



**SANTA ROSA COUNTY DIVISION
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

LIGHTNING HIGH WIND FIRE FLOOD WINTER STORM TERRORISM TORNADO

THUNDERSTORM PERSONAL SAFETY SURF SAFETY

Scan the QR Code to access this guide online or
visit www.SantaRosa.fl.gov/DisasterGuide.

Citizen Information Center (850) 983-INFO or 4636
www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency



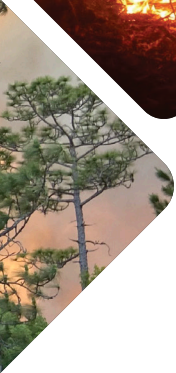
CONTENTS...

Knowing that emergencies and disasters can happen anywhere and anytime, we have put together this guide to provide you with valuable information to help Santa Rosa County residents, visitors and businesses plan for man-made and natural disasters. For more disaster preparedness and other important county information, visit our website:

www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency

- 03 **Save a Life**
- 04 **How Will You Know?**
- 08 **Temperature Extremes**
- 09 **Safety - Preventing Damage**
- 10 **Power Outages**
- 11 **Generator Safety**
- 12 **Evacuations**
- 13 **Sheltering in Place**
- 14 **Shelters**
- 15 **Coping with Disaster**
- 16 **Purifying Water**





- 23 Flooding
- 24 Tsunamis and Earthquakes
- 25 Health Preparation
- 26 The Dangers of Hurricanes
- 27 Preparing for a Hurricane
- 28 Hurricane Evacuation Zones
- 29 The Hurricane Cone and You
- 31 Protecting Yourself from a Storm
- 32 Visitors and Evacuations
- 33 After a Hurricane
- 34 Lightning
- 35 Tornadoes
- 36 HAZMAT Incidents and You
- 37 Terrorism
- 38 Active Shooter
- 39 Get a Kit



The Santa Rosa County Emergency Management Division is responsible for the development, implementation and management of county-wide disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. It is responsible for the county's all-hazard comprehensive emergency plan and coordinates the activities for the county's emergency operations center.

The Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations Center or EOC, 4499 Pine Forest Road in Milton, is a facility designed to serve as a local or regional support center. The EOC, when activated, is a central location where representatives of local government and private sector agencies convene during disaster situations to make decisions, set priorities and coordinate resources for response and recovery. The emergency management division is available to make presentations on emergency preparedness and give tours of the EOC. For more information call, **850-983-5360**.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND 9-1-1

Santa Rosa County Emergency Communications utilizes Next Generation 9-1-1, which displays the caller's name, phone number and street address. However, the caller will be asked to verify this information.



TEXT-TO-9-1-1 AVAILABLE

Dispatchers can receive text messages to 9-1-1 when speaking is not an option, but not photos or videos. Texting during an emergency could be helpful if you are deaf, hard of hearing, have difficulty speaking or if you are in a situation where making a voice call is dangerous or impossible. Always **call if you can**, text if you can't.

The text-to-9-1-1 service relies on the cellular carrier networks and availability or reliability cannot be guaranteed by Santa Rosa County.

Q: What happens during a 9-1-1 call?

A: Dispatchers work in teams, so while one dispatcher will ask questions and provide instructions, others will be contacting the first responders. Therefore, these questions do not cause a delay in dispatching emergency responders; in fact they assist them in better preparing for the emergency you are reporting. It is important that you remain calm even though you may be upset or scared. Stay on the phone and talk to the dispatcher; do not hang up until told to do so.

Q: What kind of questions will be asked?

A: The most important information we need is the location of the emergency and a call-back number in the event we are disconnected. Other questions that may be asked include a description of the emergency or event, any injuries to yourself or other individuals along with the type of injury if known, if any weapons were involved and if so, how many and what kind, descriptions of vehicles involved, and names and descriptions of persons involved.

Q: When do you call 9-1-1?

A: To save a life, to report a fire, to report a crime in progress, or anytime you believe there is an emergency. Do not call 9-1-1 to report traffic congestion, inquire about government services, report electricity or other utility disruptions, or to find an address or other general information. For non-emergency calls, 850-983-5360 can be dialed.



Are You Prepared?

Learn the two simple steps of Hands-Only CPR:

1

Call 911



2

Push
Hard & Fast



Remember disco? You can help save a life if you do. If you see a teen or adult collapse, call 9-1-1 then push hard and fast in the center of the victim's chest to the beat of the classic disco song "Stayin' Alive." The American Heart Association's Hands-Only CPR at this beat can more than double or triple a person's chances of survival.

Visit www.heart.org/handsonlycpr to learn more about how you can help save a life.

CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING IN SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Check the Santa Rosa County Emergency Management event calendar at www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency for upcoming first aid and CPR training opportunities.

Official first aid and CPR certification is also provided by the American Heart Association and other certified instructors.

GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS

Each state, including Florida, has Good Samaritan laws meant to protect those who come to the aid of others when the rescuer, or would-be rescuer, is acting without any expectation of reward. In other words, if you are getting paid to rescue, then you aren't a Good Samaritan. Paid rescuers are expected to do their jobs correctly and can be held accountable for mistakes.

For more information, contact the **Emergency Operations Center** at **850-983-5360**.

AED

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. Over 350,000 people will suffer from sudden cardiac arrest this year. It can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere and at any age.

An AED is an Automated External Defibrillator, a medical device that analyzes the heart's rhythm. If necessary, it delivers an electrical shock, known as defibrillation, which helps the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. An AED is the only effective treatment for restoring a regular heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest and is an easy-to-operate tool for someone with no medical background.

SAVING LIVES ON THE ROAD

Don't make us respond to your distracted driving

Distracted driving is anything that takes your hands off the wheel, your eyes off the road or mind off driving. It is extremely risky behavior that puts everyone on the road in danger. Texting requires all three types of distraction, making it one of the most dangerous of distracted driving behaviors.

The Wireless Communications While Driving Law, section 316.305, Florida Statutes, took effect on July 1, 2019. This law allows law enforcement to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to motorists that are texting and driving. A person may not operate a motor vehicle while manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers or symbols into a wireless communications device to text, email and instant message.

Move over, it's the law

The Florida Move Over Law requires all motorists approaching an emergency vehicle with lights flashing to change lanes away from the emergency vehicle if traveling on a multi-lane roadway and if able to do so safely. If the driver is unable to move over or is traveling on a single-lane roadway, the driver is required to slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or greater, or travel at five miles per hour when the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less.

Compliance with the law helps ensure safety for the responders and a safer driving experience for everyone traveling in our state.

When disasters strike, you may have only a short time to make what might be a life-or-death decision. We cannot predict exactly where or when they will occur, but we can take precautions to minimize dangers. Knowing that a disaster has happened and what steps to take to keep you and your family safe is critical. Most injuries and deaths happen when people are unaware or uninformed. Santa Rosa County utilizes a variety of measures to provide warnings to our citizens:

AlertSantaRosa Emergency Notification System

The AlertSantaRosa mass notification system allows staff at the Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations Center to provide residents with timely alerts when there are imminent threats to life, health and safety. This can include location-based severe weather events, hazardous material spills and evacuation orders.

Sign up at www.alertsantarosa.com or text your five digit zip code to **888-777** and subscribe to notifications of interest. The information provided is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

www.SantaRosa.fl.gov

In the event of an emergency, Santa Rosa County's website, www.SantaRosa.fl.gov, will be updated regularly with the latest information including event status, what you can do to keep safe and any disaster services available.

Local and National Media

Santa Rosa County, through the public information office, works with the media to get important safety messages out to the public. No matter the type of emergency, residents are encouraged to monitor local and national TV, radio, newspapers and other news outlets for emergency information.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

NWS is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (see *more information on page 5*).

Evacuation Zones

A searchable map is available to help residents determine in which evacuation zone they live. Find your evacuation zone at www.santarosa.fl.gov/KnowYourZone.

Smartphone Apps

There are several free weather apps available on your smartphone that can alert you to any dangers while you are sleeping. The NOAA Weather Radar and Emergency: Severe Weather App American Red Cross are just two examples of apps that can be downloaded for free.

Taminco U.S., Inc. Sirens

Sirens are placed strategically around the Taminco perimeter to provide emergency alerts from Taminco U.S., Inc., a subsidiary of Eastman Chemical Company. These sirens may be used for a hazardous material release incident but are not used for weather warnings. Sirens are tested on the first Sunday of each month at 2:15 p.m. Taminco is located south of Hwy. 90 in Pace near East Spencer Field Road. **Santa Rosa County does not have outdoor weather sirens.**

IPAWS

IPAWS, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface.

Emergency Management Social Media

Santa Rosa County uses social media as another outlet to help keep residents informed during the event of a disaster or even severe weather. Connect with us on Facebook and Nextdoor. Social media channels are not monitored 24/7.

Travel Info

Florida 511 provides real-time traffic information on all of Florida's interstate highways, toll roads and many other metropolitan roadways. To receive traffic updates:

- Call 511 toll free for updates in English and Spanish.
- Visit FL511.com or download the free Florida 511 mobile app.
- Follow statewide, regional or roadway-specific FL511 feeds on Twitter.
- Monitor radio or TV for current information.



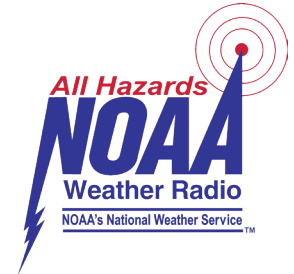
STAY ALIVE WITH FIVE

Fives Things to do now before a disaster

- 1** Locate where you live and your evacuation zone or enter your address online at Know Your Zone. Determine if and when you would have to evacuate. Remember: All mobile home residents are advised to evacuate, regardless of location. If you need help determining your zone, contact Santa Rosa County Emergency Management before a storm threatens at 850-983-5360.
- 2** Decide NOW where you would go if ordered to evacuate - a friend or relative's home, a hotel or as a last resort, a public shelter. Remember, if you are going to leave the area or go to a hotel, don't delay. Determine your route, leave early and travel the shortest distance possible. Think tens of miles, not hundreds.
- 3** Purchase a battery-powered NOAA weather radio and a non-electric landline phone. Even though phone service may not be disturbed, a cordless phone will not work during power outages.
- 4** Make sure your street address number is clearly marked on your home.
- 5** Whether you rent or own your home, review your insurance policies with your agent now.

SIMPLE TOOLS THAT SAVE LIVES

One of the wisest and least expensive things you can do to protect your family is to purchase a NOAA weather radio. NOAA weather radios are equipped with a special alarm tone feature and can sound an alert, then give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters can insert special warning messages concerning imminent threats. The alarm will sound 24 hours a day, even when you are not tuned in to commercial radio or TV to receive EAS notices.



In conjunction with federal, state and local emergency managers as well as other public officials, NOAA also broadcasts warnings for other types of hazards including natural disasters, chemical releases or oil spills, AMBER and Silver alerts, or 9-1-1 phone outages.

Warnings for Deaf or Hard of Hearing

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired can be alerted to severe weather and other hazards by special devices connected to the NOAA Weather Radio receiver. These attention-getting devices may include strobe lights, bed shakers and even sirens. For more information visit www.weather.gov/nwr/special_needs.

Apps for Mobile Devices

Mobile device apps are a quick way to receive information about severe weather and other emergencies. The American Red Cross offers free apps for tornado and severe weather warnings, emergencies, hurricanes and more. NOAA also offers free and low cost apps with life saving tools. Check out your app store for more information on these and other apps available.

SAME and Radio Frequencies

Some weather radios are equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME). When properly programmed, the radio will only issue alerts that directly impact the specified SAME area.

Weather radios may come pre-programmed. If yours needs to be re-programmed, call 850-983-5360.

Santa Rosa County SAME # 012113

NOAA weather radio frequencies:

162.400

162.475

162.550



DISASTER PLANNING FOR YOUR PET

The first rule to remember is, if you evacuate, take your pets. If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them. Proper planning before a hurricane could save you and your pet's life. If your area is evacuated, you must make preparations for your family and your pets before the threat of a storm or disaster. Local shelters should be the last resources for evacuees but there are shelter locally have a few options for pet-friendly shelters in the area (*see page 14 for information on Santa Rosa County's Pet-Friendly Shelter*). Pets should not be

left in an empty house or to roam free. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, etc. Not to mention, it's also illegal to abandon a pet.

If you board your pet at a facility, reclaim your pet as quickly as possible because the facilities may be overcrowded and understaffed.

The first few days following a disaster, put a leash on your pets when they go outside until they become familiar with their home again. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency; normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely when outdoors because snakes and other animals may have moved into the area. It's also important to keep a close eye on pets outside due to possible hazards of downed power lines. Be alert for rotted substances which your pet may find when released into your yard.

PREPARING THE FARM

Planning ahead can minimize damage to livestock, property and recovery time.

- Establish escape routes for cows, horses, sheep and other livestock to higher elevation in case of flooding.
- Arrange for a place to shelter your animals.
- Drive large animals out of barns that may be flooded.
- Make sure livestock have a good source of food and water.
- Move hay, machinery, fuels, pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals out of flood-prone areas.
- Turn off electrical power to machines, barns and other structures that may become damaged or flooded.
- Secure loose items, such as lumber, logs, pipes, machinery parts and tools.

DISASTER PLANNING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

In a disaster, people with special medical needs have extra concerns. Take the following steps if you or your family members have special medical needs:

- Have at least one-week supply of necessary medical supplies, like bandages, ostomy bags or syringes.
- For medical equipment requiring electrical power such as beds, breathing equipment or infusion pumps, check with your medical supply company and ask about a back-up power source such as a battery or generator.
- If you use oxygen, have an emergency supply (*enough for at least a three-day period*).
- Oxygen tanks should be securely braced so they do not fall over. Call your medical supply company regarding bracing instructions.
- Prepare copies of vital medical papers such as insurance cards and power of attorney.
- Store extra batteries for hearing aids, implants, TTY and light phone signaler.
- If hearing impaired or non-verbal, bring additional communication devices if applicable.
- Service animals may become confused, frightened or disoriented during and after a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed, this will help a nervous or upset animal.

PREPARING YOUR MEDICATION

- Always have at least a three-day supply of all your medications. In some emergencies, you may need to prepare for a week or more.
- Store your medications in one location in their original containers.
- List all of your medications: name of medication, dose, frequency and name of prescribing doctor.

PREPARING YOUR HOME

Learn to shut off utilities

After a disaster in which utilities have been disrupted, there may be a need to turn off certain utilities that can pose serious damage to your home and potentially pose lethal consequences. In case of an emergency, all responsible adults in the home should know where and how to operate the main shutoffs. It is also important that the area around each utility shutoff is kept clear of obstructions like furniture and storage items or, in the case of an outside shut-off, overgrown plants.

