



**FIRST ALERT**

**HURRICANE GUIDE**

**2024**

*The Suncoast's Most Accurate Forecast*

Presented By:



**FIRST ALERT WEATHER**



All signs are now pointing to an active hurricane season for 2024. It now looks like we will see La Nina (warming of the eastern Pacific) make a comeback during the peak of the season and the water temperatures in the main development region in the Atlantic are trending well above average for this time of year. If these trends continue, it would mean high heat content for storms to explode into major storms and with little shear due to La Nina which would also help in developing monster storms like we saw in 2017. Major storms Maria, Irma and Harvey developed during that season. Those storms devastated Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas respectively. This would mean more storms and stronger ones developing during the season in 2024.



Nothing to panic about, but you will be seeing hurricane seasonal prognosticators come out with some alarming numbers prior to the start of the 2024 hurricane season, but remember, they are only predicting the number of storms that are expected to develop during the 6-month season which begins June 1st, not where they will be hitting. If you see a long-range forecast stating where the storms are going to impact a specific area, you should be wary of such forecasts. The longest-range forecast with any accuracy is usually only done about 5-7 days out from striking land. Remember it doesn't matter how many storms are projected it only takes one hitting our coast to make it an active hurricane season. Last year we only saw one storm that had a huge impact on the US coastline and that was Idalia. This was primarily due to El Nino (which is the opposite of La Nina). During El Nino we usually don't see many problems in Florida but with La Nina projected to be around during the peak of hurricane season in 2024 it does put Florida more at risk based on the history of storm tracks.

It was a busy last season with 20 named storms forming. But most of those were pushed out into the Atlantic having very little impact on the United States. Idalia made landfall into the Big Bend area of Florida in 2023 just passing by us and giving us a glancing blow. Again, the biggest impact wasn't the wind, but it was the storm surge, 12 feet, in the Big Bend area of Florida just to our north. It also caused some flooding on Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island in Manatee County with a 3-4 ft. surge there causing some homes to be flooded there.

Storm surge was also the most devastating aspect with major hurricane Ian back in 2022 when it made landfall into Charlotte harbor. That storm surge was up to 15 feet on Ft. Myers Beach. There were 61 deaths in Lee County alone and most of those were from drowning.

It is freshwater flooding that poses the biggest threat to loss of life. With slow moving storms, rainfall amounts can be incredible. During Harvey in 2017, areas near Houston, Texas saw over 60 inches of rainfall over the course of 3 days. That would amount to one year of rainfall for us in just 72 hours. The flooding was devastating. Over 80% of the 70 deaths caused by Hurricane Harvey were from inland freshwater flooding. Typically, storms move at 15-20 mph and usually dump about 10-15 inches of rain, but there are some that can bring much more in a short period of time. With all the ponds and lakes throughout our area we could see some significant flooding if a storm slows down and just sits off our coast and pumps tons of rain our way. Let's hope that doesn't happen this year. But if it does, you have to be ready for whatever Mother Nature throws at us.

The best advice I can give you is to be prepared and watch local tv stations during a potential threat; I would prefer you watch ABC7 but stay local as national broadcasts tend to hype the storm up. We will not do that here at ABC7. Our motto is "We are here to prepare you, not scare you". Have a weather radio. Read through this guide thoroughly and find out what you need to survive a storm. You will need a 3-day supply of non-perishable food and one gallon of water per person per day. Usually, you can count on being without power for at least 3 days and sometimes more if you are hit by a major storm.

Stay safe and make good decisions and have a plan before the storm threatens.

**WWSB ABC7**  
**Chief Meteorologist**  
**Bob Harrigan**



The information within this guide should be used as reference only and is subject to change without notice. Always check with local Emergency Management Services, tune to ABC 7 and visit [MySuncoast.com](http://MySuncoast.com) for updated information during severe weather events.

**MySuncoast.com**



**FIRST ALERT WEATHER**



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**Window World**

# Keeping You Informed On-Air



You can count on The Official Suncoast Storm Team whenever severe weather threatens. Bringing you the most comprehensive and accurate forecast on the Suncoast

**Comcast Cable**  
CH 7 & CH 431

**Spectrum Cable (Manatee)**  
CH 7 & CH 1007

**DirectTV**  
CH 7 & CH 40

**Dish Network**  
CH 7

## Online

Go online for *The Official Suncoast Forecast* and updated weather information and alerts when severe weather approaches.

[MySuncoast.com](http://MySuncoast.com)



In the event of a storm and you need to use your radio, we will be simulcasting on WSRQ.

