



CITY OF VENICE HURRICANE GUIDE 2010

Hurricane Season is from June 1 - Nov. 30. Please keep this information handy throughout the season. And please join us for the annual Hurricane Information Seminar, Friday, May 7, from 8 a.m. - noon. The agenda is at the end of this packet. Also on hand that day will be displays of products that can help you plan for the safety of your family and property presented by Home Depot, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse of Venice, Omega Garage Doors and Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Senior Outreach.

To have a speaker talk to your organization about hurricane preparedness, contact Fire Chief John Reed, (941) 480-3030.

For more information about this publication, contact Public Information Officer Pam Johnson, (941) 486-2626, ext. 24005.

Hurricane season: Be Prepared

Hurricane season in Southwest Florida is June 1 - Nov. 30.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale was recently updated to provide more information. Here is a brief summary. For more information, see:

www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.shtml

Category 1: 74-95 mph winds; (Expect up to 7-foot tides.) There is danger of injury to people and animals due to flying debris. Damage is likely to be primarily to landscaping, older mobile homes. Unprotected windows, porches, screens and sheds are vulnerable. Power losses are expected.

Category 2: 96-110 mph winds. (12-foot tides expected.) Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage

There is a substantial risk of injury or death to people and animals due to flying and falling debris. Mobile homes can be destroyed and poorly constructed frame homes may lose their roofs. Unprotected windows will have a

high probability of being broken by flying debris. Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Failure of aluminum, screened-in swimming pool enclosures will be common. There will be a substantial percentage of roof and siding damage to apartment buildings and industrial buildings. Masonry walls that are not reinforced can collapse. Windows in high-rise buildings can be broken by flying debris. Falling and broken glass will pose a significant danger even after the storm. Commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be damaged or destroyed. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted. Many roads will be blocked. Power outages may last up to several weeks. Potable water could become problematic if filtration systems fail.

Category 3: 111-130 mph winds. (Up to 14-foot tides possible.) Storm will result in devastating damage with high risk of injury or death to people and animals. Newer mobile homes will sustain severe damage while older mobile

homes will be destroyed. Other conditions listed above may occur, as well.

Category 4: 131-155 mph winds. (Tides could be up to 20 - foot tides.) Catastrophic damage will occur. There will be extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors, with complete failure of roofs on many small residences and even well-built structures. Other conditions listed above will exist. Most of the affected area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Category 5: 156 mph and over winds. Catastrophic damage will occur including all the conditions listed above. (Tides might be more than 20 feet above the affected area.) Extensive damage to windows and doors, complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors. Some complete building failures. Small buildings will be overturned or blown away.

Tie down, clean up and prepare for strong winds

Everyone should secure all outdoor belongings. It's part of being a good neighbor.

Loose patio furniture, bird feeders, garden ornaments, tools, toys and other items left in the yard can be blown into windows and through doors during hurricanes. When something penetrates a building, it can cause total collapse of the structure.

Put all loose items indoors. The home you save may be your own.

Builders: A city ordinance requires building contractors to secure all construction materials and equipment within 24 hours of the issuance of a hurricane watch. Penalties for not doing so include possible fines, jail time and license review.

Be Informed

The city's annual Hurricane Preparation Seminar takes place **May 7**, from 8 a.m. - noon in Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave. Meteorologist Bob Harrigan will be among the speakers. (See agenda on Page 13.)

CODE RED, a computer software system, can call every city resident with an emergency message in less than four hours. If your phone rings during hurricane season, it could be the city with recorded information about emergency conditions, shelters or other items of interest.

To update information to be assured of receiving such calls, go to the city's Web site: www.venicegov.com; click on Emergency Notification System, just below the Code Red icon on the lower right side of the screen. Then fill out the form and submit.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Pam Johnson, 486-2626, Ext. 24005.

RADIO: WENG 1530 AM, Clearchannel 1230 AM.

TV: Sarasota County Emergency Management on government access TV Comcast Channel 19 and Verizon Channel 32, SNN Comcast Channel 6, and ABC Channel 7.

The Internet:

Department of Community Affairs:
www.dca.state.fl.us

Division of Emergency Management:
www.floridadisaster.org

City's Web site:
www.venicegov.com.

County's Web site:
www.scgov.net

Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave., for information about hurricane preparation.

The city receives NOAA **weather radio** signals which provide storm warnings. These special radios may be purchased at telecommunications stores.

