker Blvd, right on Executive Circle</i> | Service animals only/Dogs no cats | NO |
| 11. | HILTON GARDEN INN – Airport/FGCU 16410 Corporate Commerce Way • Fort Myers, 33912 | 239-210-7200 <i>corner of Ben Hill Griffin /Treeline Blvd, at the entrance of Gulf Coast Town Center</i> | Service animals/pets | NO |
| 12. | CROWN PLAZA, Fort Myers Airport @ Town Center 9931 Interstate Commerce Dr. • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-561-1550 <i>Alico & Ben Hill Griffin area</i> | YES | NO |
| 13. | HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES –The Forum 3427 Forum Blvd. • Fort Myers, 33905 | 239-936-0410 <i>Located within the Forum area east of Interstate 75, off Colonial Blvd.</i> | YES | NO |
| 14. | HOMEWOOD SUITES by HILTON Airport/FGCU 16450 Corporate Commerce • Ft. Myers, 33913 | 239-210-7300 <i>Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy and Alico Road area</i> | YES | NO |
| 15. | HYATT PLACE FORT MYERS at the FORUM 2600 Champion Ring Rd. • Fort Myers, 33905 | 239-418-1844 <i>off 82 past Ortiz & just past I-75, take Destination Drive to Champion Ring Road</i> | YES w/ fee | YES |
| 16. | QUALITY SUITES FORT MYERS 13651 Indian Paint Ln. • Fort Myers, 33912 | 239-768-0005 <i>off Daniels near I-75</i> | YES | NO |
| 17. | QUALITY INN & SUITES LEHIGH / FORT MYERS 1320 Business Way • Lehigh Acres, 33936 | 239-369-2121 <i>Off Homestead Rd. N, east of Lee Blvd, close to Lehigh Regional Medical Center</i> | YES w/ fee | NO |
| 18. | RESIDENCE INN by MARRIOTT – FORT MYERS 2960 Colonial Blvd. • Fort Myers, 33966 | 239-936-0110 <i>near Metro Pkwy</i> | YES w/ fee | NO |
| 19. | RESIDENCE INN – GULF COAST TOWN CENTER 10054 Gulf Center Drive • Fort Myers, 33913 | 239-332-7001 <i>off Alico Road near I-75</i> | YES w/ fee | NO |
| 20. | SPRINGHILL SUITES by MARRIOTT 9501 Market Place Road • Fort Myers, 33912 | 239-561-1803 <i>before I-75 — Turn left off Daniels at Danport Blvd, then right on Marketplace Road</i> | YES | NO |



| | | | | |
|-----|--|--|---------------|-----------------------|
| 21. | SUBURBAN EXTENDED STAY HOTEL 10150 Metro Pkwy • Fort Myers, 33912 | 239-938-0100 <i>a bit south of Colonial on Metro</i> | YES | NO |
| 22. | LA QUINTA by WYNDHAM FORT MYERS CENTRAL 4850 S. Cleveland Ave. • Fort Myers, 33907 | 239-275-3300 <i>a bit south of Colonial on 41</i> | YES W/ Fee | NO |
| 23. | COMFORT INN FORT MYERS NORTHEAST 4171 Boatways Road • Fort Myers, 33905 | 239-694-9200 <i>Just East of I-75</i> | NO | NO |
| 24. | HOME2 SUITES by HILTON FORT MYERS 4333 Ford Street • Fort Myers, 33916 | 239-225-9250 <i>North of Colonial near Veronica Shoemaker Blvd.; extended stay hotel</i> | YES W/ Fee | Main areas only |

NOTE: FRONT DESK GENERATORS ARE GENERALLY NOT MEANT FOR THE PUBLIC. ASK ABOUT THE HOTEL'S POLICY IF YOU HAVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT THAT NEEDS ELECTRICITY WHEN A POWER FAILURE OCCURS.

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS HAVE GENERATORS FOR GUEST'S ELECTRICAL NEEDS AND WOULD BE A BETTER OPTION, ESPECIALLY IF THE STORM IS A HIGH CATEGORY THREAT. INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER IS INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET.



