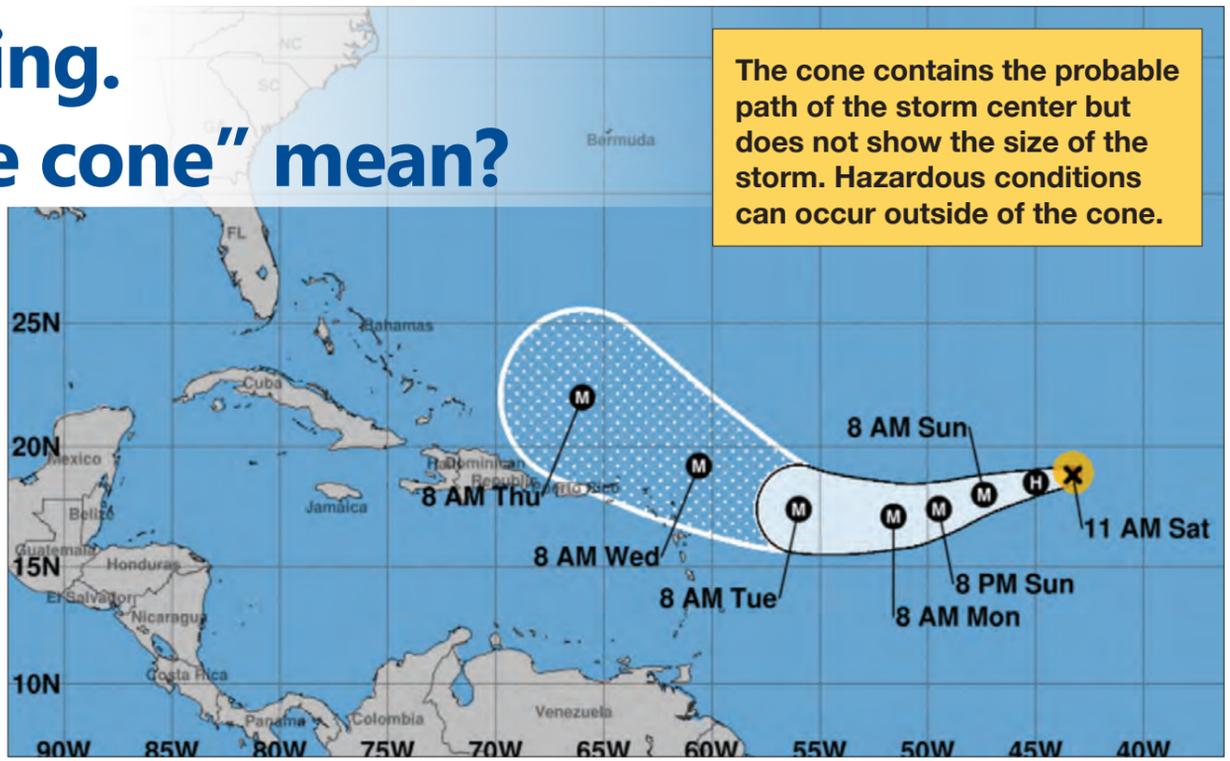


The storm is coming. What does “in the cone” mean?

The National Hurricane Center uses a graphic of a cone to show the probable track of a storm on weather forecasts. You can use it as a guide for the type of preparations you should make.

The closer the hurricane is, the more accurate the forecast. But be aware that hurricanes often shift direction at the last minute, so you need to be prepared if you are anywhere near the cone. Do not let your guard down.

As you make your preparations, remain calm. After all, you have learned about hurricanes and hazards, you know your risks and what you plan to do, and have made the preparations to do it.



This information is also part of the Ready Pinellas mobile app.



Apple App Store



Google Play



5-day cone

If Pinellas is in the 5-day cone it means a storm is on a probable path to reach our area in five days.

Implement your plan.

- Know your zone. If you do not already know your zone, look it up. (www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone)
- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- Begin to prepare your home and yard.
- If you have special needs, have your caregiver begin to implement your plan. If needed, be sure you are registered for a special needs shelter.
- You do not need to wait for an evacuation order if you do not wish to. Just remember, if you plan to evacuate to somewhere else in Florida there is no way to tell this many days ahead exactly where the storm will hit.

3-day cone

If Pinellas is in the 3-day cone it means a storm is on a probable path to reach our area in three days.

Step up your preparations.

- Double check your survival kit and make any last necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.
- Refill medications. (If the Governor has declared a state of emergency that includes Pinellas you can get a 30-day refill without the insurance company's usual restrictions.)
- You do not need to wait for an evacuation order if you do not wish to. Just remember, if you plan to evacuate to somewhere else in Florida there is no way to tell this many days ahead exactly where the storm will hit.

Hurricane watch

(48 hours ahead)

Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours if the storm remains on track and continue implementing your disaster plan.

- Fill vehicle gas tank.
- Get cash, secure papers and valuables.
- If you could not refill your medications in the 3-day cone timeframe try again now. Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating—you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area if you are ordered to, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you are registered for a special needs shelter and will be getting transportation, be sure you have everything you need for your Go Kit.
- You do not need to wait for an evacuation order. Just remember, if you plan to evacuate to somewhere else in Florida, there is no guarantee that area will not be hit by the storm if its path changes.
- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued at anytime.

Hurricane warning

(36 hours ahead)

- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go. You can expect traffic to get heavier as the hurricane nears.
- If you are registered for a special needs shelter and will be getting transportation, be ready to leave. Rescue workers will begin pick-ups shortly after an evacuation order is issued.
- If you are going to a host home, assist with home preparations and bring emergency supplies there.
- You do not need to wait for an evacuation order. Just remember, if you plan to evacuate to somewhere else in Florida there is no guarantee that area will not be hit by the storm if the forecast changes.
- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued at anytime.

Evacuation order

Listen carefully to the evacuation order. What LEVEL (or zone) is being told to evacuate?

Are you in that LEVEL?

NO I do NOT live in an evacuation level/zone that is included in the evacuation order.

If you do not live in the evacuation level/zone that is being told to evacuate, you do not have to leave your home. Review your plan and your decision on whether you will stay or go. (See page 5)

YES I live in an evacuation level/zone that is being ordered to evacuate.

YES I live in a mobile home.

If you answered YES you must evacuate.

Steps Before You Leave



- Turn off the water and gas utilities.
- Lock windows.
- Close all doors.
- Tell friends and neighbors where you are going. If you are evacuating locally, get to your shelter location within a few hours of the order.
- If you are going to a host home, go there now.
- Be aware of your evacuation time range. Evacuations will be issued with beginning and end times. The end time means that sustained tropical storm force winds are expected to arrive by that time and all evacuations should be complete.
- Stay safe during the storm.

How will I get official information during and after a disaster?

When the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated during a disaster, residents can find around-the-clock updates:

- Citizen Information Center: (727) 464-4333 (*only open during emergencies*)
- Pinellas County Website: www.pinellascounty.org
- Pinellas County Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor

- Pinellas County Connection TV: Spectrum Channel 637; Frontier Channel 44; WOW! Channel 18
- Radio, television stations and newspapers
- Alert Pinellas: Sign up at www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas

If modern technology is not available, speak with your neighbors and visit your local library or city hall for the latest news.

