



**Martin County  
Emergency Management Agency**



# The Road to Readiness

**Your guide to being prepared  
before, during and after an emergency**

# Important Contact Information

**Dial 9-1-1 for an Emergency or Life Safety Issue**

Community Information Hotline	772-287-1652
Martin County Emergency Management Agency	772-287-1652
Martin County Crime Tip Line	800-273-8477
Martin County Fire Rescue (Non-Emergency)	772-288-5710
Martin County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)	772-220-7000
Indiantown (Non-Emergency)	772-597-9900
Jupiter Island Public Safety (Non-Emergency)	772-545-0112
Ocean Breeze (Non-Emergency)	772-220-7170
Sewall's Point Police Department (Non-Emergency)	772-781-3378
Stuart Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	772-288-5300
Stuart Police Department (Non-Emergency)	772-287-1122
Martin County School District	772-219-1200
FL State Assistance Information Line (Active During Disasters)	800-342-3557
Florida Power and Light (Report an Outage)	800-468-8243
Florida Price Gouging Hotline (To Report)	866-966-7226
Florida Highway Patrol (From Any Cell)	*FHP
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	850-245-2118
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	850-488-4676
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	800-621-3362

## Social Media



Like "Martin County Board of County Commissioners" and "Martin County Fire Rescue" on Facebook



Follow @MartinCountygov on Twitter

## Online Resources

The websites listed below will help you begin making a plan:

Martin County Emergency Management Agency	<a href="http://www.martin.fl.us/EM">www.martin.fl.us/EM</a>
Florida Division of Emergency Management	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">www.floridadisaster.org</a>
Federal Emergency Management Agency	<a href="http://www.ready.gov">www.ready.gov</a>
National Weather Service Melbourne	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/mlb">www.weather.gov/mlb</a>
National Hurricane Center	<a href="http://www.nhc.noaa.gov">www.nhc.noaa.gov</a>
Center for Disease Control	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>

# Step 1: Know Your Risks

The first step to understanding risk in our community is to learn about the potential hazards and their impacts. This "Road to Readiness" brochure is designed to provide you with an overview on:

- Preparing for any hazard
- Staying safe during an incident
- Recovering from an incident
- Increasing resiliency through preparedness



## Resources for Risk Determination

- Review Martin County's "Road to Readiness" brochure and the Martin County Emergency Management web page ([www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM)) for more detailed information.
- Engage with the experts, such as the Martin County Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service Melbourne, through social media, websites and/or at community events.



### Be Prepared

Preparedness can reduce fear and increase resiliency from the impacts of disasters. Communities, families and individuals should know what to do during an emergency.

# Step 2: Build a Kit



A disaster supply kit is a collection of essential items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Assemble your kit and review it annually. If you evacuate, take your kit with you and ensure you can carry it or put it on wheels.

## Basic Items

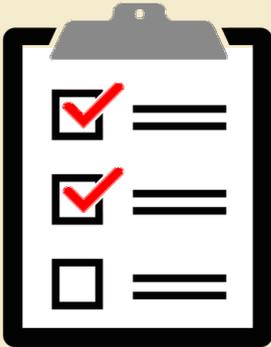
- Water: one gallon of water per person, per day, for at least three days for drinking and sanitation
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio, weather radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Cash
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, etc.

## Additional Items

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Shot records for pet(s)
- A carrier for each pet
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mess kits, paper cups, paper plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Paper and pen/pencil
- Gas up your car and have backup fuel available

# Step 3: Make a Plan

Having a plan for what to do in the event of an emergency is the most important step you can take. Think about the situations which can affect our community and how they would affect your household. If separated, make sure you have a designated meeting point and that everyone knows the location.



## Create a Disaster Plan

To develop a disaster plan, think through the questions below, write out the steps, discuss them with your household and then practice your plan every year. The best plan is one that all members of the household know and can implement when necessary. Simple planning tools are available at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org).

