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www.pinellascounty.org

INFORMATION SOURCES

On the Web

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

Government Access TV

Tune in to Pinellas 18 on Pinellas County's cable systems
(also Webcast live at www.pinellascounty.org).

Pinellas County Emergency News Service
Receive e-mailed updates from the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center during emergencies.

Sign up for this free service at
www.pinellascounty.org/emergency_subscription.htm

Evacuation Level Phone Number
(727) 453-3150

During Local Emergencies Only
Call the Citizens Information Center
(727) 464-4333.

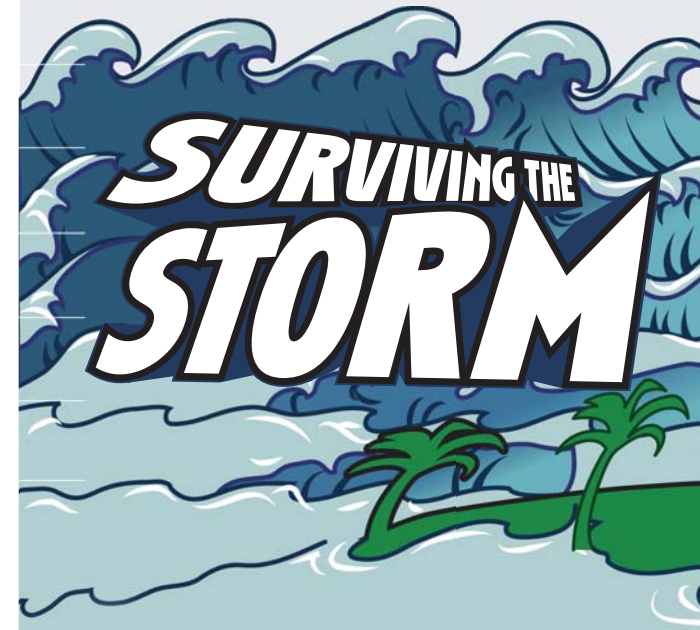
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Hurricane Preparedness for Mobile Home Residents



Lessons Learned

"Every live press briefing, we made a point to tell them to get out. Yet too many people made a choice to stay in their mobile homes. That is deadly."

Pinellas County Administrator
Stephen M. Spratt, August 2004

Punta Gorda, Florida mobile home community destroyed by Hurricane Charley, August 2004.
(MyFlorida.com)



Mobile home park damage in the Charlotte County area from Hurricane Charley in 2004.

Never Ride out a Hurricane in a Mobile Home

From June 1 to November 30 each year, Floridians should be in a state of alert. The Atlantic hurricane season peaks during August and September, but weather conditions are ripe for destructive tropical storms anytime during the season.

No Florida residents are more vulnerable during hurricane season than those who live in mobile homes.

For this reason, mobile home residents must evacuate regardless of their evacuation level.

According to the National Hurricane Center, no mobile or manufactured home—no matter how new it is—can be a safe shelter from hurricane-force winds.

Never ride out a hurricane in a mobile home—even if it's in a non-evacuation zone.

As soon as an evacuation order is announced, make plans to leave your mobile home!



Mobile homes are never safe during a hurricane. (MyFlorida.com)

Tornadoes Come Without Warning

Unlike hurricanes, which give emergency planners time to order evacuations, tornadoes come without warning. Sometimes, they spin off from hurricanes and other times they are created by unfavorable weather conditions. Mobile homes offer poor resistance to a tornado's winds.

Hurricane straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from the wind gusts associated with tornadoes! If a tornado watch or warning is issued, plan on leaving your mobile home to seek shelter.



Some victims of Hurricane Charley lost everything to the Category 4 storm. (MyFlorida.com)

Before Hurricane Season

Mobile home residents should make sure all the items on this to-do list have been completed:

- **Decide where you will go if an evacuation is ordered.** Stay with friends and relatives or register with a host home program, where residents who need to evacuate are matched with others in non-evacuation zones, through your community association or house of worship.
- **Have a mobile home contractor install or fortify tie-downs or straps on your mobile home.** Make sure they're anchored securely to the foundation. While mobile homes are never a safe place to ride out a storm, tie-downs and hurricane straps can prevent your mobile home from coming loose and causing damage or blocking the right-of-way.
- **Take all important papers with you or keep them at a location other than your home when you are asked to evacuate.**
- **If you're planning to go to a shelter, pack medications, special dietary items you may need and games or books to pass the time, as well as, a chair or cot and bedding, since these are not provided at county shelters.**
- **Inform relatives or friends of your hurricane plans.**
- **Include your pets in your hurricane plan.** Since county shelters don't accept animals, seek shelter with a friend or relative who will accept you and your pets, or find separate accommodations for your pets in advance.
- **If you are a special-needs patient who requires assistance to evacuate, make sure you are registered with your local fire department ahead of time.** Special-needs shelters are designed to assist pre-registered residents only.
- **Always monitor the media for announcements of evacuations and any open shelters.** Don't assume that every shelter will be open during every activation.



Tie-downs and hurricane straps can prevent your mobile home from coming loose.