Below is a list of out of area hotels in the Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Ocala areas. **These have not been vetted by FISH – we cannot guarantee location, availability, or emergency operations.** If you are looking to evacuate out of our area, it is strongly suggested you research on your own ahead of time - **each hotel is linked**. **This list is for informational purposes only and only a sample of hotels in the area.**

Fort Lauderdale area:

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Days Inn by Wyndham Fort Lauderdale-Oakland Park Airport N</u> • <u>Embassy Suites by Hilton Fort Lauderdale 17th Street</u> • <u>Sheraton Suites Fort Lauderdale at Cypress Creek</u> • <u>Fort Lauderdale Marriott North</u> • <u>Ramada by Wyndham Fort Lauderdale Airport/Cruise Port</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Fort Lauderdale East/Lauderdale-by-the-Sea</u> • <u>Travelodge by Wyndham Fort Lauderdale</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Express & Suites Ft Lauderdale N - Exec Airport</u> • <u>La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Ft Lauderdale Cypress Cr</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Fort Lauderdale North/Cypress Creek</u> • <u>La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fort Lauderdale Tamarac</u> • <u>Best Western Fort Lauderdale Airport/Cruise Port</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Holiday Inn Express Ft. Lauderdale Cruise-Airport</u> • <u>Extended Stay America Suites - Fort Lauderdale - Cypress Creek - NW 6th Way</u> • <u>Extended Stay America Premier Suites - Fort Lauderdale - Convention Center - Cruise Port</u> • <u>Comfort Inn and Suites Fort Lauderdale West Turnpike</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Fort Lauderdale Weston</u> • <u>Residence Inn by Marriott Fort Lauderdale Intracoastal/Il Lugano</u> • <u>Best Western Ft. Lauderdale I-95 Inn</u> • <u>Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Fort Lauderdale Downtown/Las Olas</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Fort Lauderdale Downtown</u> |
|---|---|

Orlando area:

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Days Inn by Wyndham Orlando Downtown</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Resort Orlando Lake Buena Vista</u> • <u>La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Orlando International Drive North</u> • <u>Days Inn by Wyndham Orlando Conv. Center/International Dr</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport, An IHG Hotel</u> • <u>Best Western Orlando West</u> • <u>Clarion Inn & Suites At International Drive</u> • <u>La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Orlando Airport West</u> • <u>Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside</u> • <u>Wyndham Orlando Resort</u> • <u>Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando International Dr Conv Ctr</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Extended Stay America Suites - Orlando - Maitland - Summit Tower Blvd</u> • <u>Fairfield Inn by Marriott Orlando Airport</u> • <u>La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Orlando Airport North</u> • <u>Hilton Garden Inn Orlando Airport</u> • <u>Homewood Suites by Hilton Orlando-Intl Drive/Convention Ctr</u> • <u>Extended Stay America Select Suites - Orlando - Maitland - 1760 Pembroke Dr.</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando International Airport</u> • <u>Residence Inn by Marriott Orlando East/UCF Area</u> • <u>Intown Suites Extended Stay Select Orlando FI - Ucf</u> • <u>Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Orlando Airport, FL</u> |
|--|--|



