Hurricanes are strong storms that cause damage and property threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. You can take steps to reduce the risk of serious disruption, injury or loss of life by making preparations. We want to do our part in helping you get prepared for a hurricane. Planning ahead can save time and lives in many types of emergencies. Even if you have taken some steps in the past to prepare, it is important that you revisit and update your communication plan and check your emergency preparedness kit for expired items. As your elected city officials, with the competent help of our city staff, this information has been prepared as another aid in assisting you to safely navigate through a hurricane if one is predicted for your area.

**IN THIS GUIDE:**

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**IMPORTANT TERMS TO KNOW:**

**Tropical Depression:**
A disturbance with a clearly defined low pressure area and wind speeds as high as 38 mph.

**Tropical Storm:**
A distinct low pressure area defined by a counterclockwise rotating circulation with winds of 39-73 mph.

**Hurricane:**
A warm-core tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface winds are 74 mph or greater.

**Tropical Storm Watch:**
An alert that tropical storm conditions may pose a threat to a specific area within 36 hours.

**Tropical Storm Warning:**
An alert that tropical storm conditions are expected in a specific area within 24 hours.

**Hurricane Watch:**
An alert that hurricane conditions may pose a threat to a specific area within 48 hours.

**Hurricane Warning:**
An alert that hurricane conditions may pose a threat to a specific area within 36 hours.

**Voluntary Evacuation Order:**
Threat to life and property may be imminent. Evacuation is not required, but would be wise, particularly for tourists, the elderly and those with special needs.

**Mandatory Evacuation Order:**
Imminent threat to life and property exists. Individuals MUST relocate and seek refuge in an inland, non-evacuation area.

**WEST PARK RECOVERY P.O.D. (McTyre Park)**

As part of our ongoing efforts to encourage hurricane preparedness and to provide disaster recovery assistance after a storm event, McTyre Park, 3501 SW 56 Avenue, West Park, will serve as a Point of Distribution (POD). PODs are centralized locations where the public can pick up life sustaining commodities such as water. Each person or vehicle receives a set amount of water. The commodities will be supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State through Broward County.

The items that will be supplied may include, but are not guaranteed or limited to, shelf stable food, bottled water, and limited amounts of ice. The recommended amount is for each person/vehicle to receive enough for a household of three. The amount of supplies provided will differ depending on the type of transportation used. For instance, more supplies are provided to someone in a car than to a pedestrian who must hand carry items. The proposed West Park POD will accommodate vehicle traffic (drive-thru), and pedestrian traffic.
BEFORE THE STORM

Every family in West Park should be prepared to be self-sufficient for the first three to five days after a major storm so recovery efforts can be focused on those who cannot help themselves.

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Discuss the hazards that may affect your family. Know your home’s vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Also, discuss the following:

- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets, if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- GET CASH. Banks and ATMs do not operate without electricity in the aftermath of a major storm.
- GET GAS. Gas pumps do not operate without electricity in the aftermath of a major storm.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES/KIT (3-5 DAY SUPPLY)

BASIC ITEMS:

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Canned meat, fish, fruit, or vegetables
- Bread in moisture proof packaging
- Snack foods, cookies, candy or dried fruit
- Canned soups & non-perishable milk
- Powdered or single serve drinks
- Cereal or granola bars
- Instant tea or coffee
- Portable battery powered lanterns
- Several large trash bags
- Batteries, including hearing aid batteries
- First aid kit with aspirin & antibiotic cream
- Mosquito repellent
- Sun screen (SPF 45 recommended)
- Waterproof matches / butane lighter
- Unscented bleach or water purification tablets (add 8 drops of bleach per gal.)