Hurricane Warning:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Hurricane Watch:

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Courtesy of the National Hurricane Center

2010 Hurricane Names

Alex	Fiona	Karl	Paula
Bonnie	Gaston	Lisa	Richard
Colin	Hermine	Matthew	Shary
Danielle	Igor	Nicole	Tomas
Earl	Julia	Otto	Virginie
			Walter

What the city will be doing

When a hurricane watch is announced, the city immediately initiates its hurricane plan.

Decision makers meet. Emergency services begin communicating with the county's emergency management department, while everyone keeps a close eye on the hurricane track.

If the hurricane continues to threaten Southwest Florida, other activities begin.

Pick up and tie down. Public Works personnel start to tie down and collect any city owned items, such as cigarette containers, trash cans and street furniture, including benches in parks and at the jetty. The Solid Waste Division will collect trash until winds are too high for the activity to be safe, usually about 24 hours before the storm is expected to arrive.

At that time, residents who have left garbage and recycling on the curb should bring them inside so they do not get blown around and cause damage.

The landfill will be closed.

Fuel up. The Utilities Department begins its emergency preparations, provisioning fuel for generators and staging both equipment and employees. All departments fill gas tanks of all city vehicles.

More decisions. The emergency executive group works with the American Red Cross to determine which shelters will open and when. Fire and police help evacuate the people with special needs, and make sure the mobile home residents are aware that they should evacuate.

Keep the flow. The stormwater crews inspect outlets to make certain all are flowing.

Emergency declared. The city clerk prepares a declaration of emergency for the mayor or city manager to sign. This declaration is imperative if the city is to receive reimbursement from Federal Emergency Management Agency in case there are damages to public property.

Batten down the hatches. As the watch turns to a warning, the building inspectors check to be sure all construction materials in the city have been secured.

NPODS ready to go. The city's representatives to the Neighborhood Points of Distribution program are staged in secure facilities so they are able to begin distributing water soon after a catastrophic landfall.

EOC activation. The city's representatives to the county's Emergency Operations Center will report for duty with sleeping bags and other necessities that will enable them to work there for several days if necessary.

Other critical personnel will report to Fire Station 3 to perform their duties throughout the storm and during the post storm activities.

On your own. When winds reach 45 mph, emergency services can no longer respond due to the danger of high winds turning over fire trucks and other equipment.

This ensures manpower and equipment will be available immediately after the storm for search and rescue and other emergency

responses.

Recovery. Once the storm has passed, the first effort toward recovery will center around health, safety and welfare. The police and fire departments will begin making assessments of damage, initiate search and rescue operations, look for downed wires and inoperative traffic signals.

Public works crews will begin clearing roads, the most critical being those leading to the hospital.

The utilities employees will check to be certain lift stations are functioning and water pipes are flowing. Generators will keep lift stations pumping. It is not unusual for tree roots to pull up pipes as they topple over in the wind.

Florida Power and Light will immediately begin to restore power to critical facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, water and sewer plants and police stations.

The City of Venice will make every effort to get back to business as usual as soon as possible.

If City Hall is not usable, it is possible the employees will relocate to a reinforced building, such as the Venice Community Center.

Storm debris will be collected in the order of need for human health and safety. The cleanup could take several weeks or longer depending on the intensity of damage.

The city's goal is to complete the recovery process as quickly as possible within the city's financial constraints. It is essential that all residents help by taking care of their personal property.

Secure your property

The following are suggestions for making property the most hurricane resistant it can be:

- **Cover windows** with wood boards, hurricane shutters, or replace old windows with hurricane resistant windows. When wind forces from hurricanes break windows, the resulting updraft can lift the roof off the structure. The opening also admits water from the storm, and broken glass can create a hazard.
- Either purchase professionally made hurricane **reinforcement** for the garage door, or reinforce it with wood 2 x 4s.
- **Pick up** all loose items in the yard and bring them inside. In 80 mph winds, even small items can become dangerous projectiles.
- **Do not put garbage on the curb for collection.** Once winds reach a certain level, the county landfill will close and it will not be safe for trucks to operate. Garbage cans and bags left outside then become hazards in the wind.

Protect yourself with flood insurance

The City of Venice is an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. This allows city residents a discount on flood insurance purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program.

Property in Venice located along low lying and coastal regions can be vulnerable to flooding.

Please contact the city's Planning and Zoning Department at 486-2626, Ext. 28004 or stop by City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., to learn if your property is located in a flood zone.

Standard homeowner insurance policies do not include cov-

erage for flood and wind.

The National Flood Insurance Program offers flood insurance coverage to city residents.

A 30-day waiting period prior to the beginning of coverage is required.

As you prepare for hurricane season, contact your insurance agent to review your insurance coverage and information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program.

