



June 1, 2025

Dear Shore Towers 103 Condo Owners and Residents:

Unlike most natural disasters, with hurricanes we often have at least some early warning – sometimes a few hours and, if we're lucky, a few days – so it is important to take advantage of that time to consider your options, review your safety plans and make final preparations.

The following are some suggestions that experts believe will help you to prepare yourself to survive and recover from a major storm.

The information has been condensed from several publications as well as the advice of experts. Hotels, phone numbers and shelters are current as of this publication, however, it is best to always call to confirm any information.

You can begin now to prepare for an emergency by adopting your plan.

Thank you,

Kerry Laughlin, LCAM, CMCA, AMS

Resource Property Management, AAMC

[customerservice@resourcepropertymgmt.com](mailto:customerservice@resourcepropertymgmt.com)

**HOW BAD CAN IT REALLY BE AND DO I REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE?**

A hurricane is an intense low-pressure system which rotates counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, and generates wind speed more than 74 miles per hour.

Category	Sustained Winds	Storm Surge	Damage
1	74-95 mph	4 to 5 feet	Minor
2	95-110 mph	6 to 8 feet	Moderate
3	111-130 mph	8 to 12 feet	Major
4	131-155 mph	13 to 18 feet	Severe
5	Over 155 mph	Over 18 feet	Catastrophic

The storm surge that accompanies a hurricane is a huge wall of water pushed inland by the hurricane causing major destruction. The storm surge is blamed for an average of nine out of every 10 hurricane related fatalities. The ocean surface, under the storm's center, is drawn upward like water in a giant straw forming a mound higher than the ocean. As the mound nears the coast, it can grow to become a storm surge 50 miles wide and 20 feet high.

Six inches of storm surge can knock people off their feet. One foot can float your vehicle, and two feet can sweep it off the road.

Ten-foot hurricane generated waves on top of the storm surge can crash into coastal areas, which are less than 10 feet above sea level along most of the Gulf and Atlantic States. Water weighs about 1,700 pounds per cubic yard. So, the storm surge and waves can demolish a building designed to withstand wind but not water. Do not make the mistake of thinking the upper floor of a high rise is a safe place to stay in a powerful storm.

Hurricane evacuation orders are issued when a hurricane storm surge is a threat to humans in an evacuation zone. It is possible to live in a non-flood zone and still be in an evacuation zone. Know your zone and have an evacuation plan.

The ideal plan would be to stay with a friend or relative in an area outside the evacuation zones. If that is not an option, consider a hotel or as a last resort, a public shelter. Pet friendly hotels are listed separately. Whichever plan you choose, you need to execute your plan as early as possible. Hotel reservations should be made as soon as you know evacuation is likely. You may also want to reserve a day or two extra in the event Shore Towers is not accessible after the storm or if your unit is without power.

PLEASE REMEMBER that zones under mandatory evacuation orders do not receive emergency services. You will be on your own if you have an emergency.

The Florida hurricane season is from June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30. Confirm your evacuation zone (Shore Towers Condo Assc, is Zone "A"). Go to the county website to find your zone. [www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone](http://www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone)

### **Boat Owners – Storm Preparedness**

#### **Not Applicable to Shore Towers**

Please consider taking the following action as soon as a storm is imminent.

#### **Boats on lifts:**

1. Boats on lifts need to be raised to their highest position to avoid being lifted from the lift with a high tide.
2. All canvases and cushions should be secured or removed to avoid damage or loss.
3. Hatches should be taped closed to prevent large amounts of water from entering the boat.
4. Bilge plugs should be removed.
5. Boats should be secured (tied) to lifts.
6. Lifts should be secured (tied) to pilings to avoid swinging and damage.

#### **Boats in the water:**

1. All canvases and cushions should be secured or removed to avoid damage or loss.
2. Extra lines with anti-chafing guards should be used to secure the boat in the slip.
3. Hatches should be taped closed to prevent large amounts of water from entering the boat.

#### **POWER AT THE MARINA**

Depending on the height of the water at high tides, the electrical power at the marina might be turned off until the water level returns to normal. Please make any necessary preparations knowing your boat will be without power for up to 24 hours.

Please keep in mind that each boat owner is responsible for preparing their boat for all weather conditions. Many insurance companies require a boat owner to have a hurricane plan and to carry out the plan to be covered for any damages. It is highly suggested that once you have carried out your plan and prepared your vessel for the storm, that you photograph anything you've done to secure your vessel. These pictures can come in handy with your insurance company should you need to place a claim.

### **SHOULD I STAY OR GO?**

It is important to take advantage of any time available to consider the options of staying or evacuating prior to a storm. As warnings are issued, you will need to prepare your personal property to ensure the least amount of damage to people and property. Regardless of your decision to remain in place or to evacuate, the following precautions should be taken to hurricane ready you home.