Turning off natural gas

There are different gas shut-off procedures for different gas meter configurations. Contact your local gas company for guidance on preparation and response regarding gas appliances and gas service to your home. Don't turn off the gas when practicing the proper gas shut-off procedure. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas using the outside main valve if possible and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. **CAUTION:** If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. **NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.**

Turning off water

- Protect your home water sources from contamination if you hear reports of broken water or sewage lines or if local officials advise you of a problem. There are methods for purifying water in the event of contamination (see page 16).
- To close the incoming water source, locate the incoming valve and turn it to the closed position. To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your home at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the home.
- To use the water in your hot water tank, be sure the electricity or gas is off and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning off the tank's water intake valve and turning on the hot water faucet. Refill the tank before turning the gas or electricity back on. If the gas is turned off, a professional will need to turn it back on.

Turning off electricity

For safety purposes, always shut off all individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.

STEPS FOR RENTERS

Renters also need to plan for and take action before a disaster strikes. If you rent:

- Have a plan and a disaster kit (see pages 39-40).
- Know if you live in an evacuation or flood zone (see pages 12 and 23). Be ready to take action if evacuation orders are given for your area.
- Talk with your landlord—what steps will he or she take to protect your home? Are there shutters, pre-cut plywood, or other window protection available? If not, make plans to shelter in a protected structure.
- A renter's personal property is not covered by the landlord's homeowners insurance. Personal property insurance and flood insurance for renters are a low cost way to protect yourself.

The Florida Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Disasters is a great resource for homeowners and renters to help protect and strengthen your home to reduce the risk of damage from a natural disaster. Find the guide online at www.santarosa.fl/HomeownersDisasterHandbook.

POOL PREPARATION

- If you lower the water level in the pool, close the skimmer valve to prevent damage to the pump when the power is turned on. Never completely drain the pool—heavy rains could cause an empty pool to pop out.
- Turn off all electrical power to the swimming pool. If your filter pump is in an unsheltered area, have the motor removed and stored or wrap the motor with a plastic bag and tie it securely in place to prevent sand and water from damaging the equipment.
- Remove loose items from the pool area. It is not advisable to throw patio furniture into the pool. Furniture may chip and damage the pool finish and the pool chemicals will have an adverse affect on the furniture.
- Add extra chlorine to your pool to prevent contamination. The pool provides a source of water for washing and flushing if your house water supply fails.
- If your pool area is screened, you might prevent costly damage to the frame structure by removing one or two panels of screen above the chair rail on each side to allow the wind to blow through.

After Any Extreme Temperatures

- Seek medical attention if needed.
- Restock supplies and recheck preparations for the next weather or other disaster event.
- Monitor television and radio for weather conditions and current information.

Five Ps of Cold Weather Safety

1. Protect People
2. Protect Exposed Pipes
3. Protect Pets
4. Protect Plants
5. Practice Fire Safety

WWW.SANTAROSA.FL.GOV/EMERGENCY



WHAT TO DO

Before extreme cold weather

- Have your home heating source checked. Loss of lives and damage to homes tend to increase during the winter months due to unsafe use or operating condition of home heating systems.
- Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home by insulating walls/attics and weather-stripping doors/windows or covering them with plastic.
- Allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case pipes burst.
- Be sure to check your vehicle maintenance and antifreeze levels to avoid freezing.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

During extreme cold weather

- Stay indoors and use safe heating sources.
- Check on elderly or disabled family members, friends or neighbors.
- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials.
- Drink plenty of liquids and eat high calorie foods.
- Seek medical attention if frostbite or hypothermia is suspected.
- Monitor your television, radio or emergency web sites for weather updates.

Cold Weather/Warming Shelter

Ferris Hill Baptist Church
6848 Chaffin Street in Milton

The shelter is operated by volunteers and opens each night when weather is forecasted to drop below 40 degrees, typically November to March.

Before extreme hot weather

- Install window air conditioners snugly; insulate if necessary.
- Check air conditioning ducts for proper insulation.
- Install temporary window reflectors, such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard, between the window and drapes to reflect heat back outside.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings or louvers. Outdoor awnings can reduce the heat that enters the home by up to 80 percent.
- Install storm windows.

During extreme hot weather

- Listen to television or radio for current information.
- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit sun exposure.
- Stay on the lowest level of your home—out of the sun—if air conditioning is not available.
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, movie theaters, shopping malls and other community facilities.
- Dress in lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Use sunscreen to avoid sunburn and consider wearing a hat and sunglasses.
- Never leave a pet, child or elderly person in an unattended vehicle.
- Drink plenty of water and eat well-balanced, light and regular meals.
- Make sure pets have plenty of water and can easily access shade.
- During prolonged heat waves, check on elderly or disabled family, friends and neighbors.

MITIGATION

Mitigation is taking action to prevent or reduce effects of emergencies or disasters before they occur. By taking action now, residents, governments and businesses can decrease property damage and save lives. There are several grant programs offered by both FEMA and the state of Florida, including programs for hazard, pre-disaster and flood mitigation assistance. There are also programs for repetitive flood claims, severe repetitive loss and residential construction mitigation. These programs help rebuild lives and communities that have been impacted by a major disaster and reduce the impact of future disasters through mitigation. For more information, visit:

- www.fema.gov/mitigation-fact-sheets
- www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation
- www.santarosa.fl.gov (search mitigation)

PIPELINE MARKERS

Most pipelines are underground and identified by markers along routes that identify the approximate location of the pipeline. Every pipeline marker contains information including a phone number that should be called in the event of an emergency. Markers do not indicate pipeline burial depth, which will vary.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

PREVENTING FLOOD DAMAGE

PREVENTING TREE DAMAGE

Look for Potential Hazards

Investigate the condition of your trees annually. You or a certified arborist should look for damage such as cracks in the trunk or major limbs, hollow/aged/decayed trees, hanging branches, improperly formed branches, one-sided or significantly leaning trees, and branches that may rub the house.

Know Your Tree Species

Some species are more prone to storm damage. Trees in northwest Florida that weather storms well include sand and live oak, sabal palm, and southern magnolia.

Do Not Top Your Trees

Professional arborists say that "topping," the cutting of main branches back to stubs, is extremely harmful and unhealthy for your trees. Stubs will often grow back with weakly attached branches that are higher and are more likely to break when a storm strikes. Also, topping will reduce the amount of foliage, which the tree depends on for food and nourishment needed for re-growth. A topped tree that has already sustained major storm damage is more likely to die rather than repair itself.

—International Society of Arboriculture

One way to protect your home from flood damage is to elevate. Most types of homes can be elevated above floodwaters. This is a reliable flood-proofing method and requires little human intervention to prepare for a flood. Elevation requirements vary with local codes and ordinances but the new first floor elevation should be at or above the 100-year-flood level. You may wish to exceed the code requirements. Some buildings may be elevated high enough for the new lower level to serve as a garage. All elevated homes need stairs and porches built to the new height.

Elevating a home requires the services of plumbers, electricians, house movers and contractors. Because the new foundation will be in the floodwaters, it is important that it be structurally designed to withstand lateral (sideways) forces like fast-flowing currents and the impact of waterborne debris. A structural engineer can help you design your new foundation and obtain a permit from your building department.

If your property is susceptible to flooding, store sand bags that can be used to prevent water intrusion. Keeping sand bags out of the sun will prolong their useful life.

PREVENTING WIND DAMAGE

Roofs

Ensure your roof covering and the sheathing it attaches to will resist high winds.

Gables

Brace the end wall of a gable roof properly to resist high winds.

Garage Doors

Because of their size and construction, garage doors are highly susceptible to wind damage. Some garage doors can be strengthened with retrofit kits.

Exterior Doors and Windows

The exterior walls, doors and windows are the protective shell of your home. You can protect your home by strengthening the doors and windows.

Entry Doors

Make certain your doors have at least three hinges and a dead bolt security lock with a bolt at least one inch long. Anchor door frames securely to wall framing.

Patio Doors

Sliding glass doors are more vulnerable to wind damage than most other doors, so be sure to shutter or install impact-resistant patio doors.



A storm, accident or widespread loss of electrical distribution system capacity can cause an extended power outage. Here are some things to do if you know there is a chance of a power outage:

GETTING READY

- If you use life-sustaining electrical equipment, pre-register with the special needs shelter (see page 14).
- Consider purchasing a small generator or know where to rent one if you use life-sustaining equipment that requires electrical power.
- Post the phone number of the new construction, repairs and power outage listing of your local utility.
- If you own an electric garage door opener, learn how to open it without power.
- Prepare a power outage kit. For short outages, consider having glow light sticks, flashlights, battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a wind-up clock and cell phone charge bank.
- Make sure you have an alternate heat source and a supply of fuel.
- Have a corded or fully-charged cell phone available (*cordless landline phones will not work without power*).
- When installing large home generators, follow the manufacturer's instructions and have it inspected by the county inspection and code enforcement department (**850-981-7000**).
- Unplug computers and other voltage-sensitive equipment to protect them against possible surges (*even if you have surge protectors*) when power is restored.

When outages could be lengthy

- Report power outages to your utility company. Florida Power and Light posts outages online at www.fplmaps.com/northwest and EREC posts outages online at www.erec.com.
- Do not call 9-1-1 unless you have an emergency and need a response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- If power is out in the neighborhood, disconnect all electrical heaters and appliances to reduce initial demand and protect the motors from possible low voltage damage.
- If you leave home, turn off or unplug heat-producing appliances, such as stoves, irons and heaters.
- Stay away from downed power lines and call 9-1-1 to report them.
- Conserve water, especially if you are on a well.
- Keep doors, windows and curtains closed to retain heat in your home if the outage occurs in the fall or winter.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed, especially in summer. If the door remains closed, a fully loaded freezer can keep foods frozen for two days. Carefully check thawed food for contamination, and when in doubt, throw it out.
- Be extremely careful of fire hazards from candles or other flammable light sources.
- When using kerosene heaters, gas lanterns or stoves inside the house, maintain ventilation to avoid a buildup of toxic fumes.
- If your house is not pre-wired by a licensed electrician for proper generator connection, always plug lights and appliances directly to a generator, never to an existing electrical system.
- Leave one light switch in the "on" position to alert you when service is restored.

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED TO OPERATE A GENERATOR

1 CO Detector

This will protect you from any possible exposure to carbon monoxide fumes while the portable generator is in use.

2 Gas Cans

It's a good idea to have some extra gas cans so you don't run out of gas for your generator. The National Agriculture Safety Database offers tips for storing gasoline:

- Store gasoline in a well ventilated area separate from the house, with no electrical equipment, open flames or other sources of ignition present.
- Do not store gasoline in the utility room.
- If you do not have a suitable storage area, consider building or buying a cabinet for outside your home.
- Once a month check for leaks from fuel tanks, engines, or storage containers.

3 Fuel Stabilizers and Lubricants

The stabilizer is used to prevent stale gas from forming due to a long storage period. It is best to change the oil in your generator after the first five hours of operation, then after every 50 hours of use.

4 Extension Cords

Heavy duty 12-gauge or 14-gauge grounded three prong or GFCI cords work great with the operation of a generator.

Remember, connecting generators improperly puts electrical workers at risk for injury or even death.



Having a portable generator can make the days after a storm much more bearable. However, they can be hazardous. Generator safety and proper handling is imperative for everyone who operates one. Because it runs on gas, *(which can cause carbon monoxide poisoning)* always remember never to operate a generator indoors, whether it's in your home, garage, basement, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. It is also important not to install the generator beside your home or in your garage or carport because the carbon monoxide can accumulate in the attic or extra roof space of your home. Be sure to keep the generator dry. Only operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Before touching the generator, make sure your hands are dry.

Before refilling the gas tank, turn it off and let it cool. It should not be refilled while the generator is running. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite and cause a fire. Check your oil every time you re-fuel and store any extra fuel away from all fuel-burning appliances.

Plug appliances directly into a generator starting with the largest electric appliance first; then plug in other items, one at a time, or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. Grounding the generator is recommended to help prevent accidental electrical shock. **NEVER** plug the generator into a wall outlet. The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.

A generator is something everyone should have in the event of a disaster. It can power important items such as lights, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, garage door openers, window AC units, washers and dryers, televisions and computers. There are two types of generators to consider, portable and standby. A standby generator is installed outside the home and usually runs on natural gas, while a portable generator can be moved from location to location and runs on fuel.



Hurricanes are the most common reason evacuations are ordered in Santa Rosa County, but orders can be issued at any time for other types of disasters that could impact our area. Evacuations are the movement of people to a safe area from an area believed to be at risk when emergency situations necessitate such action. Being told to evacuate is disruptive and inconvenient, but it is necessary to ensure the safety of you and your loved ones. When evacuation orders are given, residents and visitors are strongly encouraged adhere to evacuation guidelines and immediately travel to a place outside of the evacuation zone.

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

It is your responsibility to determine the risk for your family to stay or leave. Shelters have limited resources and space, therefore evacuating to a shelter within the county should be a last resort during a disaster. It is recommended that other arrangements be made to stay at a hotel or with a friends or family in a well-constructed home that is properly protected to withstand hurricane force winds. Although staying at a shelter has its advantages—avoiding traffic jams and uncertainty that comes with hitting the crowded highways as other counties evacuate as well.

Should you decide to stay, plan ahead to find safe shelter for the type of event we are experiencing. Ask family or friends if you can stay with them during a storm, find a hotel or motel in a safe area of the county, or know where the closest shelter is and how to get there. It is important to understand that if you choose to stay when evacuation orders have been given, help will be delayed until it is safe for responders to reach you.

When making the decision to evacuate, stay in a local shelter or simply stay put, ask yourself these questions:

Q: Do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?

A: If yes, then you should always evacuate.

Q: Do you live in an evacuation zone?

A: If you don't know your zone, you can find it by typing in your address at www.santarosa.fl.gov/KnowYourZone. Be ready to follow the evacuation orders issued by officials for your zone.

Q: Do you know where the public shelters are located?

A: Santa Rosa County does not have any hurricane shelters south of Interstate 10 because that is the area of greatest risk. This is not only because of storm surge or wind damage but also the possibility of roads and areas becoming impassable or inaccessible for emergency services being able to reach you.

Q: Do you have special needs or vulnerabilities?

A: Make sure you have a plan and if you need to go to the Special Needs Shelter, you must be pre-registered. You can register online, by phone or by mail (see *pages 6 and 14*).

Q: Do you need to go to the Pet-Friendly Shelter?

A: Make sure you have your pet pre-registered and understand the procedures for the pet-friendly shelter. You must stay at the shelter with your pet (see *pages 6 and 14*).

Q: Do you require transportation to a shelter?