### Household Plan Considerations

Your plan should address the following questions:

- How will my household evacuate if ordered?
- Where will my household go if evacuating?
- How will my household get in touch if cell phones, landlines or the internet doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will my household reunite after the emergency?

### Business Plan Considerations

It is also important to develop a plan for your business. You can access a simple business planning tool at [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org).

There are five main areas to think about when developing a preparedness program:

- Program Management
- Planning
- Implementation
- Testing and Exercises
- Program Improvement

Consider communication with employees throughout the disaster.



# Make a Plan for Your Property

## Insurance and Inventory Tips

- Update your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. If you rent, obtain renter's insurance. Remember, you can't get insurance when there is a named storm approaching your area.
- Purchase flood insurance. With few exceptions, you must wait 30 days after you first purchase a flood insurance policy before it will take effect. Keep in mind, regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding.
- Keep a copy of insurance policies with your agent's contact information.
- Have a household inventory. Use photos or video, if possible.
- Keep copies of all critical documents in a waterproof/fire safe. Scan all documents on an encrypted flash drive and keep them with you.

## General Guidelines

- Trim or remove damaged trees and limbs, remove debris and lawn cuttings, and dispose of them correctly before hurricane season.
- Inspect roof and repair/replace any damaged areas.
- Remove/secure outside items such as patio furniture, tools and garbage cans.
- Anchor storage sheds and objects that are unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks.
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage to your property.
- Remove flammable materials within 30 feet of your home's foundation, garages and sheds.
- If you have a generator for power outages, remember to keep generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet away from windows and doors and protected from moisture.
- Reduce property damage by strengthening roof, windows and garage doors.

# Plan for Mobile and Manufactured Homes



## Know Your Risk

- Mobile and manufactured homes face the largest risk of damage due to the potential impacts from high winds.
- Never ride out a hurricane in a mobile or manufactured home, even if it is not in an evacuation zone.
- According to the National Hurricane Center, no mobile or manufactured home is a safe shelter from hurricane-force winds or tornadoes.
- If in a tornado watch, make a plan to stay with a friend or neighbor in a strong structure for the duration of the severe weather event.
- If in a tornado warning, seek shelter in the strongest interior room and bring a pillow or helmet to protect your head.

## Home Improvements

- Secure any items outside your home; tie them down or bring them inside.
- Inspect tie-downs annually and make sure they are anchored securely to the foundation.
- Make sure your home's skirting is in good condition and repair any damaged areas.
- Reduce property damage by strengthening your roof, windows and doors.
- While still not a safe place to shelter, tie-downs and hurricane straps can prevent a mobile or manufactured home from coming loose and causing damage or blocking the roadway.
- Consider adding a reinforced safe room to your home.



# Emergency Shelters

## Shelter Openings are Incident-specific

Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open. Shelter openings will be announced through local television, radio stations, social media and the Martin County Emergency Management Agency web page at [www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM).

Shelters are designed to house residents of the barrier islands, those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, those in storm surge and evacuation zones, those in mobile or manufactured homes or those with no other sheltering options.

If you choose to go to a shelter, follow these instructions:

- Stay as calm as possible and take your disaster supply kit.
- Bring your own cots or sleeping materials.
- Bring changes of clothing and wear sturdy shoes.
- If you have dietary restrictions, bring food that you will be able to eat.
- Bring what you will need to stay comfortable and entertained.
- Not all shelters will have electricity throughout the emergency, so plan accordingly. A battery-powered fan may make your stay more comfortable.

If staying in a shelter, be aware of the shelter rules:

- We are guests. Please treat the facility, equipment and staff respectfully.
- No disorderly or disruptive behavior will be allowed.
- No smoking, alcohol or drugs allowed.
- No guns or weapons of any kind permitted.
- You must sign in when you arrive and sign out when you leave.

Shelters are intended to keep you safe, not necessarily comfortable. Remember, a shelter is a life boat, not a cruise ship.

# Preparing to Go to a Shelter



A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation, but it can be noisy, crowded and have few personal comforts. Shelters should be your last resort if you have nowhere else to go. A shelter is a stressful environment for everyone; please treat your fellow evacuees with courtesy and kindness.