- Bring all outdoor furniture and potted plants inside. Take down any outdoor wall hangings. During a storm with high winds, these items become dangerous objects. Remember, securing personal items around your unit is YOUR responsibility.
- Remember to close the curtains.
- Ensure all important documents are in a safe and easily accessible place. You may want to place them in waterproof containers.
- Bag or take photos on your phone of the most important documents.
- **Fill your gas tank.**
- Review your “Stay” or “Go” emergency kit and replenish as necessary. (Suggested items to follow)
- Read your homeowners insurance policy and be sure you understand what is covered and how to file a claim. **Take photos and/or video of your unit/home and personal property to provide to your insurance company in the event of a claim.**
- Identify out-of-area contact. Designate a friend or family member in another area who can act as a communication traffic manager and make sure that they have updated contact information for children’s schools, physician offices, employer, etc.
- Protect documentation. Make copies of all-important documents, passport, driver’s license, birth certificate, financial documents, wills, health related papers, etc. Provide copies to out-of-state contacts. Be sure to have your insurance policies and contact numbers in your possession.
- Create a home inventory. Create and organize photo catalog of your belongings on your smartphone with available insurance apps.

Management will do its best to communicate imminent danger to our property. It is, however, your responsibility to be informed and prepared to stay in place or evacuate should that be warranted.

#### IF YOU GO:

If you make the decision to evacuate the community or you are mandated to leave, there are some additional precautions you may want to take upon your departure.

- Be sure that your door is locked when you leave, and you have all you need while you are away. You may not be back for some time.
- Clean your refrigerator and remove perishable items.
- Shut off water. If pipes or your water heater break, you can minimize damage.
- Close all interior doors- This can protect against minor damage if your windows are shattered.
- Close your curtains – This will help to protect against shattered glass.

- Send management an email saying that you will be leaving your unit so that we may enter assess damage in your absence should we need to. Provide emergency contact information should we need to reach you. Email at [customerservice@resourcepropertymgmt.com](mailto:customerservice@resourcepropertymgmt.com).

Check and pack your hurricane survival kit.

### **DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS.**

#### **IF YOU STAY**

If you are not mandated to evacuate and decide to remain on property, you will want to ensure you are ready to weather the storm. Be prepared to remain in your home for several days. You will most likely not be able to leave due to debris and emergency crews will not be able to get to you. In addition to those general precautions previously mentioned, you will also want to:

- Check with your neighbors to determine who will also be in the complex. You will also want to ensure you are able to reach them after the storm.
- Prepare for the power to be out for several days. If you have a battery-operated fan, ensure you have sufficient batteries.
- Charge your phone. If possible, have an alternate charger.
- Ensure you have enough water for 7 days. The suggested amount is two gallons per person per day. Don't forget water for pets. Hint: freeze water in gallon containers. You will have fresh water and will be able to keep food items cold without electricity.
- Clean and fill your tub. This water can be used for hygiene purposes and clean up.
- Be sure to have enough medications for at least 7 days.
- Be sure to have your homeowner's insurance and inventory available for after the storm.
- If you lose electricity, unplug items and turn off electronics to prevent a power surge.

### **Elevators will NOT be operable during a storm**

During a Mandatory Evacuation:

- If someone becomes stuck in an elevator when Fire and Rescue services are suspended (as in the case of a Mandatory Evacuation), they will remain trapped until Fire and Rescue services resume, which could be days. Imagine someone on life critical medication trapped in an elevator for days. Imagine your child being stuck in an elevator. This is an unacceptable risk to owners and guests.
- To protect the elevator assets, the car and counterweight system are raised to a level above which storm surge damage could occur.

- Before restarting elevators, a physical inspection must be made to ensure there is no visible water intrusion of the electrical system or other elevator damage and that the elevator pits are clear/clean and sump pumps are operational

### HURRICANE EMERGENCY KIT

Everyone living in a hurricane prone region should have a hurricane safety kit ready. Pre-packaged hurricane preparation kits may be purchased, or you can easily assemble a kit yourself. A safety kit is one of the most essential elements of preparing yourself, your family, and your property for a hurricane.

Hurricane emergency kits should be prepared at least at the beginning of the season and remain ready until the end of the season. Hurricane season is June 1 – November 30 each year. All the listed items should be packed in portable containers that are easy for you to lift and transport.

Here is a list of some essential items:

Two forms of identification may be required to prove residency if Shore Towers re-entry is restricted by law enforcement. At least one photo ID should be available.

- Include at least two gallons per day per person as well as clean water for pets.
- Prepackaged, dried or canned food should be available. Energy bars and snacks should be available. You may not have electricity for your stove. Ensure enough for each person to eat for three days. Attached is a more complete list of food suggestions.
- Create a first aid kit. Include prescription medications, over-the-counter painkillers, rubbing alcohol, eye wash kit and vomit-inducing medication in case of accidental poisoning.
- Have several flashlights on hand with batteries. They are a safer alternative to candles if the power is down.
- Whistles can be used to signal and direct attention during and after the storm passes.
- A battery or crank powered radio will allow you to listen to weather alerts and directives from authorities that may save your life.
- Have enough to power flashlights and battery-operated radios for three days.
- Make sure you have CASH. Do not rely on ATMs after a hurricane, as power may be down.
- Ensure you have cleaning supplies. Include disinfectant and garbage bags to manage waste and germs.
- Create a small toolbox with the essentials and a pair of work gloves. You will also need tape, rope, closed-toed shoes or work boots.
- A two-week supply of prescription medication and a written list of what you are prescribed. Be sure to have your pharmacy information in case of an emergency refill. Don't forget hearing aid batteries.
- Copies of insurance policies and contact information for your physicians and family members. These should be stored in a waterproof bag. If you are taking your pet, you will need a written record of their vaccinations as well as supplies and medications.

