

FLOODS

in this section

- Know your flood risk
- Stay out of the water
- Evacuations



Hurricane storm surge can cause rapid flooding in a matter of hours. The rising floodwaters from heavy rainfall can endanger waterways as well as low-lying or poorly-drained parts of the county any time of year.



KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK

- For your FEMA Flood Zone, visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm or call your city for information. Residents in unincorporated Pinellas County, call (727) 464-3471.
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, consider sandbags or another type of barrier to keep water out of your home in minor flood events.
- **Remember:** Homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damage. Consider extra flood coverage.
- A new flood policy takes **30 days** to take effect.

STAY OUT OF THE WATER

- Do not drive through standing water and obey "road closed" signs. It only takes a foot of water to float many vehicles. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Do not walk through flood waters. It only takes 6 inches of water to knock you off your feet.
- Don't go into any room if water has submerged electrical outlets or cords.
- After a flood, stay out of standing water or structures until authorities advise it's safe. Standing water could contain toxins, chemicals, dangerous debris and wildlife.

EVACUATIONS

If heavy rain is expected to begin flooding a neighborhood, emergency managers may announce an evacuation. If you live in a flood prone area, pay attention to emergency advisories and be ready to leave. If you wait too long, you run the risk of being trapped if rising waters cut off roads in your area.

Flood evacuations and shelter openings will be announced through local media, *Alert Pinellas* and other channels.

Learn more about floods:

Pinellas County has a comprehensive website on our area's flood hazards and how residents can become more prepared: www.pinellascounty.org/flooding.



MAN-MADE & BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

in this section

- Terrorism & active shooters
- Pandemic
- Hazardous materials



Tune in to world news on any given week and you will hear about any number of deadly hazards ranging from pandemic diseases to acts of terrorism. During an unexpected large-scale emergency, your best decision may be simply to stay tuned to local media, stay indoors and wait for help or further information.

In certain types of emergencies, there are

active steps you can take to protect yourself. For more detailed information on these hazards and others, visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/other_hazards.htm.

TERRORISM & ACTIVE SHOOTERS

Unlike a hurricane, there may be no warning for a terrorist attack, but you can plan ahead by taking the steps referenced earlier: emergency contacts, emergency alerts, a meeting place and a disaster supply kit. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something – report it to law enforcement.



Active shooter tips

Active shooter situations happen quickly, often before law enforcement arrives on the scene.

- Be aware of your environment and possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit – escape should be your first choice.
- If you cannot escape, stay where you are and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway and can't escape, get into a room and secure the door.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.
- **Lastly, call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so.**

When law enforcement arrives...

Remain calm, follow instructions, put down any items in your hands and raise your hands to make them visible. Avoid making quick movements toward officers, pointing or yelling.

Source: "Active Shooter - How to Respond" and "Active Shooter Pocket Card," U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

PANDEMIC

In our global society, infectious diseases can spread quickly by human contact, animals, insects or food. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is the agency responsible for warning the public about pandemic health hazards. The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County may also issue warnings and advice.

CDC: www.cdc.gov
Florida Dept. of Health: www.pinellashealth.com

General tips to stop the spread of infectious disease:

- **WASH** your hands often with soap and water and alcohol-based sanitizer.
- **AVOID** close contact with sick people and touching eyes, nose or mouth – that's how germs spread.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- **STAY** home if you feel sick until you recover.



If advised by authorities, use a face mask or other protective equipment.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. They are in the chlorine that keeps pools clear or tanker trucks that deliver chemicals commercially. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Shelter-in-place if local authorities ask you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from coming in. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for instructions through the local media and emergency notification systems, such as *Alert Pinellas*.