Residents going to a shelter need to bring their own supplies, some of which may be found in your disaster supply kit:

- Pillows, sheets, blankets, portable cot, small air mattress, folding chairs or sleeping bags; cots or beds are not provided.
- If you are on a special diet, bring a supply of non-perishable food that will be sufficient for three days per person.
- All required medications and medical support equipment:
  - Wheelchair/walker, oxygen, dressings, feeding and suction equipment, diapers, etc.
  - Any specific medication or care instructions (two-week supply)
- Personal hygiene items like a toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, towels, brush/comb, dentures, glasses, eye drops, diapers, etc.
- Entertainment items like games, cards, books, magazines, etc.

## Persons with Disabilities, Barriers or Impairments

By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation.

- Inventory what you use every day to live independently. Identify essential items you will need for at least three days.
- Stock custom essentials in your kit such as durable medical equipment, assistive technology, etc.
- Have a method to communicate your impairments and needs.

Remember, being ready is the key to maintaining your independence.



# Individuals with Pets

Having a plan is important, and that plan should include your pets. Pet owners are strongly advised to make prior arrangements for sheltering their pets during emergencies.

## Pet Sheltering Options

If you plan to evacuate to a hotel or out of the area, make a list of pet-friendly hotels ahead of time and begin calling prior to evacuation to ensure they will accept you and your pets. Pets should not be left behind.

The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast (HSTC) will accept pets (not their humans) for those who are required to evacuate but cannot bring their pet with them. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Call the HSTC at 772-223-8822 to register.

If you are evacuating locally with your pet, the Martin County pet-friendly shelter is designed to accommodate household pets - cats and dogs. Owners are responsible for the feeding, care, clean-up and behavior of their pets.

Should you have to leave your pet at the HSTC, please remember:

- Only pets are allowed.
- You must pre-register.
- Pets must be at the shelter before the storm arrives.
- No sick or aggressive animals will be accepted.
- You must bring pet's vaccination records.
- ID and rabies tags must be valid and on the pet's collar.

If you go to a pet-friendly shelter you will need:

- Current rabies vaccination certificate and shot record
- Pet license tag recommended ([taxcol.martin.fl.us/ws/PLrequirements.aspx](http://taxcol.martin.fl.us/ws/PLrequirements.aspx))
- Leash and collar
- Crate or cage for each animal
- Pet food
- Medications
- Cleaning supplies
- Newspaper or pet pads
- Comfort items for your pet
- Disaster supply kit

# Individuals with Special Needs



The Martin County Special Needs Program is for residents with specific health and/or medical conditions needing assistance with sheltering in times of an emergency, during an evacuation. Residents who meet the special needs criteria and have no other alternative for safe shelter should register with Martin County Emergency Management. Once registered, annual updates are required to keep information current.

Applications can be requested from the Martin County Emergency Management Agency by calling 772-287-1652, or online registration is available at [www.martin.fl.us/specialneeds](http://www.martin.fl.us/specialneeds). You can also talk to your home health care agency, hospice agency, medical supply company or other caregiver who can assist with completing an application.

## For Special Needs Clients with Pets

As part of the special needs registration application, there will be space provided to share information about your pets. Due to health concerns, pets are NOT allowed in special needs shelters. When it is time for you to go to a shelter, you will receive a call which will verify your need to be taken to a shelter and given a timeline for when you will be picked up.

We ask that you develop a plan for your pet and make prior arrangements for sheltering your pet during an emergency. Martin County partners with the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast (HSTC) which will take in and care for domestic pets. Call the HSTC at 772-223-8822 to request a pet shelter registration form or to obtain additional information.

## Transportation Assistance to a Shelter for Those with Special Needs

Residents can register for transportation assistance to any evacuation shelter through the county's Special Needs and Evacuation Transportation Assistance program at [www.martin.fl.us/SpecialNeeds](http://www.martin.fl.us/SpecialNeeds).