A: Before an evacuation is ordered, pre-register by calling **850-983-5360**. If an evacuation has already been ordered, call **850-983-INFO (4636)** to arrange transportation.

Q: Do you one week of supplies on hand for each of your family members and pets in the event power is out and/or access to you is blocked?

A: Take steps to prepare, such as joining the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and ensuring you are one week ready with supplies. See page 40 for what to include in your one week ready kit.

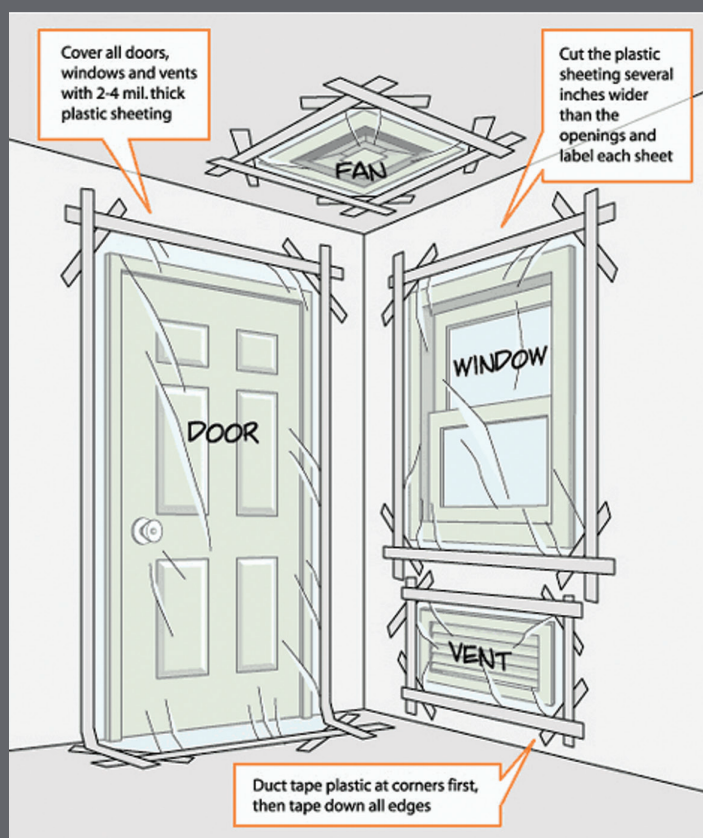
For more information, visit www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency.



WHEN EVACUATING

- Evacuate quickly and in daylight if possible.
- Tell someone outside the warning area where you are going. If you can't get through on a cell phone, try texting.
- Follow the official evacuation routes.
- Have a back-up plan in case you cannot reach your "safe-place."
- Keep your gas tank full.
- Be alert for washed-out roads and bridges.
- Do not drive in flooded areas. Turn around, don't drown.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Consider the needs of children, the elderly and pets.
- Visit www.floridaevacuates.com for state-wide evacuation and shelter information.

Sheltering in Place: Air Contamination Room Sealing



Whether you are at home, at work or elsewhere, there may be situations when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. There are other circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as "sheltering in place," is a matter of survival. Use available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is significantly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action.

The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering in place that requires pre-planning. If you are told to shelter in place, take your children and pets indoors immediately and do the following:

- Close and lock exterior doors and secure all windows.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds or curtains.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your family disaster supply kit and ensure the radio is working.
- Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.
- Bring your pets with you and be sure to bring additional water and food supplies for them.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired phone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition. Cellular phone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (*heavier than food wrap*) to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.
- Do not call 9-1-1 for information.

— www.ready.gov and the American Red Cross

WHAT IF I AM IN MY CAR?

- If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, then pull over to the side of the road. Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, stop under a bridge or in a shady spot, to avoid being overheated.
- Turn off the engine. Close windows and vents.
- If possible, seal the heating/air conditioning vents with duct tape.
- Listen to the radio regularly for updated instructions.
- Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to travel. Roads may be closed or you may encounter detours. Always follow the directions of law enforcement officials.

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Santa Rosa County School District oversees emergency sheltering for impacted and displaced residents during times of emergency. Hurricane shelters will be opened as needed when evacuation orders are issued. Shelter openings will be announced through all means possible including local media outlets, press conferences and public meetings. All shelters may not be opened at the same time; therefore, attention must be given to the current shelter status in Santa Rosa County.

Shelter openings may vary with each emergency. If you are unable to receive media information during an event, contact the Citizen Information Center at **850-983-INFO (4636)** for a listing of which shelters will be opened. Shelter openings will differ by size and intensity of a disaster. Do not go to the shelter until you have verified that it is open.

Here are some things you should know about going to an evacuation shelter:

- Evacuation shelters are provided for public use in the event an evacuation becomes necessary and if you have no other place to go.
- It is recommended that other arrangements be made with a friend or relative who lives in a well-constructed home, out of the evacuation area, and properly protected to withstand hurricane force winds. You will be more comfortable in a less crowded environment and among friends.
- Remember, no alcohol or weapons are allowed.

Pet-friendly shelter

A pet-friendly shelter is available for residents who wish to shelter with their cat or dog at Avalon Middle School, 5445 King Arthur's Way in Milton. Pre-registration for the pet-friendly shelter is required each year and available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency. If you have changes during the year, email the changes to petsHELTER@santarosa.fl.gov or call animal services, **850-983-4680**. Those without home internet access are encouraged to use the computer resources at any of the five county libraries or a paper application can

be picked up in Milton at Santa Rosa County Animal Services at 4451 Pine Forest Road, Cooperative Extension Service at 6263 Dogwood Drive, or the Santa Rosa County Southside Service Center at 5841 Gulf Breeze Parkway.

To utilize the shelter, all pets must have proof of current vaccinations. Upon arrival at the shelter, pictures will be taken of pets with their owners. Pet owners must stay at the shelter and will be responsible for caring for their pet and bringing a pet disaster kit. Residents using the pet-friendly shelter during a disaster will also need to bring supplies for their family (*page 39*).

Shelters are a last resort

Buildings used for evacuation shelters are normally public schools that are staffed by specially trained volunteers and staff. Shelters are generally crowded, usually uncomfortable (*especially when the power goes off because there is no ventilation*), have long lines to use restrooms and are very noisy, making it difficult to rest or sleep. Keep in mind you may have to stay in the shelter for several days.

Special needs shelter

The Department of Health operates the special needs shelter in Santa Rosa County. This shelter is for those individuals who are self-maintained in the home setting, but may need additional support or power during a disaster. These shelters are not equipped with advanced medical equipment nor are they staffed to provide advanced medical care.

Pre-registration is required and you must bring your caregiver. If you are oxygen dependent, bring an extra tank, concentrators, nebulizers, and any other necessary equipment. Dialysis clients should dialyze immediately prior to departing for the shelter. Residents can pre-register online for the special needs shelter at www.santarosa.fl.gov/234/Special-Needs or by calling 850-983-5360. No animals, with the exception of service dogs, are allowed in this shelter. Emotional support or companion animals will not be allowed into the special needs shelter.

DON'T WAIT!

Downed power lines, trees and flooding may make it difficult, if not impossible, to reach shelters during a hurricane. Allow for adequate time to reach a shelter before winds and rain become severe.

If you need transportation to a shelter, call **850-983-INFO**. Transportation will not be available after the arrival of tropical storm force winds (*39 mph sustained*).

SHELTER LOCATIONS

Shelter openings may vary with each emergency and not all shelters will open at the same time. If you are unable to receive media information during an event, contact the Citizen Information Center at **850-983-INFO (4636)** for a listing of which shelters will be opened. Do not go to the shelter until you have verified that it is open.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Jay High School | • Avalon Middle School (<i>pet-friendly</i>) |
| • Milton Community Center | • Bennett C. Russell Elementary (<i>special needs shelter</i>) |
| • S.S. Dixon Intermediate School | • Sims Middle School (<i>special needs shelter</i>) |

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Volunteerism can minimize personal and community losses through planning and training and help reduce some of the pre-disaster anxiety. Volunteers are utilized to help before, during and after a disaster strikes in Santa Rosa County. Local volunteers expand our capacity to quickly respond to residents' needs and play an important role in our efforts to be a more resilient and self-sufficient community. There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for coordinating resources and field work including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Citizen Corps programs, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and faith-based programs.

Citizen Corps

The Citizen Corps Council (CCC) is operated out of the Santa Rosa County Division of Emergency Management. The Goal of the CCC is to promote a desire for volunteering around our County. We have several strong neighborhood watch groups in the County, a very robust CERT program, a VIP program in Gulf Breeze, a growing MRC, and lots of great inter-agency cooperation between all SRC CCC members, and we have plans to grow.

Sign up to receive email updates by checking the "Santa Rosa Citizen Corps" box at www.santarosa.fl.gov/951/Subscribe-to-county-updates.



SAFER Santa Rosa County

SAFER Santa Rosa County is a humanitarian association of independent organizations who may be active in all phases of disaster. Its mission is to foster efficient, streamlined service delivery to people affected by disasters, while eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort through cooperation.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency.



Other Volunteering Opportunities

There are many other volunteer programs and organizations in the county. Becoming a volunteer firefighter is another option for contributing your time to the community. There are several volunteer fire departments across the county. For more information call **850-983-4610** or visit the nearest station.

Volunteer Florida

Volunteer Florida (officially recognized as the Florida Commission on Community Service) receives federal and state funding to support efforts to expand national service, promote disaster resiliency and advocate for volunteerism in Florida. The agency is guided by a bipartisan board of Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate.

Volunteer Florida exists to endorse volunteerism as a solution to critical issues in Florida. Learn more about Volunteer Florida at www.santarosa.fl.gov/951/Subscribe-to-county-updates.



Community Emergency Response Team

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a program in our community with that educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community.

View all volunteer opportunities online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/VolunteerSRC



MANAGING ANXIETY

Coping with the uncertainty and stress of disasters can lead to anxiety. It is normal to be worried during a disaster and people can experience changes in their physical, emotional or mental state during and after emergencies. Here are some tips to help ease the anxiety:

- Limit your exposure to graphic news stories and social media.
- Get accurate, timely information from reliable sources, such as www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency.
- Learn more about the specific hazard.
- Maintain your normal routine, if possible.
- Exercise, eat well and get enough sleep.
- Avoid drugs and excessive drinking.
- Stay active physically and mentally.
- Stay in touch with family and friends.

- If you can, help others.
- Keep a sense of humor.
- Share your concerns with others.

Note that if these reactions seem extreme or last for a long time, the person suffering from the condition should seek help. Contact local faith-based organizations, voluntary agencies, or professional counselors for counseling. Additionally, FEMA and state and local governments of the affected area may provide crisis counseling assistance.

Keep things in perspective

When an emergency happens, it is important to keep things in perspective. Get reliable information about the event from:

- Newspaper, radio, television
- Your health care provider or local health department
- Your Santa Rosa County government and emergency management division at www.santarosa.fl.gov

PURIFYING WATER

There are two primary ways to treat water: boiling and adding bleach. If tap water is unsafe because of water contamination from flooding, boiling is the best method.

Boiling

- Fill a large pot with water after straining the water through a coffee filter or cheesecloth to remove dirt and other particles.
- Bring the water to a rolling boil and boil for three minutes.
- Pour the water into a disinfected drinking water bottle.
- Store in the refrigerator, if possible.

Using Bleach

- Strain the water through a coffee filter or cheesecloth to remove dirt and other particles.
- Use gallon-size drinking water containers to calculate the correct chlorine bleach solution.
- Pour a mixture of 1/8 teaspoon or 16 drops of pure, unscented, household chlorine bleach into a gallon-size, purified drinking water container. Let this stand at least 30 minutes before drinking the water.
- If the water is still cloudy after 30 minutes, add an additional 1/8 teaspoon or 16 drops of chlorine bleach to the gallon size container. Let the water stand another 30 minutes.
- If the water is still cloudy after the second treatment, do not drink the water.
- CAUTION: Do not use more chlorine bleach than recommended. Excessive amounts can be poisonous!

WELL WATER

Heavy rainfall and flooding may cause drinking water from private wells to become unsafe. The Santa Rosa County Health Department urges the following precautions:

- If you are unsure about the impact of flooding on your well water, either use bottled water, boil or disinfect all the water you use for drinking, cooking, brushing your teeth, washing dishes and washing areas of skin that have been cut or injured.
- If your well has been flooded, call the Santa Rosa County Health Department, **850-983-5275** for information on how to sample your water for bacteriological testing.

FLOODING AND SEPTIC TANKS

If your septic tank has been flooded, it is likely that your toilets will not flush. Flushing may cause the untreated sewage to backup into your home. Therefore, it is safest to wait until the water recedes before trying to flush toilets. Depending on the amount of flooding or damage to your system, you may need to have a professional repair or service it once the water recedes and the ground is less saturated. For questions about septic tanks, call the Santa Rosa County Health Department's Environmental Health Department at **850-983-5275**.



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DisasterAssistance.gov provides information on how to get help from the federal government before, during and after a disaster. If the President of the United States makes help available to individuals in your community after a disaster, there are three ways to apply for assistance:

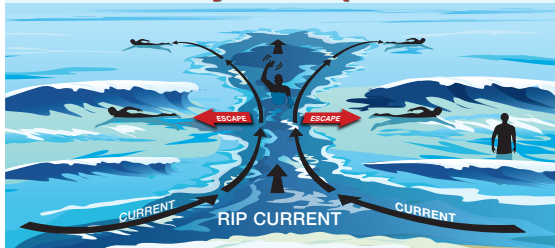
1. Online at **DisasterAssistance.gov**.
2. Via a smartphone app at **m.fema.gov**.
3. By phone: Call **(800) 621-3362**. Call TTY **(800) 462-7585** for people with speech or hearing disabilities.

After you apply, FEMA will send you a copy of your application via U.S. mail or email. FEMA will also send you an applicant guide to assist you with the process.

An inspector may contact you to review your damages or for more information.

RIP CURRENTS

Know your options



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Relax, rip currents don't pull you under.
- ◆ Don't swim against the current.
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore.
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- ◆ If you need help, yell or wave for assistance.

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim.
- ◆ Never swim alone.
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out.
- ◆ Swim near a lifeguard.

More information about rip currents can be found at the following websites:

weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent/
usla.org



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Tragic water accidents happen quickly. The most common reason for aquatic mishaps is a lack of safety knowledge. While enjoying the beach or a pool, follow these simple, life-saving tips:

- Know and understand the meaning of each flag in the beach warning flag system. Signs and flags are posted at each beach public access and current Navarre Beach surf conditions can be found at www.santarosa.fl.gov. Find the four-day rip current outlook at www.weather.gov/mob.
- Swim near a lifeguard tower.
- Never swim alone.
- Supervise children closely, even when lifeguards are present.
- Don't rely on flotation devices, such as rafts; you may lose them in the water.
- Alcohol and swimming don't mix.
- Protect your head, neck, and spine—don't dive into unfamiliar waters—feet first, first time!
- Don't swim at dawn, dusk or at night as these are times when sharks are likely to feed.
- During thunderstorms move inside to a building or vehicle.
- Follow regulations and lifeguard directions.
- Report hazardous conditions to lifeguards or other beach management personnel at **850-860-4137**.
- If emergency services are needed, knowing the public beach access point number will ensure a quicker response.

