

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

HURRICANE PREPARATION MANUAL 2025



Visit www.highlandbeach.us for additional information and to sign up for emergency notifications through CodeRED.

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TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

PUBLIC SAFETY

3614 S. OCEAN BLVD. • HIGHLAND BEACH, FL 33487
(561) 266-5800 (561) 237-5575



Hurricane Season

The hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th each year and requires serious attention from all town residents. According to the National Weather Association, this year there is an 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season for this hurricane season.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts a range of 13 to 19 total named storms with winds of 39 mph or higher. Within that range, 6 to 10 storms are expected to become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or higher, and among those, 3 to 5 may develop into major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5) with winds of 111 mph or higher. The forecasters have 70% confidence in these ranges.

Regardless of predictions, it takes only one devastating storm to make it a "bad" hurricane season.

The message is clear - **HAVE A PLAN & BE PREPARED!**

Residents should know that Highland Beach is a **MANDATORY EVACUATION ZONE** when a Category 2 hurricane or higher is expected. In the event of an evacuation order, everyone should comply. Emergency responders cannot assist in high winds or dangerous weather conditions. If there is an emergency during a storm, expect significant delays in receiving help.

As with past storms, NO specific "pass or placard" is required to return to town after evacuating. Residents with identification showing their home address will be allowed back if safe to do so and conditions allow. Any workers or caretakers returning to town will need identification and the address and resident/condominium name they are going to.

In previous hurricane seasons, the Town's **CodeRED** notification system has been the most effective way to share important and timely information with our residents. If you haven't already, please register for **CodeRED** as soon as possible. You can do this through the Town's website.

Please contact us if we can be of any assistance in your planning and preparation. We are always available to meet with residents, HOA members, or your association's staff.

You can learn more about **[Hurricane Preparedness](#)** and resources through our website at **[highlandbeach.us](#)**.

The top priority of the **Highland Beach Police and Fire Rescue** is to ensure the safety, security, and health of our community before, during, and after any storm.

HAVE A PLAN & BE PREPARED!

Season Preparedness

Hurricane Season runs from June 1st – November 30th.

Each year's hurricane season, June 1st through November 30th, poses a new threat to coastal homeowners and residents. The National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Florida, predicts storm movements 72 hours in advance and usually gives 72 hours' notice for a hurricane watch and 36 hours' notice for a hurricane warning.

Forecasting technology makes hurricanes the most survivable of natural disasters; however, preparing a plan to follow in the event of a major tropical storm or hurricane is very important to ensure the safety of you and your family. The one or two days' notice of a hurricane watch is not enough time to prepare properly for a hurricane. You need to plan ahead where to go during the storm and what to do afterwards since you may be on your own without help for as long as a month.

Severe damage to personal property can be caused by hurricanes as a result of high-speed winds and flooding. FEMA, County and Town Emergency Management Divisions, and your Property Managers urge each of you to be prepared for possible hurricanes and to follow evacuation orders if given.

Please remember that you are responsible for yourself, your family, and your property. This Hurricane Manual has been prepared for you to use as a guide when making your preparations for the hurricane season. In addition to utilizing this manual, the Town encourages all residents to register for CodeRED, the Town's emergency communications system. Residents can register to receive notifications by visiting www.hIGHLANDbeach.us/188/CodeRED-Registration.

Preparing Your Hurricane Plan

Preparing a hurricane plan helps ensure the safety of you and your family.

The Town of Highland Beach is located on a barrier island and is designated a **Zone B evacuation area**. Evacuation zones are established by the size of the storm and expected flooding for that area. The Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center will issue evacuation orders by zone. If authorities order an evacuation, the law mandates you must leave if you live in an evacuation zone where there will be flooding. The danger of high velocity winds, which increase in speed at higher elevations, such as upper floors in high-rise buildings, and the storm surge, often 50 miles wide, makes evacuation vital to personal safety. Evacuation is for your safety and that of your family; the combination of high velocity winds, flooding, and storm surges can be deadly.

The Town of Highland Beach will be completely shut down when an evacuation order is given. Prior to a hurricane warning being issued, Town of Highland Beach personnel will be busy securing all common areas and preparing the grounds in the event of a pending hurricane. There is no assurance that Town of Highland Beach personnel would be available to help you.

