



RE-ENTRY

After an evacuation, many parts of Pinellas County may be inaccessible due to damage, flooding, or debris blocking major roadways. Coming home is not a guarantee. Get the latest news for information on damage before heading home.

HAVE YOUR ID

- Be prepared with proper ID that identifies you and the address of your residential or business property for re-entry after a storm.
- Barrier island residents need a special emergency access permit (pictured above). These are available at the city halls or town halls of the beach communities. Visit or call during regular business hours. Contact the Sheriff's Public Relations Bureau for general information or questions at (727) 582-6221. Visit: www.pcsoweb.com/emergency-access-permit
- The Citizens Information Center will continue to be staffed to answer questions during this critical period. Call (727) 464-4333.



RETURNING HOME

- Use caution when returning home.
- Follow re-entry orders and road closures.
- Avoid flooded areas and standing water.
- Water may be contaminated or electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. Report them to the power company.
- Flood waters can contain raw sewage, bacteria, viruses, and other germs that can cause disease.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Watch for critters such as snakes, raccoons, possums and insects that may have "moved" into your evacuated home, since they too look for shelter and relief from flood waters.
- Photograph and list all damaged or lost items including their age and value where possible. Take photos of water in the house. Adjusters



need evidence of the damage to prepare your estimate.

- File your flood insurance claim as soon as possible.
- Remove wet contents immediately to prevent mold. Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding and other items holding moisture can develop mold within 24 to 48 hours.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Hire a licensed contractor.
- Get required permits before you start any home repair, improvement or construction.
- Be on the lookout for price gouging. It is illegal for anyone to sell necessary goods or services at higher than normal prices during a state of emergency. If you suspect price gouging, call Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or the County Attorney General's office at (800) 966-7226 to report it.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Take extra care in the prevention of mosquitoes breeding in standing water and remember the 3 Ds: Drain water when possible; Dress in light colors and cover all parts of the body; Defend with DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

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

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.

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.
- 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.
- 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 5.

ID for Re-entry

- Business owners and critical employees should have identification such as an employer-issued photo ID 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 an annual emergency 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.



GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

Business Interruption Insurance

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

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.