Water Closed to Public

Agua Cerrada al Público

High Hazard

High Surf and/or Strong Currents
Peligro Alto, Resaca Alta y/o Corrientes Fuertes

Medium Hazard

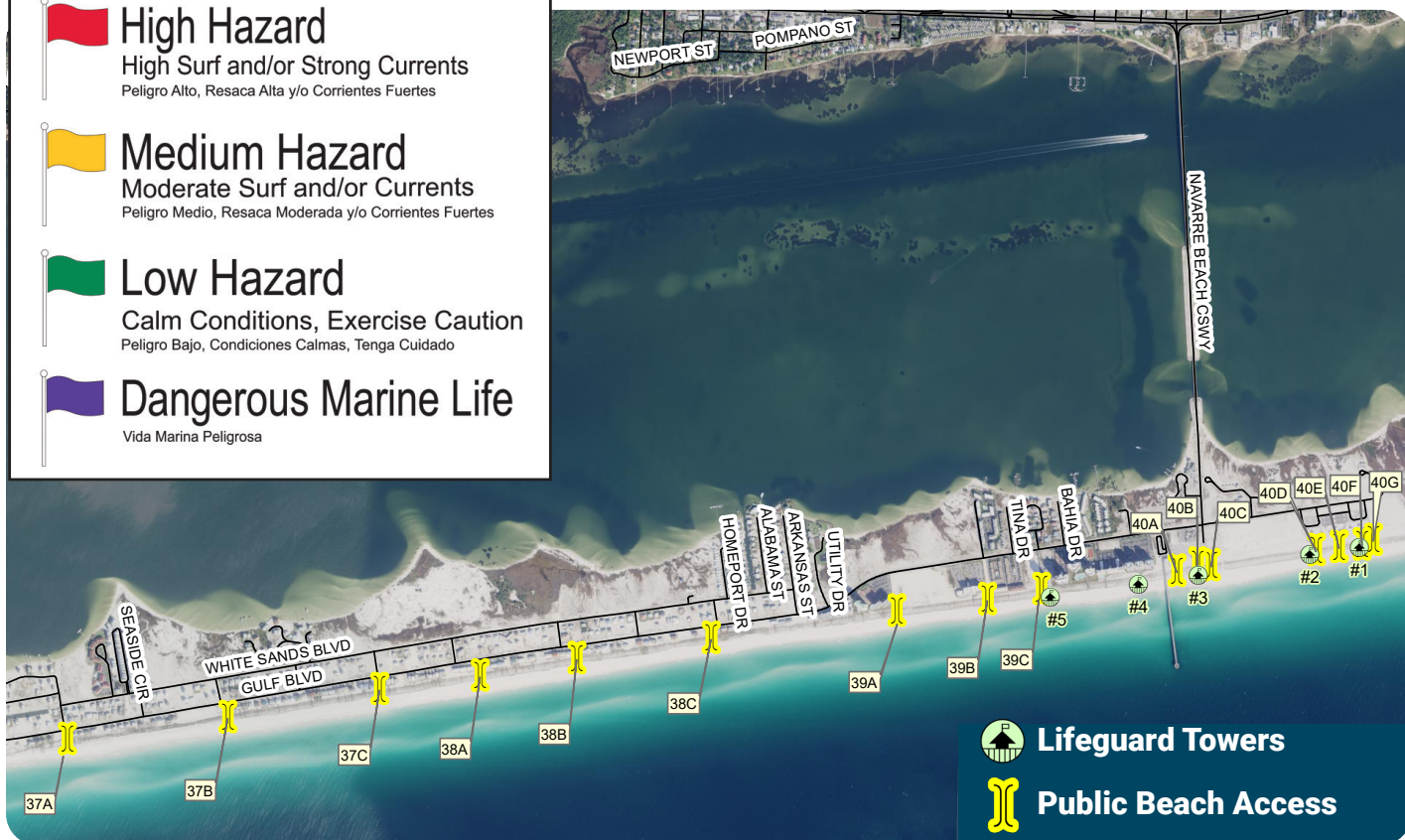
Moderate Surf and/or Currents
Peligro Medio, Resaca Moderada y/o Corrientes Fuertes

Low Hazard

Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution
Peligro Bajo, Condiciones Calmas, Tenga Cuidado

Dangerous Marine Life

Vida Marina Peligrosa



NAVARRE BEACH

DEBRIS DISPOSAL

Santa Rosa County, the cities of Gulf Breeze, Milton, and the town of Jay will determine if a storm warrants special debris collection. Watch for service changes posted by your municipality or in the local news. Storm debris should be properly separated for pickup as soon as possible as special collection may be available only for a limited time. After the designated time, debris will be the responsibility of the property owner. Follow these safety tips:

- Always wear gloves and work boots when cleaning or removing debris.
- Remove wet contents including carpet, furniture and building materials.
- Do not burn debris after a disaster. Many neighbors without power will have open windows and doors, the smoke from burning could cause respiratory and other issues.
- Do not allow children to play in or around debris piles.
- Do not move any displaced propane tanks. Contact your local fire department for assistance.
- Mold growth can be removed from hard surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution (*one cup of bleach to one gallon of water*). Never combine bleach with ammonia or other cleaners.

Cleaning Up Safely

NO PICKUP ZONE
Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up

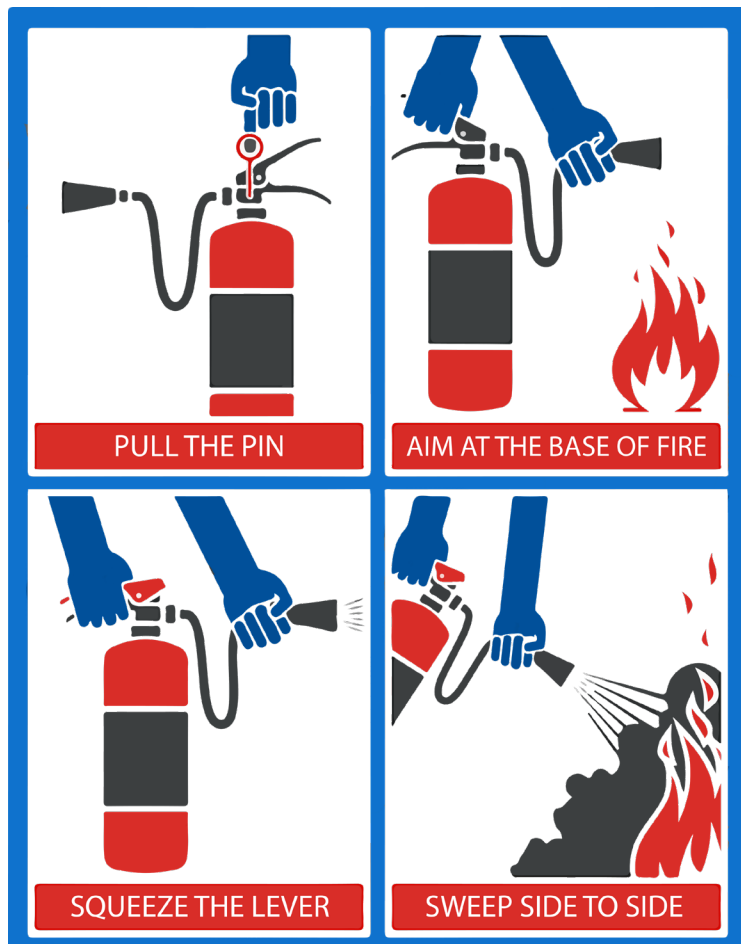
DEBRIS SEPARATION: Separate Debris into the six categories shown below.
DO NOT STACK OR LEAN: Placing debris near or on trees, poles or other structures makes removal difficult. this includes fire hydrants and meters.
UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS? If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.

<p>Normal Household Trash Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up with debris as part of this program. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.</p>	<p>VEGETATIVE DEBRIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves (<i>do not put in bags</i>) • Logs • Plants • Tree branches 	<p>CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building materials • Carpet • Drywall • Furniture • Lumber • Mattresses • Plumbing 	<p>APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air conditioners • Dishwashers • Freezers • Refrigerators • Stoves • Washers, dryers • Water heaters 	<p>ELECTRONICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers • Radios • Stereos • Televisions • Other devices with a cord 	<p>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning supplies • Batteries • Lawn chemicals • Oils • Oil-based paints and stains • Pesticides
--	---	---	---	--	---

CHAIN SAW SAFETY

Familiarize yourself with safe operational procedures before using a chain saw.

- Be sure that you are in good physical condition if you are operating dangerous equipment.
- Never use a chain saw when tired, after drinking or while taking medications.
- Wear snug-fitting gear including safety goggles, hearing protection, steel-toed boots, hard hat and gloves.
- Don't saw between your feet! Stand to one side of the limb you are cutting, never straddle.
- Think of where the chain will fly if it breaks and position yourself and others outside the danger zone.
- Keep the chain out of the dirt; debris will fly and the chain will be dulled considerably.



Each year more than 3,000 people die and 17,500 are injured in home fires in the United States, with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at \$11.7 billion annually. Home fires can be prevented!

To protect yourself, it's important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or to make a phone call. In two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Fire isn't bright; it's pitch black. Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire, you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around the home you've lived in for years.

Fire is DEADLY!

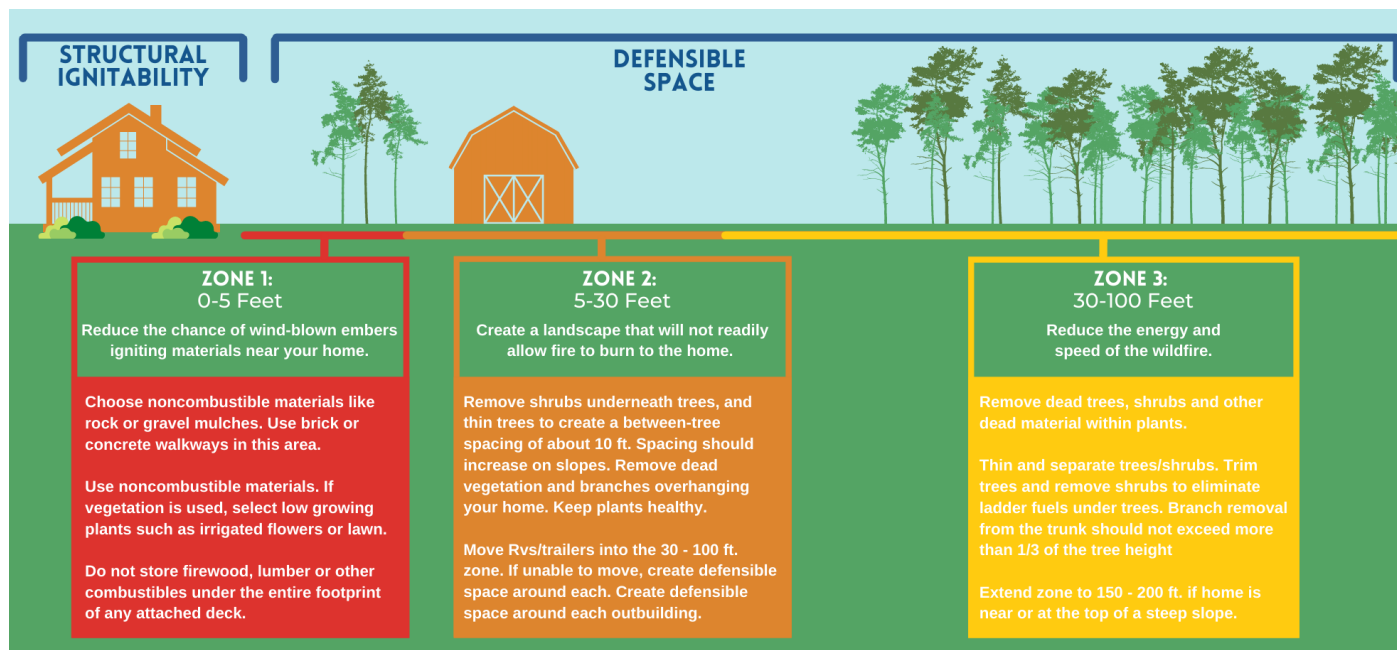
Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill.

Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. Instead of being awakened by a fire, you may fall into a deeper sleep. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape.

THE FAMILY FIRE DRILL

If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

- Draw a home escape plan, discuss it with everyone in your household and post the plan in a centralized location.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have a meeting place a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Push the smoke detector's alarm button to start the practice drill.
- Get out fast. Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children to escape on their own in case you can't help.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Go to your outside meeting place. Get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for people or pets.
- Use your second way out in an actual fire if smoke is blocking your door or the first way out.
- Get low, be prepared to crawl to go under smoke to get out safely.
- Feel the knob and door before opening a door. If hot, use your second way out.
- Consider an escape ladder for escaping from higher level windows if all other exits are blocked. Make sure it fits well and only use it in emergencies.
- Check the expiration date on your fire extinguisher and follow the instructions for inspections. Also, be sure it is easy to access.
- Have a fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Family members should practice using their second way out, as well as their primary route. Practice day and night.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home including the basement. Test them at least monthly and make sure everyone can hear them. Remember, children may not wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm, so plan for an adult to wake them and help them get out. Practice this, as well. Be sure to change the batteries in your alarms twice a year.



The threat of wildfires for people living near wildland areas or using recreational facilities in wilderness areas is real. Dry conditions at various times of the year greatly increase the potential for wildfires. Advance planning and knowing how to protect buildings in these areas can lessen the devastation of a wildfire.

Wildfires

What to do before a wildfire

- Make plans to care for your pets in case you evacuate.
- Shut off gas, pilot lights and propane tanks.
- Open fireplace damper. Close fireplace screens.
- Move flammable furniture away from windows/sliding-glass doors. Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Turn on lights to increase visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
- Seal attic and ground vents with plywood or commercial seals.
- Connect the garden hose to outside taps.
- Place lawn sprinklers on the roof to wet it and near above-ground fuel tanks. Wet or remove shrubs near the home.
- Leave doors and windows closed but unlocked. Firefighters may need to gain quick entry.