NOTE: When the evacuation order for your area is given, building facilities will be completely shut down. All elevator cabs will be stopped in the center of each stack, all garage doors will be locked in the down position, and all power and water will be shut off in every building. NO staff will remain on property.

It is important to prepare a plan for the hurricane season to protect your personal property and, more importantly, to ensure the safety of you and your family. People currently in residence who have not prepared a plan should do so at once. This plan should include evacuation arrangements for family, seniors and those with special needs, and pets. It will be necessary to secure boats and automobiles, remove all furniture and loose objects from balconies and decks, close hurricane shutters, and to have on hand ample hurricane supplies including food, water, flashlights, extra batteries, battery-operated radio or television, cash or travelers' checks, and at least two-weeks' worth of medical supplies and prescription medicines.

Owners not in residence should secure all personal property prior to leaving town or make arrangements to have their property secured in the event of a major tropical storm.

Detailing Your Hurricane Plan

Careful and thorough consideration of your family's needs will make your hurricane plan a success.
These are things you should do now:

- Develop your evacuation plan and notify all family members of that plan. Your plan should include tentative housing arrangements, both short and long term; transportation arrangements and evacuation route (acquire current and local and state road maps); arrangements for pets.
- Pre-register with the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management for the Special Care Unit for persons with medical conditions requiring special needs.
- Designate an out-of-area contact person and provide your contact with details of your evacuation plan, a list of names and phone numbers of relatives, and your cell phone number if you have one.
- Make an inventory, including photographs, of your household goods and store it with other important documents.
- Review insurance policies and update if necessary.
- Compile important documents, including medical insurance cards, copies of all prescriptions, immunization records, copy of personal identification, bank and saving accounts, mortgages and titles, insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, pet registration and immunization records, motor vehicle and boat registrations, phone numbers of family, physicians, pharmacy, caregiver, business contacts, etc. Place all important documents in a secure, waterproof container.
- Have hurricane shutters inspected and repaired if required.
- Make plans to secure your property, including automobiles and boats. If you are away during the hurricane season, make arrangements with someone to secure your property in your absence.
- Have automobiles serviced and kept in good repair. Keep gas tanks full.
- Stock and store medications, including extra prescriptions, oxygen, and other medical supplies as needed.
- Purchase and prepare hurricane supplies and store them in a readily accessible place for evacuation.

Preparing Children

It is important to calmly discuss a hurricane and your preparations for one with younger children.

Storms of any kind can be very traumatic for younger children. It is important for families to talk calmly and openly with their children about hurricanes, explaining to them in very simple terms what a hurricane is, what to expect, and how your family is preparing for it.

You may wish to tell them that you are preparing for a gigantic storm called a hurricane and that it will be very windy and rainy. It may be very destructive so it may be necessary to move the family and pets to a safer area during the storm. Reassure them that you will do everything possible to make sure your family is safe.

When a hurricane watch is issued, you can keep them busy by letting them help prepare their special hurricane bags packed with favorite quiet toys and games (paper, pencils, coloring books and crayons) and special snacks they enjoy. Other things to include in their bags are:

- A favorite blanket or stuffed animal
- Books
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- A change of clothes and rain gear
- A flashlight with extra batteries



NOTE: If you plan to go to a shelter, remember to take ample bedding (pillows and blankets) and personal hygiene items.

Preparing Senior Citizens

Early planning for senior citizens helps make sure anticipated needs are handled.

If you are a senior citizen, particular attention should be given to your personal situation when developing your hurricane plan. Discuss specific medical needs with your physician to determine if you require assistance or special care in the event of an evacuation; if so, pre-register early. Notify family, friends, and neighbors of your hurricane plans.

If you live alone, make your plans early to avoid last minute stress or confusion. Make arrangements for someone to help you secure your property when a hurricane watch is issued. Consider teaming up with a buddy so you won't be alone if you need to evacuate. If you require assistance to carry out daily living activities, make arrangements for your caregiver to accompany you to the shelter.

