

June 10, 2016

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LAKE COUNTY URGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE 2016 HURRICANE SEASON



Contact:

Noelda Lopez, Public Information Specialist

Noelda.Lopez@flhealth.gov

Office: 352-589-6424, After Hours: 352-728-7662

Lake County – The Florida Department of Health in Lake County urges residents to prepare for the upcoming Hurricane season which officially began on June 1st and runs through November 30th. Now is the ideal time for residents to take a few simple safety steps to keep their families prepared and safe during a hurricane. Emergency Management officials urge residents to develop a family communication plan and prepare a disaster supply kit.

“A common thread among hurricane disaster is the lack of preparation. Everyone needs to have a plan in place to safeguard their families in the aftermath of a hurricane.” said Aaron Kissler, Administrator Florida Department of Health in Lake County.

Hurricane Hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. The National Weather Service helps protect life and property through issuance of timely [watches and warnings](#).

Families should become aware of the locations of their closest county emergency shelter which include: Astatula Elementary, Leesburg Elementary, Lost Lake Elementary, Mascotte Elementary, Round Lake Elementary, Spring Creek Elementary, Treadway Elementary, Umatilla Elementary and The Villages Elementary.

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are shut off? Where will you get food and water?

Develop and document plans for your specific risks

- Protect yourself and family with a Family Emergency Plan
- Be sure to plan for locations away from home
- Business owners and site locations should create workshop plans
- Make sure schools and daycares have School Emergency Plans
- Pet owners should have plans to care for their animals. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention offer information on [animal health impacts in evacuation shelters](#).
- Prepare your boat and be aware of [marine safety](#)

Put together a basic emergency supply kit which could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change

Keep a list of contact information for reference

- Local Emergency Management Office
- County Law Enforcement, County Public Safety Fire/Rescue
- State, County and City/Town Government
- Local Hospitals and Local Utilities
- Local American Red Cross
- Local TV Stations and Local Radio Stations

To find out more log on to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html> or call The Lake County Emergency Management Division at 352-343-9420 or visit their website at https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/public_safety/emergency_management/

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.