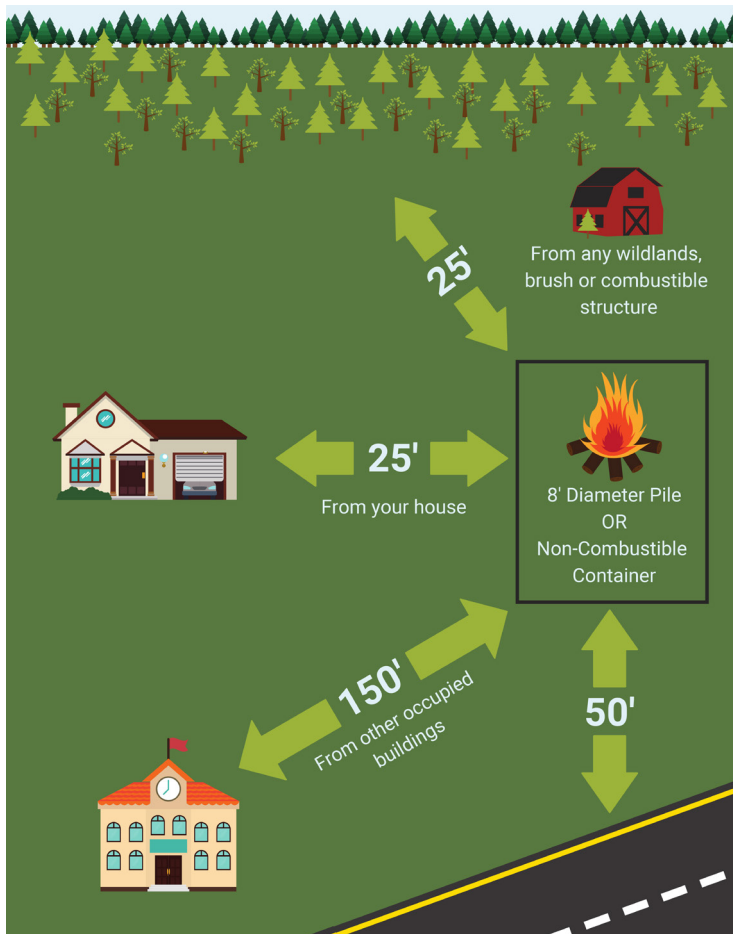
What to do during a wildfire

- Wear protective cotton or woolen clothing, sturdy shoes, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and handkerchief to protect your face.
- Water in your pool/hot tub and other containers will come in handy. Power out? Try connecting a hose to the outlet on your water heater.
- Evacuate when instructed and bring your disaster supply kit.
- Tell someone when you leave and where you are going.
- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.
- Stay calm. As the fire front approaches, stay inside unless advised to evacuate by officials.

What to do after a wildfire

- Return home when authorities advise that it's safe.
- Check the roof immediately. Call 9-1-1 if you notice any sparks or embers that cannot be safely put out from the ground.
- Check the attic for hidden burning sparks for several hours after the fire and maintain a "fire watch."
- Monitor radio and TV for current information.
- If you have concerns, contact your local fire department or call 9-1-1.

Source: *DisasterSafety.org*



Outdoor burning, particularly in the more rural areas, is a viable way to get rid of vegetation debris. However, each year in the United States wildfires damage or destroy thousands of acres, many of which are the unintended result of careless outdoor or open burning practices. To find out if there is a burn ban in the county, visit www.santarosa.fl.gov.

With proper site preparation and forethought, people can burn vegetative debris with reasonable safety. Taking the time to plan an outdoor burning project, preparing the burn site, and equipping yourself with basic fire suppression tools before lighting the match will dramatically reduce the chance of a burn pile fire getting out of control and becoming an emergency.

Piles larger than eight feet in diameter will require an authorization from the Florida Forest Service, suppression equipment on hand and additional setback requirements.

Never leave a fire unattended, don't burn on windy days and keep a water hose or shovel handy in case your fire escapes. Using a burn barrel to dispose of backyard debris can reduce the risk of wildfire.

When using your burn barrel

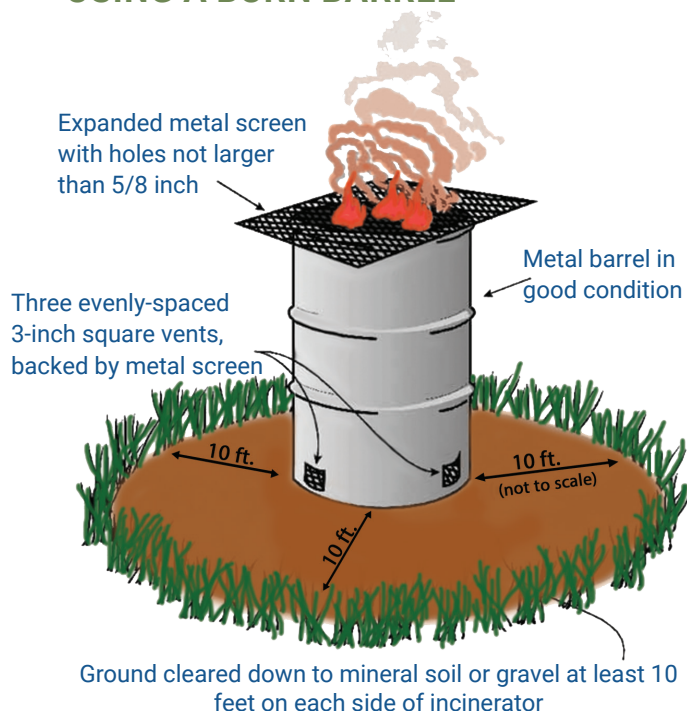
- Layer your materials. Put the smallest twigs and branches, which will ignite quickly, on the bottom of the pile, and stir it often to introduce new oxygen.
- It is illegal to burn household garbage (including paper products), treated lumber, plastics, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint and aerosol containers.

Is it really out?

An out-of-control fire can rise unexpectedly from the ashes of an outdoor burn that homeowners thought they had extinguished. Even when a fire stops smoking and appears to be out, the onset of windy and warmer weather, days or even weeks later, may re-kindle it and quickly propel into a damaging wildfire. To ensure that a backyard debris burn is really out, follow these steps:

- Drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times until it is dead.
- Check the burn area regularly over the next several days.
- At the onset of warm, dry weather, especially when accompanied by wind, check the burn area again, even if it is weeks after the burn.

USING A BURN BARREL



For questions on outdoor burning, contact the Florida Forest Service office at 850-957-5701 or visit FloridaForestService.com.



Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Three-fourths of all presidential disaster declarations are associated with flooding. In most years it causes more damage than any other severe weather-related event. Although many floods are caused by huge storms like hurricanes, more floods occur every day and can result from small, localized events, such as a typical afternoon thunderstorm.

Unfortunately, most flood fatalities are not due to limitations in the forecast system. All too often, people in vehicles literally drive into harm's way. As little as two feet of water can float an average car. While it may appear that water is not deep enough to cause problems, there is almost no way of knowing if the roadbed itself has been eroded or undermined.

What to do before a flood

- Understand "Watch" and "Warning" terms (*page 28*).
- Determine if you are in a flood-prone area.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Know how to shut off utilities.
- Speak with an insurance agent about Purchasing flood insurance.
- Keep your car filled with gas.
- Make pet care plans for potential evacuations.

What to do during heavy rains

- Know what low lying areas near your home are subject to flooding.
- Do not try to walk or drive through flooded areas.
- Stay away from moving water. Moving water six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- Evacuate if advised or if you feel threatened.
- If you have time, turn off all utilities at the main switch and move all valuables to a higher floor.
- If you're caught in the house by suddenly rising waters, move to the second floor and/or the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight, your cell phone and radio with you.
- Monitor the radio and television sites for current information.
- Keep a disaster kit handy.

What to do after a flood

- Stay away from flooded areas.
- When flood waters recede, watch for weakened surfaces.
- Keep away from downed power lines, especially near water.
- Monitor the radio, television and emergency management sites for current information.
- If you evacuate, return home only when authorities advise that it is safe.
- Call your insurance agent. Have your policy and list of possessions handy to simplify the adjuster's work.
- When it is safe to return home, be sure your house is not in danger of collapsing before entering.
- Open windows and doors to let air circulate.
- Take photos to record the damage.
- Throw out perishable foods; hose down appliances and furniture, even if they have been destroyed. You need to keep these for the adjuster's inspection.
- Shovel out mud while it is still wet.
- Have your tap water tested before using.
- Wear gloves and boots when cleaning.
- Make any temporary repairs necessary to stop further losses from the elements and to prevent looting.

Most people associate flood zones with the Gulf of Mexico, but the sound, East Bay, East Bay River, Yellow River, Escambia Bay, Escambia River, Blackwater River, Coldwater Creek, Pond Creek and Pace Mill Creek are also sources of flooding in Santa Rosa County. There are numerous smaller and less well known creeks and streams in the county. Knowing if your property is within a special flood hazard area will help you make decisions about your structure, elevation of the structure, and insurance. Santa Rosa County is prepared to assist you in answering these questions.

Q: What is a Special Flood Hazard Area?

A: This is the land covered by the floodwaters of the "base floodplain." This is the area in which the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) floodplain management regulations must be enforced by Santa Rosa County as a condition of participation in the program and the area where the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement applies. To see how NFIP can affect you, visit www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform. For more information about the program, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 888-379-9531. To find out if your property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, visit <https://santarosacountyfl.withforerunner.com/> and search "flood maps" or the FEMA web site at www.fema.gov and find the map in their map service center. You can print out a FIRMETTE of your area. For questions, call our floodplain manager at 850-981-7029.

Q: How can I find out if my property has wetlands on it?

A: Call the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 850-595-8300.

Q: I need an elevation certificate for my house; where do I get one?

A: If the structure is under construction, contact a surveyor. If the structure already has a certificate of occupancy issued, contact the floodplain manager at 850-981-7029, visit <https://santarosacountyfl.withforerunner.com/>, or scan the QR code to the right.



Q: What is substantial damage or substantial improvement?

A: A structure is considered substantially damaged/improved when the cost to repair/construct the structure equals or exceeds 50 percent of the pre-damaged/pre-construction market prior to the damage/improvement occurring. To repair/alter your structure, you must furnish an elevation certificate to the inspections department when you apply for a permit to repair/improve your structure. If the structure does not meet the current elevation requirement, then you will be required to complete substantial damage/substantial improvement forms before a permit can be issued to insure that you are complying with the 50 percent rule.

Q: How do I get a copy of the flood insurance rate map for my area?

A: Visit the Santa Rosa County Inspections Department and ask for a photocopy of the area of interest, call our floodplain manager at 850-981-7029 or visit <https://santarosacountyfl.withforerunner.com/>. You may also visit www.fema.gov and find the map in FEMA's map service center.

Q: How can I protect my property?

A: Elevating your structure to or above the current requirements is one way to protect your property. Relocation of the structure to a lot that is located in Zone X is the best way to reduce risk.

Q: What is our CRS rating?

A: Santa Rosa County was awarded the Class 5 CRS designation, placing it in the top five percent in Florida and top six percent in the nation. A class 5 rating results in up to a 25 percent discount for residents in the premium cost flood insurance for National Flood Insurance Program policies.

Important note:

Many insurance companies require a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect and won't write policies when there is threat of a tropical storm or hurricane. Don't wait until the last minute to acquire a policy. Speak with an insurance agent.



WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

Tsunamis are a series of large, destructive waves caused by a sudden disturbance of the ocean that could potentially demolish a coastal community within minutes. Tsunami waves radiate outward in all directions from the disturbance and can move across entire ocean basins. Predicting when and where the next tsunami will strike is impossible; however, once the tsunami is generated, forecasting tsunami arrival and impact is possible through modeling and measurement technologies. Florida was included in the U.S. Tsunami Warning System after assessments of hazards along the Gulf of Mexico identified underwater landslides as the primary potential source of tsunami generation. Sediments continually empty into the gulf mainly from the Mississippi River, which could lead to landslide activities, although the probability of a massive event is quite low.



How would I know a tsunami is coming?

Tsunami messages are issued by the tsunami warning centers to notify emergency managers and other local officials, the public and other partners about the potential for a tsunami following a possible tsunami-generating event. Tsunami warnings are broadcast through local radio and television, marine radio, wireless emergency alerts, NOAA Weather Radio and NOAA websites (like www.tsunami.gov). They may also come through local officials, text message alerts and phone notifications.

Warning signs of a tsunami

There may not always be enough time for an official warning, so it is important to understand natural signs:

- A strong earthquake, felt in a coastal area, that causes difficulty standing.
- A sudden unexpected rise or fall of the ocean tide or height.
- A loud, roaring sound (*like an airplane or train*) coming from the gulf.

What do I do if I see these warning signs?

- Stay calm and move to a safe place, typically inland away from coastal roadways. If that is not possible, move to the highest floor of a tall, sturdy building and stay there.
- Stay away from the beach until officials issue an "all clear."

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of underground rock. Unlike hurricanes and some other natural hazards, earthquakes strike suddenly without warning and can happen anywhere and at any time of the year.

Before: Prepare

Take action now, before an earthquake hits:

- Secure items that might fall and cause injuries.
- Practice how to Drop, Cover and Hold On and create a family emergency communication plan.
- Store critical supplies and documents.

During: Survive

As soon as you feel shaking:

- DROP down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn't knock you down.
- COVER your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris. If you are in danger from falling objects, and you can move safely, crawl to a safer place or seek cover (e.g., *under a desk or table*).
- HOLD ON to any sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops.

After: Recover

When the shaking stops, before you move, look around for things that might fall or for dangerous debris on the ground.

- If you are in a damaged building and there is a safe way out through the debris, leave and go to an open space outside, away from damaged areas.
- If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust. Call or text for help if you have a cell phone. Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle, if you have one, so that rescuers can locate you.
- Once safe, monitor local news reports for emergency information and instructions.

Source: www.tsunami.gov and www.ready.gov





The flu and Coronavirus (COVID-19, MERS, SARS) are contagious diseases that can lead to hospitalization and death. Each year about 20,000 children under five are hospitalized from flu complications, like pneumonia.

Vaccines are your best protection against these infectious diseases and reduces the risk of disease-related illness by approximately. If you get vaccinated and still get sick, your doctor may be able to prescribe antiviral drugs to treat you.

How does the flu and coronavirus spread?

Most experts think that flu and coronavirus are spread by droplets made when infected persons cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. People may also contract these diseases by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their eyes, mouths or noses. COVID-19 in particular is believed to be spread via airborne particles, that can linger in the air, even after a person has left the room – they can remain airborne for hours in some cases.

What is a pandemic?






A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness, and then easily spreads person-to-person worldwide. During a pandemic, social isolation should be practiced and always follow the directions of local authorities.

