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## Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness Plan

### A. Protection of residents:

While our homes and other physical facilities represent an enormous emotional and financial investment, the most precious commodity and the only one irreplaceable is yourself. Many people mistakenly believe they can somehow protect property by "riding the storm out" at home. When advised to evacuate, that is the only choice. Adequate preparations will ease this decision. Remember, coastal residents are particularly vulnerable to storm surge and flooding because of their proximity to the water. For example, in a Category 5 hurricane where winds exceed 155 miles per hour, the storm surge may rise to 25 feet and submerge the area as far as 20 miles.

### B. Preparations before hurricane season (prior to June):

- **Personal property.**
  1. Check your insurance policies each year, and review them with your insurance agent to make sure you have adequate coverage against wind, water, flood, fire, theft, etc.
  2. Catalogue and photograph your personal property, room by room, including jewelry and other valuable small items that would not show up in room-by-room photographs. Videos are also a good source of photographic evidence. Store these lists and photos in your bank safety deposit box or some other safe place. Do not keep them in your unit.
  3. Valuables such as deeds, stocks, bonds, insurance policies, jewelry and the like should also be stored in the safety deposit box, or other safe place.
- **Provide the Property Manager with the following information:**
  1. Your residency status during hurricane season (June 1 – November 30).
  2. Your phone numbers and email address.
  3. Your plans for evacuation should be necessary. Let friends and family know your plans as well.
  4. Emergency contact number of someone who knows your whereabouts.



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### **C. Preparations during hurricane season (June 1 – November 30)**

- **Unit preparations for those residents leaving for any length of time, whether for pleasure or due to a storm:**

1. Remove everything (including furniture, ceiling fan blades) from your terraces and/or balconies.
2. Lock your sliders and windows, a strong wind may slide them open.
3. Close all draperies, shades and blinds.
4. Place towels or other cloth on window/door sills to soak up water that may blow in.
5. Store objects that may be blown around if a window should break in an inner closet. Items such as pictures, paintings, vases and art objects may be blown about.
6. Place Saran Wrap over the top of the toilet bowls. This helps protect against water evaporation, mold forming in the bowls, etc.
7. Turn off all electric circuits that are not needed.
8. Turn off the main water valve to your unit.
9. If you are leaving a vehicle behind, leave a key for it in the office. The key tag should have your name, make and model of car, and parking space number. Keys will be kept in a locked cabinet.

- **Unit preparations for those in residence:**

1. Obtain a current copy of the “Hurricane Information” booklet from the Collier County Emergency Management Office (phone 239-252-3600). Make your evacuation plans. Select the evacuation route and possible alternatives. Practice them, time them, and mark them on your Naples map.
2. Make sure your car is in good condition and get in the habit of filling the gas tank whenever it gets to half empty.
3. Make sure you have on hand: a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries for both, first aid kit, necessary medications, canned food, water, sleeping bag or air mattress, candles and matches, etc. (Note: when using candles take extra precautions to keep the candles away from draperies, tablecloths, etc. One method is to use wide candles and



place them in glass jars. They won't tip over and the jar acts like a hurricane lamp.)

4. Plan ahead for care of any pets. Pets are only permitted in limited emergency shelters.



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### **D. During a hurricane watch**

- Stay tuned to radio, TV and Internet for weather updates and evacuation mandates.
- Charge cell phone and extra batteries.
- Charge camera and extra batteries.
- Charge laptop and extra batteries.
- Charge portable TV and radio and extra batteries.
- Refill prescriptions to have a four-week supply on hand.
- Fill up the gas tank in your car, check oil and tires; have fix-a-flat on hand.
- Have cash on hand.
- Protect important papers and have duplicates available in another location:
  1. Driver license
  2. Medical information
  3. Proof of ownership of your home
  4. Insurance policies
  5. Pictorial and listed inventory of your property
  6. Listing of important contracts

