



MARTIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



The Road to Readiness Guide

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



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

QUICK REFERENCE CONTACT LIST



Dial 911
for Emergency
Life Safety
Issues

Community Information Center.....	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 (*347)
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



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Martin County Emergency Management's mission is to engage the whole community through communication, coordination, and collaboration to minimize the impact of disasters.



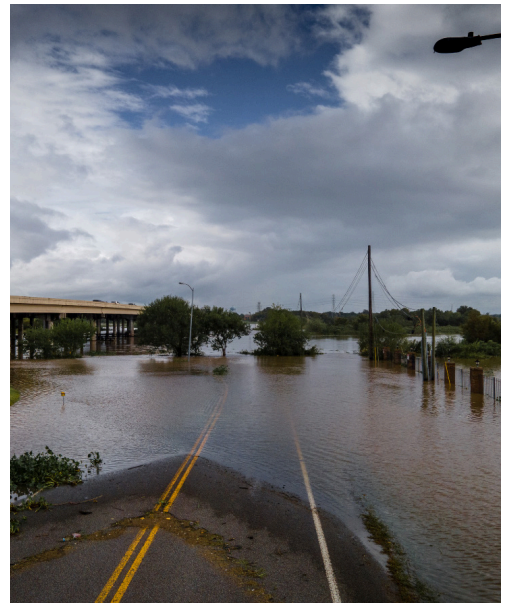
KNOW YOUR RISK

Being informed and prepared can save lives. Understanding the risks in our area and having a plan in place is essential.

► STORM SURGE EVACUATION ZONES

Living in a coastal community means storm surge is a real and serious threat during tropical systems. That's why it's so important to know your evacuation zone and follow local officials' guidance. If an evacuation order is given, please don't wait—leave early.

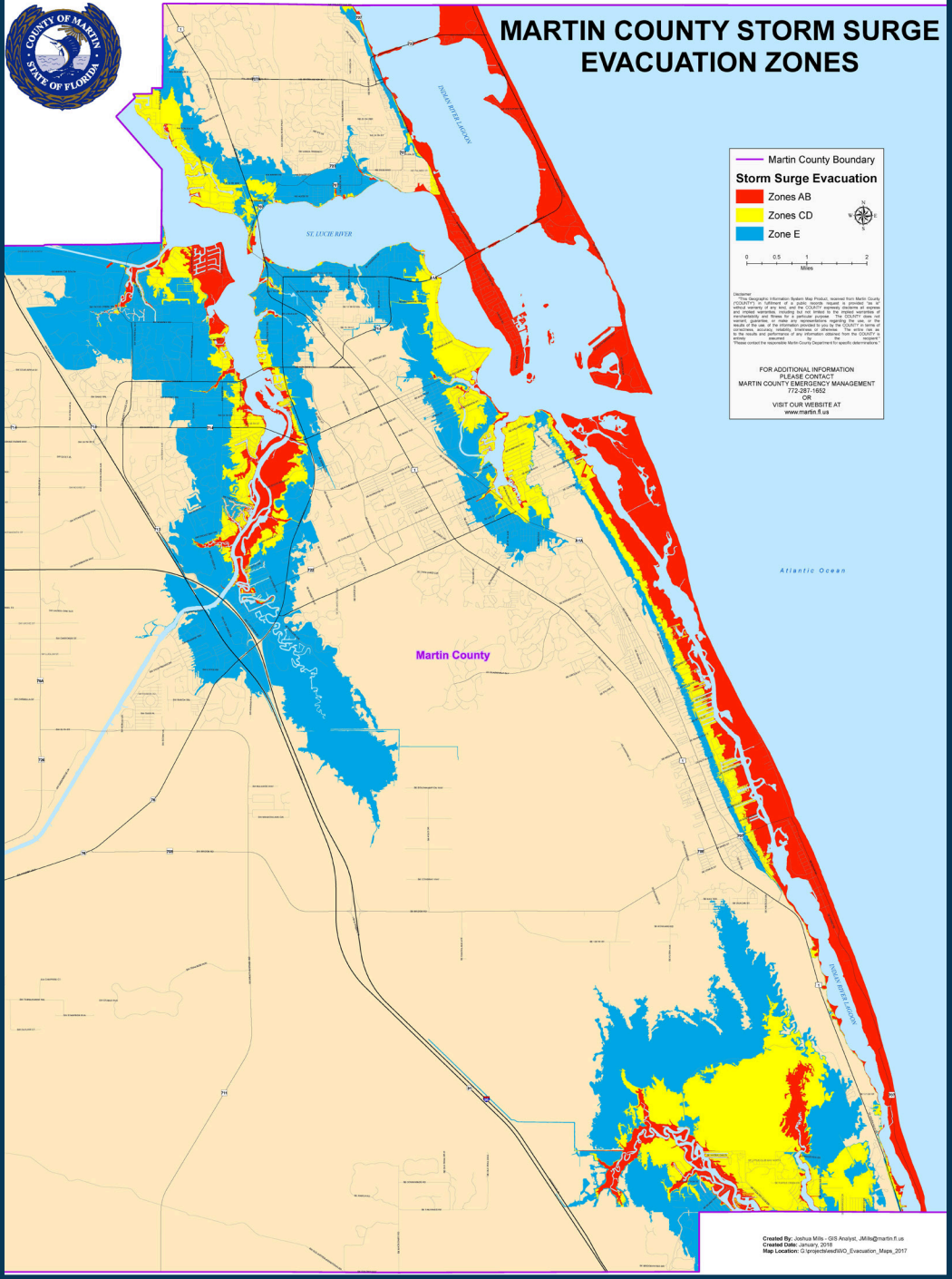
If you or someone in your household needs transportation assistance to a shelter, see the instructions on page 16 to submit a special needs transportation request.



