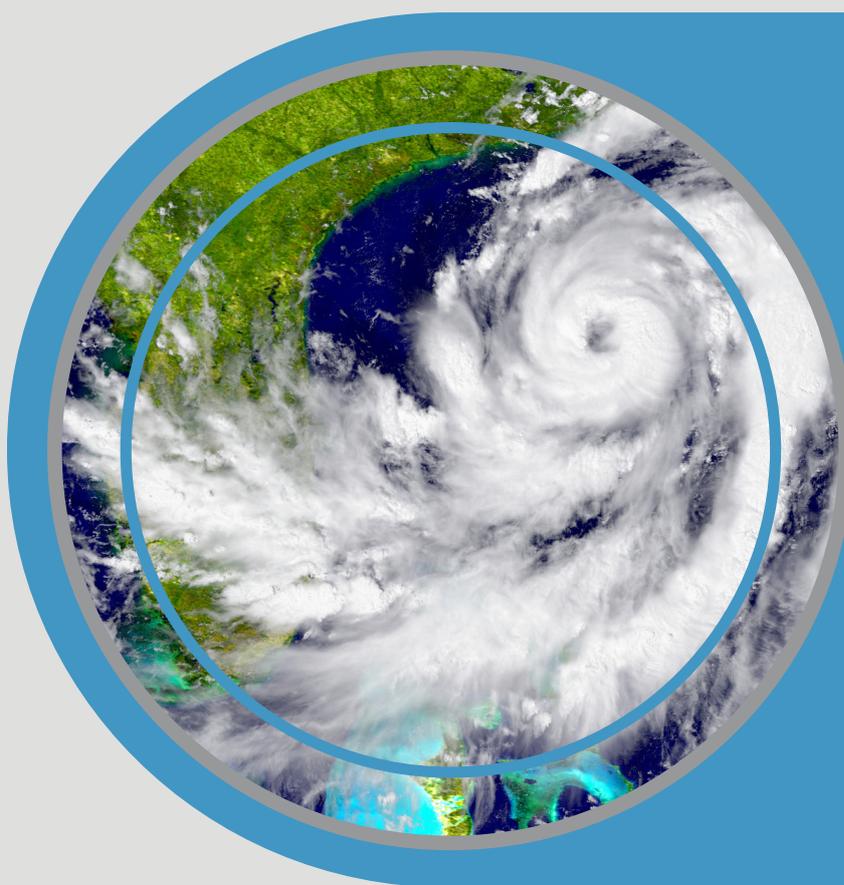




# Hurricane Handbook

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City of Homestead



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**HURRICANE SEASON**  
**JUNE 1- NOV. 30**

# Introduction

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Hurricane Season begins June 1st and runs through November 30th. Hurricane preparations should begin well in advance of a storm. Now is the time to prepare. At the start of the hurricane season, your “Kit” should be complete and include nonperishable supplies, and water. When a disaster occurs, emergency supplies are crucial during the first 7 days immediately after as essential infrastructure, communication and transportation systems may be damaged.

You and your family should be prepared and have adequate supplies to last you at least three days. If you live in an evacuation zone, more preparations are required to ensure you and your family can leave on time and have a place to go. Persons with special needs that require specialized medical equipment must pre-register in special evacuation centers. Pet friendly evacuation centers will be announced as needed or by calling 311. Don't wait until it's too late. Plan now so that you know what to do in the event of a storm.

We hope that this booklet will be a resourceful tool for you and helps you prepare. In the event that you find yourself with any unanswered questions, please call the City at **305-224-4400**.



# Basic Information



## Watches & Warnings (Tropical Storm or Hurricane)

### WATCH

A hurricane watch is issued when conditions are POSSIBLE within a certain area. This is issued at least 48 hours in advanced.

**Below are important preparations when a watch is issued:**

- Prepare to cover all windows of your home using shutters or plywood.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Fill your grill's propane tank.
- Recharge appropriate equipment, electrical tools, cell phones, etc.
- Complete any last minute shopping for disaster supply kit.

### WARNING

A hurricane warning is issued when conditions are EXPECTED within a certain area. This is issued at least 36 hours in advanced.

**Below are important preparations when a warning is issued:**

- If you live in a mandated evacuation zone or a mobile home, you **must** evacuate.
- Cover doors and windows with shutters or plywood.
- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings.
- Prepare your emergency water supply.
- Bring in any items not secured.
- Unplug your TV and take down your satellite dish or antenna.
- Lower your pool water level 12 inches, cover pool pump and add extra chlorine.
- Place valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.
- Have an adequate amount of cash on hand.
- Listen to local official's instructions, and evacuate if advised to do so. (Be sure to take proper identification with you.)

## Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Hurricanes are categorized according to the strength of their winds using the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

CATEGORY	SUSTAINED WINDS (MPH)	DAMAGE
1	74-95	Some
2	96-110	Extensive
3	111-129	<i>Devastating</i>
4	130-156	<b>Catastrophic</b>
5	157+	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b>



# Before, During, After the Storm

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**At all times listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio stations,  
or TV stations for latest storm information**

## Before

- Test emergency equipment.
- Inspect roof and home for potential dangers.
- Contact the Building Safety Division at **305-224-4520** for an onsite inspection to obtain advice on what you can do to protect your property from flood damage
- Purchase shutters or plywood for doors and windows.
- Clear rain gutters and drains of debris.
- Update disaster supply kit and emergency contact list.
- Update and review evacuation plans.
- Know which hurricane shelter you will go to and where to get picked up
- Have a plan in place for your pets.
- Review insurance policies.
- Prepare your boat.

## During

- Stay indoors, away from windows, an interior room without windows is best.
- Keep a flashlight with you at all times in case the power goes out.
- Be alert for tornadoes
- If you are in a two-story building, go to an interior first-floor room. Lie on the floor under a sturdy table or other objects if necessary.
- Do not go outside during the eye of the hurricane unless it is an emergency.
- During the eye of the hurricane the wind and rain may stop anywhere from a few minutes to more than an hour but the storm is not over. The wind will quickly pick up again from the opposite direction and it may be with greater force than before.

## After

- Remain indoors until you get an “all clear” from local officials.
- If you evacuated, do not return home until local officials tell you to.
- Do not use your telephone unless it is an emergency. Do not call 911 unless it is a life threatening situation.
- Notify HPS of downed power lines or broken gas or water mains at **305-224-4800**
- Stay away from standing water and all fallen or low hanging wires.
- Listen for a “boil water order” as water may be contaminated.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Use flashlights at all times, avoid using candles.

# City of Homestead Emergency

## Elderly & Disabled Assistance Program

In an ongoing effort to protect and support our community during times of crisis, the City of Homestead established the Emergency Elderly and Disabled Disaster Assistance Program. This program ensures that elderly and disabled residents who are unable to access emergency supply distribution sites receive critical resources directly at their homes during a declared State of Emergency.

### How the Program Works

During emergency events—such as hurricanes or other natural disasters—the City of Homestead typically sets up distribution locations for essential items like:

- Sandbags
- Bottled water
- Bags of ice

Recognizing that some residents may be physically unable to reach these sites, the Emergency Elderly and Disabled Disaster Assistance Program provides priority home delivery of these supplies to preregistered individuals.

The program is operated by City staff in partnership with members of the City's various advisory boards, who work together to ensure timely and efficient delivery of supplies to those in need.

### Who Is Eligible?

- Homestead residents who are elderly and/or disabled.
- Individuals who are unable to access distribution sites during a declared State of Emergency.

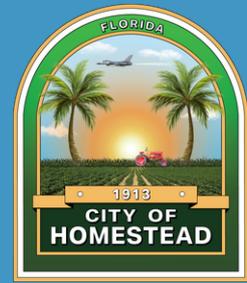
### How to Register

To receive assistance, eligible residents must pre-register for the program. Registration ensures that when the program is activated during an emergency, the City can deliver essential supplies directly to your home.

Register online at: [www.homesteadfl.gov/assistance](http://www.homesteadfl.gov/assistance)

### Program Activation

Once a State of Emergency is declared, the program will be enacted under guidelines set by the City Manager, who is authorized to implement all necessary measures to safeguard the well-being of the community.



# Emergency Evacuation



If the danger is significant, state or local government officials may issue an evacuation notice. Evacuation orders are issued by zones or partial zones. Find out if you live in an area that may be at risk for storm surge by using the Storm Surge Planning Zone Finder at [miamidade.gov/hurricane](http://miamidade.gov/hurricane)

## **\*ALL MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS SHOULD EVACUATE REGARDLESS OF THEIR STORM SURGE PLANNING ZONE.\***

If you know you will be evacuating to a hurricane evacuation center, make sure you know the name, address and where you need to go to be picked up for public transportation if necessary. Once an evacuation is announced, the list of open centers will become available on [www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov) or by calling **311**.

Emergency bus pickup sites will be activated to provide transportation to and from the evacuation centers. If a designated pickup site is not located near you, use Miami-Dade Transit to get to a pickup location. Advise the bus operator of your intention to go to an emergency evacuation pickup site.