[MySuncoast.com/mobileapps/](http://MySuncoast.com/mobileapps/)

## Mobile



Stay informed wherever you go! The **SuncoastWx** weather app brings you the latest weather updates no matter where you are.



## Weather & Short Wave Radio Programming

County	SAME	Transmitter(s)	Frequency MHz
Charlotte	012015	Fort Myers, Venice	162.475, 162.400
DeSoto	012027	Fort Myers, Venice	162.475, 162.400
Hardee	012049	Riverview, Venice, Sebring	162.550, 162.400, 162.500
Highlands	012055	Sebring	162.500
Manatee	012081	Riverview, Venice, Largo	162.550, 162.400, 162.450
Sarasota	012115	Venice	162.400



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[MySuncoast.com](http://MySuncoast.com)





## Creating a Family Hurricane Readiness Plan

A hurricane on the way can be frightening for everyone, especially children and teenagers. Going over your emergency plan now can help ease some of their fears, and give everyone the confidence that he/she will know what to do in the event of a storm.

### Quick Tips

- Have a family meeting about the weather conditions. Explain why you'll need to stay safe at home or evacuate as the storm nears.
- Locate and agree on a safe room (or safe areas) in your home. Move pillows, flashlights, batteries, food and other hurricane supplies to that area.
- Gather necessary medicines, glasses/contact lenses, a first aid kit, and items for children such as baby formula and diapers. Keep them handy.
- Come up with an escape route from your house.
- Decide on a rendezvous point where everyone can meet in case you're separated during the storm.
- Write out contact information for family members. Include work and school, meeting locations and emergency services.
- Decide on a family contact who lives out of town or out of state, so all family members have a single point of contact in case of emergency. Make sure everyone knows this person and his/her phone number.
- The Department's Emergency Contact Information (ECI) program allows Floridians to securely register contact information online at <https://services.flhsmv.gov/eci/> and in driver license offices. DHSMV Executive Director Terry Rhodes says the information can only be accessed by law enforcement in times of emergency. There is no fee to register.
- Make sure a young child knows his/her name, address and home phone number.
- Post emergency phone numbers near your phone and explain when and how to call 911.
- Decide what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate. Make a plan for your pets - don't leave them behind.
- If there's a chance you'll evacuate, pack in advance, and allow children to pack one special item for comfort, such as a stuffed animal.



### Important Documents

Before a storm threatens, you should create a file with copies of all the documents you'll need after the storm. Be sure to keep this important information with you during a hurricane, especially if you're forced to evacuate. Personal identification (driver's license or photo identification card) and copies of the following:

- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Social Security cards
- Passports
- Wills
- Deeds
- Inventory of household goods
- Proof of Home and Car insurance policies
- Immunization records
- Bank and credit card account numbers
- Stocks and bonds
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers
- Map of the area and phone numbers of places you could go

Source: FEMA

Stay up to date with the latest forecasts and severe weather updates from The Official Suncoast Storm Team at ABC 7.



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[Twitter.com/MySuncoast](https://twitter.com/MySuncoast)



Like us on Facebook  
[Facebook.com/MySuncoast](https://facebook.com/MySuncoast)







## MAINTAINING YOUR KIT

After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change

## KIT STORAGE LOCATIONS

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars.

**Home:** Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.

**Work:** Be prepared to shelter at work for at least 24 hours. Your work kit should include food, water and other necessities like medicines, as well as comfortable walking shoes, stored in a "grab and go" case.

**Car:** In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car.





After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. Most of the items are inexpensive and easy to find and any one of them could save your life. Headed to the store? Download a printable version to take with you. Once you take a look at the basic items consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors.

### **Basic Disaster Supplies Kit**

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

**A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:**

- **Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)**
- **Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)**
- **Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert**
- **Flashlight**
- **First aid kit**
- **Extra batteries**
- **Whistle (to signal for help)**
- **Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)**
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)**
- **Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)**
- **Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)**
- **Manual can opener (for food)**
- **Local maps**
- **Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery**
- **Download the Recommended Supplies List (PDF)**

### **Additional Emergency Supplies**

Since Spring of 2020, the CDC has recommended people include additional items in their kits to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or other viruses and the flu.