To look up your evacuation zone, visit www.martin.fl.us/EM and click on the “Know Your Zone” button.



MARTIN COUNTY STORM SURGE EVACUATION ZONES





SHOULD YOU EVACUATE?

► 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, and our website at www.martin.fl.us/EM

Major evacuation routes in Martin County include I-95, Florida Turnpike, Kanner Highway (FL 76), SW Warfield Blvd., (FL 710) SE and NE Ocean Blvd., US1, SE Dixie Highway (A1A), SE Bridge Road and Martin Highway (R714)

**Start
here**

**Should I stay
or should I go?**

**Has an evacuation
order been issued?**

I'm not sure

**Check official
sources**

YES

NO


**Do you live in an
evacuation zone or
manufactured home?**

NO


**No need to
evacuate**

YES

Evacuate

**Continue to stay
informed for updates**



Act Early

- Prepare go bag
- Have emergency plan ready
- Gas up vehicle



Act Safely

- Secure home
- Stay informed through alerts and apps



If Trapped

- Call 911
- Provide landmarks
- Stay calm & visible

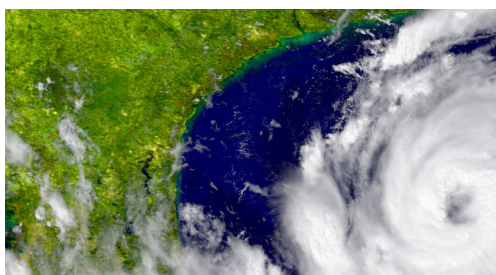
HAZARDS



► THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are common in Florida, and all of them contain lightning. A storm is considered severe when it produces hail (1 inch or larger), wind gusts over 57.5 mph, or has the potential to spawn tornadoes. Some roll in with plenty of warning, while others hit quickly.

- Florida leads the nation in lightning-related deaths.
- If you hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck by lightning—even if it isn't raining.
- When thunder roars, go indoors.



► HURRICANES & TROPICAL STORMS

These large storm systems form over warm ocean waters and bring a range of hazards: high winds, flooding, storm surge, rip

currents, and even tornadoes. The Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1 to November 30, with peak activity for Florida between mid-August and late October.

- The Saffir-Simpson Scale classifies storms from Category 1 (minimal) to Category 5 (catastrophic).
- The eye wall is the most dangerous part of the storm.
- Evacuate if instructed, especially if you live near water, on a barrier island, or in a mobile home.



► STORM SURGE

Storm surge is the rapid and abnormal rise of water pushed ashore by a storm. It can flood roads, cut off access to islands, and pose a deadly risk.

- It's the #1 reason evacuations are ordered.
- Even weaker storms can produce high surge levels.
- Know your zone and get out early if advised.



► FLOODS

Flooding happens often in Martin County. It can occur from heavy rain, tropical systems, storm surge, or blocked drainage.

- Flash floods happen quickly and with little warning.
- Never walk or drive through flooded areas. Turn around, don't drown.
- Everyone lives in a flood zone. Know yours by visiting www.martin.fl.us/FloodZones.
- Flood zones are different from storm surge evacuation zones.