Pet-friendly evacuation centers are available for residents living in evacuation areas, unsafe structures or mobile homes. Please monitor local radio or TV stations, or call Miami-Dade **311 / TDD 305-468-5402** to find out which centers are available. The centers are opened according to the severity and path of the storm. Each evacuee is allotted 20 square feet of space at the evacuation center, so please bring only essential items. All evacuation centers meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for sheltering.

**\*Service animals are permitted at ALL evacuation centers\***

## Evacuation Supplies

While hurricane evacuation centers will provide meals such as sandwiches and soups, it will take time to get the food set up and served, so you should eat before you leave your home. If you have a special diet, you should bring those dietary items with you, so as to ensure the highest level of comfort during your evacuation away from home.

**It is recommended to bring a three-day supply of the following items:**

- Baby food, diapers, etc.
- Battery operated radio
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Cards, games or books
- Change of clothes including shoes
- Dentures, glasses, hearing aids
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Manual can opener
- Money
- Personal hygiene items
- Map of the area
- Matches and candles in plastic bag
- Plastic bag with water purification tablets
- Plastic garbage bags
- Prescription medication
- Snacks(non-perishable)
- Tissues/toilet paper/washcloth
- Valuable/personal documents in water proof bag
- Portable electronic devices/battery packs fully charged

# Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program



In accordance with Florida Statute 252.355, Homestead Public Services wishes to notify residential customers about the Miami-Dade County Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program which provides evacuation support to residents who require specialized transportation, who's medical needs prevent them from evacuating on their own or who may require evacuation assistance.

The program may also be utilized post disaster to provide other assistance to those who are at risk due to a disability, frailty or health issues and who elected to stay at home in the event of a hurricane or other disaster.

Residents who needs evacuation assistance may apply at **[www.homesteadfl.gov/mdcemergency](http://www.homesteadfl.gov/mdcemergency)**.

To request this material in Braille or Large Print, please call **311** or toll free at **888-311-DADE (3233)**.

To register yourself or someone who needs evacuation support, go online to **<http://gisweb.miamidade.gov/EEAP/>**.

**Do not wait to register once a storm is approaching, register in advanced.  
Individuals may apply throughout the year to become enrolled in the EEAP.  
Individuals only need to apply once to be a life-long member of the program.**



# Disaster Kit Checklist

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**Emergency supplies are critical should a disaster strike.  
Use the suggestions below to check off items as you include them.  
Plan to have a 7-day supply on hand.**

- Bottled water (at least 1 gallon per person per day for 7 days)
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food (at least enough for 7 days)
- Manual can opener
- Paper plates, eating utensils, paper products
- First Aid Kit / Prescription Drugs
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight / Batteries
- Change of clothing
- Toiletries & hygiene products
- Contact lenses, eyeglasses, hearing aide
- Games, books, magazines, entertainment
- Bedding for small spaces
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- Pet care items
- Important documents in a waterproof container or bag (insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc.)
- Cash, in small bills
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled / Gas for home generator
- Telephones (Fully charged cell phone with extra battery)
- Garbage bags, insect repellent, soap, bleach
- Extra set of car keys



# Solid Waste Tips

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**It is time to start making preparations such as tree trimming and cleaning out unwanted debris. The City urges all residents to prepare NOW!**

## Disposing of Waste

It is important to properly dispose of your trash before a hurricane threatens. Improperly stored trash/debris can be very destructive during a storm.

## Bulky Waste Disposal Options

### Regularly Scheduled Pickups

Place it in front of your property on the designated pickup days for your area. For information on pickup days/times visit [www.homesteadfl.gov/gis](http://www.homesteadfl.gov/gis) or dial **305-224-4860**.

### Solid Waste Drop Site

Self-haul items to the City's trash Drop-Off Site located at 548 SE 6th Avenue. The site is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Acceptable Bulky Waste Items

Appliances: Stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, etc. All appliance doors must be removed prior to setting out for pickup.

### Yard and Garden Waste

Tree limbs and logs must be less than 4 inches in diameter and 5 feet in length. Stumps must be less than 15 inches in diameter and weigh less than 50 pounds. Contracted landscaping material and debris from unimproved lots will not be picked up. Separate yard waste from other types of rubbish.

### Other Waste

Any non-polluting items that cannot be placed in the City's standard 96-gallon garbage cans (furniture, boxes, toys, etc.).

### Prohibited Items

Kitchen garbage, cans, chemicals, glass containers, liquids, construction debris, tires, automotive or boat parts, oils, paints and greases.



