

Bucey's Place 31<sup>st</sup> Street Townhomes

Hurricane Preparedness

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Homeowners and tenants,

Hurricane season is in full swing and there is a possibility of a hurricane Helene hitting in our area. We ask that you bring in or tie down all exterior items that can fly or cause damage in heavy winds. We have created a checklist and written some guidelines to help ensure everyone's safety while making preparations during this storm. We hope this is helpful to you and your family. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Respectfully,

Jamison Austin, CAM  
Diverse Management  
850-708-5557  
[jamison@diversemgmt.org](mailto:jamison@diversemgmt.org)

Hurricane Classifications are:

Category	Barometric Pressure (Inches)	Wind speed (Miles Per Hour)	Storm Surge (Feet)
I - Minimal	Above 28.94	74-95	4-5
II - Moderate	28.50-28.91	96-110	6-8
III - Extensive	27.91-28.47	111-130	9-12
IV - Extreme	27.17-27.88	131-155	13-18
V - Catastrophic	Less Than 27.17	More Than 155	More than 18

## 2024 Hurricane Names

Alberto	Helene	Oscar
Beryl	Isaac	Patty
Chris	Joyce	Rafael
Debby	Kirk	Sara
Ernesto	Leslie	Tony
Florence	Michael	Valerie
Gordon	Nadine	William

### Hurricane Watch vs. Warning

The Emergency Management Center for our local area monitors the weather forecast and subsequent possibility of landfall. In the event that it becomes necessary they will order either a Hurricane Watch or Warning for our area.

A Hurricane Watch means 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.

A Hurricane Warning means 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.

Many people do not realize the threat that hurricanes can present—even if they live in hurricane-prone areas—because they have not experienced a “major” hurricane.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season begins May 15 and ends November 30.

### **Basic Preparedness Tips**

- Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take and have a plan for where you can stay. Contact your local emergency management agency for more information.
- Put together a go-bag: disaster supply kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate
- If you are not in an area that is advised to evacuate and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.
- Make a **family emergency communication plan**.

### **Preparing Your Home**

- Hurricane winds can cause trees and branches to fall, so before hurricane season trim or remove damaged trees and limbs to keep you and your property safe.
- Remember to keep generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet away from windows and doors and protected from moisture; and NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet.

### **What to do when a hurricane is 6 hours from arriving**

- If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.
- Close storm shutters, and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.

- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.
- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.

#### **What to do when a hurricane is 6-18 hours from arriving**

- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

#### **What to do when a hurricane is 18-36 hours from arriving**

- Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.
- Cover all of your home's windows.

#### **What to do when a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving**

- Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Plan how to communicate with family members if you lose power. For example, you can call, text, email or use social media. Remember that during disasters, sending text messages is usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because phone lines are often overloaded.
- Review your evacuation plan with your family. You may have to leave quickly so plan ahead.
- Keep your car in good working condition, and keep the gas tank full; stock your vehicle with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

## **After a Hurricane**

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Avoid flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- Photograph the damage to your property in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.

## **When there is no hurricane: Make a hurricane plan**

- Know your **hurricane risk**. Talk to your local emergency management agency.
- Make an **emergency plan**.
  - Sign up for alerts and warnings
  - Make a Family Communication plan
  - Plan shelter options
  - Know your evacuation route

Resources:

**\*\*\*Sign up for Text/Email Alerts  
for severe weather in Okaloosa County \*\*\***

<https://alertokaloosa.com/home>

Download the FEMA app on your smart phone

Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android&hl=en>

Apple App Store:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fema/id474807486?mt=8>

Maps:

Okaloosa County Evacuation Zones:

<https://myokaloosa.com/ps/evacuation-maps>

Okaloosa County Hurricane Guide:

<https://okaloosaislandfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Hurricane-Guide-2018.pdf>

**Where is the nearest hurricane shelter?**

Bay County uses public schools for hurricane shelters. Depending on the nature of the event and school construction / renovation, different schools may be used each year. Stay tuned to local media or call 850-784-4000 to find out which schools may be utilized in any given event.

The information contained in this manual was gathered from a variety of websites including those listed within the manual as well as:

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

[www.pep-c.org](http://www.pep-c.org)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

<http://www.almanac.com/>

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

