

# Hurricane History

Over the last 50 years, our coastal community has enjoyed many hurricane-free seasons. But in 1960 Hurricane Donna, a strong Category 3 hurricane, swept up the county's coast from Everglades City to Bonita Beach and caused substantial surge flooding along the entire coastline.

At the time Hurricane Donna was the worst storm to strike Collier County in many years, there were about 16,000 people living in the whole county at that time – now we have many times that number.

In 2004, Hurricane Charley made landfall in Southwest Florida near Port Charlotte. The strongest hurricane to hit the area since Hurricane Donna, Charley caused damage to hundreds of buildings in Collier County.

During 2005 season, Hurricane Wilma made landfall just south of Marco Island. The Category 3 storm caused more than \$1.2 billion in property damage in unincorporated Collier County, and destroyed and damaged many homes.

Because hurricanes all have different characteristics, like speed, size and strength, evacuations from the coastal area can be challenging. Traffic congestion can be a major factor when a large area is threatened by a storm, or when there is only a short amount of time available. Persons who live in potential evacuation areas must have a plan which they can implement quickly to avoid being trapped by traffic. Residents should not judge a hurricane based on what happened during the last one.

Throughout the year, the Collier County Emergency Management staff provides hurricane preparedness training to residents and visitors and Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services works diligently to coordinate with the local, state and federal agencies to ensure residents and visitors receive timely emergency preparedness and response information.

This pamphlet provides information for residents and visitors to consider, but keep in mind that it is everyone's responsibility to be aware of the threat posed by hurricanes and to take appropriate actions before the last minute, when it is often too late.

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina took the lives of more than 1,500 persons in the Northern Gulf of Mexico – most of these people were killed because they didn't evacuate prior to the storm surge.



Collier County Emergency Management  
8075 Lely Cultural Parkway  
Naples, FL 34113  
239-252-3600  
Emergency Hotline: 239-252-8444

## Web Sites

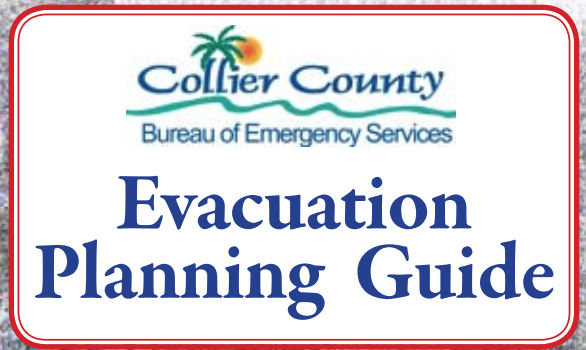
Collier County Emergency Management  
[www.colliergov.net/em](http://www.colliergov.net/em)  
[www.collierem.org](http://www.collierem.org)

American Red Cross  
239-596-6868  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
1-800-480-2520  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Florida Alliance for Safe Homes  
[www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org)

Florida Division of Emergency Management  
For your free family/business disaster plan visit:  
[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)





# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

*Hurricane Season June 1 – November 30*

**Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch:** indicates that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area within 36 hours. During a watch you should prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation.

**Hurricane Tropical Storm Warning:** indicates that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area within 24 hours. You should be completing your preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by local officials.

## Disaster Supply Kit

**Food** - at least enough for 3-5 days

**Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3-5 days

**Blankets/Pillows**

**Cash**

**Clothing** - seasonal/rain gear/sturdy shoes

**First Aid Kit** (Medicines/Prescription Drugs)

**Flashlight/Batteries**

**Keys** - extra set of home, car keys, etc.

**Radio** - Battery operated

**Special Items** - for babies and the elderly

**Toiletries** (Hygiene items/Moisture wipes)

**Toys** (Books and Games)

**Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm

**Vehicle fuel tanks filled**

**Important Documents** (in a waterproof container) - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.

**Pet care items**

— proper identification/immunization records/medications

— ample supply of food and water

— a carrier or cage

— muzzle and leash

## Staying

- Develop a family disaster plan
- Stay alert to weather and storm advisories  
WATCH and WARNING - Know the difference
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio
- Keep a Disaster Supply Kit ready
- Have enough food, water, and ice for at least 3-5 days
- Protect valuable documents
- Make your home more disaster resistant  
Install shutters, or board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside

**Get cash to have on hand**  
Following a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed

**Fill your car with gasoline**

**Have a pet plan**

Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society (DAS) for information on preparing your pets for an emergency

**Do not use candles or open flames as a light source**

**Work with your neighbors**

Check on elderly or those with special needs

**As the storm hits, gather your family in a safe room** (An interior room with no windows)

**Following the storm, watch out for downed power lines and unsafe situations**

**Listen to your local officials!**

## Evacuating

**Map-out your route**

Use travel routes specified by local authorities  
DO NOT get on the road without a place to go

**Fill your car with gasoline**

**Evacuate if told to do so**

DO NOT get stranded. EVACUATE EARLY

**Enact your pet plan**

Before a storm threatens, contact Domestic Animal Services at 252-7387 for information on preparing your pets for an emergency. To register online: [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com)

**Bring your disaster supply kit including important documents**

**Secure your home before leaving**

Install your shutters, board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors

**Get some cash to have on hand**

Following a hurricane banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed

**Notify family and friends of your plans** (tell them how to reach you)

**When evacuating:**

If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county. Next try a motel or hotel and as a last resort go to a shelter (remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not accept pets)

**People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with the Special Needs coordinator at (239) 252-3600.**

**Check to make sure it's safe to return to your home before you return**

([www.colliergov.net/em](http://www.colliergov.net/em))