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- **Cloth face coverings (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces**
- **Prescription medications**
- **Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives**
- **Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution**
- **Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream**
- **Pet food and extra water for your pet**
- **Cash or traveler's checks**
- **Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container**
- **Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person**
- **Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes**
- **Fire extinguisher**
- **Matches in a waterproof container**
- **Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items**
- **Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils**
- **Paper and pencil**
- **Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children**



# Making Your Home Storm Ready



## Long before hurricane season begins, there are things you should do to get your home ready for the storm season

- Keep your trees trimmed, removing all overgrowth and dead branches.
- Make or buy shutters for all your doors and windows NOW, not in the days before a hurricane threatens the Suncoast.
- Impact-resistant windows and manufactured shutters are the preferred ways to protect your home.
- If pre-made shutters aren't an option, use plywood that's at least 3/4 of an inch thick.
- If you own a concrete block home, install anchoring devices for the roof.
- Don't forget about your garage door. This can be the most vulnerable area of your home when a hurricane hits. If possible, work with a professional garage door installer to retrofit your door to meet current hurricane codes. Most home supply stores sell garage door bracing kits.
- Buy plastic tarps that you can use after the storm if you have roof damage.
- Stock up on batteries for radios, flashlights and portable lights.
- Keep in mind, many stores will sell out of the materials you need to protect your home when the area is under a hurricane watch or warning. Everything you can do BEFORE the storm will give you more time to get ready and more peace of mind.
- Have flashlights and battery powered lights ready.
- Make sure the storm has passed before you go outside and it's not the eye of the hurricane.
- Remember that many injuries happen AFTER the storm during the clean up process.

## Here's what you need to know to protect your home in the few days or hours before a hurricane strikes

- Pick up everything around your home that could become airborne and bring it inside. That includes all outdoor furniture, potted plants, yard tools, garbage cans, etc.
- Clear your home's gutters to handle the heavy rain.
- Protect your insurance and other important documents in sealable, plastic bags.
- Charge your cell phone batteries.
- Fill up your car with gas and portable gas cans if you own a generator.

## What you need to do if you plan to stay at your home through the storm

- Stock up on water, non-perishable food, prescriptions, first aid kit, and cash. Basically anything and everything you'll need to survive in the days after the storm when electricity will be out and finding supplies will be a challenge.
- Choose an interior room in your home that can serve as your safe room.
- Have a battery powered radio.
- Have flashlights and battery powered lights ready.
- Make sure the storm has passed before you go outside and it's not the eye of the hurricane.
- Remember that many injuries happen AFTER the storm during the clean up process.

## The Bottom Line

- After the storm can be the most stressful part of a hurricane.
- Be safe, be patient and help your neighbors.
- When a hurricane threatens, hope for the best and prepare for the worst!

Sources: National Hurricane Center, Federal Alliance For Safe Homes



## What To Bring To A Shelter

Now, before a hurricane threatens, is the time to pack your bag to take with you to the shelter. Keep in mind that there are no beds, few chairs, and no entertainment at shelters and you may spend a few hours or several days cooped up there. There is very little privacy at the shelters. You'll spend your time in a big room in close proximity to a lot of other people. Volunteers at the shelters supply food and a safe, dry place out of the storm. It's up to you to bring the rest.



### Here's what to bring to the shelter

- Medication
- Sleeping bag, inflatable mattress, pillow, and a blanket to keep warm
- Something to sit on, like a folding chair
- Books, games, radio, cell phone, toys for kids
- Batteries for all battery operated items
- Wash cloth, towels and a few changes of clothes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Snacks
- Flash lights

And be sure to let friends and family, especially those out of town, know what shelter you're going to so they can find you after the storm passes.

## Boat Safety Tips

Whether you store your boat in your backyard or have it docked on the water, there are some simple things you should do before a hurricane hits:



- Remove small boats from the water and move them to a secure location; the more inland the better.
- Be sure your trailer and boat are secured above the areas likely to flood.
- Remove all loose items on board.
- Tie the boat securely to the trailer or tie it to trees. It doesn't hurt to throw out the anchor.
- Let some air out of the trailer tires and block the wheels.
- You can increase the weight of lighter outboard boats by leaving the drain plug in and using a garden hose to add water. This has the added advantage of giving you emergency.
- Gather water (non-drinking) if the hurricane knocks out the main water supply.
- Place wood blocks between the trailer's frame and axle to support the added weight.
- In some cases you may want to plug the engine's exhaust outlet.
- If possible, boats on storage racks should be placed on trailers and taken home.
- If your boat is too large to take out of the water, move it to a safe haven well before the storm approaches. You should know where safe havens are in the area where you boat.
- Double up and secure mooring lines.
- By the time preparations are completed, your boat should resemble a spider suspended in the center of a large web.
- Secure all hatches and portals and cover windscreens.
- Take down mast whenever possible.
- It's best to not leave your boat on a davit. If you must, be sure to remove the drain plug to avoid excess water weight. A study by MIT after hurricane Gloria found that boats stored ashore were more likely to be saved than boats that were kept in the water. Members of the Boat U.S. Catastrophe team estimated that as many as 50% of the boats damaged during Hurricane Fran could have been saved by using better dock lines.