Flood zones, designated by FEMA, help determine your risk level and insurance requirements. Don't be misled by terms like "100-year flood" - it refers to a 1% annual chance, not a once-in-a-century event.



► TORNADOES

Tornadoes are fast-moving, unpredictable, and extremely

dangerous. Some appear without much warning.

- They can happen anytime but are more common in the afternoons and evenings.
- Tornadoes over water are called waterspouts.
- Most tornado fatalities occur at night.
- A NOAA Weather Radio is a great investment for timely alerts.



► WILDFIRES

Wildfires can spark quickly, especially in dry months. Areas on the edge of undeveloped land are at higher risk.

- Clean gutters and clear debris around your home.
- Maintain a 30-foot buffer zone around your home free of flammable materials.
- Use non-flammable landscaping where possible.
- If you spot a wildfire, call 9-1-1 immediately.



► TSUNAMIS

Tsunamis are rare but possible in Florida, particularly after certain undersea earthquakes.

- Watch for a sudden retreat of ocean water or extremely strong currents.
- If a tsunami warning is issued, evacuate the beach and move inland at least 300 feet.



► TERRORISM

Terrorism includes both domestic and international threats, as well as cyber-attacks.

- If you see something suspicious, say something.
- Report concerns to local law enforcement.



► NUCLEAR POWER PLANT INCIDENTS

In the unlikely event of an issue at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant, sirens will sound throughout the 10-mile emergency zone.

- Don't panic. A siren or alert doesn't always mean evacuate.
- Tune in to local media or official channels for guidance.
- Siren tests occur the first Thursday of March, June, September, and December.

Shelter-in-Place Information

- Bring children and pets inside.
- Lock doors and windows.
- Turn off anything pulling air from outside.
- Move to an interior room.
- Stay tuned to updates via official media resources.

Evacuation Information

- Bring your disaster supply kit.
- Evacuate south using major roadways such as I-95 and the Florida Turnpike.
- If you need public transportation, it will be provided.
- Schools and nursing facilities have their own plans—don't attempt to pick up loved ones.



► CIVIL DISORDER

Civil disorder refers to situations where unrest threatens public safety. Large crowds and economic or political tensions can sometimes lead to disruption.

- Stay aware of your surroundings and follow emergency alerts.
- Avoid affected areas.



► ACTIVE SHOOTER

These tragic events can unfold quickly. Report any known threats to law enforcement.

Remember: Run. Hide. Fight.

- Run if you can safely escape.
- Hide if you can't run. Stay quiet and out of sight, silence your phone.

- Fight only as a last resort to protect yourself.

When police arrive:

- Stay calm.
- Drop any objects.
- Keep hands visible.



► 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.



► 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.

- Windchill is a term used to describe what the air temperature feels like to the human skin due to the combination of cold temperatures and winds blowing on exposed skin.
- 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.

- Never leave children or pets alone in 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.

Martin County may experience other hazards that could affect the population. Some of these can include drought, pandemics, harmful algal bloom, invasive species, sea level rise, shoreline erosion, transportation system accidents, dam failure, and wellfield contamination. It is important to be ready for any hazard.





MAKE A PLAN

Creating an emergency plan is one of the most important steps you can take. A strong plan is one everyone understands and can follow.

► WRITE IT DOWN, SHARE IT, PRACTICE IT

Sharing is caring. Once you determine what you're going to do in an emergency situation, write it down, share it with the members of your household, and practice it. It is important to also share your plan with family or friends who are outside the area so that if there are no communications, they know that you are safe if you followed the plan. Be sure to include contact information, meeting locations, and any special needs for pets or family members including medications. Keep a printed copy in an easy-to-access place and update it regularly to reflect any changes.



A few websites to help you get started creating your emergency plan include:

- **Martin County Emergency Management Agency**
www.martin.fl.us/EM
- **Florida Division of Emergency Management**
www.floridadisaster.org
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency**
www.ready.gov
- **National Weather Service Melbourne**
www.weather.gov/mlb
- **National Hurricane Center**
www.nhc.noaa.gov
- **Centers for Disease Control**
www.cdc.gov