# Homestead Energy

## Service Tips

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**All customers served by Homestead Energy Services (HES) are required to maintain all trees, branches, palm fronds, vines, bushes, etc. so that none of the previously stated are situated at any point closer than six (6) feet to any above ground energized electric transmission or electric service line. HES customers with questions should call 305-224-4700.**

1. Stay away from standing water and all fallen or low hanging wires.
2. Following a power outage, unplug all your large appliances and electronics to prevent any potential power surges that might occur when electricity is restored, which could damage equipment and create fire hazards.
3. Remember the “three don’ts” when using generators: DON’T run a generator in the house; DON’T run a generator in the garage; and, DON’T plug the generator directly into your home’s main electrical system. DO run the generator outside in a well-ventilated area and DO plug individual appliances directly into the generator.
4. If your home is flooded, turn off your electrical power until a professional inspects it thoroughly.
5. If you smell gas, evacuate immediately and contact your gas company’s emergency phone number.
6. After the storm, check to see if your home’s weatherhead is damaged – it is located above the electric meter where the wires come out of the pipe. Utility workers cannot reconnect service if this piece of equipment – which is the homeowner’s responsibility – is damaged. If your weatherhead needs repair, please contact a licensed electrician. If your electrical service comes from underground wires, you will not have a weatherhead and this step will not apply
7. Utilities often cannot respond to individual customers with special needs during or immediately after a storm. It is important to register those with special needs in advanced. See Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program section for registration details.
8. Visit **[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)** for your hurricane evacuation route.
9. Capture water in your water heater by turning off power to the unit and closing the water valves. If you lose water pressure, you will have about 40 gallons of fresh water stored in the tank. Store additional water in your bathtub and fill the washing machine with water. This water supply can be used for cleaning or to operate your toilets.
10. Clear your patio and yard of lawn furniture, toys, potted plants, and other debris that can blow around in high winds, causing damage or injury. Bring these items indoors or place them in a garage.
11. Prior to the storm, identify the places around your home where you can shut off your gas, water and electricity.
12. Create a disaster survival kit.

# Contact Information

## Important Phone Numbers

### City of Homestead

Emergencies: **911**

City Police Department: **305-247-1535**

City Emergency Operations Center: **305-242-2400 / 305-245-9737 – TTY\TDD**

Utility Outages (open 24 hours): **305-224-4800**

Miami Dade County Answer Center: **311 / 305-468-5402 (TTY/TDD)**

Special Needs Registry (Emergency Evacuation/Special Transport Services):

**305-513-7700 / 305-468-5402 (TTY/TDD)**

FEMA: **800-621-FEMA (3362)**

Price Gouging Reporting Line: **1-866-966-7226**

American Red Cross of Greater Miami: **305-644-1200**

Poison Control: **1-800-222-1222**

Florida Department of Elder Affairs: **1-800-963-5337**

## Social Media

### City of Homestead

### Police Department



@CityofHomestead

@HomesteadPolice



@CityofHomesteadGovernment

@CityofHomesteadPoliceDepartment



@CityofHomestead



TheCityofHomestead



TheCityofHomestead

## Useful Websites

- City of Homestead: **[www.homesteadfl.gov](http://www.homesteadfl.gov)**
- Miami Dade County Fire-Rescue: **[www.miamidade.gov/fire](http://www.miamidade.gov/fire)**
- Miami Dade County Government: **[www.miamidade.gov/hurricane](http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane)**
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: **[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)**
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: **[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)**
- National Hurricane Service: **[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)**
- National Weather Service: **[www.weather.gov/mfl](http://www.weather.gov/mfl)**
- Miami Dade County Public Schools: **[www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)**
- Traffic Control: **[fl511.com](http://fl511.com)**
- American Red Cross of Florida: **[www.redcross.org/southflorida](http://www.redcross.org/southflorida)**

# City Officials

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## **Steven D. Losner, Mayor**

slosner@homesteadfl.gov  
305-224-4454

## **Sean L. Fletcher, Vice Mayor**

sletcher@homesteadfl.gov  
305-224-4454

## **Erica G. Ávila, Councilwoman**

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305-224-4454

## **Jenifer N. Bailey, Councilwoman**

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305-224-4454

## **Clemente Canabal, Councilman**

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305-224-4454

## **Tom Davis, Councilman**

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305-224-4454

## **Larry Roth, Councilman**

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## **Nzeribe (Zerry) Ihekwaba, PhD, PE, City Manager**

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305-224-4401

## **Elizabeth Sewell, City Clerk**

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305-224-4442

## **Matthew J. Pearl, City Attorney**

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