# Plan for an Evacuation

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently, and residents along the coast will likely need to evacuate when a hurricane approaches. Listen to local officials for evacuation orders and relevant information, and do as directed.

The amount of time you have will depend on the hazard. For a hurricane, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

- Know your primary and alternate evacuation routes; choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in the event of an emergency.
- Evacuate early.
- Travel tens of miles, not hundreds of miles, and shelter locally.
  - Choose a sturdy home or hotel outside of the evacuation zone, or a public shelter.
- Remember, shelter openings are incident-specific, so monitor local news, radio, social media, [www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM) or call the Community Information Hotline at 772-287-1652 for open shelter locations.

## Know Your Zone

Rising water during tropical events can pose a significant threat for those living and working in a coastal county. It is extremely important for residents to know their evacuation zone, heed the warnings of local officials and evacuate early if evacuation orders have been issued. If a resident needs help evacuating to a shelter, please follow the steps on page 11 to submit a special needs transportation request. To find your zone, visit [www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM) and click on the "Know Your Zone" button.

**Know Your Zone**  
Storm Surge Evacuation Zones

The highlighted areas on the map show the County's vulnerability to storm surge inundation. Flood risk. To look up your address online, visit [www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM) "Know Your Zone".

Evacuation orders will be issued by special. Evacuation orders will always include all mobile or manufactured homes for the entire County.

- Zone AB
- Zone CD
- Zone E

**Know Your Risk**  
Storm Surge & Evacuation Zones

Being water during tropical events can pose a significant threat to your safety, health and property damage risk for those in a coastal community. The identified potential storm surge zones on the map are based on historical computer models which estimate the near worst case scenario of flooding.

It is extremely important to know your zone, heed the warnings of local officials and evacuate if orders have been issued. If you need transportation assistance to get to a shelter, contact Martin County Emergency Management Agency at 772-287-1652 to submit a special needs transportation request.

Your homeowner's insurance policy does not include coverage for damage resulting from flooding, even if a hurricane winds and rain caused the flood to occur. Please discuss the need to purchase separate flood insurance coverage with your insurance agent.

Now that you know your risk, prepare yourself and your family by continuing along the road to readiness by following these steps: Build a Kit. Have a Plan.

# Step 4: Stay Informed

During a disaster, the Martin County Emergency Management Agency web page will display all the latest information. If you do not have access to the internet, call 772-287-1652 for disaster-related information.

During emergencies, official Martin County information will be broadcast on radio station WQCS (88.9 FM) at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. In addition, WSTU (1450 AM) will broadcast live from the Emergency Operations Center. Residents can also tune in to MCTV on Comcast channel 20 and U-Verse channel 99 for local information.

## Social Media



Like "Martin County Board of County Commissioners" and "Martin County Fire Rescue" on Facebook



Follow @MartinCountygov on Twitter

## AlertMartin Notifications

You can be notified about emergencies by registering for AlertMartin, our mass notification system. If you have an unlisted phone number, or rely on a cell phone as your main telephone, it is critical that you register for alerts at [www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM) and click on the "Alert Sign-up" button. You may also sign up by texting AlertMartin to 888777.

## NOAA Weather Warnings

The best way to receive warnings for hazardous weather is to have a NOAA Weather Radio. The NOAA Weather Radio is the National Weather Service's direct link to the public, and provides severe weather watches and warnings. The primary frequency for Weather Alert Radios in Martin County is 162.425MHz for the Fort Pierce transmitter or 162.475MHz for the West Palm Beach transmitter, and the SAME (FIPS) code is 012085.

The National Weather Service sends test messages to weather radios every Wednesday from 11 a.m.-noon and 6-8 p.m. In the event of bad weather, the test will be postponed.

## Community Information Line

During an emergency, the Community Information Line (772-287-1652) is a valuable resource for information and assistance options.

# Step 5: Get Involved



Building a culture of preparedness is how we make Martin County a more resilient community. A trained, informed and engaged public is the best way to empower individuals to lend support. There are many ways to get involved so you can make a positive difference.