In addition to the normal hurricane supplies, remember to take with you:

- A list of medications and schedule of when they should be taken.
- Special dietary foods that do not require cooking.
- Medical equipment (cane, wheelchair, etc.) marked with your name.
- A list of the style and serial numbers of any medical equipment or devices (pacemaker, etc.).
- Extra batteries for hearing aids or wheelchairs, as needed.

Disability Assistance

You may pre-register for bus service to a storm shelter with the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management.

The Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management has a program to assist disabled persons who have no means of transportation to a shelter and no family members on which to rely. To pre-register for bus service to a regular storm shelter, please call the Palm Beach County Emergency Management Office:

(561) 712-6400, Extension 1

Special Care Unit

The Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management has established a Special Care Program.

A Special Care Program has been established by the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management to offer assistance to persons with specific medical problems or needs which could not be handled in a regular shelter. Shelter for these persons will be provided in a Special Care Unit. Pre-registration is required with eligibility based on your personal physician's recommendation. The following established medical criteria must be met to qualify for placement:

1. Oxygen-dependent residents requiring electricity.
2. Insulin-dependent diabetics requiring insulin refrigeration.
3. Anyone using electrical life-support equipment.
4. Patients unsuitable for regular shelter.

Eligible registrants should prepare the following to take with them to the designated special care unit:

- All medical prescriptions, supplies, and equipment, including oxygen for two weeks.
- Food for at least three (3) days, including all special dietary food required.
- Caregiver
- Identification
- Personal documents, including pre-registration and special needs forms, names and telephone numbers of relatives, and insurance papers.
- Personal hygiene items
- Change of clothing
- Reading material or something to do while waiting to return home.

For additional information, please contact the Palm Beach County Emergency Management office:

(561) 712-6400, Extension 4

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/pages/special-needs.aspx>

Pets

Early preparation for your pet is essential.

Your pet's safety during a hurricane depends on you and will require advance planning in the event of evacuation.



NOTE: Early preparation for your pet is essential for its well-being during your hurricane evacuation. Red Cross shelters permit only service animals (i.e., seeing eye dogs) because of safety and public health issues. Many hotels do not accept pets and kennels fill up rapidly in the face of an approaching tropical storm.

All pets should be properly registered and tagged and their immunizations should be current. Your pet's immunization records and license should be packed with your personal documents along with a current photograph of your pet. Veterinarians recommend purchasing a portable pet carrier, large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around, for safely transporting your pet.

In preparation for evacuation, make sure to pack the following items for your pet:

- Two weeks' supply of medications
- Two weeks' supply of pet food and water
- Collar with identification
- Leash
- Familiar items such as a favorite blanket and toys

Copies of your pet's immunization records and license should be kept with your pet; the originals should be kept with other important documents.

The Animal Rescue League of the Palm Beaches will provide shelter for pets during a mandatory evacuation. Occupancy will be on a first come, first served basis; pre-registration is not available. Please take pets in carriers with ample food and water, license, and immunization records. Dogs must have leashes.

Owners may stay with their pets in the shelter if they wish to do so; however, this is not a shelter sponsored by the County or Red Cross and there will be no provisions other than what you bring for yourself. For additional information, please contact The Animal Rescue League of the Palm Beaches:

(561) 686-3663

Pet-Friendly Shelter Requirements:

- The Pet Friendly Shelter is located inside the West Boynton Recreational Center at 6000 Northtree Blvd., Lake Worth, FL 33463 and is only available to Palm Beach County residents who reside in a mandatory evacuation zone, in a mobile home, or in sub-standard housing. Proof of residency will be required.
- Pets will be housed in a separate area away from where the owners are sheltered; livestock and reptiles will not be accepted. All family members will need to stay at the adjacent human shelter, Park Vista High School.
- Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

For more information please visit www.pbcgov.com/animal.

Boat, Boat Box, and Dock

Dock and boat ownership require special preparation for hurricane season.

Make thorough preparations for the care and mooring of your boat and dock during severe storms.

