



Even in densely-populated Pinellas County, the threat of wildfires is present. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home.

FIRE PLAN

- Make sure all family members have contact numbers to reach each other.
- Identify at least two escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Practice fire drills so everyone knows what to do.
- Don't forget to include pets in your plan.

WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Drought and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. A cigarette butt or a lightning strike can ignite a flame that could consume hundreds of acres and prove deadly.

When a wildfire is threatening...

- Call 9-1-1 to report a fire.
- If advised, evacuate immediately.
- Be ready to leave by parking in the direction of escape.
- Move pets to one room while you prepare to evacuate.



If you know there's time, get your home ready:

- Close all windows, vents, doors and any non-flammable window coverings and heavy drapes. Remove lightweight curtains and flammable drapes.
- Close gas valves and turn off pilot lights.
- Move flammable furniture to center of home away from openings.
- Put sprinklers on the roof and close to any fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
- Wet shrubs around home.
- Move flammable patio furniture inside.



BUSINESSES



A hurricane or other major disaster could shut down your business for weeks. It's critical to plan ahead for a possible evacuation and determine how your business would recover in the aftermath of a catastrophe.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

- Sign up for emergency notifications and other news from Pinellas County Economic Development at www.pced.org/subscribe.
- Make sure members of your workplace are signed up for Alert Pinellas, www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

BUSINESS DISASTER PLAN HELP

You can get help preparing a comprehensive business continuity, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plan at no cost. Schedule an appointment with the Florida Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development at www.pced.org/sbdc.

The Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center provides businesses with information on government operations, a place to report business damages, a resource sharing site between businesses and a portal for businesses with multi-county operations to coordinate re-entry information. Pinellas County will utilize FLVBEOC during emergencies. For more info or to register for an account, visit <http://flvbeoc.org>.

STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS



- Assess your risk – internally and externally – especially your business' evacuation zone. See page 6.
- Analyze your critical business functions.

- Plan for an alternate location; expect to be able to work with limited or no water, sewer or power for at least two weeks.
- Communicate your disaster plan to employees; specifically, when will you shut down operations and send them home?
- Consider supply chain preparedness.
- Back up your data and practice restoring your technology.
- Create an employee, vendor and key client communication plan; share this plan and test it with your employees.
- Assemble an emergency kit.
- Review your business insurance coverage.
- Keep cash on hand in the event you must work without electricity.
- Secure your building as a storm is approaching.
- Turn off electricity, water and gas if you are evacuated.
- Consider making your business a host home shelter for employees if you are located outside the evacuation zone. See page 7.



GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

Business Interruption Insurance

Think about what you'd do if your building or other business assets were damaged or completely unusable after a storm. Business Interruption Insurance will compensate you for lost income if your company must leave the site because of disaster-related damage. Talk to an agent about whether this coverage is a good option for you.

TYPES OF LOAN ASSISTANCE

SBA Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations and even homeowners and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace these items in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. For more information, visit www.sba.gov.

Bridge Loans

Should disaster strike, Pinellas County Economic Development will help businesses apply for Florida's emergency bridge loan program. This program provides a source of expedient cash flow to businesses impacted by a catastrophe so they can begin repairs and replace inventory. For more information, visit www.floridadisasterloan.org.

ID for re-entry

Business owners and critical employees may need identification such as an employer-issued photo ID or corporate placard to gain access to their facilities in a disaster area.

- Business owners should also be prepared to show a license, utility bill or lease document with the property's address.
- Provide staff with a personnel list on company letterhead, including contact information. State the need for early access and the forms of identification your company has provided to key personnel.
- Barrier island business owners need an Emergency Access Permit to re-enter after a mandatory evacuation. See page 8.

BUSINESS "GO BOX"

- Key contact list – employees, key customers and clients
- Insurance policies and agent contact information