## How You Can Make a Difference

- Volunteer with existing disaster support organizations such as United Way, Salvation Army and American Red Cross.
- Join or start a preparedness project. Find an event or identify local resources, build a team, choose a project, set goals and serve your community – then tell us about how you have made a positive difference!
- Talk to your neighbors so that they know their risks and encourage them to be prepared.
- Make a financial contribution to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief. This is the most efficient way of helping people in need after a disaster.
- Before donating any goods, including food or clothing, during an emergency, wait for instructions from local officials or check with a specific organization to assess current needs.

# Thunderstorms



A thunderstorm is a rain shower during which you hear thunder. Since thunder comes from lightning, all thunderstorms have lightning. A thunderstorm is classified as "severe" when it contains hail that is one inch or greater, wind gusts exceeding 57.5 mph (50 knots) or the potential for a tornado. Some thunderstorms can be seen approaching, while others may hit with little warning.



## Quick Facts

- Know your terms:
  - Severe Thunderstorm Watch – Be prepared! Severe thunderstorms are expected to be close to an area during the next few hours.
  - Severe Thunderstorm Warning – Take action now! Dangerous weather has been sighted or indicated by weather radio. Go to a safe place, stay informed and wait until the National Weather Service indicates the danger has passed.
- Florida is considered the "Lightning Capital of the United States" and lightning is one of the most deadly weather hazards in the Sunshine State.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Even if it is not raining, lightning can still reach you. When thunder roars, go indoors.



# Tropical Cyclones (Hurricanes/Tropical Storms)



Tropical cyclones are massive storm systems that form over the ocean and move towards land. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale rates tropical cyclones' maximum sustained winds on a category 1-5 scale. The higher the category, the greater potential for property damage. Threats from tropical cyclones include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents and tornadoes.

## Quick Facts

- The difference between a tropical storm and a hurricane is sustained wind speed:
  - Tropical storms usually bring winds of 39-73 mph
  - Hurricane wind speeds are at least 74 mph
- Know your terms:
  - Watch – Conditions are possible within the next 48 hours
  - Warning – Conditions are expected within 36 hours
- The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October.
- Tropical cyclones rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around the eye. The rotating storm clouds create the eye wall, which is the most destructive part of the storm.
- Evacuate if ordered by local officials, especially if you live on the barrier islands, along the river, in a storm surge or evacuation zone, in a flood-prone area or in a mobile/manufactured home.

# Storm Surge



Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water associated with hurricanes and tropical storms. Storm surge is not a giant wall of water, but rather a methodical, rapid rise of water that will occur along the ocean and rivers.

The Martin County Emergency Management Agency will issue evacuation orders when necessary. Evacuate when directed – run from the water, hide from the wind. Move to a shelter in a sturdy structure outside of the storm surge or evacuation zone. Visit [www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM) and click on the “Know Your Zone” button to review your evacuation zone. When evacuating, go tens of miles, not hundreds of miles, to find your safe shelter.



## Quick Facts

- Storm surge is the number one concern with any storm and the primary reason to evacuate.
- Storm surge is the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane or tropical storm.
- Storm surge poses a significant threat for drowning.
- Storm surge can cause water levels in rivers to rise and cover adjacent roadways. This can affect causeway and bridge approaches, which may isolate the barrier islands.
- Storm strength is not necessarily related to storm surge depth. Weak storms can produce high surge and strong storms can result in low surge.



# Tornadoes

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air and is often, but not always, visible as a funnel cloud. Tornadoes have the ability to develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. The damage from a tornado is the result of high wind velocity and wind-blown debris.

Tornadoes can occur any time during the year, and they tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings. The Enhanced Fujita Scale is a common way of measuring the strength of tornadoes. The scale ranges from EF0 tornadoes that may cause minimal damage to EF5 tornadoes, which cause massive amounts of damage.