COOKING ITEMS:

- Sterno fuel
- Portable camp stove or grill
- Stove fuel or charcoal w/ lighter fluid
- Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups
- Napkins and paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitts

OTHER SUPPLIES:

- Prescription medicines (1-month supply and copy of prescriptions)
- Toilet paper
- Entertainment: books, games, magazines, etc.
- Bedding, pillows, sleeping bag
- Change of clothing
- Rain ponchos and work gloves
- Extra eye glasses or contact lenses

SUPPLIES FOR BABIES:

- Disposable diapers
- Formula, food and medication
- Bottles and feeding utensils

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS:

- Insurance documents
- A list of all your important contacts (family members, doctors, and insurance agents)
- Banking information
- Leases / mortgage
- Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill)
- Photo inventory of your personal belongings
- Waterproof container to store documents
**PET SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS**

Contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency. You may also consider the following tips:

- Make sure your pets are current on their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Have a current photograph of your pet(s).
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.
- Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal - carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.
- Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.

If you plan to shelter your pet - work it into your evacuation route planning. Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have the following:

- Proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings
- A carrier or cage
- A leash
- Ample supply of food, water and food bowls
- Any necessary medications, specific care instructions and newspapers or trash bags for clean-up.
- Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability. After the storm, walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home - often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, downed power lines, reptiles brought in with high water and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.
- If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet if possible.
- After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

**PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

- Proper identification including immunization records
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Medications

**SPECIAL NEEDS MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS**

If you have special needs or are caring for someone with special/medical needs, it is good to prepare for a disaster well in advance. The following are important points to consider:

- Do you or someone you take care of require special medication in times of turmoil?
- How about oxygen, tube feeding, dialysis, or other life sustaining equipment?
- Will a wheelchair, walker, a special bed, or special toilet items be needed?
- If you have to evacuate, will you need transportation?
- Will you or someone you take care of require a special needs shelter?
**SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS**

Pre-registration for the Special Medical Needs Shelter is offered throughout the year. While this is not required, it is strongly encouraged to ensure the shelter will be prepared to meet your needs if you must evacuate. To register for a Special medical Needs Shelter, call the Broward County Human Services Department at 954.357.6385 (TTY 954-357-5608).

**What to Bring:**

If you will be going to a Special Needs Shelter, plan to bring the following items: *Special foods, prescription medications, nebulizer, syringes, sterile swabs, oxygen equipment and other relevant necessities.*

Reasonable modifications will be made for shelter residents with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need transfer assistance, sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, or a quiet zone for a cognitive disability or mental health need, call 954-357-6385 or TTY 954-357-5608 for updated information.

**Items not permitted in shelters** include firearms, explosive devices, intoxicating beverages, and illegal drugs.

Residents with service animals accompanying them are welcome at all shelter sites.

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**HOSPITAL CARE**

If you must go the hospital ahead of a storm, then be sure to do the following:

- Talk to your doctor/caregiver to see if you need to be admitted.
- Arrive early and expect to wait.
- Be sure to take identification cards and medical information.
- Clearly label all medical equipment.

**You do not need to be in a state of turmoil when disaster strikes.** Calmness and confidence can be yours when you properly prepare yourself ahead of time.

**TRANSPORTATION TO SHELTERS**

**Persons with disabilities:** Broward County Transit’s Paratransit Services section coordinates transportation for residents with disabilities. Call 954-357-6385 or TTY 954-357-5608.
To protect your property before a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

**WINDOWS AND DOORS:**

- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows and glass doors. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8” marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- If you live in an apartment or condo, securing your windows and doors will minimize damage to your unit.
- Consider designating an interior room preferably with no windows as a “safe room.”
- Reinforce or replace garage doors if necessary.

**SECURE ROOFS:**

- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Secure metal siding and metal roofs
- Secure built-up and single-ply roofs
- Secure composition shingle roofs
- Brace gable end roof framing

**OTHER SAFETY MEASURES:**

- Take down and bring in any signs, tables, garbage cans, plants, furniture, umbrellas, and other loose/unsecured items from outdoors, including balconies.
- Add extra chlorine to your pool.

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**YARD CLEANUP**

**TRIM TREES:** All trees are vulnerable to storm damage. Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed. With proper pruning, you can reduce risks of storm damage.

***Remember you must obtain a permit to prune and/or remove certain trees. View the City’s Code of Ordinances or call City Hall at 954.989.2688 for specific guidance.

