

TALLAHASSEE SENIOR SERVICES

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Hurricane Preparedness

Preparing for Hurricane Season During COVID-19 Crisis

While you continue to take precautions to keep yourself safe from COVID-19, it is important to also begin preparing for hurricane season. Preparations will be a little different this season given the current crisis; you should give yourself more time to prepare, and consider social distancing needs when purchasing supplies and preparing evacuation kits.

- Continue to protect yourself when stocking up on supplies; shop online for home delivery or pick-up, whenever possible; wear a face covering for any in-person shopping and utilize designated shopping hours for seniors when available.
- Limit social interaction when refilling prescription medications, use mail order or drive-through pick up whenever possible. Try to have at least a month worth of medication on hand at all times.
- Prepare two emergency supply kits; a shelter in place kit with two weeks of supplies, and an evacuation kit with three days of supplies. Be sure to include face coverings, hand sanitizer and bar or liquid soap to protect against COVID-19 in the event you need to evacuate.

More detailed information about how to prepare

[CDC COVID-19 and Preparing for Hurricane Season](#)

[FEMA Preparing for Hurricane Season During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[CDC COVID-19 and Public Disaster Shelters](#)

[RED CROSS Preparing for Disaster During COVID-19 Crisis](#)

Preparing for Evacuation

In the event of even a minor storm, homes may be without electricity and water for days. If you rely on in-home services or suffer from health issues that may be affected by lack of power, staying in your home may not be realistic. Also, evacuation should be done well in advance, and emergency shelters should be a last resort. Have a plan in place and make sure friends, family and/or caregivers are aware of your plan. If you must evacuate to an emergency shelter be sure to maintain social distancing practices. More information on hurricane preparation is available in the city of Tallahassee's [Neighborhood Prep Guide](#).

Essentials for preparedness: batteries, flashlight, non-perishable foods, medications, portable phone charger, first aid kit, important documents (insurance policies, advanced healthcare directives, legal documents, social security cards, birth and marriage certificates, passports, and a list of important phone numbers) in a waterproof envelope. For more information on having a plan, building your disaster preparedness bucket, and preparing your home, review [Leon County's Disaster Survival Guide](#).

If you have a loved one in long-term care, talk to the facility about their participant care plan. If you or a loved one have special needs, **Special Needs Shelters** are designed for persons who require more medical care than what can be provided at other shelters. To sign up for the **Leon County Special Needs Registry**, call **(850) 606-3700** or visit: snr.floridadisaster.org/Signin?client=leon

If you are a pet owner, make sure you plan for your pet's needs too. Service animals will be accepted into any Red Cross shelter; check Leon County and City of Tallahassee websites for update on shelters that welcome pets. Talk to your vet about boarding options. Prepare essential pet supplies (food, water, feeding dishes, medication, vaccination/shot records, etc.). Additional information can be found [here](#).

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City and County Resources

Talgov.com	891-4968
Residents can find important information before, during and after a major weather event on the city's website, and the city's customer service call center is staffed 24 hours a day during emergencies.	
@COTNews on Twitter and Facebook	
Follow @COTNews on social media to view up-to-date information about the City's response and recovery efforts.	
DigiTally app	
The City's official app is free for download, and is the fastest, easiest way to report service issues, such as downed trees and electrical outages. The app sends reports directly to response teams.	
Leoncountyfl.gov/ei/	
This emergency information portal details the current status of any verified emergency in the area.	
@LeonCounty on Twitter and Facebook	
Information about Leon County offices, as well as emergency updates, will be posted to these accounts during an emergency activation.	
Leon County Citizens Connect app	
This app details emergency information verified by public safety agencies and emergency management personnel.	
7-1-1 Florida Relay	606-3700
This citizen information line will detail community resources available, including shelter openings.	

Community Resources

RedCross.org/NorthFlorida	878-6080
If your home is in an evacuation zone, shelters may open; call for locations and special conditions.	
Advantage Aging Solutions: Aaanf.org	488-0055
AAS (formerly Area Agency on Aging for N. FL) is the local aging and disability resource center.	
211BigBend.org	617-6333
Serves as the gateway to community information, services and support in times of emergencies. Trained hotline counselors also provide emotional support, crisis assistance, information and referrals.	
SalvationArmyFlorida.org/Tallahassee	222-0304
The Salvation Army of Tallahassee serves disaster survivors and relief workers with food, emotional support and other critical services. The Salvation Army's disaster team conducts wellness checks, provides spiritual care and assists in distributing food, water, clothing and clean-up kits.	
Kearney Center	792-9000
Provides 24-hour comprehensive emergency services to individuals experiencing or on-the-verge of experiencing homelessness.	

Statewide Resources

Florida Division of Emergency Management: FloridaDisaster.org	815-4110
Plans for and responds to disasters, and maintains the statewide special needs registry.	
Florida Department of Elder Affairs: ElderAffairs.org	800-963-5337
Provides disaster assistance to seniors during emergencies.	
Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Consumer Services MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers	877-693-5236
Offers a toll-free consumer helpline to assist insurance consumers with inquiries and filing complaints.	