These things should be taken care of prior to hurricane season:

- Review your insurance policy.
- Consolidate your boat records, making sure to include the insurance policy, photographs of the vessel, registration, equipment inventory, important contact names, and telephone numbers. Pack with other important documents.
- Make sure your vessel is in sound condition.
- Check and maintain the watertight integrity of your boat, both above and below the water line, and improve it if necessary.
- Keep your boat's fuel tanks full, filters and bilges clean, batteries charged, cockpit drains free and clear, and firefighting and lifesaving equipment in good condition, in place, and accessible.
- Check all hardware and lines for durability.
- Rehearse your boat hurricane plan or arrangements.

If you plan to be away, you should make arrangements for someone to remove your boat and your boat box, or to properly secure them in your absence.

Motor Vehicles

Your motor vehicles should be serviced regularly.

If possible, move Electric Vehicles (EV's) to a safe, dry, location off the island. If this is not possible, make sure the charger is NOT connected.

For all other vehicles, make sure all trickle chargers are unplugged.

Your motor vehicles should be kept in sound running condition at all times to ensure safe evacuation.

FEMA and the American Red Cross recommend every home and automobile have a first aid kit. Other supplies which should be carried in your automobile during hurricane season are:

- Spare tire, sturdy jack, and booster cables
- Basic tool kit
- Folding shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Emergency flares
- Bottled water
- Rain gear and blanket
- Comprehensive first-aid kit

Copies of your automobile registration papers should be kept in your car; the originals should be kept with other important documents.

Suggestions for Closing Your Unit

Are you closing your condo for the season? Here are some helpful suggestions to follow in preparation for leaving Highland Beach for any length of time.

One Week Prior to Departure:

- Notify the Highland Beach Police Department when you will be leaving and when you expect to return by filling out the “Away From Home” form available on the Police Department’s webpage.
- <https://highlandbeach.us/194/Away-From-Home-Initiative>
- Notify the United States Postal Service of your temporary forwarding address.
- If you plan to disconnect your utilities and cable service temporarily, contact the appropriate companies. The telephone numbers listed below are for your convenience. Make sure you have your account numbers handy when you place the calls:
 - Comcast Cable: 1-800-xfinity
 - FPL: 561-994-8227
- Check for any leaks, dripping faucets or hoses, running toilets, etc.
- Fill out any Time & Materials requests for work you would like to have done while you are away.
- Replace all batteries with new ones.
- Check storage area and make sure all items are stored within storage bins. Excess storage on top of or beside storage bins is not permitted.
- Absolutely nothing may be stored in the A/C and electrical closets. It is a fire hazard and against the law to use them as storage areas.
- Check bicycles to make sure they are properly tagged and stored.
- One Day Prior to Departure:
- Empty refrigerator of all perishables and turn off icemaker.
- Put all open cereals, grains, pasta, spices, etc., in tightly sealed containers and place in your refrigerator or freezer.
- **Remove all Electric Bikes, Scooters, or any other Lithium-Ion Battery Operated Transportation devices from your unit.**
- **Unplug all battery charging devices.**

Just Prior to Departure:

- Turn off both hot and cold-water valves to washing machine.
- Turn off hot water heater by throwing switch in fuse box.
- Check all faucets to make sure they are tightly turned off.
- Unplug all TV’s and small appliances (coffee maker, toaster, etc.).
- Leave closet doors open.
- Pour one cup of Clorox into each toilet bowl to help prevent mold build-up. Leave the lid up.
- Set air conditioner no higher than 78 degrees.
- Set humidistat according to directions.
- Do not turn off air conditioning unit.
- Close blinds and/or draperies to keep sun out to keep your electrical bill down.

- Close hurricane shutters.
- Make sure you have not left appliances (e.g. dishwasher, dryer, etc.) operating when you leave the apartment. All last minute “clean up” should be completed before you walk out the door or arrangements should be made for someone to take care of this portion for you.
- Obtain necessary vehicle agreement forms for use in shipping vehicles to or from your residence.

Important Reminders:

If you normally require pest control services, it is recommended that you arrange for periodic inspection and servicing of your apartment during your absence.



NOTE: In the event of an impending hurricane, it is necessary for you to arrange for someone to prepare and secure your apartment, boats, boat boxes, and automobiles. Town personnel will be busy securing all common areas and preparing the grounds.