In the event you evacuate during a storm, remember to take your important documentation, including your insurance policies, insurance carrier contact information, and pictures of your home and contents, in a

waterproof container.

Before you leave, enact your pet plan, board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors.

The integrity of the stormwater drainage system must be protected to ensure proper functioning during severe weather.

It is illegal to obstruct ditches, swales or other drainage structures.

If you notice someone blocking a stormwater runoff structure, please report it to the city engineer at 486-2626, Ext. 25005.

Did you know? If a storm takes down street signs and landmarks, it can be difficult for everyone, including emergency services, to find their way through the city. That is why street names are painted on curbs at several major intersections.

Where you'll go

In the event a hurricane warrants evacuation, the American Red Cross will open shelters as needed and as deemed serviceable. The openings will be announced by local media, as will those that are to be used if you bring your pets. **Do not go to a shelter until the announcement has been made on television or radio.** The following are possible Red Cross emergency shelters in this area:

- Pine View School, 501 Old Venice Road, Osprey, pet friendly;
- Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice;
- Garden Elementary School, 700 Center Road, Venice;
- Glenallen Elementary School, 7050 Glenallen Blvd., North Port;
- North Port High School, 6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port, pet friendly;
- Heron Creek Middle School, 6501 W. Price Blvd. North Port, pet friendly;
- Taylor Ranch Elementary School, 2500 Taylor Ranch Road, Venice.

Alcoholic beverages and weapons are not permitted at these shelters.

If you have special health considerations and are not able to evacuate by yourself, register with Sarasota County Special Needs at 861-5000.

What you'll need to take

Going to a shelter should be your last choice of options for dealing with a hurricane, after considering leaving the state when the storm starts to enter the Gulf of Mexico and is predicted to come toward the Florida west coast, or fortifying your home, if it is not in a flood-prone area, and staying there. If you must leave your home and go to a shelter, here are some things you will want to take with you:

- Pillows, blankets, air mattresses and sleeping bags.
- Extra clothing, shoes, eyewear, personal hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, towels and soap.
- Important papers (especially those proving residency) in waterproof containers.

The Venice Police Department will carefully monitor people who are allowed to go into devastated areas. Unless you can prove residency, you may not be allowed to return to your home immediately due to the need for security.

- Bottled water and non-perishable food with manual or battery operated can opener.
- Rolls of quarters.
- Medications.

You may want to put important papers, medications and other items which are easily damaged by water inside a plastic container, such as a sealed plastic bag.

Numbers to have in an emergency:

- Venice Police Department
Non-emergency: (941) 486-2444
Immediate Emergency Only: 911
- Venice Fire Department
Non-emergency: (941) 480-3030,
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Immediate Emergency Only: 911
- To report a water or sewer emergency: (941) 486-2770
- To report a power outage:
Florida Power and Light: 1-800-4-OUTAGE (468-8243)
- For non-emergency city information, City Hall:
(941) 486-2626, Monday - Friday; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Other non-emergency information: 211
- Sarasota County Call Center: (941) 861-5000

After the storm subsides

After the storm, it is possible electric and phone services may not be available for several weeks. Fuel may not be available and transportation of groceries and other necessities may not be possible right away. The following items will be helpful to have:

- Cash, rolls of quarters
- Two weeks worth of bottled water and non-perishable food along with a manual can opener. Plan on a gallon of water per person per day, plus a gallon of water per pet per day.
- A flashlight for each member of the family, as well as extra batteries.
- First-aid book and first-aid kit.

- A cooler for food and another for ice.
- Plastic tarp for temporary roof or window repair.
- Plastic garbage bags.
- Mops, buckets, towels and disinfectant.
- Items for infants, children and pets.

Remember: Among the greatest dangers after the storm are downed power lines. Do not walk near or drive over any wires lying on the ground.

Do not allow children (or adults) to play in stormwater runoff after an event, as the water may be contaminated or harbor vermin.

You can help emergency services by:

- Being prepared to be independent for several days.
- Making sure you have medications you normally take and using them as prescribed.
- Refraining from swimming or surfing in the gulf waters due to rip tides.
- Refraining from driving on roads until they have been cleared of downed wires and debris.
- Helping emergency vehicles by moving over and allowing them to pass.

Do you have a pet plan?



