

Special Precautions For Manufactured Home Residents

...Take the following steps to secure your home before leaving:

- Pack all breakables in well-padded cartons and place them on the floor of your home.
- Remove bulbs from lamps and tape mirrors.
- Shutter windows.
- Turn off the water where it enters the home. Open faucets and leave them open. If done correctly, no water should flow.
- Shut off fuel lines and/or turn off bottles at the tanks. DO NOT disconnect.
- Stow away or anchor outside objects such as garbage cans, lawn furniture, etc.
- Minimize damage by using “over the top” and “frame ties” to anchor your mobile home. “Over the top” keep the unit from overturning and “frame ties” prevent it from being blown off the supports.
- Satellite dishes should be removed and secured if time permits. If mechanically movable, lower to base setting. Turn the dish away from the wind.
- If time allows remove outdoor storage facilities not installed to code before leaving. Remember, all non-secured items will be airborne projectiles during high winds.
- Patio screens can pop out in high winds. If possible, remove the screens or release the tension on the screening to let the wind in without damaging either the screen or the structure.

Be Prepared! Visit these web sites:

- FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY:
www.fema.gov
- AMERICAN RED CROSS:
www.redcross.org
- NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER:
www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.html
- STORM PREDICTION CENTER:
www.nssl.uoknor.edu/~spc

Hurricane Survival Should Include...

- 3-day supply of water-one gallon per person per day.
- 3-day supply of nonperishable food and a nonelectric can opener.
- First aid kit, including a four week supply of prescription medicines & extra copies of prescriptions.
- Cash-without power, banks may be closed so checks and credit cards are not accepted, and ATMs cannot operate.
- Battery powered radio and extra batteries
- Photo ID and proof of residency
- Charcoal and ice
- Bleach to treat water
- Coolers for food and to store ice
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Infant necessities
- Pet supplies
- Camera and film
- Clean up supplies
- Toiletries

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Store these supplies in sturdy, water resistant, easy-to-carry containers, such as back packs or duffle bags. Keep important papers and family documents in a waterproof container.

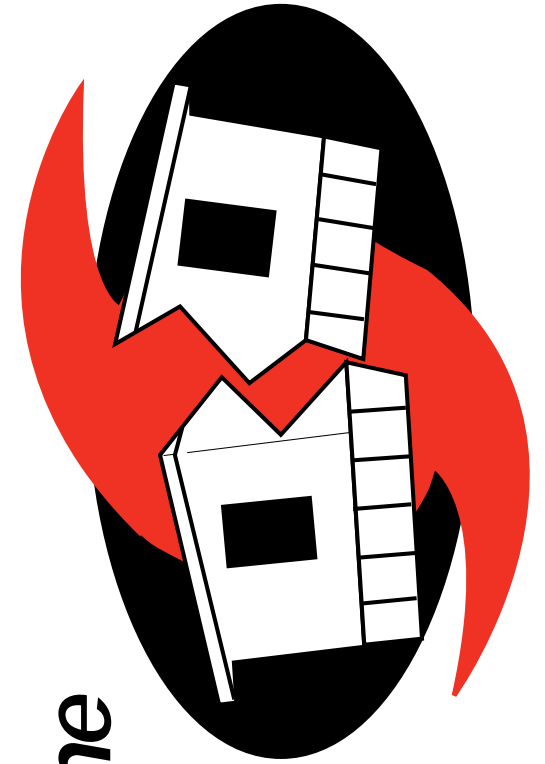
**WHEN AN EVACUATION IS ORDERED,
ALL MANUFACTURED HOME RESIDENTS
MUST EVACUATE REGARDLESS OF
LOCATION, STRUCTURE OR TIE-DOWNS.**

YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

IT'S THE SEASON

Manufactured Home Safety...Preparing For High Winds

American Red Cross



'TIS THE SEASON...ARE YOU PREPARED?

Manufactured Home Safety

...Are You Prepared For High Winds?