Suggested Hurricane Supplies

The following items should be taken with you wherever you go during the hurricane evacuation:

- Battery operated radio/television, clock, and spare batteries
- Cell phone (cordless phones will not work if electricity is out)
- Flashlights and spare batteries
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Digital camera
- Personal documents in waterproof container
- Matches in waterproof container.
- Fire extinguisher (ABC-type)
- Current detailed local and state maps
- Signal flare, compass, and whistle
- Change of clothing and rainwear. Pants, long sleeved shirts, socks, and heavy soled shoes. Hats and protective clothing are recommended by FEMA.
- Insect repellant and sunscreen
- First aid kit, which includes a manual, betadine solution, antiseptic spray, eye wash solution, gauze bandages, adhesive tape, sterile pads, band aids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, tweezers, needle and thread, medicine dropper, non-prescription medication, and rubber gloves.
- Prescription medicines and specific medical information
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, canes prosthetic devices, etc., clearly marked with identification.
- Personal hygiene items including toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, shaving kit, feminine items, infant items, small plastic bags with ties for disposing personal sanitation items and disposable diapers, washcloths and towels, toilet paper and towelettes.
- Ice chest and ice
- Sterno and pans for heating food
- Manual can opener, utility knife, pliers, and duct tape
- Disposable plates and cups, eating utensils, paper towels and plastic storage containers.
- Two-weeks' supply of food and liquids
- Two quarts of water per person per day for drinking

- Special dietary needs
- Small containers of canned fruit, meats, vegetables, and fish that do not require cooking.
- Crackers, dry cereal, and granola bars
- Canned or bottled juices
- Dry milk
- Baby formula and food as required.
- Pet food as required.
- Water purification tablets
- Liquid detergent and household chlorine bleach (without additives)
- Gloves and goggles
- Plastic bucket with tight lid and disinfectant.
- Sleeping bags or blankets and pillows and plastic sheeting
- Paper, pencils, and pens
- Books, magazines, cards, toys, and games

Hurricane Advisories

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible within 72 hours.

When a Hurricane Watch is issued, your hurricane preparations should be underway. When the National Hurricane Center issues a Hurricane Watch, it means tropical storm or hurricane conditions are a possible threat to our area within 72 hours. It is time to begin securing your property and preparing to leave your home in the event the evacuation order is given. A Hurricane Advisory Notice will be posted on and will be directly communicated to those registered with CodeRED, the Town's emergency notification system, via phone call and text message.

- Take the time to review your hurricane plan, reconfirming all housing and transportation arrangements.
- Notify the designated contact person of your confirmed arrangements.
- Monitor local radio and television stations for the latest weather information.
- Make sure you have adequate cash or travelers' checks for emergency use during the hurricane. Power failure may disrupt banking transactions, including use of ATM machines and credit cards.
- Check prescription medicines and medical supplies and replenish if needed.
- Collect important documents and seal in waterproof container.
- Collect evacuation supplies, including battery-operated TVs, radios, flashlights, and lanterns.
- Pack automobile.
- Fill all motor vehicles with fuel and secure those you will not be taking with you.
- Shelter your pets.
- Secure your home.
- Secure your boats, boat boxes, and docks.

Securing Your Home

Allow ample time to secure your home in the event you are evacuated.

It is important to allow yourself ample time to secure your home in the event a mandatory evacuation order is given.

- Locate the water supply valve to your unit so it can be turned off when an evacuation order is given to prevent flooding due to pipe or hose failure.
- Move your furnishings away from the windows to help protect them from possible damage.
- Store valuables.
- Remove items from your storage bin and place them in your unit.
- Remove all furniture and loose objects from decks, patios, and balconies.
- Close and lock all hurricane shutters.
- Tightly close and lock all windows and glass doors.
- If your windows face the outside, place rolled newspapers between screens and windows.
- Place folded towels in the windowsills and inside the bottom of all doors leading outside.
- Close all blinds and draperies.
- Post emergency contact information clearly visible on your refrigerator and give a copy of the information to your building manager (if applicable).

Securing Your Motor Vehicles

Garage doors should be locked in the down position in the event the buildings are evacuated.