**DISCARD DEBRIS:** It is the responsibility of homeowners and contractors at construction site contractors to remove all branches and debris from residences before a storm.

***Be sure to dispose of yard waste according to City ordinances and regulations.

**QUICK HOME INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

- Have your roof inspected by a licensed professional. Check for proper overflow drainage, especially on flat roofs.
- Clear all drains of debris.
- Check for loose rain gutters and drain spouts and secure these.
- Dispose of all yard waste.
- Update insurance coverage.
- Check your shutters (practice installing if you bought a new home or new shutters).
- Remove any items that may become potential windborne missiles
- Test your generator and chainsaw for proper operation.
**Evacuation Tips: Have A Place To Go**

If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location, then it is important to consider the following points:

- **If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.** If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.

- **If ordered to evacuate, know where you are going.** Practice exit routes from your home and neighborhood. Keep at least a half tank of gas in your car at all times during the storm season. Take your disaster supply kit with you.

- **If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait in traffic.** The large number of people in this state who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times. If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of the hurricane season.

- **If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave.** Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways.

- **If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels/motels rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter.** Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your disaster supply kit with you to the shelter. Find pet friendly hotels and motels.

  **Be sure to fill up your car with gas, before you leave!**

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**Neighborhood Emergency Plan**

1. Meet with neighbors to plan how you can work together.
2. Determine if anyone has emergency-specific skills that may be helpful in an emergency, i.e. healthcare professional, electrician, etc.
3. Decide who will check on elderly or disabled neighbors.

**Business Emergency Plan**

1. Make sure the building has an evacuation plan.
2. Determine if the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are secure from contaminants and know how to turn them off.
3. Have appropriate and fully stocked emergency kit on hand.
4. Have a plan in place if you cannot leave the business.
DURING THE STORM
STAYING SAFE INDOORS

If a hurricane does make landfall, you should do the following:

- Monitor radio or television for weather updates and instructions from emergency management and public safety officials.
- Stay indoors, preferably in a designated, interior “safe room” with few or no windows.
- Place towels along window sills and bottoms of doors.
- Leave the main circuit breaker on (unless power fails).
- Take your disaster emergency kit with you if you move from room to room.
- If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
- If flooding occurs in your home, elevate valuables to table tops or high places.
- If you lose power, turn off all major appliances.
- Use flashlights, not candles or kerosene lamps, as your light source.
- Avoid using the phone and do not take a bath or shower during the storm.
- Keep children informed about what is happening and watch for signs of stress.
- Keep animals in their carriers.
- Do NOT go outside as the eye of the hurricane passes as tornadoes can appear at any time.
- Monitor your local radio station and if a tornado warning is issued, take refuge in an interior hallway or on the lower level if in a tall building. Stay away from glass doors and windows. You can also take cover under heavy furniture in the center of the house.
AFTER THE STORM

The City’s priority is to clear major roadways of storm debris as soon as it is safe immediately following a hurricane. Other roads are cleared thereafter.

RECOVERY
Continue monitoring local news on the radio to learn if authorities have declared the area safe and to get updated information and instructions such as boil water advisories. You should also do the following:

- Inform other family members or contacts about your status.
- If you are returning home from another location, make sure the main electrical switch to your home is off before entering the structure.
- Be careful when entering a structure that may have been damaged.
- If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and notify the gas company.
- Report utility damage to the proper authorities.

SAFETY TIPS
Many injuries occur after the storm. To avoid injury, use common sense and wear proper clothing, including clothes with long sleeves and long pants and safety shoes or boots.

Downed Power Lines: Stay away and do not touch downed power lines. Stay away from standing water that may have active electrical currents. Although you may be without power in your home/business, it does not mean the lines are not active.

Driving Around: If you must travel, treat all intersections as 4-way stops. Some roads may be restricted. Watch for debris on the road. Respect any curfews imposed by the authorities.

Generator Usage: Do not operate a generator indoors, on balconies or near open windows. Make sure that the generator is running in a well-ventilated area. Many people die from carbon monoxide poisoning every year due to improper generator use. Read instructions and use with caution.