## Quick Facts

- Know your terms:
  - Tornado Watch – Be prepared! Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or if you suspect a tornado is approaching.
  - Tornado Warning – Take action now! A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.
- Tornado danger signs include:
  - Wall cloud
  - Large hail
  - Loud roar, often described as sounding like a freight train
  - Visible funnel, often with debris below it
  - Rain or low-lying clouds can often obscure the funnel
  - Oncoming clouds of debris could be visible, even if funnel is not
- Florida leads the nation in the number of tornadoes per year.
- Most of Florida's tornadoes only last a couple of seconds, and rarely stay on the ground for a prolonged period of time.
- A tornado that occurs over water is often called a waterspout.
- Most tornado deaths occur at night.
- A NOAA weather radio can save your life.

# Floods



Anywhere it rains, it can flood. Floods can be associated with an increased water level from an established waterway, such as a river or lake. Flooding can occur from tropical cyclones, rapid accumulation of heavy rainfall, dam/levee breaks, storm surge and outdated/clogged drainage systems.

Flooding is Martin County's most frequent hazard. If flooding occurs, go to higher ground. Do not attempt to walk across flowing streams and avoid contact with floodwaters. Do not attempt to drive through flooded roadways – turn around, don't drown!

To report flooding, visit [www.martin.fl.us/reportflooding](http://www.martin.fl.us/reportflooding).



## Quick Facts

- Know your terms:
  - Flood Watch – Be prepared! Conditions are favorable for flooding.
  - Flood Warning – Take action now! Flooding is imminent or occurring.
  - Flash Flood Warning – Threat to life and property! A flash flood is imminent or occurring.
  - Areal Flood Warning – Be aware! No imminent threat of heavy rain, but high levels of standing water remain.
- Flash floods are the most dangerous kind of floods. This type of flooding causes a rapid rise of water in a short period of time, generally with little or no warning.
- Most flood-related deaths are vehicular and occur at night.



# Wildfires

A wildfire is any uncontrollable fire in the woods or forest. The most at-risk locations are areas where development has occurred or is occurring at the edge of previously undeveloped, vegetated areas. Wildfires are a part of Martin County's ecosystem, which is why prescribed burns are conducted to reduce wildfire risk.

During the year, clean your roof and gutters of any vegetative debris and maintain an area of approximately 30 feet away from your home that is free of anything that will burn (like wood piles, dried leaves, newspapers and other brush).



## Quick Facts

- Only you can prevent a forest fire. If you see a wildfire, call 9-1-1.
- Know your terms:
  - Fire Weather Watch – Be prepared! Weather conditions could be conducive to fire during the next 12-72 hours.
  - Red Flag Warning (Fire Weather Warning) – Be on alert. Extreme fire behavior may occur within 24 hours.
- Martin County is susceptible to wildfires throughout the year, particularly during the months with minimal rainfall amounts (December through May).
- Wildfires can be started by a variety of causes, like lightning strikes, trash burning, cigarettes tossed onto the ground, etc.
- Plantings around your home should be limited to carefully-spaced, low flammability species, and consider hardscaping using rocks, gravel or stone instead of mulch.

# Tsunamis



Tsunamis are a series of waves following seismic events. Tsunamis are threats to any coastal region. From the area where the tsunami originates, waves travel outward in all directions. Once a wave approaches the shore, it builds in height, so it is important to know how to recognize it and what to do.



Be aware of a sudden, outgoing tide and extremely strong currents, especially if an earthquake or undersea landslide has occurred in the last several hours. During a tsunami advisory or warning, evacuate the beaches to the west side of the dune line, approximately 300 feet. Save yourself, not your possessions, and help neighbors who may require special assistance.

## Quick Facts

- Know your terms:
  - Tsunami Watch – Be prepared! Threat is not yet known but possible.
  - Tsunami Advisory – Stay out of the water and away from beaches and waterways; strong currents and waves may be present and dangerous to those in or very near the water.
  - Tsunami Warning – Take action now! Move to high ground or inland. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents likely.
- Earthquakes in the following areas could cause a Florida tsunami:
  - The Puerto Rico Trench
  - Cumbre Vieja Volcano in the Canary Islands
  - Azores-Gibraltar Fracture Zone
- Not every earthquake will generate a tsunami.
- The DART Buoy Deployment and worldwide seismic monitoring are being utilized to detect tsunamis.