- Bug spray
- Rain gear and waterproof footwear.
- Sunscreen
- A paper map of the area.
- Notepad and pen or pencil.
- Paper towels, toilet paper, sanitizing wipes or liquid, feminine products.
- Cell phone and chargers. (Car chargers are essential when we have extended power outages.)
- Manual can opener
- Disposable flatware, plates and cups
- Several changes of undergarments, clothing, and footwear
- Extra oxygen tank for those dependent on them
- Books, cards, or other forms of non-electrical entertainment
- Pillows, blankets, air mattresses for public shelters accommodations
- Pet food, medication and supplies such as toys and cat litter.

All contents of a hurricane survival kit should be packed neatly into easily accessible plastic storage bins and should be easily transportable.

**Follow RPM on Facebook for emergency updates.**



<https://www.facebook.com/ResourcePropertyMgmt/>

### EVACUATION SHELTER INFORMATION

Evacuations are ordered when a storm surge is a threat to human safety and survival. Recommended and mandatory evacuations are issued in zones A through D. You can find your zone by calling Pinellas County Evacuation Inquiry Line at 727-453-3150. Key in your phone number without the area code. You can also find the information at [www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone](http://www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone).

If you will require a special needs shelter, you must register in advance by calling 727-464-3800 or going to [www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds](http://www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds).

Public shelters should be a last resort. They are not hotels. They provide basic shelter space, some toilet facilities, some food and very few amenities. You must bring your own bedding. If you are going to a pet friendly shelter, you will need to bring a crate and vaccinations records.

#### PUBLIC SHELTERS NEAR U.S. 19

Largo High School, 410 Missouri Ave. N., Largo (Pet Friendly)

Gibbs High School, 850 34th St. N., St. Petersburg (Pet Friendly)

John Hopkins Middle School, 701 16th St. N., St. Petersburg (Special Needs)

Oak Grove Middle School, 1370 Belcher Rd., Clearwater (Special Needs)

Dunedin Highland Middle School, 70 Patricia Ave., Clearwater (Special Needs)

Belleair Elementary School, 1156 Lakeview Road, Clearwater

Not all shelters are open during an emergency. Check your local TV station or go to [pinellascounty.org](http://pinellascounty.org) for an updated list of open shelters.

### PET FRIENDLY HOTELS IN NON-EVACUATION ZONES

#### Pet Friendly Hotels in Largo:

Hampton Inn and Suites East Bay Drive, Largo, 727-585-3333 (non-evacuation zone)

Holiday Inn Express, Seminole Blvd, Largo, 727-581-3900 (non-evacuation zone)

Tampa Bay Extended Stay, 6500 Ulmerton Road, Largo, 1-800-804-3724 (evacuation zone D)

In the event of a mandatory evacuation order being issued for Shore Towers residents, this list may be useful as an alternative to public shelters. You are advised to book early as they may fill rapidly once a hurricane is forecasted to impact the area. All are pet friendly and may or may not charge extra fees for pets. The phone numbers are for making reservations directly through the hotel. Expedia and other booking companies may offer lower room rates, but often their booking fees are non-refundable if canceled before arrival. No specific recommendations are made or implied.



**HURRICANE EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 800-621-3362 (TTY users, 1-800-621-7585)

Pinellas County Evacuation Inquiry Line 727- 453- 3150 Key in your home phone number to get your evacuation zone; or go to [www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone](http://www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone) .

Pinellas county web site is [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org)

Pinellas County Emergency Management, 727-464-4333. OPEN ONLY DURING EMERGENCIES. You can receive news before, during, and after the storm at <https://pinellas.gov/departments/emergency-management/>

Transportation to special needs shelters: 727-464-3800. You do need to register first at [www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds](http://www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds) .

- Pinellas County Emergency Management  
727-464-3800

- St. Petersburg Emergency Management  
727-892-5200

- St. Petersburg Citizens Information Center  
727-893-7111

City of St. Petersburg Hurricane Center Website  
[https://www.stpete.org/residents/public\\_safety/hurricane\\_center.php](https://www.stpete.org/residents/public_safety/hurricane_center.php)

City of South Pasadena FEMA/Flood Safety Webpage  
[https://www.mysouthpasadena.com/government/departments/community\\_improvement/fema\\_flood\\_safety.php](https://www.mysouthpasadena.com/government/departments/community_improvement/fema_flood_safety.php)

If you have not yet done so, please log on and create your profile on the association's website. There is a wealth of info on this site. Management relies on your participation with this online platform to have your latest information.

Prepared by:

Kerry Laughlin, LCAM, CMCA, AMS  
Resource Property Management  
[www.resourcepropertymgmt.com](http://www.resourcepropertymgmt.com)