Sources: US Coast Guard & BoatUS.com



# What To Do With Pets?

In order to bring your pet to a pet friendly shelter you will need to provide proof of an updated license, vaccinations and have your pet in a pet carrier. Pet friendly shelters are usually limited to dogs and cats only.

**As pet owners**, we have several responsible choices when a hurricane threatens:

1. Keep them with us at home.
2. Take them with us to a pet-friendly motel or public shelter.
3. Board them in a hurricane safe kennel.
4. Take them on a road trip to an out of town friend or family's home.



If you decide to stay, designate a safe room where pets can go. Preferably one with solid walls and without windows. You'll need a preparedness kit for each pet.

## FEMA's Recommendation For Pet Preparedness

(in addition to proof of updated vaccinations)

- A leash with collar and ID
- An animal crate
- Two week supply of food, water and any medications.
- Towels to dry them off after a walk in the rain.
- If you have a cat, be sure to bring kitty litter and an appropriate container.
- Check around NOW for kennels that are hurricane safe (located inland, away from storm surge, with an independent power source). It might be smart to register with them ahead of time providing the latest vaccination and medical information.
- During the early signs of an approaching storm, make your reservations early because the kennels will fill up fast. The same goes for finding motels that are pet-friendly.

### Sarasota Pet Friendly Shelters

[www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)

Heron Creek Middle School	6501 W Price Blvd., North Port
Brookside Middle School	3636 S Shade Ave., Sarasota
Atwater Elementary	501 Old Venice Rd., Osprey
North Port High School	6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port
Woodland Middle School	2700 Panacea Blvd., North Port
Riverview High School	1 Ram Way, Sarasota
Booker High	3201 N Orange Ave., Sarasota
Booker Middle	2250 Myrtle St., Sarasota
Southside Elem	1901 Webber St., Sarasota
Phillippi Shores Elem	4747 S Tamiami Trl., Sarasota
Gulf Gate Elementary	4701 Huntsville Ace., North Port

### Manatee Pet Friendly Shelters

[www.mymanatee.org](http://www.mymanatee.org)

Braden River High School	6545 State Road 70 E., Bradenton
Manatee High School	1000 32nd St. W., Bradenton
Mills Elementary School	7200 69th St. E., Palmetto

### Charlotte Pet Friendly Shelters

[www.charlottecountyfl.com](http://www.charlottecountyfl.com)

Port Charlotte Middle School	23000 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte
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### Hardee Pet Friendly Shelters

[www.hardeecounty.com](http://www.hardeecounty.com)

Pet Friendly Shelter	404 West Orange St., Wauchula
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# What To Do After The Storm

**Emergency information will be forthcoming;** follow the directions of local officials. If you have evacuated, do not return home until you have been notified that the neighborhood is safe.

- **Have I.D. with you at all times.**
- Your family's health and safety is a primary concern. Drink plenty of clean water to avoid dehydration. To purify water, boil it for ten minutes or add 8 drops of bleach per gallon of clear water. Discard food that has been in contact with floodwaters.
- Wash hands frequently as floodwaters may contain contaminants.
- Apply first aid to any cuts and seek professional assistance for the injured.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies and to call your insurance agent.
- Mark your address on your home so that it is clearly visible from the street. Also mark the name of your insurance company.
- Do not go sightseeing, particularly at night.
- Make temporary repairs to your roof with tarpaulins as soon as possible to limit further water damage to the inside of your home.
- Document all damage with a camera.
- Beware of hazards such as gas leaks, downed power lines, stray animals, damaged home wiring, broken glass, chemical spills and weakened trees.
- Wear sturdy shoes and use gloves for clean ups.
- Do not use candles for light. Battery powered lanterns and flashlights are best.
- Follow generator instruction manuals for the safety procedures.
- Check the credentials of anyone hired to assist in repairs to your home. Get estimates and guarantees in writing and be sure the contractor is licensed and insured.
- Understand that disaster can cause an emotional toll on family members. Accept assistance from faith-based organizations, voluntary agencies or professional counselors for anyone showing signs of profound sadness, grief or anger.