# Nuclear Power Plant Incidents

The potential danger from an accident at a nuclear power plant is exposure to radiation. If an emergency requires you to take action, sirens will sound throughout the entire 10-mile emergency planning zone. Hearing a siren or receiving an emergency alert does not necessarily mean to evacuate the area. Tune into local radio, television and social media for more information.

Siren tests are conducted by the Martin County Emergency Management Agency on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. In rare circumstances, sirens may also occasionally be triggered by lightning or electrical storms.

## Quick Facts

There are four types of events at nuclear power plants. Know your terms so you can be better informed:

- Unusual Event – No public action is required. An Unusual Event is a minor incident, such as severe weather, which may impact plant operations.
- Alert – No public action is required. An Alert is a minor incident which could possibly affect the safety of the plant's reactor. There is the possibility of a small, limited release of radioactive material, but there is no danger posed to the public.
- Site Area Emergency – Sirens may sound, and you should tune into local radio, television and social media for official announcements. A Site Area Emergency is a more serious incident or an incident in which radioactive releases are possible, or are occurring, but will not affect areas beyond the plant property.
- General Emergency – Sirens would sound, and you should tune into local radio, television and social media for official announcements. A General Emergency means that radioactive releases that could affect the areas beyond the plant property are possible, or are occurring, and/or a major security event is occurring.

# Nuclear Power Plant Incidents



## Sheltering in Place

If you are directed to shelter in place, you should:

- Bring children and pets indoors immediately.
- Close and lock all outside doors and windows.
- Continue using air conditioning systems unless they draw air from outside the home. Most central air conditioning systems recirculate the air inside the house.
- Close the fireplace or woodstove damper.
- Move to an interior room of the home.
- Tune into radio, television and social media for updated information.

## Evacuation Information

If you are directed to evacuate, you should:

- Secure your home, bring your disaster supply kit and follow the evacuation routes to the nearest emergency reception center outside the emergency planning zone.
- In the event of an evacuation, emergency public transportation will be provided to those who have no other means of transportation.

If your children are in school, familiarize yourself with the school's emergency response plan. **Do not go to the school.** If instructed to relocate, Martin County students will be transported to Martin County High School, 2801 S. Kanner Highway, Stuart or to the alternate site at South Fork High School, 10205 SW Pratt Whitney Road, Hobe Sound. Tune into radio, television and social media for announcements about when and where parents may pick up their children. School personnel will supervise and care for the children until parents arrive.

If you have a family member in a nursing home or hospital, do not try to pick them up. These facilities have their own emergency evacuation procedures.

Martin County residents who live north of the Roosevelt Bridge and residents of Hutchinson Island will be directed to emergency reception centers in Palm Beach County.



## Terrorism

Terrorism is the use of force and violence to intimidate and to further political or social agendas. A cyber-terrorist attack is the disruption of computer networks, telecommunication systems or internet services, intended to cause widespread damage and impacts to the community.

### Quick Facts

- Domestic terrorism is terrorism practiced in your own country against your own people.
- International terrorism is practiced in a foreign country by terrorists who are not native to that country.
- There are many different types of terrorism, such as agroterrorism, biological, chemical, nuclear, radiologic, narco, state-sponsored and cyber-terrorism.
- Terrorist planning activities include surveillance, seeking information, tests of security, acquiring supplies, suspicious behavior, dry runs, deploying assets and terrorism funding.
- If you see something, say something. Contact local law enforcement.



## Civil Disorder

Civil disorder is the result of groups or individuals within the population who feel their needs or rights are not being met. Civil disorder can also occur in reaction to political movements or events that attract large crowds, or as a result of an economic crisis. When the community is disrupted to the point where intervention is required to maintain public safety, the event has become civil disorder.