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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Best Western Orlando Gateway Hotel</u> • <u>Days Inn by Wyndham Orlando Airport Florida Mall</u> • <u>Days Inn & Suites by Wyndham Orlando Airport</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Airport</u> • <u>La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Orlando South</u> • <u>Quality Inn and Suites Orlando Airport</u> • <u>Hampton Inn Orlando-International Airport</u> • <u>Courtyard By Marriott Orlando East/Ucf Area</u> • <u>Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando-East Ucf</u> • <u>Extended Stay America Suites - Orlando - Convention Center - Universal Blvd</u> • <u>Extended Stay America Suites - Orlando - Lake Buena Vista</u> • <u>Extended Stay America Suites - Orlando - Convention Ctr - Sports Complex</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando East-Ucf Area</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Orlando South/Grande Lakes Area</u> • <u>Residence Inn by Marriott Orlando Downtown</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>TownePlace Suites by Marriott Orlando East/UCF Area</u> • <u>Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando Intl Dr N</u> • <u>Homewood Suites by Hilton Orlando-UCF Area</u> • <u>Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Orlando Lake Buena Vista</u> • <u>Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Orlando Lake Buena Vista in the Marriott Village</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando-Ocoee East</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando - International Drive</u> • <u>Homewood Suites by Hilton Lake Buena Vista - Orlando</u> • <u>Comfort Suites Orlando Airport</u> |
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Ocala area:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Ocala</u> • <u>Super 8 by Wyndham Ocala I-75</u> • <u>Howard Johnson by Wyndham Ocala FL</u> • <u>Days Inn Ocala North</u> • <u>Courtyard by Marriott Ocala</u> • <u>Best Western Ocala Park Centre</u> • <u>Comfort Inn Ocala Silver Springs</u> • <u>Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Ocala</u> • <u>Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Ocala, FL</u> • <u>Red Roof Inn Ocala</u> • <u>Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Ocala</u> • <u>Sleep Inn & Suites Ocala - Belleview</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Shangri La Motel</u> • <u>Budget Inn</u> • <u>Hampton Inn & Suites Ocala - Belleview</u> • <u>Hampton Inn & Suites - Ocala</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Express & Suites Ocala</u> • <u>SpringHill Suites by Marriott Ocala</u> • <u>Hilton Garden Inn Ocala Downtown</u> • <u>Comfort Suites Ocala North</u> • <u>Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Ocala Conference Center, An IHG Hotel</u> • <u>Homewood Suites by Hilton Ocala at Heath Brook</u> • <u>Motel 6 Ocala Conference Center</u> • <u>Residence Inn Ocala</u> |
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEB SITES TO HAVE DURING HURRICANE EVACUATION

HURRICANE INFORMATION HOTLINE – SANIBEL – 1-800-933-6093

CITY OF SANIBEL - www.MySanibel.com

For updates of hurricane conditions and coordinates of approaching storms, sign up to receive alerts from the City of Sanibel via email or social media.

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| <u>Emergency Fire and Police</u> 911 | <u>American Red Cross Lee County</u> 239-278-3401 or 1-866-GET-INFO Spanish 239-278-5234 |
| <u>US Coast Guard Station Ft. Myers Beach</u> 239-463-5754 <i>www.uscg.mil</i> <i>Facebook - @StationFortMyersBeach</i> | <u>Community Housing Resources (CHR)</u> 239-472-1189 |
| <u>FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)</u> 800-621-FEMA / 800-621-3362 | <u>FISH OF SANCAP</u> 239-472-4775 or 239-472-0404 24hr Service |
| <u>FL Highway Patrol</u> 239-278-7100 or 239-344-1730 | <u>Lee Co. Emergency Management</u> 239- 533-0622 |
| <u>Lee Co. County Sheriff's Office</u> 239-477-1000 (non-emergency) | <u>Lee County Electrical Cooperative (LCEC)</u> 239-995-2121 or 239-656-2300 |
| <u>National Weather Service</u> 813-645-2506 ~ Tampa Bay | <u>Sanibel City Offices</u> 239-472-3700 |
| <u>Sanibel Fire Department</u> 239-472-5525 | <u>Sanibel Police Department</u> 239-472-3111 |
| <u>Island Water Authority</u> 239-472-1502 | <u>United Way</u> 211 |
| | |

