

## BUDDY SYSTEM

- ✓ Let a neighbor or the property manager know if you will be away from your unit for an extended period of time
- ✓ Make sure residents who might need special assistance are identified

### **WHAT TO DO BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS**

#### **Basic Preparations**

1. Eliminate possible hazards around your condo and work area.  
Be prepared to bring in patio furniture. You will need to do it by yourself. Maintenance personnel will be securing the condo.
2. Build and inspect a hurricane survival kit and re-supply as necessary.
3. Have your vehicle prepared for possible long trips in case of an evacuation order.
4. Locate homeowners insurance and other important papers and place in a central location stored in plastic zip type bags.

#### **Review, Understand, and Update Your Insurance Policy**

What about additional living expenses?

The additional living expense feature of most homeowners policies pays some expenses for covered losses that leave homes so damaged that residents can't live there during repairs. Such expenses could include limited motel, restaurant and warehouse-storage costs. Keep all receipts during this period. This feature does NOT apply to flood insurance.

Manatee County sometimes issues a mandatory evacuation order which affects thousands of residents. Some wonder if this coverage applies when neighboring homes are damaged but yours is not and the County won't allow re-entry to the area. Most policies will provide coverage when a civil authority prohibits the use of a residence due to direct damage to neighboring homes by a covered threat.

#### **What else can I do to prepare?**

Make an itemized inventory of your belongings including costs, purchase dates and serial numbers. A simple way is to video your belongings.

What about policy changes?

If you want to make policy changes, do so before the hurricane season.

Have I written down the name of my insurance company, policy and phone numbers?

The name of your insurance company may differ from that of your agent, agency or underwriter.

How can I safeguard my records?

Keep a copy of your important insurance records in a safe deposit box or with a relative or friend. You should also include inventory records phone numbers, videos and photos

of your property along with your important personal documents like marriage, divorce, birth and death certificates.

### **Plan for Your Pets**

Make sure your pets have current immunizations and take these records with you if you need to evacuate. If you plan to go to a motel, determine in advance whether pets are welcome and what special rules may apply. See if your veterinarian will accept your pet for boarding in an emergency.

All pets should have secure carriers, or collapsible cages. Carriers should be large enough for the pets to stand comfortably and turn around. Familiarize your pets with the carrier ahead of time. The carrier will be a secure and comforting refuge if the animal is required to live in it for days or weeks after the storm.

### **Develop a pet survival kit:**

- Proper ID collar and rabies license tag
- Carrier or cage
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Food supply to last about 2 weeks
- Newspapers/plastic bags for waste disposal
- Toys and comfort items
- Muzzles, if necessary
- Manual can opener
- Proper ID on all belongings

Arrange for a safe place to stay with your pets. Remember to develop a plan now. Review your family plan and restock your family disaster supplies too!

Do not leave your pet in your condo. Do not leave your pets in vehicles while you are housed in a shelter.

### **Residents with Special Medical Needs**

The Special Needs Program is designed to provide hurricane evacuation assistance to individuals who have no alternative for transportation or shelter from the storm.

If a hurricane threatens Manatee County and you are pre-registered as a eligible Special Needs Client, a representative will call you to confirm your transportation need. The County will attempt to provide transportation to a emergency public shelter only. Manatee County has very limited resources and when possible you should make your own transportation and sheltering arrangements.

The following information is provided to explain Special Needs eligibility requirements. If you feel you are eligible, download and print the application at the bottom of this page (or contact Manatee County Emergency Management for a copy), complete it, and mail it to the Emergency Management Office.

Group evacuation of a nursing home, adult living facility or other similar facility is the sole responsibility of the facility's management. Non-emergency transportation is your responsibility.

### **Special Needs Eligibility**

Any Manatee County resident whose physical condition, based on triage criteria, requires special care but does not require an acute care setting, and who fits into any of the following categories, regardless of age, is eligible.

1. Unable to administer their own frequently required or daily injectable medications.
2. Requires frequent or daily dressing changes due to moderate to copious drainage, such as ulcers, fistulas, etc.
3. Needs assistance with ostomy management and indwelling catheters such as N/G Tubes, colostomy bags, etc.
4. Requires frequent assessment of potentially unstable medical condition by medical personnel.
5. Cardiac or respiratory conditions which require special medical equipment such as monitors oxygen, IPPB machines, etc.
6. Terminal Illness, non-bedridden, in need of professional assistance in administering heavy doses of pain medication.
7. All others deemed necessary by triage team.

### **Special Needs Ineligibility**

Those whose conditions do not warrant admittance to the Assisted Care Shelter.

1. Needs hemodialysis procedures more than two (2) times per week. Individuals receiving such procedures should inquire at their hemodialysis facility regarding their emergency policy.
2. High-risk pregnancy within four (4) weeks of estimated date of delivery or in active labor. Those with normal pregnancy should get instructions from their obstetricians.
3. Is in acute medical or emergency condition.
4. Has a known or suspected infectious/contagious disease.
5. Any bedridden patient.

### **Construct a Hurricane Kit**

This is a list of recommended items in a hurricane kit. It can be difficult to find some of these items immediately prior to a hurricane due to high demand, so it is best to begin preparing a hurricane kit early.

Bottled Water  
 Battery-operated Radio  
 Extra Batteries  
 Ear Phone for the Radio  
 Flashlight  
 Florida State Road Map  
 Dry (Powder) Beverages  
 First Aid Kit  
 Medication for 30 Days  
 Personal Phone Book  
 Toiletries  
 Non-perishable (can) Foods  
 Plastic Eating Utensils  
 Extra Work Clothing  
 Personal Hygiene Items  
 Bedding Material  
 Pillows  
 Playing Cards  
 Magazines and Books