The single most important step you can take to prepare is to know when a hazard is coming. You may expect to hear about a hurricane or other severe weather on the news, but what if a tornado unexpectedly strikes near your house and you only have a few minutes to act?

Make sure you are connected to one or more emergency notification systems.

**GET READY PINELLAS**

Wireless Emergency Alerts – Newer mobile devices are already equipped to send alerts for dangerous weather and other emergencies from local, state and federal authorities. Check your location settings on your phone. If you receive Amber Alerts, then your device is connected to the WEA system. Visit www.ready.gov/alerts to learn more.

Social Media – You can set up email or text notifications on most social media platforms. For more information, visit the Pinellas County website at www.ready.gov/alerts

**NEW**

**Get “Ready Pinellas”**

Introducing the Ready Pinellas mobile app. Ready Pinellas was designed to help residents prepare themselves and their families before a storm and as a storm approaches. Use all of the tools to stay safe and take the information with you as you finalize your preparations.

**Ready Pinellas App Features:**

- **Know Your Zone:** Look up your evacuation zone. Remember, even if you already checked up on your zone, you must re-check it as some zones have changed. Enter your address and you will be provided information on your evacuation level, the closest hotel accommodations, the closest shelter and the closest special needs shelter. **Note:** not all shelter and hotel accommodations will be available in all storm levels. You can check on the app as the storm gets closer.

  **Readiness Checklists:**
  - **Blue Sky Readiness Checklist:** well in advance of any hurricanes, this list provides guidance about pre-storm preparations.
  - **5-Day Core Readiness Checklist:** meaning that a hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days – the checklist includes tasks that are more immediate.
  - **3-Day Core Readiness Checklist:** the chance that the hurricane will affect our area is greater – the checklist will change again to reflect those late-stage items that need to get done.

- **Get a Plan:** Enter information about the location of homes and businesses, family members, pets and family contact information and a personal emergency plan will be developed that users are able to print or maintain online.

  **Alert Pinellas:** The Alert Pinellas emergency notification service allows Pinellas County to send messages by voice to landlines and by voice or text to mobile devices, TDD and via email.

  **Storm Surge Protector:** This interactive tool depicts by evacuation level, the impact that storm surge flooding would have on a neighborhood, home or business.

  **Special Needs:** Register for special needs shelters intended for those who need transportation or require minimal medical assistance while seeking public shelter. Registration is required.

- **Pet Preparedness:** Get information on sheltering your pet, how to register for a pet-friendly shelter and what you need to prepare.

**Pinellas County Emergency Activation Updates**

The Alert Pinellas emergency notification service allows Pinellas County to send urgent messages by voice to landlines and by voice or text to mobile devices. The Alert Pinellas service should be used in addition to an emergency alert system and weather alert weather radio. Registration is FREE for multiple phone lines and devices. Register each address where you live and work, to get alerts for multiple locations. Sign up at www.ready.gov/alerts

**WHAT IF YOU LOSE POWER?**

Get emergency information when both power and cell service are down.

- **Battery- or Crank-Powered Radio – Tune in to National Weather Service advisories.** Severe weather alerts are transmitted through the NOAA Weather Alert Radio. Local radio stations usually report on emergency situations and AM stations can broadcast longer than FM stations.

- **Wireless Emergency Alerts**

For more information, visit the Pinellas County website at www.ready.gov/alerts

- **Social Media**

Use your battery charger and car charger regardless of whether power or cell service are down.

- **Mobile Hot Spot** – Many mobile devices are equipped with a “hot spot” to get you online if you lose connection.

**Chargers** – Keep your phone and other devices charged. You may want to invest in a backup battery charger and car charger regardless of whether you drive. There are many mobile devices, including solar-powered. Don’t forget the basic spare batteries for your radio, flashlight and other emergency items. Make sure the batteries you have are not expired.

**Pinellas County Emergency Activation Updates**

When the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center is activated during a disaster, residents can find around-the-clock updates at: Pinellas County Website: www.pinellascounty.org Pinellas County Connection TV: Spectrum Channel 637; Frontier Channel 44; WOHI Channel 18 Citizens Information Center: (727) 464-4333, V/TDD (727) 464-3075 Pinellas County Facebook, Twitter (search for Pinellas County) and Nextdoor (sign up at www.nextdoor.com)

Remember… Knowledge is Power.