# Important Telephone Numbers

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Sarasota County	941-861-5000	scgov.net
Manatee County	941-749-3500	mymanatee.org
Charlotte County	941-833-4000	charlottecountyfl.com
DeSoto County	863-993-4831	www.co.desoto.fl.us
Hardee County	863-773-6373	hardeecounty.net

## SARASOTA COUNTY

Sheriff	941-861-5800
Animal Services	941-861-9500
Highway Patrol	941-483-5911
American Red Cross	941-379-9300
Special Needs	941-861-5000
FPL	1-800-468-8243
Solid Waste	941-861-5000
Friendship Volunteer Center	941-953-5965

## MANATEE COUNTY

Sheriff	941-747-3011
Animal Services	941-742-5933
Highway Patrol	941-751-7647
American Red Cross	941-792-8686
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824
FPL	1-800-468-8243
Solid Waste	941-792-8811
Citizens Action Ctr.	941-742-3500
Special Needs	941-749-3500, ext. 7828

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Sheriff	941-639-2101
Animal Services	941-833-5690
Highway Patrol	239-278-7100
American Red Cross	941-629-4345
Emergency Management	941-833-4000

## HARDEE COUNTY

Sheriff	863-773-0304
Animal Services	863-773-2320
American Red Cross	863-773-9097
Utilities	863-773-3465
Fire Rescue	863-773-4362
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824
Progress Energy	1-800-228-8485
Special Needs	863-773-6373

## DESOTO COUNTY

Sheriff	863-993-4700
Animal Services	863-993-4855
American Red Cross	863-494-2348
Highway Patrol	239-938-1800
FPL	1-800-468-8243
Peace River Electric	1-800-282-3824

## STATE OF FLORIDA

FEMA	1-800-621-3362
FEMA-Hearing Impaired TDD	1-800-427-5593
American Red Cross Helpline	1-800-733-2767
Salvation Army Emergency Needs	1-800-725-2769
Fl. Hurricane Financial Help Line	1-800-488-4406
State of FL Emergency Information	1-800-342-3557
Attorney General	myfloridalegal.com

Price Gouging Hotline/Consumer Services	1-800-435-7352 (1-800-HelpFLA)
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Dept. of Labor & Employment	1-800-342-1741
State Volunteer and Donations	1-800-354-3571
Elder Affairs	1-800-963-5337

## MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

State Farm Insurance	1-800-732-5246
Allstate Floridian Insurance	1-800-547-8676
Nationwide Insurance	1-800-421-3535
USAA	1-800-531-8222
Citizens Property Insurance	1-866-411-2742
Travelers of Florida	1-800-252-4633
Progressive	1-800-776-4737
Mercury	1-800-987-6000
National Flood Insurance Program	1-800-427-4661



# Be Prepared This Hurricane Season



Hurricane season can be a stressful time for Floridians. It's a good idea to stock up now on essential preparedness products before disaster strikes suddenly or you need to evacuate. Batteries Plus Bulbs has a nationwide disaster planning program in place for its stores, ensuring that consumers are able to stock up on preparedness items without fear of their local store running out of products.

Batteries Plus Bulbs has store locations in Bradenton, Ellenton, Sarasota, Port Charlotte and Venice. Visit [www.batteriesplus.com](http://www.batteriesplus.com) to find the store nearest you and get expertise about more essential hurricane preparedness products.

Here are recommend products homeowners and businesses should keep on hand:

- **Power Inverters** – Power inverters will allow you to use a car's battery to run a variety of electronic devices and appliances if you're without electricity.
- **Flashlights** – As a general rule of thumb, consumers should have one flashlight per person in their household.
- **Alkaline Batteries** – Stock up on two to three sets of backup batteries, including AA, AAA, C, D and 9 volt, for every device that requires a charge including flashlights, lanterns, and smoke, fire and carbon monoxide detectors.
- **Battery-Operated Candles** – Battery powered candles are a safe option to provide lighting in the home.
- **UPS Battery Backup** – Keep equipment powered and avoid losing data or damaging your electrical equipment during a power surge or unexpected shutdown.
- **Backup Chargers for Mobile Devices** – A protective case with an external battery pack can help keep a smartphone powered up longer than its normal battery life. Car chargers are crucial for keeping communication lines open when the electricity is out.