### Quick Fact

The most common type of civil disorder is a riot. Riots can cause extensive social disruption, loss of jobs, death and property damage.

# Active Shooter Situations



An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in an confined or populated area; in most cases active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

When an active shooter is in your vicinity – run, hide, fight.

- Run - If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Leave your belongings behind and help others escape if possible. Call 9-1-1 when you are safe.
- Hide – If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should be out of the active shooter’s view, provide protection if shots are fired in your direction and not trap you or restrict your options for movement. Lock the door, silence your cell phone, turn off any source of noise, hide behind large items and remain quiet. Call 9-1-1 if possible and if you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.
- Fight – As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by acting as aggressively as possible against him/her, throwing items and improvising weapons, yelling and committing to your actions.

When law enforcement arrives, remain calm and follow the officers’ instructions. Put down any items in your hands, raise your hands and spread your fingers. Avoid making any sudden movements, pointing and/or yelling.

# Hazardous Materials



A hazardous material is any material (flammable or poisonous) that would be a danger to life or the environment. Hazardous materials (hazmat) releases can cause acute or chronic health effects, damage to property, the environment, serious injury and even death.

## Quick Fact

- Hazardous materials are transported daily on the state’s highways, railroads, waterways and pipelines, usually without incident.



# Extreme Temperatures

In Florida, we can experience extreme temperatures, which can impact our most vulnerable populations and affect critical support systems, such as the power grid. During times of extreme cold or heat, be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and drink plenty of water.

Extreme cold conditions are caused by strong cold fronts that move through the state and northerly winds behind the front which bring cold air and blustery winds southward into Florida.

## Quick Facts

- Know your terms:
  - Wind Chill – When strong winds combine with cold outside conditions, the heat loss from a person’s skin can be accelerated, which is called wind chill.
  - Freeze – A freeze occurs any time the temperatures fall below freezing (32°F) for a prolonged period of time.
- During times of extreme cold, protect people, pets, plants and pipes by ensuring they will be warm enough for the duration of the cold weather.

Extreme heat is defined as temperatures that are approximately 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for a prolonged period of time.

## Quick Facts

- Never leave children or pets alone in parked vehicles.
- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- Extreme heat can trigger power outages or blackouts due to the increased energy demand.

# Returning Home



## Getting Back to Your Home

Be patient. You may not be able to return to your home or business until safety hazards, such as debris and downed power lines, are cleared. If you live on a barrier island, you may need to wait until bridges are inspected before you can return home.

- Residents – Carry valid ID with your current address.
- Businesses – Have a valid picture ID, documents showing proof of ownership/rental, county or city business tax receipt and names of individuals authorized to be given access on business letterhead.
- Avoid driving, especially through water. Turn around, don't drown! Roads may be covered in debris which can puncture your tires.

## Once Back Home

Once you arrive back home, walk around the outside first to survey damage and enter with caution. Enter the home carefully and check for damage. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home. If your home has been flooded, have a licensed electrician complete an inspection.

The following items are other things to check inside your home:

- If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open a window and leave immediately.
- If appliances are wet, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- If water or sewage pipes are damaged, turn off the main water valve.
- Throw out all food and other supplies that you suspect may have become contaminated or come into contact with floodwater.
- Clean up household chemical spills. Disinfect items that may have been contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria or chemicals. Carefully clean salvageable items.
- Take pictures of the damages and call your insurance agent. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.



**Know your risks**



**Build a kit**



**Have a plan**



**Stay informed**



**Get involved**



Like "Martin County Board of County Commissioners" and "Martin County Fire Rescue" on Facebook.



Follow @MartinCountygov on Twitter.



During disasters, call the Community Information Line by dialing 772-287-1652.



To register for emergency updates, text AlertMartin to 888777.



Martin County Emergency Management Agency  
800 SE Monterey Road  
Stuart, FL 34996  
772-287-1652

**[www.martin.fl.us/EM](http://www.martin.fl.us/EM)**

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