In the event of a mandatory hurricane evacuation of the Town, the garage doors should be locked in the down position. Any vehicles left in the building garages will be inaccessible until such time as the buildings are deemed safe for re-entry. Any damages incurred to those vehicles left in the garages will be the responsibility of the owners. Copies of our automobile registration papers should be kept in your car; the originals should be kept with other important documents.

When a Hurricane Warning Is Issued

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Your hurricane preparations should be rushed to completion.

When the National Hurricane Center issues a Hurricane Warning, it means tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in our area within 36 hours. Final preparations should be completed. Follow your hurricane plan. A Hurricane Warning Notice will be posted on all Town of Highland Beach electronic bulletin boards and will be directly communicated to those registered with CodeRED, the Town's emergency notification system, via phone call and text message. Remember, the Town of Highland Beach is located on a barrier island and you will be ordered to evacuate if the Hurricane is a Category 2 or greater. Please leave promptly. Before leaving your property, the following should be done:

- Turn off the water to your unit.

- Turn off the electricity to your unit except for your refrigerator and freezer. They should be turned to the coldest settings and then shut tightly.
- Notify your contact person that you are evacuating and will follow your hurricane plan.
- Monitor local radio and television stations for the latest weather information and recommended evacuation routes.
- Expect extreme traffic delays on evacuation routes.
- **Remain calm.**
- Take your Town of Highland Beach Hurricane Manual and leave immediately.

During the Storm

Remain inside until the storm has completely passed the area.

By the time the storm arrives, you should be safely inside your evacuation site. It is important, for your safety and the safety of others, to remain inside during the storm. While you are riding out the storm:

- Continue to monitor the area conditions using your battery-operated radio or television.
- Do not attempt to cook on charcoal grills inside. If you do not have electricity and need to prepare food where you are staying, prepare foods that do not need cooking.
- **Remain calm.**

After the Storm

Access to the Town will not be available until power has been restored and buildings are determined to be safe.

Remain where you are until the official “All Clear” notification has been given by local emergency management officials. It is extremely important to follow all directions of emergency management personnel. Please understand that access to the buildings will not be made available to residents until any damages to them have been assessed and documented, the utilities have been restored, and the buildings are deemed safe for re-entry.



NOTE: If you were evacuated and the storm then took a different track, re-entry to Town would follow the same procedure as if the storm had hit our area.

While you are waiting to gain access to your home:

- Continue to monitor area conditions and receive the latest instructions using your battery-operated radio or television.
- Notify your contact and let them know you are safe.

When permitted re-entry to Town:

- Prepare for heavy traffic and hazardous road conditions.
- Use extreme caution when entering your unit and follow building management’s instructions, which will be posted on all bulletin boards, regarding circuit breakers, air conditioning, water valves, trash disposal, and other important safety information.

- Follow boil water directives. Use only non-contaminated water for drinking or mixing with food, brushing your teeth, and cleaning contact lenses. Dispose of any foods that are or may be spoiled by placing them in plastic trash bags, tightly securing the bags before putting them in the trash.
- Assess damage to your unit and personal property, including motor vehicles and boats. Document damage with photographs or a video recording and contact your insurance agent.
- Keep telephone calls short.

Additional Resources

Palm Beach County Hurricane Guide: discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/PDF/Hurricane-Guide.pdf

National Weather Service Storm Planning Guide: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan>

Red Cross Hurricane Safety Checklist: https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/pdfs/hurricane/EN_Hurricane-Safety-Checklist.pdf

National Hurricane Center Storm Tracker: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>



Important Telephone Numbers

Local Numbers

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Police and Fire-Rescue, Emergency Only | 911 |
| Police, Non-Emergency | 561-276-2458 |
| Fire, Non-Emergency | 561-237-5575 |
| Town of Highland Beach Police Administrative Office | 561-266-5800 |
| Town of Highland Beach General Information Line | 561-278-4548 |
| Operations Center, During Hurricane Only | 561-416-3471 |
| American Red Cross | 561-994-2060 |