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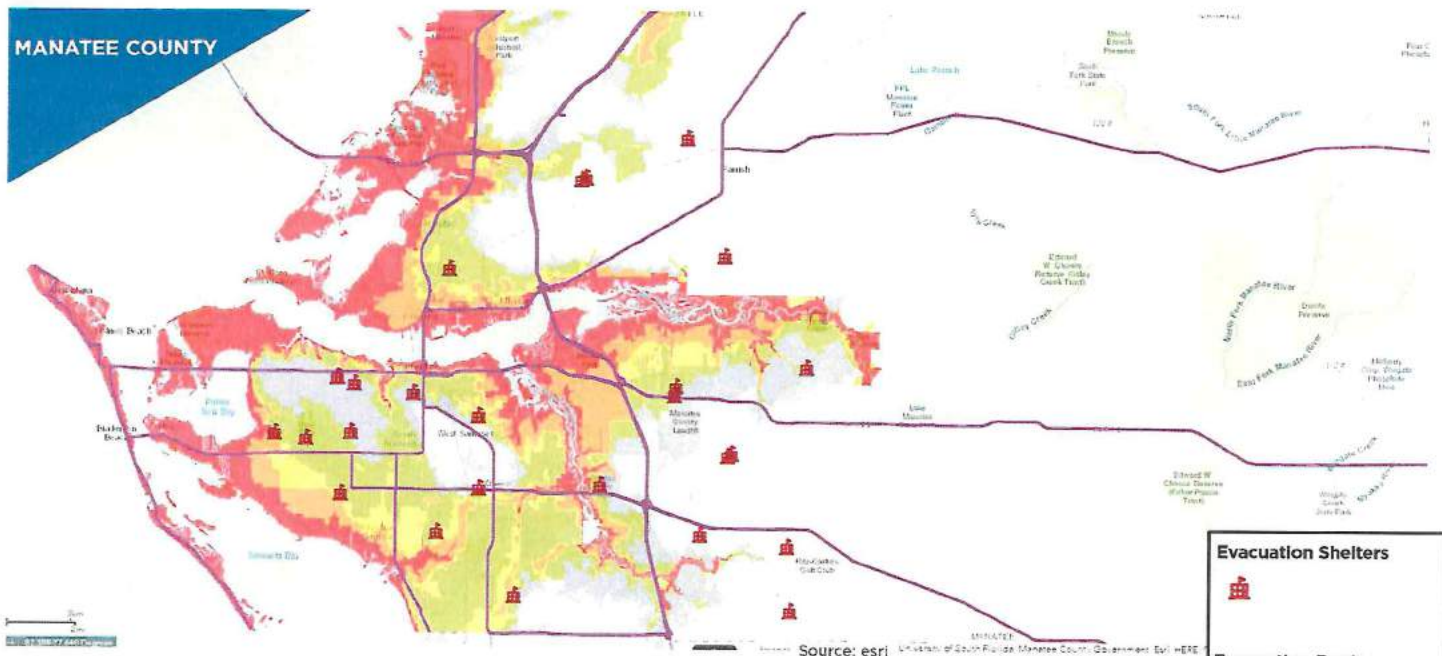


# Manatee County Shelter & Evacuation Information

Evacuation levels	Wind Velocity (M.P.H.)	Storm Surge Expected (Ft.)
Level A Evacuate purple areas and all manufactured home residents	74 to 95	Up to 6 ft.
Level B Evacuate purple and blue areas and all manufactured home residents	96 to 110	Up to 10 ft.
Level C Evacuate purple, blue and green areas and all manufactured home residents	111 to 130	Up to 13 ft.
Level D Evacuate purple, blue, green and yellow areas and all manufactured home residents	131 and 155	Up to 16 ft.
Level E Evacuate purple, blue, green, yellow and orange areas and all manufactured home residents	156 and over	Up to 19 ft.+

■ Designated shelters  
— Evacuation routes

Evacuation Level	Potential Surge Inundation
A (red)	11 feet
B (orange)	14 feet
C (yellow)	18 feet
D (green)	27 feet
E (purple)	33 feet



**Evacuation Shelters**

**Evacuation Routes**

**Evacuation Levels**

- Level A
- Level B
- Level C
- Level D
- Level E

## The evacuation plan

The colored areas on this map are vulnerable to storm surge. Storm surge is salt water flooding which rushes over coastal areas – near where the eye of the hurricane strikes – destroying homes and businesses in its path. Nine out of 10 hurricane-related deaths are caused by storm surge and inland flooding.

Hurricanes are categorized on a scale of one to five depending on the strength of the winds. Storm surge can reach 5-6 feet above sea level in a Category 1 hurricane to more than 19 feet above sea level in a Category 5 hurricane. Depending on the track and strength of a threatening hurricane, local officials may order one of five evacuation levels. These are called Evacuation Levels A, B, C, D, and E. These levels correspond to the storm surge flooding which is likely to occur from the five categories of hurricanes.

Don't take a chance.