Protect your family and yourself

- Get vaccinated early each flu season.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with tissues, dispose of them properly and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often and well.
- Stay at home if you are ill and minimize exposure to sick people by staying three to six feet away.
- Regularly disinfect common surfaces such as phones, remote controls, door knobs, light switches and toys.

Viruses, like the flu and COVID-19, are constantly changing over time and can lead to the emergence of variants that may have new characteristics. Vaccines are highly effective against severe illness, learn more about vaccines for many diseases at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

The Get Ready guide to hand-washing

<p>Your hands aren't as clean as you think they are.</p>  <p>Harmful viruses and bacteria can live on your keyboard, smartphone and more for hours.</p>	<p>Did you wash your hands in the bathroom today? Really?</p> <p>A study found that 91 percent of adults say they did, but only 83 percent were observed washing up. And even less of us wash up after sneezing or coughing.</p> <p>Translation: gross stuff gets everywhere.</p>
<p>The Food and Drug Administration says that up to half of all foodborne illnesses could be prevented if we all washed up.</p>  <p>What does that mean? Hand-washing works!</p>	<p>Just how important is washing your hands?</p>  <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls it the "single most important means of preventing the spread of infection."</p>
<p>Washing your hands isn't hard.</p>  <p>1. Wet your hands.</p>  <p>2. Lather up with soap.</p>  <p>3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.</p>  <p>4. Rinse off.</p>	<p>What does 20 seconds feel like?</p>  <p>20 seconds is how long it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.</p>

By the way, using hand sanitizer isn't as good as washing your hands. It can fill in when a sink isn't available, but a good scrub with soap and water is always best.

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30 but tropical threats can occur as early as mid-May. The ingredients for a hurricane include a pre-existing weather disturbance, warm tropical oceans, moisture and light winds aloft. If conditions persist, they can combine to produce the violent winds, incredible waves, torrential rains, and floods.

In an average three-year period, five hurricanes strike the US coastline, killing approximately 50 to 100 people anywhere from Texas to Maine.

Storm Surge

The greatest threat to life comes from water in the form of storm surge. Storm surge is water from the ocean that is pushed toward the shore by the force and pressure of a hurricane—it can happen as quickly as several feet in just a few minutes. During Hurricane Katrina, entire buildings were moved, and some of the people who didn't evacuate are still among the missing.

Staying safe from surge flooding is easy. If a hurricane is predicted for Santa Rosa County and you live in a zone that has been ordered to evacuate, get out. Do not stay in an area at risk for surge flooding. Do not plan to escape to higher floors and do not wait until the last minute. Leave for higher ground and survive the storm.

Inland Flooding

More people die from inland flooding than from storm surge. The high death toll may be from the misunderstanding that intense rainfall is not directly related to the wind speed of tropical cyclones. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts occur from weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area. Inland flooding can be a major threat to communities living hundreds of miles from the coast line.

Cyclone Terms

- Eye—The roughly circular area of comparatively light winds that encompasses the center of a severe tropical cyclone.
- Tropical Depression—An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 MPH (33 knots) or less.
- Tropical Storm—An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 MPH (34-63 knots).
- Hurricane—An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 MPH (64 knots) or higher.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale	
Category	Definition—Effects
1 Very dangerous winds will produce some damage.	Winds : 74-95 mph (64-82 knots) Homes could have damage. Large branches will snap and trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last several days.
2 Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage.	Winds : 96-110 mph (83-95 knots) Homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last several weeks.
3 Major Hurricane Devastating damage will occur.	Winds : 111-129 mph (96-112 knots) Homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking many roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 Major Hurricane Catastrophic damage will occur.	Winds : 130-156 mph (113-136 knots) Homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 Major Hurricane Catastrophic damage will occur.	Winds : 157+ mph (137+ knots) Many homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. Hurricanes can produce winds exceeding 155 miles per hour as well as tornadoes and microbursts. Additionally, hurricanes can create storm surges along the coast and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall. Floods and flying debris from the excessive winds are often the deadly and destructive results of these weather events. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall.

Sand Bags

During emergencies in which flooding is imminent, Santa Rosa County may distribute sand in limited quantities as supplies allow, if time permits and personnel are available. Sand locations will be announced as the need is determined. Residents can purchase sandbags to fill at home improvement type stores year round and store the unfilled bags until they are needed.

Placing Sandbags

- Overlap the sandbags, placing the first layer of bags lengthwise and lapping the bags so the filled portion of one bag lies on the unfilled portion of the next.
- Place the second layer of bags perpendicular to the first layer.
- Limit placement to two layers unless a building is used as a backing.
- It is important to place the bags with the folded top of the bag in the upstream or uphill direction to prevent the bags from opening when water runs by them.

Limitations

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed to continued wetting and drying. If bags are placed too early, they may not be effective when needed. If it is necessary that bags remain durable for a longer time, the addition of cement can increase effective life; add one part cement mix to ten parts sand.
- Sandbags are basically for low-flow protection (*up to two feet*). Protection from high flow requires a permanent type of structure.



Securing Your Boat

Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, the local boating environment, and the severe weather conditions likely to occur.

- Never stay aboard your boat during a hurricane or tropical storm.
- Seek advice from local marinas. Marina operators are knowledgeable and helpful. They can advise you on the best methods for securing your boat.
- Remove small boats from the water and move them to a secure location.
- Ensure the boat is tied securely to the trailer.
- If your boat is too large to be removed from the water, move it to a protected harbor well before the storm approaches.
- Double up and secure mooring lines.
- Secure all hatches and portals and cover windscreens.
- Take down masts whenever possible.
- Remove all loose items from decks and mooring area. Leave nothing unsecured.
- Never forget that storms move quickly and they are unpredictable. You can always replace a boat; you cannot replace a life.

Know Your ZONE

Hurricane Evacuation Zones A–E
www.santarosa.fl.gov/KnowYourZone

Type your address into the interactive evacuation zone tool found [at www.santarosa.fl.gov/KnowYourZone](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/KnowYourZone) to find your zone. Staying safe from surge flooding is easy if you follow evacuation orders and don't wait until it is too late!

Florida has the greatest probability of any state in the nation to experience the landfall of a major (*category three or higher*) hurricane. For hurricanes, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes produce storm surges, tornadoes, high winds and flooding. Several factors are considered when planning evacuations including, but not limited to, the size of the storm, the storm's forward-moving speed and the wind speed within the circulation, as these all affect the amount of water being displaced.

Santa Rosa County uses A–E to identify evacuation zones. "A" is the area of lowest elevation, which includes the coastal area. The letters and zones progress as you move inland to higher elevations. Each zone will be evacuated based on the hurricane's track and projected storm surge. Storm surge, high winds and accessibility should all be considered when determining if your home is safe to stay in during a hurricane.



IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY HOME

If you choose to stay home during a hurricane, it is important to ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you have hurricane shutters and is the garage door braced?
- Has a professional braced the roof gable ends?
- Is your home a manufactured or mobile home? Is your home in an evacuation zone? It is not safe to stay in either.
- Does the home have a safe room large enough for all occupants including pets?
- Do you have a disaster plan in place for all occupants including pets?
- Do your vehicles have a full tank of gas?
- Does your disaster kit have one week's worth of non-perishable food supplies, water and any necessary prescriptions for each person and pet?
- Do you have a battery-operated radio with extra batteries?
- Is your cell phone handy and charged? Do you have a car charger or charge bank for it if power is lost?
- Do you have tarps and plastic sheeting available for emergency repairs?

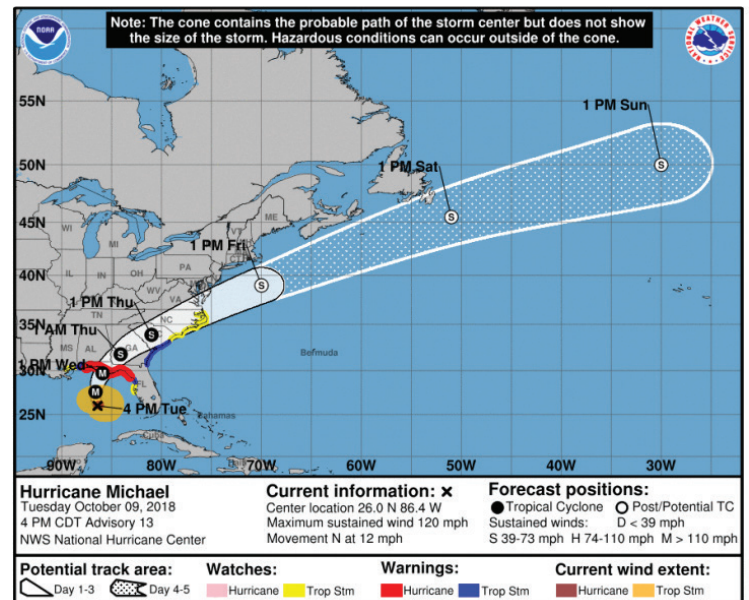


Severe Weather Terms

It is very important to understand the difference between a severe weather **WATCH** and **WARNING**. Watches and warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. The term **WATCH** implies that people should be alert for the possibility of severe weather or flash flooding and have a plan of action in case a storm threatens. When a **WARNING** is issued by the National Weather Service, this means that a tornado, severe thunderstorm, or flash flood has been detected by radar or observed by official sources.

Those of us who live along the Florida gulf coast should track every Atlantic hurricane or tropical storm. When a storm forms, weather forecasters will discuss the “forecast cone.” The cone represents the probable track of the center of a storm. A “five-day cone” and “three-day cone” are created to show the forecast path of the center of the storm with as much as a 300-mile “cone of uncertainty.” Because the storm could track anywhere within the cone, everyone in the cone area should begin storm preparations.

The most important thing to remember is to do as much as you can before a hurricane warning is issued, even before a storm enters the Gulf of Mexico. Waiting until the warning is issued will only give you only 24 hours to complete preparations and evacuate if necessary. Hurricane forecasting is not an exact science; timing, landfall and strength are always subject to change. Also keep in mind that impacts from a tropical storm or hurricane can extend out



Before you are in the Cone

- Make a family plan. Don't forget special plans for the elderly, handicapped, children and pets.
- Make an emergency supply kit (see page 40).
- Know your evacuation zone.
- Understand “watch” and “warning” terms.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio and batteries.
- Trim trees and shrubs around your home and document/photograph items.
- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters are best. A second option is to board up windows and doors with 5/8” marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Protect your property by bracing double entry and garage doors.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank and check oil, water and tires. Consider purchasing extra gas tanks.
- Refill prescriptions.
- Test your generator.

Plan to leave if...

- You live in a mobile home.
- You live on the coastline.
- You live near a river or flood plain.

If you decide to stay

- Identify a safe area in your home—interior, reinforced room, closet or bathroom on the lowest floor.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for emergency instructions and updates.
- Consider offering your home as shelter to friends or relatives who live in vulnerable areas or mobile homes.
- Get cash. Banks may not be open and ATMs won't work without electricity.

Five-day Cone Actions

- Review and update your family disaster plan.
- Get your survival kit and important papers ready.
- If you or a family member is elderly, handicapped or has special care needs, be ready to implement your special needs plan.
- Take photos of your property from all angles. It may not look the same after the storm passes.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard. Remove anything in your yard that could become windborne.
- Inspect the exterior of your home for loose items and remove or fix them.
- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- If you live in an evacuation zone, know where you will go and how you will get there.

As a storm moves closer, the accuracy of the forecast improves. If Santa Rosa County is within the three-day cone, residents should step up their preparations.

Three-day Cone Actions

- Double check your disaster kit and make necessary purchases to avoid lines and traffic.
- Gather special supplies for infants, children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If you plan to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

...Continued on next page

THREE-DAY CONE ACTIONS CONTINUED

About 48 hours ahead of a storm, forecasters will issue a hurricane watch for areas within the cone that can expect hurricane conditions. Again, because hurricanes can be erratic, residents in that area must prepare as if the storm is headed directly for their home. If the storm changes path or speed, the time between a watch and a warning might be only six hours. During a watch, the focus should be on preparing for the warning.

If you are in an evacuation zone or a mobile/manufactured home, the goal is to be fully prepared to evacuate one or two hours ahead of the warning being issued if needed. If you live in a non-evacuation zone, the goal is to complete all preparations within one or two hours after the warning.

HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS

- Ensure your vehicle gas tank is full.
- Get cash and secure papers and valuables.
- Ensure your medications have been refilled.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating—you may need the water when you return.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools.
- Shutter your windows.
- Prepare boats.
- Help neighbors with their preparations.
- If your plans are to evacuate out of the local area, make final preparations to secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need for your “go bag.”

When a hurricane warning is issued, a storm is about 36 hours from impact. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management may issue official evacuation orders not long after a warning. Whenever an evacuation is ordered, all manufactured home residents should evacuate. For all others, know your zone so you can understand and follow official emergency instructions.

HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS

- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready. If loss of electricity occurs, listen on a battery powered radio.
- Complete any final preparations.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so—turn off electricity if flood waters threaten your home. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep the doors closed. Also keep in mind that a full refrigerator and freezer holds the cold better than a half full one. Freeze water jugs and other containers ahead of time that can be easily transferred to the refrigerator.
- Turn AC unit to a colder setting—this will keep the home cooler for longer while the power is out.
- Turn off major appliances if you lose power.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave, do so now to avoid traffic jams.
- If you are registered for transportation to a public shelter, have your “go bag” ready.
- If evacuation orders are issued, determine if your residence is affected. If you are evacuating locally, leave for your designated safe location. If you are going to a public shelter, check which shelters are open before you leave.
- If you are not required to evacuate, prepare a safe room in your home and stay off the roads to enable evacuation traffic to clear the area.
- Notify your designated out-of-town contact and let them know where you are sheltering.
- Avoid using the phone, except for emergencies.

CLEAN UP PRECAUTIONS

- Call professionals to remove large uprooted trees.
- Use proper safety gear such as heavy gloves and boots, safety goggles, long-sleeve shirts and pants.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen. Drink plenty of fluids, rest, and ask for help when you need it.
- Lift with your legs, not with your back.
- Don't burn trash or yard debris. Low water pressure and blocked roads may keep fire departments from being able to reach you if it gets out of control.
- If you can't identify something, don't touch it.
- Be especially wary of downed electrical wires.

FLOOD ZONES VS. EVACUATION ZONES

Did you know there are two types of zones—flood zones and evacuation zones? They are very different and measure conditions that may not occur at the same time.

Flood zones are areas mapped by FEMA for use in the National Flood Insurance Program. Each flood zone designation, represented by a letter or letters, shows homeowners the risk for flooding on their property. Homes with a mortgage located in high risk areas are required to have flood insurance.