Palm Beach County & State Numbers

| | |
|---|----------------|
| PBC Division of Emergency Management | 1-561-712-6400 |
| PBC Division of Emergency Management, TDD | 1-561-712-6343 |
| National Hurricane Center Recording | 1-305-229-4483 |
| Florida Marine Patrol | 1-800-342-5367 |
| Animal Control | 1-561-233-1200 |
| Victim Services | 1-561-355-2418 |

Insurance Hotline Numbers

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Florida Department of Insurance | 1-800-342-2762 |
| Allstate | 1-800-547-8676 |
| JUA | 1-800-636-8511 |
| Nationwide | 1-800-421-3535 |
| Prudential | 1-800-437-3535 |
| State Farm | 1-800-732-5246 |
| USAA | 1-800-531-8222 |
| Disaster Relief Assistance Federal Emergency Management Agency | 1-800-462-9029 |

Glossary

Severe Weather Terms

Hurricane Season: June 1st through November 30th is the official hurricane season.

Advisory: A message released at six-hour intervals by the National Hurricane Center that updates information on the storm or hurricane. A special advisory is a message given any time there is a significant change in weather.

Small Craft Warning: A warning given when a hurricane or tropical storm threatens the area advising small craft to remain in port.

Tropical Wave: A large low-pressure system in the tropics and subtropics.

Tropical Disturbance: A group of thunderstorms that moves together through the tropics for at least 24 hours, but with no noticeable circular motion.

Tropical Depression: A weak storm system with winds of 38 mph or less and rotary movement only on the water's surface.

Tropical Storm: A circular windstorm in tropical or subtropical climates with a defined eye and winds of at least 74 mph. Tropical cyclones, the general term for all large-scale circular windstorms in the tropics and subtropics, are called hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, eastern Pacific Ocean, and near Hawaii. Tropical cyclones in the north Pacific Ocean are called typhoons.

Storm Warnings

Tropical Storm Watch: An advisory issued by the National Hurricane Center when tropical storm conditions, with winds of 39 to 73 mph, could threaten a coastal area within 72 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning: An advisory issued when winds of 39 to 73 mph are expected. If a hurricane is expected, tropical storm warnings probably will not be issued before hurricane warnings.

Hurricane Watch: An advisory issued when hurricane conditions are possible within 72 hours.

Hurricane Warning: An advisory that says hurricane conditions are expected in a specific area within 36 hours. All areas in the warning zone are likely to be affected, even if the hurricane just passes by.

Hurricane Categories

Hurricanes are given ratings from 1 to 5 based on the Saffir-Simpson Scale.

Category 1 Hurricane: Wind speeds of 74 to 95 mph with a storm surge of four to five feet and barometric pressure of 28.94 inches or higher. Expected to cause minimal damage, primarily to foliage, unanchored mobile homes, and poorly constructed signs.

Category 2 Hurricane: Wind speeds of 96 to 110 mph with a storm surge of six to eight feet and barometric pressure of 28.50 to 28.93 inches. Expected to cause moderate damage with some damage to roofs and windows of homes and heavy damage to mobile homes.

Category 3 Hurricane: Wind speeds of 111 to 130 mph with a storm surge of nine to 12 feet and barometric pressure of 27.91 to 28.49 inches. Expected to cause extensive damage with some structural damage to buildings and trees and destruction of mobile homes.

Category 4 Hurricane: Wind speeds of 131 to 155 mph with a storm surge of 13 to 18 feet and barometric pressure of 27.14 to 27.90 inches. Expected to cause extreme damage with heavy damage to homes and uprooting of trees.

Category 5 Hurricane: Wind speeds greater than 155 mph with a storm surge greater than 18 feet and barometric pressure less than 27.17 inches. Expected to cause catastrophic damage with small buildings blown away or overturned and trees destroyed.

Tornado Ratings

Tornadoes are ranked from 1 to 5 based on the Fujita tornado intensity scale, which measures the amount and type of wind damage sustained.

F-0: Light damage. Winds up to 72 mph.

F-1: Moderate damage. Winds of 73-112 mph.

F-2: Considerable damage. Winds of 113-157 mph.

F-3: Severe damage. Winds of 158-206 mph.

F-4: Devastating damage. Winds of 207 to 260 mph.

F-5: Incredible damage. Winds above 261 mph.