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEB SITES TO HAVE DURING HURRICANE EVACUATION

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| American Red Cross, Lee County | www.redcross.org www.redcross.org/local/south-florida/local-chapters/southern-gulf-coast <i>Florida's Southern Gulf</i> |
| City of Sanibel | www.MySanibel.com |
| US Coast Guard | www.uscg.mil |
| FEMA | www.FEMA.gov |
| FISH OF SANCAP | www.fishofsancap.org or info@fishofsancap.org |
| FL Emergency Management | www.FloridaDisaster.org |
| Fort Myers News Press | www.news-press.com |
| Hurricane Tracking | www.nhc.noaa.gov www.spaghettimodels.com www.weather.com www.beaumontweather.com www.wunderground.com www.accuweather.com |
| Lee County Emergency Management | www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement |
| United Way | www.unitedwaylee.org |
| National Weather Service | www.weather.gov |

ADDITIONAL MEDIA SOURCES OF INFORMATION

IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert & Warning System is a FEMA mass notification system that reaches multiple dissemination systems such as the Emergency Alert System (EAS) – the system that hits TV and radio – and the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) which hits all mobile devices within the region of selected cell phone towers. It is used to alert county residents of an approaching storm and evacuation notices as well as other public safety emergencies.

AlertLee — The AlertLee system enhances officials’ ability to quickly communicate with the public and provide critical and time-sensitive information for emergencies such as hurricanes, wildfires, evacuations and missing persons. By registering for AlertLee, you can receive alerts via cell phone by voice or text, email addresses, home phone, business phone and more. Go to alertlee.com or through mysanibel.com to sign up for alerts. When you register for the AlertLee System, you will be given the opportunity to register for Sanibel specific alerts issued by Lee County Emergency Managers. For more information visit [AlertLee frequently asked questions](#).

LeeEvac is a Mobile App that can be used to find your evacuation zone (Sanibel is Zone A) for Lee County. Use your current GPS location, tap on the map, or search for an address within Lee County to see if you are in an active evacuation zone, at any time. If an evacuation is ordered for your area, instructions on how to find additional information will be provided. This app is provided by Lee County Government.



Image source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/2026-atlantic-hurricane-names-did-your-name-make-the-list-this-year/ar-AA20Y1S2>



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

These items are recommended to have in an emergency supply kit. Modify this list to meet your needs. Plan to have enough supplies on hand to get you through a minimum of three (3) days without power or possibly longer.

Have a plan in place in case you cannot return to your home due to storm damage.
PACK MOST OF YOUR SUPPLIES IN ADVANCE SO YOU ARE READY TO GO AT ANY TIME

PERSONAL ITEMS

Medications for at least 2 weeks – 1 month

- (Prescription and Over-the-Counter Pain and Cold Medications – BE SURE TO REFILL EARLY)
- **Spare Eyeglasses** or Contacts and Cleaning Solution // **Eyeglass Repair Kit**
- **Hearing Aids (spare batteries)**
- Cell Phone & charger – adapter; extra batteries
- Coins, Cash, Credit Cards (Credit cards/ATMs will not work if electric is off)
- **Spare Keys** (complete set for home, vehicles, and boats)
- **Residential Hurricane Pass**
- Important Documents (ID, insurance, medical, emergency contact persons, COVID Proof of Vaccination.)
- **Personal Hygiene (Hand Sanitizer, Masks)** toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, wet wipes, waterless hand sanitizer, adult sanitary items, Kleenex, comb and/or hairbrush, etc.)
- Towels, Washcloths
- Several Changes of Clothing, Warm & Cool
- Closed-toe Shoes (not sandals or flip-flops)
- Raingear – Raincoat, Umbrella, Boots, etc.
- Sleeping Bags and/or Pillows, Sheets, Blankets
- Lawn Chairs / Folding Chairs

FOOD SERVICE NEEDS

- **Drinking Water** (one gallon per day per person for a minimum of 3-7 days)
- Disposable Plates, Cups and Plastic Cutlery, Roll or two of Paper Towels
- Plastic Wrap / Zip Lock Bags / Garbage Bags

MISCELLANEOUS

- Maps and Evacuation Information
- Pens / Pencils and Paper, sharpener
- Keepsakes / Significant Photos
- Prepaid Telephone Card(s)
- Books, Puzzles, Deck of Cards, Games, MP3 player/batteries/headset, Coloring Books, Coloring Pencils, Other Quiet Entertainment

BASIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- NOAA Weather Radio
- First Aid Kit with Bandages & Instruction Book
- Battery Powered Television, Radio and Clock – bring extra batteries
- **Flashlights or Lanterns** (extra batteries)
- Chemical Light Sticks (to replace candles)
- Whistle (to signal for help if needed)
- **“CAR KIT”** – include Flares, tire patch or “fixa-flat”, blankets, shovel, jumper cables, tow rope
- Tool Kit



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

OTHER ITEMS

- **Medical Support Equipment** – wheelchair, cane or walker, etc.
- **Oxygen** provided at Special Needs Shelter, but you will need **2 oxygen tanks**: 1 for traveling to the shelter, 1 for returning home. NO Concentrators permitted at the SN Shelter.
- Bug Repellent
- Sun Screen – for after storm yard clean up
- **Printed List** of important and emergency contact phone numbers (family, doctors, etc.)

FOR CLEAN UP DAYS

- BLEACH (without lemon or additives) 1 drop per 1 pint (8 per Gal.) of water **for cleaning**
- Matches in waterproof container
- Bottle or two of Hydrogen Peroxide (50% mix with water = disinfectant)
- Work Gloves, heavy closed-toe shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirt, hat and boots

Medicare: getting medications in a disaster website:

<https://www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers/getting-care-drugs-in-disasters-or-emergencies>

Securing your Florida home for hurricane season is crucial, especially if you're planning to be away during the summer months. Proper preparation can protect your property from storm damage and give you peace of mind while you're gone.

SECURE YOUR HOME



- **Get your supplies ready.**
- **Get your plans set** to secure your home and protect your family.
- **Monitor the news** for evacuation orders.
- **Protect yourself** by sheltering outside of the evacuation zone during the storm.

House:

- Shut all doors.
- Lower antennas.
- Shutter windows/doors.
- Lower/remove awnings.
- Elevate belongings and place sandbags for flooding from rain.
- Before you leave, shut off power and/or breakers.

Garage:

- Reinforce the doors with a brace kit or use long steel or aluminum bars.
- Place flood barriers against the bottom of the door(s) to seal the gap.
- Lock the door.

Yard:

- Take all yard items inside. Clear balconies, steps and porches.
- Pick up/secure loose debris.
- Super-chlorinate your pool.
- Remove debris from your gutters and nearby storm drains if possible.

Vehicle:

- Fill gas tank.
- Check oil and water.
- Place emergency supplies in the trunk.
- Move to a higher location if you expect flooding (especially for electric vehicles).
- Monitor traffic reports.

Boat:

- Store your boat on land and secure to trailer.
- Secure loose items.
- Disconnect electric, water, fuel, other dock connections.
- For more information, see our boater guide at pinellas.gov/boatprep.

Exterior Protection

1. **Secure Windows and Doors** - Install hurricane shutters or impact-resistant windows to protect against flying debris. If shutters aren't available, use plywood that's at least 5/8-inch thick to board up windows. Ensure all doors, especially garage doors, are reinforced and can withstand high winds
2. **Roof and Gutter Maintenance** - Inspect your roof for loose shingles or tiles and repair any damage. Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent water accumulation and potential flooding

3. **Yard Cleanup** -Trim trees and shrubs to remove dead or weak branches that could become projectiles. Secure or store outdoor furniture, grills, and other loose items that could be picked up by strong winds
-

Utilities and Appliances

1. **Electrical Systems** Unplug non-essential appliances to protect them from power surge. Consider installing surge protectors for critical electronic
 2. **Water Systems** Turn off the main water supply to prevent potential leaks or flooding. Drain pipes by opening faucets and flushing toilets
-

Important Documents and Valuables

1. **Secure Important Items**- Store essential documents (e.g., insurance papers, identification) in a waterproof and fireproof safe. Take photographs or videos of your property for insurance purposes and document everything in your home ahead of time
-

