



This All Hazards Preparedness Guide is produced in a continual effort to ensure public health, safety and welfare—a top priority for the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

Getting prepared for any type of disaster is a simple matter and it starts with knowing what you will need to do. It's the first step to keeping yourself and your family safe.

Here in Pinellas County, there is potential for hazards as a result of severe weather or man-made disasters. One of the greatest hazards we face is hurricanes, with the Atlantic Hurricane Season running June 1 to Nov. 30. This guide offers useful information to help everyone make a plan, whether you are a homeowner or renter, have a special need or know someone who does, and whether you have children, pets or a business. Tailor your plan to your life.

After you use this guide, put it in a safe place with your other important papers, and be rest assured that you have planned to replace panic with peace of mind.

All you need to know: **3 steps** to prepare for all hazards

- 1. CONNECT** to emergency information.
- 2. ASSESS** your risk.
- 3. PLAN & PREPARE** for during and after the storm – or other emergency.

The remaining sections of the guide offer advice to get ready for specific natural and man-made hazards.



On page 11, you'll find a **Personal Disaster Plan**. Once you have it filled out, you should be ready to face most of the hazards we may encounter here in Pinellas County.

Share this guide with your family and neighbors as we work together to make Pinellas County a

safe and resilient place to live, work and play. Free copies of the guide are available year-round at local government offices, libraries, community centers and online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

CONNECT to emergency information

in this section

- Sign up for Alert Pinellas
- Weather alerts by radio or phone
- Ready Pinellas App

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.



ALERT PINELLAS

The Alert Pinellas emergency notification service allows Pinellas County to send urgent messages by voice or text to landlines, mobile devices and via email. **ADVISORIES** are **LOCAL**, and may include evacuation orders, emergency road closures, boil water notices and other urgent messages. This 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.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.

OTHER NOTIFICATIONS

NOAA Weather Alert Radio – A battery-operated radio that emits a loud alert signal when dangerous weather is in your area. Available in most hardware stores and online.

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.

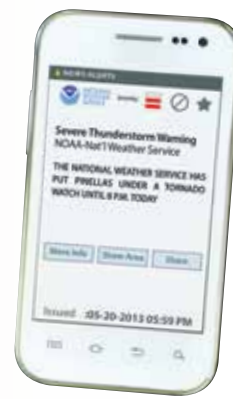
Local Weather Apps – Most of the major news networks, as well as some agencies, offer mobile applications that alert you when severe weather threatens. Connect to one or two alert systems.

Social Media – You can set up email or text notifications on most social media. For urgent news, Pinellas County uses Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

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.



Pinellas County FM HAR 96.3 - Use your battery or crank-powered radio to tune into the county station for information on local traffic.

Mobile Text Messaging – Text often works when other services do not. If your phone's digital clock works, then you can send and receive texts.

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 models, 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; WOW! 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.

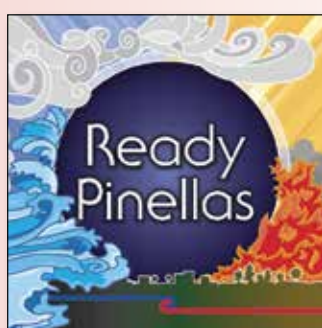
NEW Get "Ready Pinellas"

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 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 Cone 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 Cone 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.

Connect to:

- Social Media
- National Hurricane Center
- All Hazards Preparedness Guide in Spanish language

Download the free app "Ready Pinellas" on your mobile device by searching the Apple App Store or Google Play.