### **E Evacuation plans:**

- Each resident is responsible for preparing an evacuation plan. Your plan should allow for contingencies such as the time available to get out, the direction the storm is likely to take, health considerations, items to bring, and the size and strength of the storm.
- The earlier one evacuates the better. The best time to leave is when a Hurricane Watch is issued. Keep in mind that roads will become jammed, and airports will be open for a time, but much busier.
- Check evacuation routes on the County Emergency Management web site.
- A storm may strike with very little warning and there may not be time to evacuate, or shelters may not have had enough warning to be ready to receive evacuees. Therefore, you may have to remain in your unit through the storm. Prudent planners will prepare for that contingency.
- **A mandatory evacuation means just that. Emergency and rescue crews will not be able to access the area and will not assist those who stay after the mandatory evacuation.**



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- ***Before evacuating***
  1. Be sure to complete the preparations for your unit.
  2. Notify the Manager's office of your departure and destination.
  3. Remove all perishable food from the refrigerator and freezer.
  4. Take important documents: driver's license, insurance policies, property inventory, proof of property ownership, passport.
  5. Those residents planning to evacuate to motels in safer parts of the state should make reservations during the Hurricane Watch.
  
- ***Evacuating to a shelter***
  1. Local public shelters are listed in the telephone book each year. The higher the category of storms, the fewer shelters will be available. Therefore, for a category 4 or 5 storm, the best alternative is to get as far away from this area as possible at the earliest feasible time.
  2. People with physical handicaps and those that need special care should contact Collier County Emergency Management (239-252-3600) for information and to register to receive special assistance.
  3. If you need to **evacuate to a shelter with medical assistance facilities**, be prepared to move as soon as the Hurricane Warning is issued. Make arrangements for transportation. Bring medications, special diet foods and medical supplies. Contact Collier County Emergency Management (239-252-3600) to locate the nearest public shelter equipped to handle special needs. Special care centers are opened on an as needed basis.
  
- ***Staying in your home***
  1. If an evacuation is ordered, the earlier you do so, the better. However, if circumstances are such that remaining in your home appears safe, make note of the following:
    - Clean containers and bathtubs to store water. Figure about three gallons per day per person. Save large plastic bottles in advance for this purpose.
    - If you have a chest freezer, put several plastic jugs of water in it to freeze.
    - If flooding is anticipated, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
    - If electric power is lost, turn off the main circuit breaker and individual breakers as well. To prevent a power surge that may



damage appliances and equipment, when power is restored, first turn on the main breaker and then the individual breakers.

- Prepare food a few days in advance that does not require refrigeration in case of power loss.

### **Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness Plan**

- Have materials on hand to soak up water that may penetrate window and door frames. High winds will drive water in and around window frames and doors. Be prepared to deal with it.
- During the storm, stay inside and away from windows. Interior rooms are safer. Venturing outside to test the wind is foolhardy. Not only can you not withstand hurricane force winds, but also a roof tile or coconut airborne at more than 100 miles per hour is a lethal missile. Stay inside!
- Keep tuned to weather advisories on your battery powered radio or TV. Do not venture out until an all clear is given. Remember, if the eye of a hurricane passes directly overhead, the wind may cease, and the sun may shine briefly before the hurricane resumes with enormous and renewed intensity.
- Help each other as the good neighbors that we are.

## **E. Tornadoes:**

While hurricanes are the focus of this section of the Disaster Plan, tornadoes can also evolve in this region. A tornado is the most violent of nature's storms and may produce winds up to 300 miles per hour. If the National Weather Service issues a tornado watch, it means conditions are right for a tornado. Keep tuned to local radio or television for further bulletins. Move and secure loose objects outdoors.

Plan what to do if there is a tornado warning:

- A poor place to be in a tornado is in a motor vehicle. Stop your vehicle and seek shelter elsewhere. Do not try to outrun the tornado in your car. A ditch or ground depression may provide some protection if a better shelter is not immediately available.
- Inside your home, go to the innermost hallway on the ground floor or into an interior bathroom where the plumbing will help to hold the structure together.
- Avoid windows.
- Do not open windows in an attempt to "equalize pressure" if a tornado is approaching. If a tornado gets close enough for a pressure drop to occur, the



damage has already been done. It is possible opening windows can increase damage.