If you live in an area ordered to evacuate or in a mobile home, manufactured home or RV, gather your emergency supplies, secure your home and leave immediately. Failure to obey an evacuation order is a violation of Florida law.

## Emergency numbers

Manatee County Emergency Management  
 General information ... (941) 748-4501  
 Special needs registration ... (941) 748-4501  
 Emergency Information Center ... (941) 748-4501  
 Deaf communications for TDD messages ... (941) 742-5802  
 Red Cross Manatee Chapter  
 (941) 792-8686

Animal Services (941) 749-7103

Please DO NOT dial 911 for Hurricane information. This line is exclusively designated for life or death emergencies.

## Media organizations

Listen to local radio or TV for announcements of evacuation information or shelter openings (not every shelter may be open).

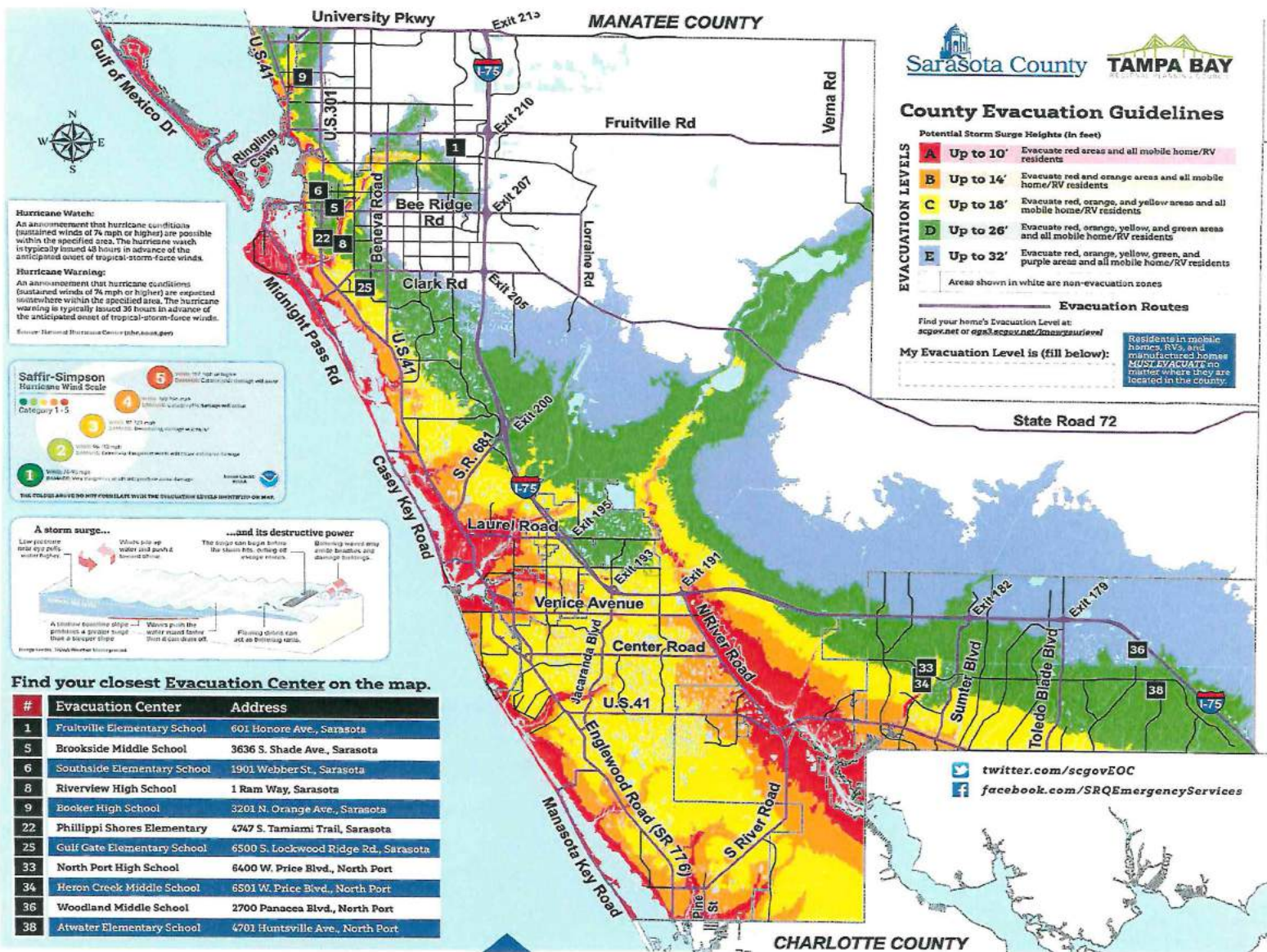
- WFLA-AM 970
- WVPPR-AM 1490
- WCTO-FM 100.5
- WUIS-FM 88.1
- WMTX-FM 100.7 (The Emergency Alert Station for Manatee County)
- Bradenton Herald News
- Islander Bystander News
- Sarasota Herald News
- WTSP-Ch. 10
- WTVT-Ch. 13
- WFTS-Ch. 28
- WWSB-Ch. 40
- WFLA-Ch. 8
- Bay News 9