Interior Considerations

1. **Climate Control**- Set your thermostat to a temperature that prevents mold and mildew, typically around 77°F
 2. Use a programmable thermostat to manage humidity levels
 3. **Refrigerator and Freezer**- If leaving for the summer, empty and clean it, then unplug and leave the doors open to prevent mold. If a year-round resident, keep minimal items in the refrigerator and freezer during storm season to prevent loss when the power goes out
-

Security Measures

1. **Home Security System**- Ensure your security system is functioning correctly and can send alerts to your mobile device. Install timers on lights to give the appearance that someone is home
-

Stay Informed

1. **Monitor Weather Updates**- Sign up for local emergency alerts and monitor weather forecasts through reliable sources like the National Hurricane Center.

2. Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to receive updates during power outages

By taking these steps, you can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your home during hurricane season and ensure that your property remains secure while you're away.

For more detailed information and resources, visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

The Essential Guide to Hurricane Preparedness Each year hurricane season begins on June 1st and lasts 5 months, with storms typically peaking in August and September. As with every hurricane season, regardless of forecast, knowing the essentials of how to prepare could truly be a lifesaver.

Hurricane Knowledge First, know your hurricane facts and understand common terms used during hurricane forecasts. Storm conditions can vary in intensity, size, and even the angle at which the tropical cyclone approaches your area, so it is vital that you understand what the forecasters and news reporters are telling you.

Tropical Depressions are cyclones with winds of 38 mph. **Tropical Storms** vary in wind speeds from 39-73 mph while **Hurricanes** have winds 74 mph and greater. Typically the upper right quadrant of the storm (the center wrapping around the eye) is the most intense portion of the storm. The greatest threats are damaging winds, storm surge and flooding. This is in part why Hurricane Katrina was so catastrophic when bringing up to 28 foot storm surges onto the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines.

Here are some important terms you may hear:

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions are possible in the area. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds.
- **Eye:** Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.
- **Eye Wall:** Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.
- **Rain Bands:** Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.
- **Storm Surge:** An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a landfalling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

During a watch, prepare your home and evacuation plan in case a warning is issued. During a warning, carefully follow the directions of officials, and immediately leave the area if they advise it. In the event of an **Extreme Wind Warning/Advisory**, which means that extreme sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to begin within an hour, immediately take shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

Hurricane Forecasts | Predicting a tropical cyclone's path can be challenging; there are many global and local factors that come into play. The storm's size and path can directly influence what sort of wind patterns guide, enhance or hinder its growth, and vice versa! Forecasters have computers that take huge amounts of data and try to predict where the storm will go and usually can calculate 2-3 days out fairly accurately. This is where you hear the terms computer models and spaghetti models being used. Generally the forecast track or path is given with the average consensus of these models. The National Hurricane Center has the most up-to-date information on tropical cyclone developments, forecasts and weather alerts, discussions analyzing the data and more. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Securing Your Home | Know how to secure your home in the event of damaging winds, storm surge and flooding.

- Cover all of your windows, either with hurricane shutters or wood.
- Although tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, be warned that tape does not prevent the window from breaking.
- If possible, secure straps or clips to securely fasten your roof to the structure of your home.
- Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters.
- Reinforce your garage doors.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down.
- If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors and close, secure and brace internal doors.

Power Outages | In the event a storm should leave you without power, there are a few things to consider and help you be ready and stay safe outside of your normal hurricane preparedness.

- **Gas:** Make sure your tank is full far in advance of an approaching storm. Most people wait until the last minute, rush to get extra gas for cars and generators, and subsequently gas stations can run out early.
- **ATMS:** Have extra cash on hand in the event no ATMS in your area are accessible or working.
- **Cell Phones:** Charge your cell phone and limit use after power is out.
- **A/C:** This can be the most uncomfortable side effect of losing power during a storm. Try to prevent as much light from entering and warming the house by covering up your windows on the inside. If you have back-up or battery operated fans, don't run them unless you are in the room. Fans create a difference in

perceived temperature but do not cool the room; instead they create a cooling effect by dispersing the heat off your skin. It is said they can actually add heat to a room just by running.