Unlike the holiday season, if you are not ready for hurricane season, waiting in long lines will be the least of your problems. The best gift you could give yourself and your family this hurricane season is to get the facts and be prepared for the worst. The official dates are June 1st until November 30th. Peak hurricane activity usually happens from mid-August to late October. **Persons living in manufactured/mobile homes are extremely vulnerable to the threats from a hurricane, particularly the dangers from winds.** During a hurricane threat, most of the attention is focused on the coastal communities, but from past hurricanes, we know that inland manufactured/mobile home residents have suffered destructive hurricane forces. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo brought 80 m.p.h. winds over 150 miles inland reaching Charlotte, N.C. As manufactured home owners, you need to know what the threats are and be prepared to minimize them.

For most people, nothing in life is as important as their family and home. However, nature has a way of threatening the things we hold most precious. Hurricanes are one of nature's most serious threats. As residents of an inland county, the possibility of a hurricane hitting your area exists for 6 months a year. Since you live in a manufactured home, the possibility of harm to family and home is considerably greater than with site built homes. According to HUD, in 1992, 97% of all manufactured homes in Hurricane Andrew's path in Dade County were destroyed, compared to 11% of single-family, non-manufactured homes. In the wake of such destruction, new higher standards have been adopted in the construction of manufactured housing since 1994. Even though these new homes are considered "safer" than older models, hurricane winds and related dangers continue to threaten all manufactured/mobile home residents.

The devastation of hurricanes Andrew and Hugo made headlines, but weak hurricanes and tropical storms are damaging as well.

Manufactured home residents can be victims of storm threats without being in the direct path of the storm. The threats include:

- **Inland winds-Minimal hurricane force wind speeds can destroy homes many miles inland from where a hurricane makes landfall.**
- **Falling trees/branches-Old trees and rain soaked branches will fall in high winds causing destruction to structures.**

- **Flying debris-Signs, roofing material, siding and unsecured objects left outside become flying missiles during a hurricane.**
- **Tornadoes/microbursts-A very common and sudden cause of severe inland destruction during a hurricane.**

You can't control when or where the next hurricane will strike. Don't gamble with you family and property. Do everything possible to insure your safety before a hurricane threatens.

Know Where To Get Information...

- Local radio and television stations
- NOAA Weather Radio for the latest hurricane information, including atmospheric behavior, shelter locations, and road information.

Know What To Listen For...

- A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when storm conditions with winds of 39-73 mph are expected within 24 hours.

STAY TUNED TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

- A Hurricane Watch is issued when hurricane conditions pose a threat to coastal areas, generally within 36 hours.

LISTEN FOR FURTHER ADVISORIES AND BE PREPARED TO ACT PROMPTLY IF AN EVACUATION ORDER IS ISSUED.

- A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions, with winds of 74 mph or higher, are expected within 24 hours.

BEGIN PRECAUTIONARY ACTION AT ONCE.

- An Evacuation order is the most important instruction you will receive from local government officials and is mandatory under law in the State of Florida.

Have A Plan Of Action

...Knowing what to do

is your best protection & your responsibility

- Meet with your family to develop a plan and to discuss why it is important to prepare for a disaster. Assign responsibilities and work together as a team.
- Pick a place to meet in case your family is separated when disaster strikes and you cannot return home.
- Make sure everyone, including small children, knows your address and phone number.

When an evacuation order is issued all manufactured/mobile home residents must evacuate regardless of location, structure or tiedowns.

- Ask an out-of-state friend to be your family contact for everyone to call if the family gets separated. After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Everyone should memorize the contact number.
- Post emergency phone numbers by telephones and teach your children how and when to call for help.
- Make a list of personal property, furnishing, clothing and valuables. Take photos, inside and outside, of the structure and contents. This will assist adjusters in settling claims and will help prove uninsured losses, which are tax deductible.
- Send your list to your out-of-state contact or keep it in a weather-proof container.
- If you have special needs and you do not have friends or family that can help during an emergency, call your local emergency management office to register for special needs assistance, prior to an emergency.