Evacuation zones are based on storm surge zones determined by the National Hurricane Center. Santa Rosa County uses A–E to identify evacuation zones based on the areas that are likely to be affected by storm surge. Some areas of the county are not located in any evacuation zone. A home may be located in a non-evacuation zone, yet still be in a flood zone because of a nearby stream or pond. Check both zones for your property at www.santarosa.fl.gov/KnowYourZone to understand what actions to take when safety directions are given by emergency management officials.

What to do During a Storm

- Remain in an interior hallway, bathroom or closet on the lowest level of a structure away from windows.
- Keep your disaster kit handy.
- Close all interior doors and brace exterior doors if possible.
- If the eye of the storm passes over, it will be calm for a short period of time. **REMAIN INDOORS.** As soon as the eye passes over, winds will increase rapidly to hurricane force from the opposite direction.
- Remain calm. It may take several hours for the storm to pass.

Resist the urge to sightsee during and just after a hurricane for your safety and the safety of others. Flooded roads can stall or carry your vehicle away, downed power lines may not be clearly visible, and water from vehicles may send wakes into flooded homes causing additional property damage.



MOBILE HOME SAFETY

Mobile and manufactured homes should never be used to shelter from a hurricane—no matter the category of storm. When an evacuation order is issued, anyone living in a mobile or manufactured home will be asked to seek shelter with a friend, family member or public shelter.

- Seek shelter elsewhere when threatened by a major storm.
- Walk around the yard and pick up all loose objects, like lawn ornaments and furniture.
- Regularly maintain your tie-down straps and anchors.
- Regularly check straps for rust or corrosion. Make sure straps are properly aligned and not on an angle.
- Check for wood rot and termite damage at connections, joists and trusses.
- Make sure support piers are in contact with the frame.
- Protect your windows and doors.
- When you are ready to leave your mobile home, unplug all appliances like your TV, microwave, etc.



Hurricanes are the most common reason evacuations are ordered in Santa Rosa County. It's important to understand orders can be issued at anytime for other types of disasters to insure the safety of residents and visitors alike. When evacuation notices are given, visitors, like our residents, must adhere to evacuation guidelines and immediately travel inland to stay with relatives, friends, at a shelter or a hotel outside of the evacuation zone. In the event an evacuation is ordered, emergency management officials will work with the Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Office to communicate the need for visitors to leave for their safety.

Hurricane Evacuations

High winds and the potential for severe flooding make it unsafe and uncomfortable for people to be in an area that is impacted by a hurricane. A special visitor evacuation may be issued to give visitors plenty of time to get out of harm's way as well as to not impede the movement of local residents during a full evacuation. Calmly follow emergency directives in a timely manner to avoid delays and leave safely. Boaters also need to respond to the warning quickly—extra time is needed to secure watercraft.

How will I know?

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30, though storms have formed before and after the official season. Modern-day forecasting provides plenty of time to safeguard people and property. Although evacuations are not a top priority when people are on vacation, it is important to monitor the local media or official weather sites:

- Santa Rosa County
www.santarosa.fl.gov
- NWS Mobile Office
www.weather.gov/mob
- National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa.gov
- National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

What should I do?

Staying at a shelter is also an option for visitors. However, shelters are crowded, uncomfortable and noisy. A shelter should be used as a last resort.

Be prepared and know ahead of time where the shelters are located. Review the map on the back cover of this guide to determine where your vacation accommodations and shelters are located. Shelter openings may vary with each emergency. Do not go to a shelter until you have been notified that it is open. We will advise all media outlets of shelter locations and opening times and will activate the Citizen Information Center phone at **850-983-INFO (4636)**. You will be required to register at the time you enter a shelter.

What to bring to a shelter

- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Toiletries, personal items and all medications.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Identification.
- Games or toys for children.
- Special items for infants or elderly family members.
- Any dietary needs and snacks.
- Flashlights and spare batteries.
- See full list on what to bring on page 39 of this guide.

When can visitors return?

Once the storm passes, officials will assess damage and safety. If the storm has had little or no impact on the infrastructure, visitors should be able to return quickly, possibly the next day.

If you need transportation to a shelter, call the Santa Rosa County Citizen Information Center at **850-983-INFO (4636)**. Phones will be manned during major disasters.

If you ignore an evacuation order

Visitors and residents should understand that you will be jeopardizing your life and the lives of your family members. There might be a time period during the storm or incident that you will be on your own.

Emergency and rescue personnel will not be able to respond to a call for assistance until after the danger of the storm has passed. After the storm, emergency and rescue personnel may not be able to immediately respond to your area because of damage, road debris and downed trees.

What to do after a Storm

- Wait until area is declared safe before returning or venturing outside.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary—debris may be covering roadways making them impassable. Emergency crews will be working to clear roadways but it may take hours or even days to clear them all. Roads may be closed for your protection, necessitating detours.
- If you evacuated, return home only when authorities advise that it is safe.
- Check on neighbors.
- If your home is safe, make temporary repairs if required. Take pictures of damage.
- Do not drive in flooded areas. Avoid potentially weakened bridges and washed out roadways.
- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from downed power lines.
- Beware of downed power lines. Lines could be charged and dangerous.
- Beware of snakes, insects or animals driven to higher ground.
- Enter your home with extreme caution. Beware of fallen objects or damaged roof and wall sections.
- Remove shutters or plywood and open windows and doors to ventilate or dry your home if necessary.
- Check gas, water and electrical lines, and appliances for damage. Do not attempt to repair damaged gas or electrical lines. Call a professional.
- Be aware of any boil water notices and toss out potentially spoiled food.
- Use a flashlight to inspect for damage; avoid open flames inside.
- Monitor the local radio, TV, newspapers and www.santarosa.fl.gov for current information.

For businesses

Did you know that 40 percent of all businesses that close after a disaster never re-open? Many businesses in Santa Rosa County have developed continuity plans and are preparing to open quickly after a disaster. After a disaster, call the Business and Industry Line at **850-983-5353** or **850-983-5347** to let staff know if you are open for business or if you need assistance. For more resources, check out www.SantaRosaEDO.com/page/disaster-planning.

Damage assessment system

Once the state has received the initial damage assessment data and information, the state, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration may conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment with the affected county government. This action is taken to verify the severity of the impact and justify the need to pursue a request for federal assistance.

Report damages by going to www.santarosa.fl.gov, clicking on How Do I... at the top of the website and then choose Property Damage Report from the menu.

Report damages to the property appraiser at www.srcpa.gov/Home/DamageReporting.

Points of distribution

A Point of Distribution, or POD, is where the public may pick up emergency supplies following a disaster. The need for a POD is based on lack of infrastructure to support normal distribution of food, water, or other supplies. If a major store is open in an area, a POD will not be activated. PODs may not open immediately or at the same time and are subject to change depending on the extent of damage.

Santa Rosa County is required to pre-identify POD locations annually. The county logistics section will advise the State EOC which PODs will be opened. After the event, additional PODs may need to be opened, depending on the identified requirements.



Lightning is one of the most underrated severe weather hazards, yet ranks as the second-leading weather killer in the United States. More deadly than hurricanes or tornadoes, lightning strikes in America kill an average of 55-60 people and injure 400 others each year. Texas and Florida lead the states in the largest number of lightning-related deaths.

What to do before a storm with lightning

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Remember the 30/30 lightning safety rule: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Get inside a home, building or hard-top automobile (*not a convertible*). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Track lightning using a website, such as www.lightningmaps.org, or apps, such as MyLightningTracker (*available on Apple Store and Google Playstore*)

Avoid the following

- Showering or bathing. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Natural lightning rods such as a tall isolated tree in an open area.
- Hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.
- Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.
- A corded phone should be avoided and only used for emergencies. Cordless and cellular phones are safe to use.



What to do during a storm with lightning

- Seek shelter immediately. You are not safe anywhere outside. Run to a safe building or vehicle when you first hear thunder, see lightning or observe dark, threatening clouds developing overhead. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder. Do not shelter under trees.

If you are outside

- Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of bushes or SMALL trees.
- Go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. Be alert for flash floods.
- Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

Act fast if someone is struck by lightning

- Call 9-1-1 for medical assistance immediately.
- Give first aid. Do not delay CPR if the person is unresponsive or not breathing. Use an AED (*Automatic External Defibrillator*) if available.
- Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, are safe to touch and need urgent medical attention.

Cardiac arrest is the immediate cause of death for those who die. Some deaths can be prevented if the victim receives the proper first aid immediately.



Florida has two tornado seasons. The summer season, from June until September, has the highest frequencies with usual intensities of EF0 or EF1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. This includes tornadoes that form from landfalling tropical cyclones.

The deadly spring season, from February through April, is characterized by more powerful tornadoes. When the jet stream digs south into Florida and is accompanied by a strong cold front and a strong squall line of thunderstorms, the jet stream's high level winds of 100 to 200 mph often strengthen a thunderstorm into what meteorologists call a supercell or mesocyclone. These powerful storms can move at speeds of 30 to 50 mph and produce dangerous downburst winds, large hail and the most deadly tornadoes.

In Florida, strong to violent tornadoes are just as likely to occur after midnight as they are in the afternoon. This unique feature makes these tornadoes more dangerous because most people are asleep after midnight and cannot receive weather warnings relayed by commercial radio or television stations.

The solution to this is to have a NOAA Weather Radio or weather app on your mobile device in your home with a tone alert feature. This will allow you to receive warnings issued by your local National Weather Service office. Sign up for local alerts specific to your area at www.alertsantarosa.com.

LEARN THESE TORNADO DANGER SIGNS

- Do not wait until you can see the tornado, many tornadoes are rain-wrapped and cannot be seen. Take shelter as soon as a tornado warning is issued.
- An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if its funnel is not visible.
- Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.
- Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

WHAT TO DO DURING A TORNADO

- Go to an interior or basement room on lowest level of your home.
- In a large building (*school, hospital, etc.*) go to a pre-designated shelter area or interior hall on the lowest level.
- Get under a mattress, sturdy desk or furniture if possible; use arms and hands to protect your head.
- In a mobile home, RV or trailer, get out immediately and go to a permanent structure.

IF OUTSIDE DURING A TORNADO

- Lie flat in a nearby ditch or the lowest lying area and cover your head with your hands.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado with your vehicle in urban or congested areas. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris—it causes the most fatalities and injuries.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A TORNADO

- Call 9-1-1 to report damage and injuries.
- Be aware of debris and downed power lines.
- Monitor radio and TV for current information.
- Check family for injuries; move injured only if necessary.
- Check on neighbors when it is safe to do so.

Chemicals are found everywhere. They purify drinking water, increase crop production, and simplify household chores. But chemicals can be hazardous to humans or the environment if used or released improperly. Hazards can occur during production, storage, transportation, use or disposal.

Whether it's an accidental chemical release or an intentional attack, be prepared by knowing what to do before, during and after a chemical/hazardous materials incident that affects your area. Your local emergency management office is equipped to notify you and provide instructions for these types of incidents. If you witness a chemical/hazardous incident, call 9-1-1 as soon as possible.

What to do before a chemical disaster

- Know what your threats are in the community.
- Contact your Local Emergency Planning Council, the Emerald Coast Regional Council at **850-332-7976** or visit the website at www.ecrc.org/LEPC.
- Contact your local Emergency Management Office at **850-983-5360**.

What to do during a chemical disaster

- Know your evacuation routes, evacuate if told to do so.
- Shelter in place if told to do so (*see page 13 for directions*).
- Keep your disaster kit with you in your safe room.
- Listen to local radio or television stations for detailed information and instructions.
- Remember some toxic chemicals are odorless.

What to do after a chemical disaster

- Return home or go outside only when told it is safe by local authorities.
- Open windows and vents and turn on fans to provide ventilation.
- Follow decontamination instructions from local authorities.
- Seek medical treatment for symptoms related to hazardous materials.
- If medical assistance is not immediately available and you are contaminated, remove your clothes and place in a plastic bag or sealed container and dispose of as told to by local authorities, take a shower and put on clean clothes.
- Remember that eyeglasses, contacts and hearing aides could be contaminated and must be cleaned properly or disposed.
- Seek information from local authorities on how to clean your property.
- Continue to monitor your television and radio for current information.



Terrorist attacks can leave many concerned about the possibility of future incidents in the United States and their potential impact. There are things you can do to prepare for the unexpected and reduce the stress that you may feel now and later, should another emergency arise. Taking preparatory action can reassure you and your children that you can exert a measure of control even in the face of such events. Understanding what can happen is the first step. Once you have determined the events possible and their potential in your community, it is important that you discuss them with your family or household. Develop a disaster plan together.

If a terrorism incident occurs

- Remain calm and be patient.
- Follow the advice of local emergency officials.
- Listen to your radio or television for news and instructions.
- If the incident occurs near you, check for injuries. Administer first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- Confine or secure your pets.
- Call your family contact—do not use the phone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.

Terrorism Advisory System

The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, communicates information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

Each alert provides information to the public about the threat, including, if available, the geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected, protective actions being taken by authorities and steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves and their families and help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.

The “If You See Something, Say Something™” campaign encourages all citizens to be vigilant for indicators of potential terrorist activity and to follow NTAS Alerts for information about threats in specific places or for individuals exhibiting certain types of suspicious activity. Visit www.dhs.gov/ifyouseesomethingsaysomething to learn more about the campaign.



IF YOU RECEIVE A BOMB THREAT

- ✓ Get as much information from the caller as possible.
- ✓ Keep the caller on the line and document everything that is said.
- ✓ Notify law enforcement and building management.



NTAS CONSISTS OF TWO TYPES OF ADVISORIES

Bulletins—communicate current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Alerts—used when there is specific, credible information about a terrorist threat against the United States. It may include specific information about the nature of the threat. The alert may take one of two forms:

- Elevated Threat Alert—warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- Imminent Threat Alert—warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Alerts Are Available Via:

- DHS NTAS web page: www.dhs.gov/alerts. You can also sign up for alerts at this address.
- Facebook and Twitter by searching NTASAlerts
- Your smart phone’s app store. Search NTAS.

PROFILE OF AN ACTIVE ASSAILANT

An active assailant is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active assailants use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active assailant situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the assailant and mitigate harm to victims. Because active assailant situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

DHS has developed an independent study course—Active Shooter: What You Can Do. This course was developed to provide the public with guidance on how to prepare for and respond to active shooter situations. This free course is available online through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute at www.training.fema.gov (course number IS-907).

Good practices for coping with an active assailant situation

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active assailant down. When the assailant is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.

CALL 9-1-1 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO!

How to respond when an active assailant is in your vicinity

1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active assailant may be.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Follow the instructions of any police officers.
- Do not attempt to move wounded people.
- Call 9-1-1 when you are safe.

2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the assailant's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors.
- Silence your cell phone.

3. FIGHT

- Engage in physical combat only as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the assailant.
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active assailant.