- **Water:** Fill bathtub and large containers with water for washing and flushing only.
- **Food:** Turn your fridge temperature down and/or freeze any food or drinking water that can be frozen if you expect a power outage. Here is a guide on freezing food: [Freezing and Food Safety](#). Have a cooler with ice packs prepared to cool your drinks and snacks after power has been out for more than 4 hours. And importantly, check out this food safety guide for when to discard your perishable food: http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/charts/refridg_food.html
- **Health/Safety:** The CDC has a great guide on how to stay safe in the event of a power outage: [Power Outages](#)

Remember, any severe storm can be deadly and destructive. If you've survived a landfalling cyclone, you know the inconvenience and distress it can cause. One of the best tips to be prepared is knowing the cycle of a cyclone - **Approach, Arrival & Aftermath**. Prepare ahead of time and listen to the directions of officials for the approach. Secure your home, or find a safe shelter for its arrival, and know how to proceed safely during the aftermath.

After the Storm: What to Do Following a Hurricane in Florida

Once a hurricane has passed, the danger may not be over. In fact, some of the most severe threats—like flooding, downed power lines, and structural damage—occur *after* the storm. For Florida residents, especially those living on vulnerable barrier islands such as Sanibel and Captiva, knowing what to do next is critical to safety and recovery.

Hurricane Preparedness weather.gov/hurricane 

Use Caution After Storms

-  If you evacuated, only return home when directed it's safe to do so
-  Remain vigilant, as hazards remain: heat, downed powerlines, floodwaters, & more
-  Clean up safely: don't push yourself, and check on neighbors
-  Only use generators outdoors, 20+ feet from your home
-  Prepare for the likelihood that help and communications may not be available



Be Alert for Flooding and Hazards

Floodwaters are a leading cause of injury and death after hurricanes. Even when the skies clear, storm surge and heavy rainfall can leave standing water in homes, roads, and neighborhoods. Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters—just six inches of moving water can knock you over, and one foot can sweep a car away. Floodwaters may also contain sewage, debris, and hidden hazards like sharp objects or displaced wildlife.

If your home has flooded, do not attempt to enter until local officials declare it safe. Structural damage, gas leaks, and electrical hazards may not be immediately visible.

Power Outages and Electrical Risks

Widespread power outages are common after hurricanes, and restoring service to island communities can take time. Use flashlights, not candles, to avoid fire risk. Do not operate gas-powered generators indoors or in enclosed spaces like garages—carbon monoxide is deadly.

If power is out for an extended period, conserve battery-powered devices and check on neighbors, especially the elderly or individuals with health conditions who may rely on electricity for medical equipment or refrigerated medication.

Local Resources and Relief: FISH OF SANCAP

For residents of Sanibel and Captiva, **FISH OF SANCAP** is a vital lifeline after the storm. FISH provides critical assistance, including:

- **Emergency food and water distribution**
- **Fresh meals** for residents unable to cook or access grocery stores
- **Financial aid** for essentials like rent, utilities, and gas
- **Mental health counseling** to cope with stress, trauma, and loss
- **Transportation services**, particularly for seniors needing access to medical care, supply runs, or wellness checks
- **Hurricane recovery supplies**, including cleaning kits, fans, and hygiene items

If you're a client or island resident in need of help, contact FISH by phone or visit their walk-in center once roads are accessible. Their trained team and network of volunteers are here to support you—before, during, and long after the storm. You can reach FISH at their 24-hour call center, 239-472-0404 or their offices, 239-472-4775.

Stay Connected and Informed

Monitor updates from Lee County Emergency Management, FEMA, and the National Weather Service via battery-powered radios or mobile apps. Text messages may work when calls do not, and social media can be a helpful tool for real-time updates—if service is available.