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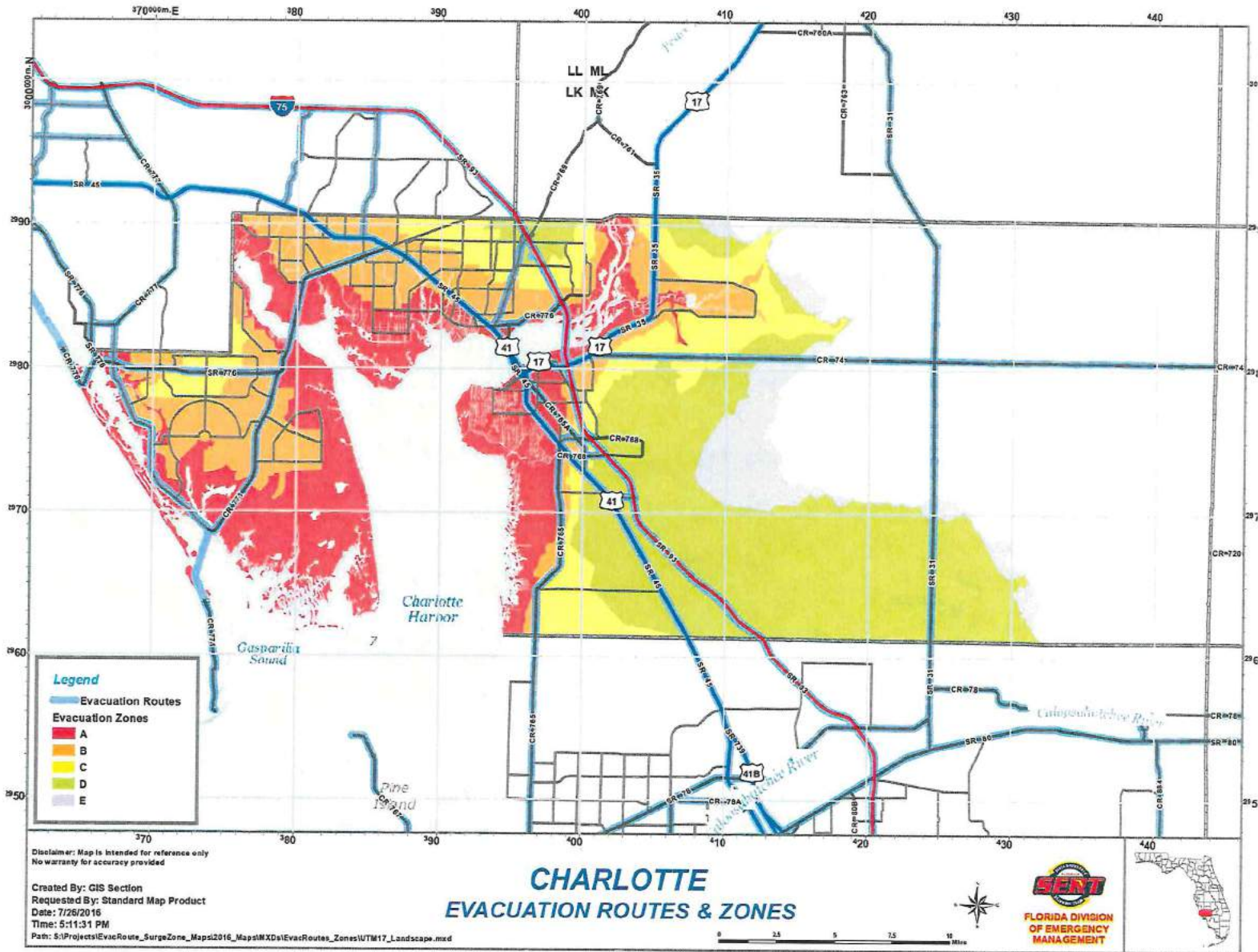


## Sarasota County Hurricane Center & Evacuation Information





## Charlotte County Shelter & Evacuation Information



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