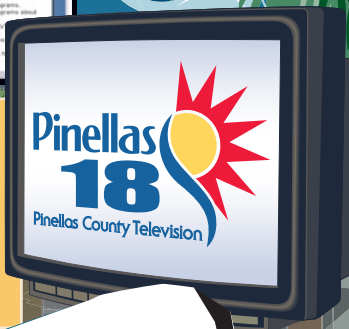


# INFORMATION SOURCES



**On the Web:**  
[www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)

**Government Access TV:**  
Tune in to Pinellas 18  
on Pinellas County's  
cable systems  
(also Web cast live at  
[www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org))



**During Local Emergencies Only:**  
Call the Citizens Information Center,  
(727) 464-4333

## Pinellas County Emergency News Service:

Receive updates from the  
Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center  
during emergencies at your e-mail address.  
Sign up for this free service at

[www.pinellascounty.org/emergency\\_subscription.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency_subscription.htm)

Visit the Pinellas County website  
[www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org)

Pinellas County Department of  
Emergency Management  
400 South Fort Harrison Avenue,  
Room 111  
Clearwater, Florida 33756  
Phone: (727) 464-3800  
FAX: (727) 464-4024  
TDD: (727) 464-4431  
E-Mail: [ema@pinellascounty.org](mailto:ema@pinellascounty.org)



Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To  
obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the  
Communications Department at (727) 464-4600/TDD (727) 464-4431.

Produced in cooperation with the  
Pinellas County Communications Department.

# SURVIVING THE STORM

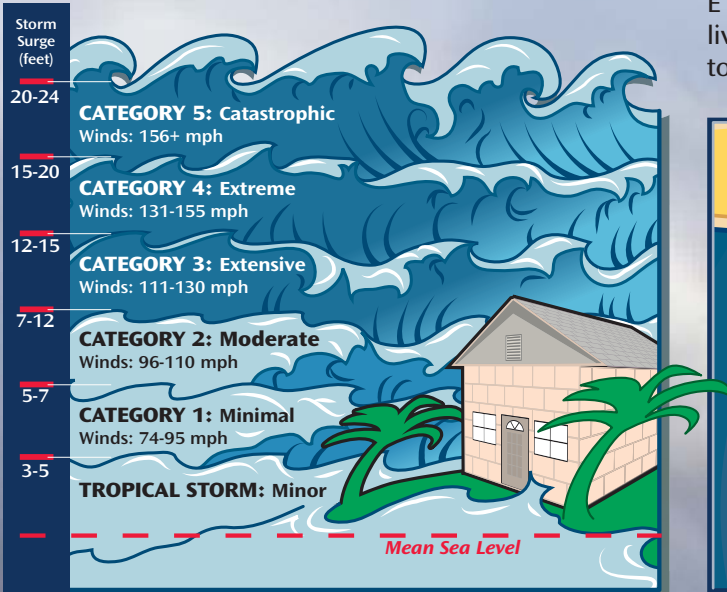


**PREPAREDNESS • RESPONSE  
RECOVERY • MITIGATION**

# DID YOU KNOW:

## HURRICANE 101

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30. There are five strengths of hurricanes. Their power is categorized based upon their sustained winds, with a Category 1 hurricane being the weakest and a Category 5 being the most powerful. The most dangerous hazard associated with a hurricane is storm surge, which is a large dome of water pushed up on land as the hurricane makes landfall. The shallowness of the Gulf of Mexico and a hurricane's strong winds will intensify the effects of storm surge on Pinellas County. We could experience a 24-foot storm surge with a Category 5 hurricane. This would temporarily turn the county into two islands. The winds that generate storm surge also cause damage. Most vulnerable to these winds are trees, power lines, signs, manufactured homes, recreational vehicles and homes and businesses with unprotected windows.



## WATCH VERSUS WARNING

Do you know the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning? A hurricane watch means that, within 36 hours, hurricane conditions are possible. When a watch is announced, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and your home. When a hurricane warning is announced, you can expect hurricane conditions within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations as soon as possible.

## KNOW YOUR EVACUATION LEVEL

### Evacuation Levels

- Level A
- Level B
- Level C
- Level D
- Level E
- Non-Evac

Before a hurricane is approaching and emergency preparations begin, you should know your home's evacuation level. Residents who live in mobile homes must evacuate, no matter where their homes are located. Coastal areas in Level A zones are usually asked to evacuate first. Look up your home's evacuation level if you don't already know what it is. When evacuations are announced, letters from A to E will be used to designate areas to evacuate. If you live in a non-evacuation zone, you will not be asked to leave your home.

## HOW TO LOOK UP YOUR HOME'S EVACUATION LEVEL

There are four ways to determine your home's evacuation level:

- 1** Call the Interactive *Voice Response Line* at (727) 453-3150 and, using your telephone's keypad, provide your home number. You will hear a recording listing your home's evacuation level.
- 2** Go to [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/local.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/local.htm) and click on Evacuation Level Lookup. Type in your home's address. Clicking on Evacuation Level Maps shows where your home is located within the county's evacuation areas.
- 3** Call *Pinellas County Emergency Management* at (727) 464-3800 for assistance looking up your home's evacuation level.
- 4** Find your home's evacuation level using the county's hurricane guides, distributed free at the start of each hurricane season at several locations in the county and inserted in *The St. Petersburg Times*.



## LIGHTNING STRIKES

Lightning is the leading cause of weather hazard deaths in Florida. People are most vulnerable before or after a thunderstorm. Remember the 30-30 Rule: If less than 30 seconds elapse from the time you see lighting and hear thunder, seek shelter at once. Once the storm passes, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter.



## FLOODS

Flooded roads are not safe to be driven. Flood-related deaths mostly occur in vehicles and at night.



## TORNADOES

The fastest way to receive tornado warnings is to tune to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) weather radio, which is available on radios equipped to pick up weather frequencies. If a warning has been issued or you hear a roar or rumble, take cover immediately.



## TUNE IN TO NOAA

On radios with weather frequencies, you can listen to a continuous broadcast of weather conditions in the Tampa Bay area on NOAA's radio channel (*frequency 162.550 MHz*).