Hurricanes don't end when the winds die down. Recovery can be long, emotional, and complicated—but you don't have to go through it alone. FISH OF SANCAP and other community partners are here to help our island neighbors heal, rebuild, and come back stronger.

Flood Zones Defined

Source: <https://www.leegov.com/dcd/flood/defined>

The floodplain on Flood Insurance Rate Maps is identified as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is an area that could be inundated by a flood event with a 1 percent chance of reaching or exceeding base flood elevations in any given year. The 1 percent annual chance flood is also referred to as the base flood and you may also hear and see the term 100-year flood, however, see the below information about that term and the misconception associated with it.

“100-year Flood” Misconception - People sometimes hear the phrase “100-year” flood and think a flood happens only once in one hundred years. That old adage is not true. The Special Flood Hazard Area is an area that has a 1 percent chance, or a 1 in 100 chance, of a flood happening in any given year. That means a flood could happen this year and again the next year. It has nothing to do with calendar years. The phrase “1 percent annual chance flood” is more accurate.

X Zone Information - The X zone (also known as “low-risk flood zone”) is an area outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area. It’s important to know that just because an area is designated as X zone does not mean that the area will never flood. Floods don’t read flood maps. Everyone lives in a flood zone — it’s just a question of whether you live in a low, moderate, or high-risk area. Go to <https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-zones-and-maps/what-is-my-flood-risk> for more information.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

The land area that could be covered by the floodwaters of the base flood is where the NFIP’s floodplain management regulations must be enforced and where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies for federally backed mortgages. The requirement also extends to private mortgage companies backed by the FDIC or other federal agencies. Therefore, many private mortgage companies also require flood insurance on properties in the SFHA.

| ZONE | EXPLANATION |
|-----------|---|
| <u>A</u> | Areas subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood event generally determined using approximate methodologies. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or flood depths are shown. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. (In unincorporated Lee County, the county has estimated BFEs in these areas.) |
| <u>AE</u> | Areas subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood event determined by detailed methods. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are shown. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. |
| <u>AH</u> | Areas subject to inundation by 1 percent annual chance shallow flooding (usually areas of ponding) where average depths are between one and three feet. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. |
| AO | Areas subject to inundation by 1 percent annual chance shallow flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain) where average depths are between 1 and 3 feet. Average flood depths derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown in this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. Some Zone AO areas have been designated in areas with high flood velocities such as alluvial fans and washes. Communities are encouraged to adopt more restrictive requirements for these areas. |
| AR | Areas that result from the decertification of a previously accredited flood protection system that is determined to be in the process of being restored to provide base flood protection. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. |
| A99 | Areas subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood event, but which will ultimately be protected upon completion of an under-construction Federal flood protection system. These are areas of special flood hazard where enough progress has been made on the construction of a protection system, such as dikes, dams, and levees, to consider it complete for insurance rating purposes. Zone A99 may only be used when the flood protection system has reached specified statutory progress toward completion. No Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or depths are shown. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. |

| | |
|---|---|
| V | Areas along coasts subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards associated with storm-induced waves. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or flood depths are shown. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. |
| VE , V1-30 | Areas subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood event with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. |

Follow this link for more information about [Floodways](#)

Follow this link for more information about [Coastal A Zones](#)

Zones outside the SFHA (floodplain)

Moderate flood hazard areas, labeled Zone B or Zone X (shaded) are also shown on the FIRM but are not considered part of the Special Flood Hazard Area. The areas of minimal flood hazard, which are the areas outside the SFHA and higher than the elevation of the 0.2 percent annual chance flood, are labeled Zone C or Zone X (unshaded).

| ZONE | EXPLANATION |
|-----------------------|---|
| X (shaded), B | An area of moderate flood hazard that is determined to be outside the Special Flood Hazard Area between the limits of the base flood and the 0.2 percent annual chance (or 500-year) flood. |
| X (unshaded), C | An area of minimal flood hazard that is determined to be outside the Special Flood Hazard Area and higher than the elevation of the 0.2 percent annual chance (or 500-year) flood. |