Information to provide to law enforcement or 9-1-1 operator

- Location of the active assailant(s).
- Number of assailant(s).
- Physical description of assailant(s).
- Number/type of weapons.
- Number of potential victims at the location.

How to respond when law enforcement arrives

- Raise hands and spread fingers.
- Keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety.
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating.



All residents should have basic supplies on hand to survive for at least one week if an emergency occurs. Below is a checklist of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. It is important that individuals review this list and consider the unique needs of their family to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. Consider having at least two emergency supply kits; one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in your workplace, vehicle or other places where you spend time. Items may be stored in a 32-gallon trash can, suitcase, duffle bag, backpack, footlocker, or individual packs for each family member.

EMERGENCY NEEDS

- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit and manual
- ☐ Sleeping bags and blankets for each person
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Waterproof matches or matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Non-perishable food items
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Emergency battery-operated candles or light sticks
- ☐ Water (*one gallon of water per person per day for at least one week, for drinking and sanitation*)
- ☐ Water purification tablets
- ☐ Utility knife
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Essential medications and eyeglasses/contact lenses
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air, plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet supplies—food, medications, water, carrier, etc.

OTHER EMERGENCY NEEDS

- ☐ Cash, credit cards, checks and change
- ☐ Work gloves
- ☐ Basic tools including a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Cell phone and chargers as well as an extra power pack
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid manual or this disaster guide
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container or stored on CDs, DVDs, or external memory drives

SANITATION KIT

- ☐ Plastic bucket with tightly fitted lid
- ☐ Plastic bags and ties
- ☐ Disinfectant
- ☐ Improvised toilet seat
- ☐ Personal toiletries and hygiene items
- ☐ Moist towelettes
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Soap and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper for disinfecting water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners

WHAT TO TAKE TO A SHELTER

- ☐ A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- ☐ Toiletries and personal items
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Identification and any important papers
- ☐ Games or toys for children; books for adults
- ☐ Special items for infants or elderly family members
- ☐ Any special dietary needs, nonperishable foods for snacks, cooler with ice and water
- ☐ Prescription medications or any over-the-counter medications you normally need
- ☐ Health insurance and pharmacy cards
- ☐ Trash bags for your garbage
- ☐ Cell phone with paper copy of family/friends contact information
- ☐ NOAA weather radio

MAKE COPIES OF ALL LEGAL PAPERS

- ☐ Marriage license, adoption and guardianship paperwork
- ☐ House mortgage and insurance policies
- ☐ Vacation home/property ownership
- ☐ Automotive/motorhome/boat ownership
- ☐ Wills and trusts
- ☐ Jewelry appraisals
- ☐ Drivers licenses and passports
- ☐ Bank accounts

Review the supplies in your disaster kits at least once a year—replace items which may have expired or become unusable.

STANDARD FIRST AID KIT

- ☐ First aid manual
- ☐ Pain relievers
- ☐ Rubbing alcohol
- ☐ Diarrhea medicine
- ☐ Soap and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Gauze, bandaids, elastic bandages
- ☐ Triangular bandage and safety pins
- ☐ Cotton balls and swabs
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Pressure dressings and splint padding
- ☐ Microspore adhesive
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Needles and tweezers
- ☐ Finger splints
- ☐ Syrup of Ipecac
- ☐ Individual medical needs
- ☐ Baking soda (a solution of 1/2 tsp. baking soda + 1 tsp. salt + 1 qt. water may be given to a fully conscious shock victim)

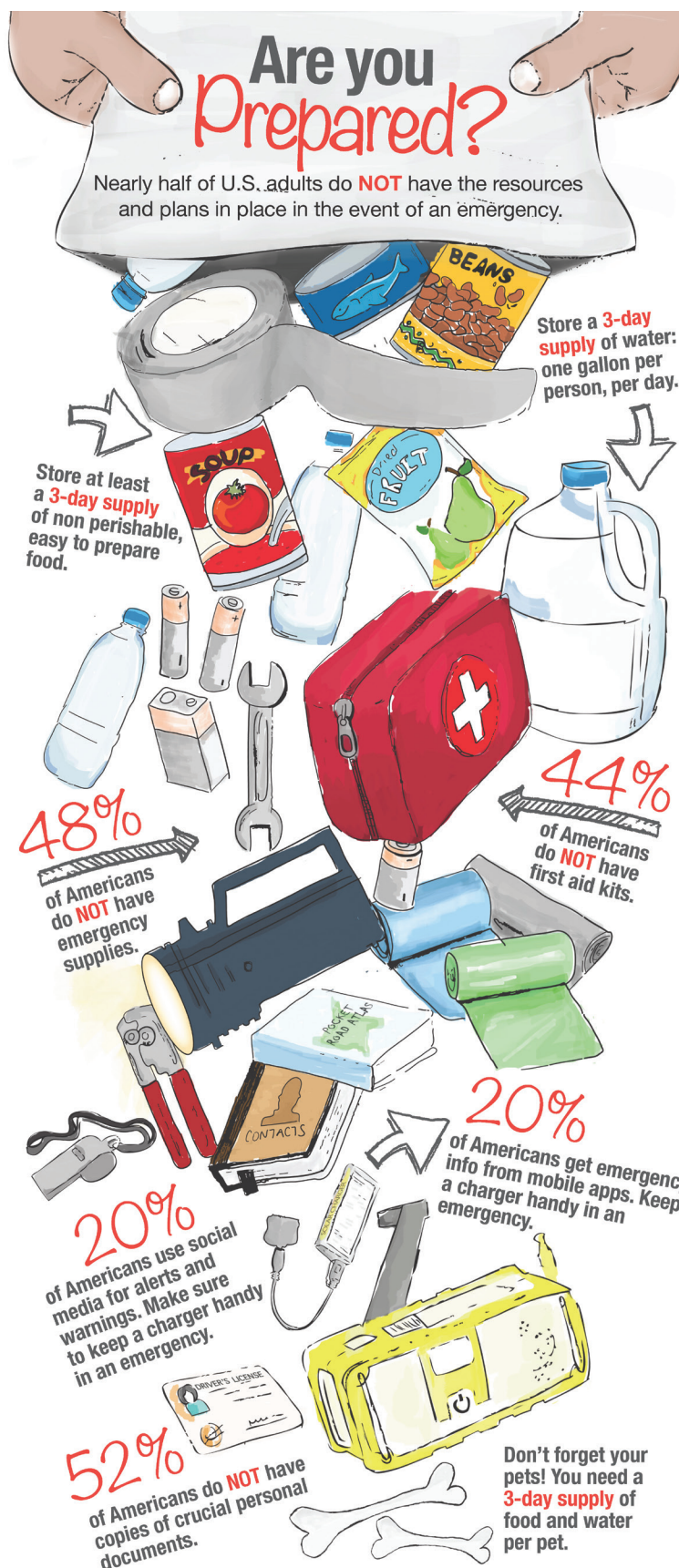
CAR SURVIVAL KIT

- ☐ Always maintain at least half a tank of gas
- ☐ First aid kit and manual
- ☐ Class ABC fire extinguisher
- ☐ Radio and batteries
- ☐ Non-perishable food stored in a coffee can
- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Bag of sand, shovel and tools
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Map
- ☐ Tissues, hand sanitizer and towelettes
- ☐ Plastic bags
- ☐ Essential medications
- ☐ Flashlights and extra batteries
- ☐ Reflectors or flares
- ☐ Jumper cables
- ☐ Short rubber hose for siphoning
- ☐ Seasonal supplies

WORK SURVIVAL KIT

This kit should be in one container, and ready to "grab and go" in case you are evacuated from your workplace.

- ☐ Food and water
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Rain jacket/lightweight jacket



Prepare supplies for home, work, and vehicles.
Emergencies can happen anywhere.

For more information visit: emergency.cdc.gov



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Important Phone Numbers

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Board of County Commissioners	850-983-1877
Animal Services	850-983-4680
Inspections/Permits	850-981-7000
Code Enforcement	850-981-7000
Co-op Extension Service	850-623-3868
Economic Development Office	850-623-0174
Emergency Management	850-983-5360
Environmental (Landfill and Mosquito Control).....	850-981-7135
Housing Information.....	850-981-7076
Navarre Beach Utilities	850-981-8888
Parks/Recreation	850-983-1940
Planning/Zoning.....	850-981-7000
Procurement.....	850-983-1870
Public Information Office	850-983-5254
Public Works	850-626-0191
Road & Bridge Department.....	850-626-0191
Tourist Development Office.....	850-981-8900
Veterans Services	850-981-7155
Clerk of Court	850-983-1973
Property Appraiser	850-983-1880
City of Gulf Breeze	850-934-5100
City of Milton	850-983-5400
Town of Jay	850-675-4556
Tax Collector	850-983-1800
Santa Rosa District Schools.....	850-983-5000
Supervisor of Elections.....	850-983-1900

STATE GOVERNMENT

Attorney General	866-966-7226
Dept. of Children and Families	850-483-6623
Dept. of Environmental Protection....	850-245-2118
FL Dept. of Transportation	850-981-3000
Florida Forest Service (<i>Burn Permits</i>) ..	850-957-5701
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Dept. of Health in Santa Rosa County ..	850-983-5200

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FEMA Disaster Assistance	800-621-3362
National Weather Service (<i>Mobile</i>)	251-633-6443
US Army Corps of Engineers	251-690-2505

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sheriff's Office.....	850-983-1100
Florida Highway Patrol	850-484-5000
Gulf Breeze Police Department.....	850-934-5121
Milton Police Department.....	850-983-5420

UTILITIES

AT&T	888-757-6500
Chelco Electric Co-op Outages	850-307-1211
City of Gulf Breeze Gas.....	850-934-5108
Escambia River Electric Outages	877-688-3732
Florida Power and Light Outages.....	888-988-8249
Natural Gas of Milton.....	850-983-5434
Okaloosa Gas	850-729-4700
Town of Jay Utilities	850-675-4556

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Santa Rosa Economic Development ..	850-623-0174
Gulf Breeze Chamber.....	850-932-7888
Navarre Beach Chamber.....	850-939-3267
Greater Navarre Chamber.....	850-397-4120
Pace Chamber.....	850-994-9633
Santa Rosa County Chamber	850-623-2339

LOCAL AGENCIES

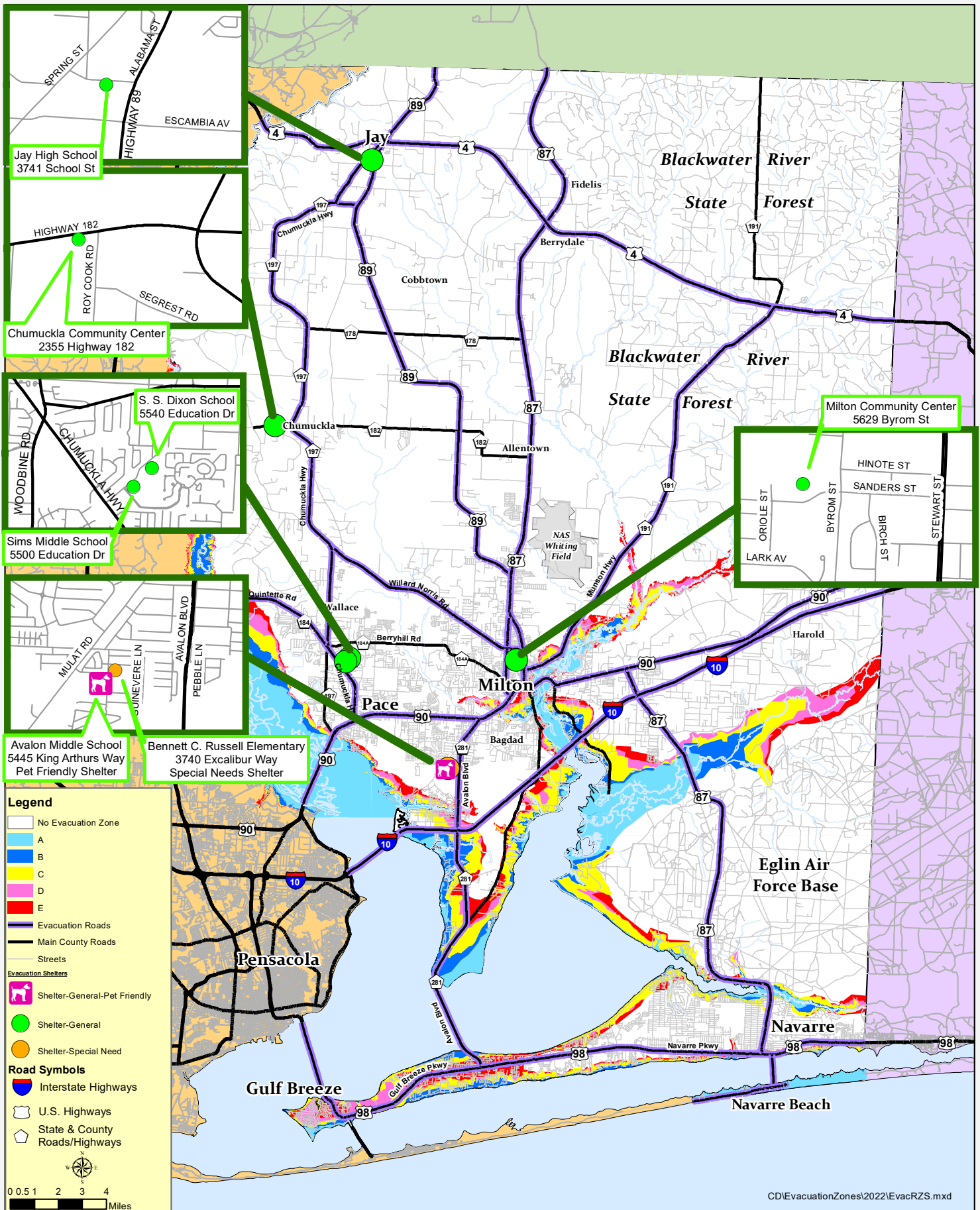
American Red Cross	850-432-7601
Council on Aging of West FL	850-432-1475
First Call for Help (<i>Info & Referral Svs</i>) ..	850-983-7200
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	850-983-5220
Salvation Army	850-623-4099
Visitor Information	850-981-8900

Citizen Information Center

During a disaster, the Citizen Information Center provides information ranging from evacuation procedures to shelter openings. Operators are available to help callers with specific concerns and questions. The CIC provides emergency information without tying up emergency telephone lines or causing callers to wait for information.

CIC Hotline During Disasters: (850) 983-INFO or 4636
ALL EMERGENCIES, ANYTIME CALL 9-1-1

Shelter Locations



Do not go to a shelter until you have verified it is open. Monitor local media for announcements from emergency management officials, visit www.santarosa.fl.gov or call the citizen information line at (850) 983-INFO or 4636.