Tree Trimming: Use caution when operating power equipment (i.e. chain saws). Follow the manufacturer’s instructions and wear appropriate safety gear (i.e. goggles and gloves). Stay clear of those using manual or other tools to cut trees. Avoid back injuries by using mechanical assistance to move debris that is too heavy to move manually.

EMERGENCY BUILDING PERMITS
If your home is deemed uninhabitable by the Building Official, you must leave your home until proper repairs are completed. Contact the City’s Building Department for information regarding emergency building permits due to storm-related damages at 954.989.2688.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE
Individuals and families may receive direct assistance from organizations including American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer groups that provide food, shelter, supplies and assistance with cleanup.
EMERGENCY DOOR HANGERS FOR RESIDENTS

The City of West Park provides emergency door hangers for residents to notify neighborhood leaders and emergency personnel if they need urgent assistance after a hurricane. The red door hangers say "HELP" and should be placed on the front door to a residence.

Vulnerable residents such as older citizens, handicapped and/or special need individuals are encouraged to pick up emergency door hangers at City Hall, 1965 South State Road 7, West Park, FL 33023 or at McTyre Park, or Mary Saunders Park.

SANDBAG DISTRIBUTION

The City will provide sandbags to residents, at one or all of the three sites listed below:

McTyre Park, 3501 SW 56 Avenue, West Park

Mary Saunders Park, 4750 SW 21 Street, West Park

Water Tower Park, 3900 SW 39 Street, West Park
Right Tree, Right Place
Caring for trees and your service
Line clearing helps prevent outages

FPL is committed to delivering safe, reliable electric service to our customers. Trees, especially palm trees, can interfere with power lines and are one of the most common causes of power outages and flickers.

FPL’s preventive maintenance program clears tree limbs and branches that can potentially cause safety issues and power outages. FPL uses “directional pruning” to protect the health of your trees while helping them grow away from power lines. Directional pruning is a professional technique of pruning trees away from power lines by removing entire branches and limbs down to the main trunk of the tree where trees normally shed them. This method directs future tree growth away from the power lines and reduces re-growth.

Directional pruning is an industry best practice with guidelines supported by the International Society of Arboriculture, American National Standard Institute and university research.

Side-trim directional pruning

V-trim directional pruning

Proper pruning for tree health

Yes

Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar to respect natural growth patterns and direct future growth away from power lines.

No

Topping trees or leaving branch stubs severely damages trees and encourages rapid regrowth.
Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

By selecting the right tree and planting it in the right place, you can help reduce power outages and flickers for you and your neighbors.

Trees come in all shapes and sizes, and often change dramatically over their lifetimes. **Before selecting a tree, make sure you know how tall, wide and deep it will be at maturity.** For a list of recommended trees for your area, please visit FPL.com/trees.

Where you plant your tree is just as important as what type of tree you plant. Blocking an unsightly view or creating some shade may be a priority, but you must also think about your tree’s impact on existing utility lines as it grows taller and wider. At maturity, will its canopy reach the overhead lines? Keep in mind that the larger the power pole or structure, the farther back you should plant your tree. Planting trees that will interfere with power lines violates Florida law and can jeopardize the reliability of your electric service. Taking the time to consider location now can prevent avoidable power disturbances for years to come.

It’s never too late! To correct landscaping missteps of the past, try relocating or removing small trees to prevent future service issues. **No amount of trimming can substitute for smart landscaping and responsible maintenance by property owners.**
Trees in your neighborhood
When landscaping your home or business, remember to:

- Plant only small trees and shrubs in areas adjacent to power lines.
- Keep medium and large trees, including palms, at a safe distance from power lines.
- Keep transformers clear of vegetation at all times.

Room to grow
For the health of your trees and the reliability of your electric service, give your trees ample room to grow without interfering with power lines or equipment. FPL recommends the following set-back distances based on your tree’s mature height.

- **Large Trees**: 30’ minimum set-back
- **Medium Trees**: 20’ minimum set-back
- **Large Palms**: Set-back must be maximum palm frond length plus 10’

Utility Pruning Zone

Note: These set-back guidelines may not be suitable around transmission lines and equipment. Trees are shown at mature height.

