



Hurricane Awareness Tips

As the peak of hurricane season approaches it's time to give serious thought to hurricane preparations. All property owners and citizens are urged to stay alert, stay informed, and be prepared. While hurricanes are the primary concern, it's also critical to understand related hazards, such as tornadoes, and know how to interpret weather alerts and storm stages.

The peak of the Atlantic hurricane season traditionally occurs from mid-August through mid-October, with the statistical peak day falling around September 10th. While the official hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, the majority of named storms and hurricanes typically form and intensify during this three-month window due to several factors:

- **Warm Ocean Temperatures:** Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic reach their highest levels in late summer and early fall, providing the necessary fuel for tropical systems to develop and strengthen.
- **Reduced Wind Shear:** Wind shear, the change in wind speed and direction with height, tends to be low during the peak season. This allows developing storms to maintain their structure and organize into stronger systems.
- **Favorable Atmospheric Conditions:** Other atmospheric factors, such as increased moisture and instability, also become more conducive to tropical cyclone formation during this period.

Historically, September is the most active month for Atlantic hurricanes, with the most frequent activity occurring around September 10th. August also marks a significant increase in activity as conditions become more favorable for development. While activity typically declines after mid-October, hurricanes can still form later in the season.

Tornadoes: A Fast-Moving Threat

Tornadoes can form quickly during or after a hurricane makes landfall. These fast-moving funnels of wind can cause significant damage with little warning. Stay alert, know where your safe interior room is located, and keep your phone's emergency alerts turned on.

Hurricane Formation: Knowing the Stages

Understanding how hurricanes evolve can help you follow forecasts and alerts more effectively.

- **Tropical Disturbance** – A cluster of thunderstorms
- **Tropical Depression** – Organized storms with winds under 39 mph
- **Tropical Storm** – winds between 39-73 mph. Storm receives a name.
- **Hurricane** – Winds 74 mph or higher, classified into categories 1-5.

Track and follow storm progression through official sources such as the [National Hurricane Center](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/) and use the Tequesta website <https://www.tequesta.org/> and/or the Alert Tequesta system at <https://www.tequesta.org/89/Clerk-Public-Info-Officer> for the most accurate local updates. Palm Beach County is also a good source of pre/post hurricane related information by using their AlertPBC system. Sign up at: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Alert-PBC.aspx>

Watches vs. Warnings: What's the Difference?

- **Watch** – Conditions are possible in the area. Prepare and monitor alerts.
- **Warning** – Conditions are expected or already occurring. Take immediate action.

Post-Disaster Checklist

The Post-Disaster Checklist outlines clear steps for property owners to follow after a hurricane, including:

- **Staying Safe:** Avoid standing water, downed lines, and unsafe structures.
- **Documenting Damage:** Take photos before cleaning or making repairs.



- Reporting: Call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies only.
- Permits: Apply for a building permit before structural repairs.
- Return Home Safely: Only after the Village of Tequesta or your local government issues an official "All Clear."

Download the checklist by clicking on the "Post Disaster Checklist" button on the TCA website at the News & Views Page.

Important Reminders to Prepare for Now

- Sign up for Alert Tequesta today at:
<https://www.tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/11473/How-to-Register-for-CodeRED-Emergency-Alerts>

AND/OR

- Sign up for Palm Beach County AlertPBC today at:
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Alert-PBC.aspx>
- Check if you are in a flood zone and be prepared to evacuate. See Flood Zone map here:
<https://pbcgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=0e9444352bef47d8aaff6a2a2b4cf3ae>
- Just in case you will need them, research local shelter options at
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Publications/Shelters%20With%20Evac%20Zones.pdf> Also, research shelter options for those people with special medical needs or pets at:
 - Special Medical needs:
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Special-Needs.aspx>
 - Pets:
<https://discover.pbc.gov/publicsafety/animalcare/pages/hurricane.aspx#:~:text=The%20Pet%20Friendly%20Shelter%20is%20located%20in>

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- If you or someone in your home is medically fragile, sign up for the Florida Special Needs Registry for updates from local emergency officials. You can find this at <https://snr.flhealthresponse.com/>
- Stock up on supplies, including a waterproof container for medications and key legal documents, extra batteries, tarps, a portable charger for cell phones, nonperishable food, a battery-powered hand-crank radio and a first aid kit.
- Keep extra cash for gas and supplies in case ATMs or credit card machines go down.
- Follow evacuation orders before roads become gridlocked.