



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.
- Remember to include pets in your plan.

For more information on wildfire prevention, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/wildfires](http://www.pinellascounty.org/wildfires).

## WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Drought and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. A discarded cigarette 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.
- Direct sprinklers to the roof and close to any fuel tanks.
- Wet shrubs around home.
- Move flammable patio furniture inside.



# MAN-MADE & BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS



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](http://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.

## 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](http://www.cdc.gov)



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County: [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com)

### General tips to stop the spread of infectious disease:

- **WASH** your hands often with soap and water or 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 chemicals that keep 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 instruct 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 service, such as Alert Pinellas.

## ALWAYS AWARE

Each year, we have asked that our citizens maintain a heightened level of preparedness during hurricane season. In these uncertain times, your personal emergency preparedness strategy needs to be in place all year long. Though we hope for the best, we prepare for all hazards to make sure everyone stays safe during unexpected emergencies.

We ask that citizens make sure they are connected to the news and alerts they will need to receive official instructions from officials, if an emergency does occur. Make sure that the information you receive is from a trusted source, like the Alert Pinellas or other alert systems that are recommended in this guide. Get the facts from Emergency Management and any instructions to ensure your personal safety. Be calm and be patient until the all clear signal is given by emergency officials.

By being prepared and armed with knowledge, we replace panic with peace of mind, knowing that we are ready to weather any storm as a community.