Small trees less than 20 feet tall and shrubs may be planted adjacent to neighborhood power lines.
1. **Note the location of power lines**

Power lines are usually located at the top of the utility pole, farthest from the ground. Cable television and telephone lines run closer to the ground, below power lines. When planting your trees, be sure to give them ample room to grow without interfering with power lines.

2. **Find the right tree, choose the right spot**

Before selecting a tree, consider how tall, wide and deep it will be at maturity. Then carefully consider the location and appropriate setback distances to prevent avoidable power disturbances for years to come.

3. **Shading**

Landscaping to shade your home from the sun is a low-cost, effective way to reduce your cooling costs.

4. **Keep transformers clear**

Keep the transformer cabinet clear at all times to allow for maintenance and repairs. Maintain a "clear zone" of 6 feet in the front and 3 feet in the back and on both sides.

**Stay safe**

When planting, what you can see can hurt you. Before you reach for a shovel, reach for the phone. One easy call to 811 starts the process of getting underground utility lines marked. Make that call at least two full business days before you start digging: it's free, fast and required by law.

When doing yard work, always look up and note the location of power lines. Never attempt to trim any vegetation growing near power lines. When hiring landscapers or yard workers to trim your tree, remember to ask if they are licensed, insured and qualified to trim vegetation around power lines.
FPL focuses on preventive maintenance

Our strategy to clear vegetation from power lines is based on consistent, planned trimming cycles. Each year, FPL trims trees along thousands of miles of power lines throughout the state.

FPL will notify you before line clearing begins in your neighborhood. FPL’s preventive maintenance plan calls for clearing main power lines every three years and neighborhood lines every six years, on average.

To help ensure reliable electric service now and in the future, FPL may need to remove select trees, especially palm trees, bamboo and other fast-growing vegetation that cannot be managed effectively by pruning or trimming.
Your safety is important

If you decide to work outside, look up and note the location of power lines before you begin. Careful avoidance of power lines is extremely important during yard work, especially when using tools, ladders, poles or pruning saws. Be sure that ladders or scaffolds are far enough away so that you — and the ends of the tools you’re using — don’t come within 10 feet of power lines.

Never attempt to trim any vegetation growing near power lines. Only specially trained line-clearing professionals should work around power lines.

Call before you dig. Florida law requires that you call Sunshine State One Call at 811 to locate and mark buried power lines and other utilities before you dig. Call 811 at least two business days before you begin work to avoid unintentionally hitting underground utility lines. This free service helps keep everyone safe.

FPL.com/trees
1-800-226-3545

Arbor Day Foundation

Florida Power & Light Company has been named a Tree Line USA utility by The National Arbor Day Foundation.
Residents have various options for getting important storm related and disaster recovery alerts and updates before, during and after a storm in the following ways:

**SIGN UP FOR EMAIL/TEXT ALERTS FROM THE CITY**

1. Go to the City’s website: [www.cityofwestpark.org](http://www.cityofwestpark.org)
2. From the Home Page, click the button: **Sign Up For Notifications**.
3. Register to receive emails and text alerts from the City on the form provided.

**SIGN UP FOR CodeRED ALERTS**

1. Go to the City’s website: [www.cityofwestpark.org](http://www.cityofwestpark.org)
2. From the Home Page, click the button: **Emergency**.
3. Register to receive emails and text alerts on the form provided.

**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACTIVITIES**

**For West Park Residents ONLY.** The City welcomes volunteers who wish to assist with disaster relief activities after storm events. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.

To sign up and join the West Park Volunteer Team, follow these steps:

1. Go to the City’s website: [www.cityofwestpark.org](http://www.cityofwestpark.org)
2. From the Home Page, click the button: **Sign Up For Notifications**.
3. Register on the Volunteer Sign Up form.
CITY OF WEST PARK
1965 SOUTH STATE ROAD 7 WEST PARK, FL 33023

WEBSITE:
www.cityofwestpark.org

FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/westparkfl