Whether you stay at home or go to a pet friendly shelter, here are a few tips to help your furry friends weather the storm:



- Have a pet carrier and a kennel available. Your pet should be comfortable staying in the kennel for a few days. Do not leave your pet outside during the storm or after the storm.
- Be sure your pet has current vaccinations and a collar with license and rabies tags, as well as an identification tag.
- Prepare an easily cleaned area away from windows to keep pets during the emergency.
- Some public shelters allow pets; they will be placed in a kennel area away from the general public. Bring your pet's food, water, medicine, clean-up bags and be prepared to care for your pet while at the shelter. The pet friendly shelters will be announced at the time they are opened.
- Stock up on pet food, newspapers, cat litter, plastic bags, disinfectant and other supplies for use after the storm. You may be without electricity for several weeks, and gasoline and grocery supplies may be scarce.
- Separate pets from each other, even if they are friendly and accustomed to being together.

Your Hurricane Check List

Get Ready In May

- Begin stocking up on bottled water, canned goods, medications or any other items that might be difficult to obtain for a week or two after a storm.

You should plan to have one gallon of bottled water per person per day to last about two weeks.

You'll also want to have a hand or battery operated can opener.

Other items to stock up on include large heavy-duty garbage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, sanitary wipes, first aid supplies, bleach and liquid dish soap; mosquito repellent; plastic eating utensils and paper cups and plates.

- If you have a barbecue grill, stock up on charcoal and matches.

- Go over your hurricane preparation and evacuation plan with your family. Let out-of-town relatives know your plan and where you will be during the storm.

- If you plan to stay in a shelter, drive to the various shelters so that hours before an impending storm, when the American Red Cross announces which shelters will be open, you can confidently and easily get there.

- Purchase battery operated radio, television, flashlights and other items that will add to your comfort if you are without electricity for a week or two. Be sure to have spare batteries for these items.

- Have your insurance and other important papers in a safe, waterproof container that you can take with you if you leave your home.

- Have a tarp and other emergency equipment on hand.

- If you are concerned that your home is in a flood-prone area, store sandbags or bags filled with garden mulch to place around your house before the storm. The mulch can be used later in the the garden.

When a hurricane watch is announced for this area:

- Watch television, listen to radio and check weather information sites on the Internet for information.

Sarasota County Emergency Management broadcasts on Comcast Channel 19 and Verizon Channel 32.

Other local area television stations that provide information include ABC 7 on Comcast and Verizon Channel 7 and SNN Comcast Channel 6.

- Begin collecting all loose items from your yard and porch, including lanais and pool cages. Even small items picked up by strong winds can break a window or lodge in a roof or other part of a structure making it vulnerable to failure during a hurricane.

- Place shutters or plywood over your windows.

- Make sure your gas tank is full.

- Fill the bathtub with water.

- Fill an ice chest or cooler with ice.

- Charge cell phone batteries.

During the storm:

- Most importantly, remember



a hurricane has two parts. Often when the eye passes over, it is very calm and sometimes people think the storm is over.

Do not go out on the streets immediately after a storm, because:

- there may be contaminated flood waters;

- there may be pot holes or live electrical wires under flood waters which cannot be seen;

- most traffic signals will not function;

- emergency services need the roads as clear as possible to respond to the number of calls they will get;

- snakes, rats and other vermin will be displaced from their usual habitat and try to share yours.

Here are some other tips:

- Do not swim or surf in the gulf waters because there will probably be dangerous rip tide currents.

- Plan for being in heat without air conditioning for an extended amount of time.

- Invite your neighbors over for a barbecue. Pool the food you have in your freezers so it is not left to spoil.





Venice, Florida
"City on the Gulf"

**CITY OF VENICE
HURRICANE INFORMATION SEMINAR
MAY 7, 2010**

- 8:00 a.m. Refreshments served in the foyer
- 8:15 a.m. Welcome
City Manager Isaac Turner
- 8:20 a.m. City of Venice Hurricane Response Preparation
Venice Police Chief Julie Williams
Venice Fire Chief John Reed
- 9:00 a.m. City of Venice Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management
City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, P.E., Certified Floodplain Manager
- 9:20 a.m. BREAK
- 9:30 a.m. American Red Cross Shelter Information
Director of Community Education Cindy Desmond
Sarasota County Red Cross
- 9:45 a.m. Sarasota County Emergency Planning
Emergency Management Chief Ed McCrane
Sarasota County Government
- 10:15 a.m. What You Can Do to Prepare for a Hurricane
Meteorologist Bob Harrigan
ABC Channel 7

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS WILL FOLLOW EACH SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION.

For more information, log onto these websites:

City of Venice: www.venicegov.com

Sarasota County www.scgov.net

Florida Department of Community Affairs: www.dca.state.fl.us

National Flood Insurance Program: www.fema.gov

Florida Division of Emergency Management: www.floridadisaster.org

The Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Thanks to Aston Gardens for generously providing refreshments today.