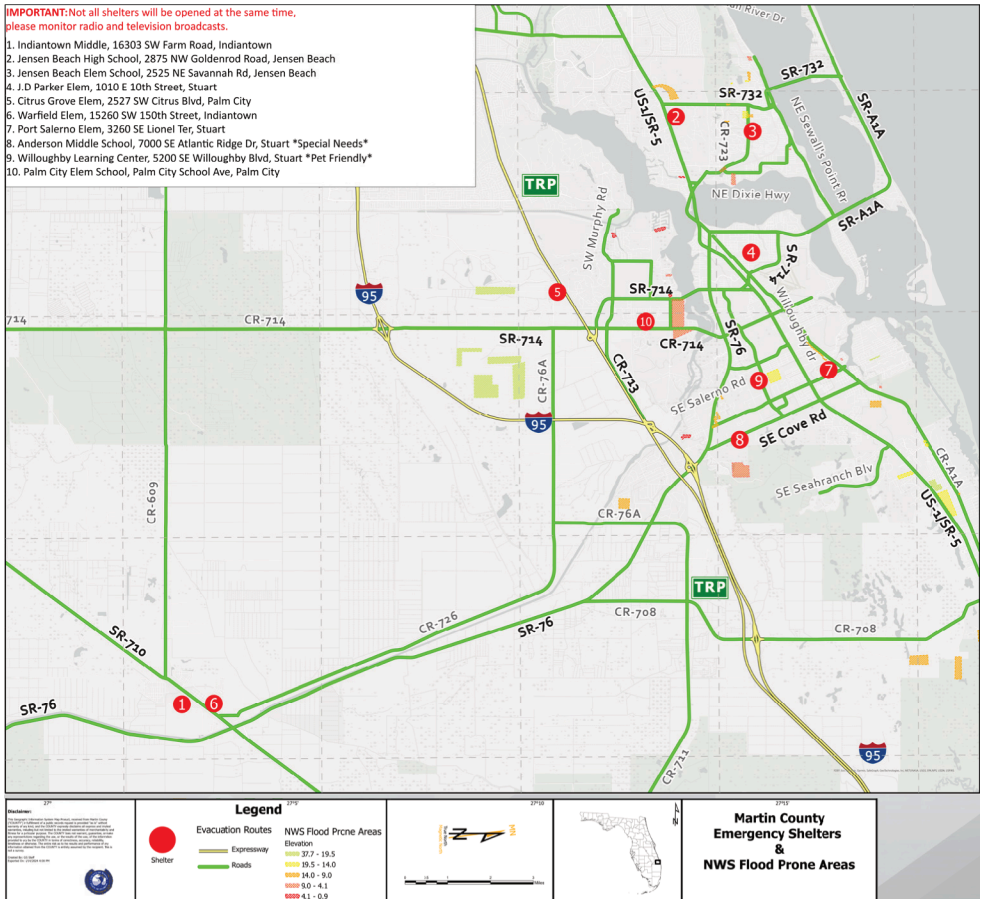


SHELTER

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 County's website at www.martin.fl.us. 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.

IMPORTANT: Not all shelters will be opened at the same time. please monitor radio and television broadcasts.

1. Indiantown Middle, 16303 SW Farm Road, Indiantown
2. Jensen Beach High School, 2875 NW Goldenrod Road, Jensen Beach
3. Jensen Beach Elem School, 2525 NE Savannah Rd, Jensen Beach
4. J.D Parker Elem, 3010 E 10th Street, Stuart
5. Citrus Grove Elem, 2527 SW Citrus Blvd, Palm City
6. Warfield Elem, 15260 SW 150th Street, Indiantown
7. Port Salerno Elem, 3260 SE Lionel Ter, Stuart
8. Anderson Middle School, 7000 SE Atlantic Ridge Dr, Stuart *Special Needs*
9. Willoughby Learning Center, 5200 SE Willoughby Blvd, Stuart *Pet Friendly*
10. Palm City Elem School, Palm City School Ave, Palm City



► **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 and sleeping materials.
- Bring your necessary medications or medical support equipment.
- Bring hygiene items and 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.
- Every person is given 20 square feet of space.



► **IF STAYING IN A SHELTER, BE AWARE OF THE SHELTER RULES:**

- Treat the facility, equipment, and staff respectfully.
- No disorderly or disruptive behavior.
- No smoking, alcohol, or drugs.
- No guns or weapons of any kind.
- You must sign in when you arrive and sign out when you leave.

A shelter is a lifeboat, not a cruise ship; it's 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. Shelters are intended to keep you safe, not necessarily comfortable. A shelter is a stressful environment for everyone; please treat your fellow evacuees with courtesy and kindness.

Florida Statute 252.358 allows for early prescription refills during a declared disaster.

► GENERAL POPULATION SHELTERS

Jensen Beach High School

2875 NW Goldenrod Rd.
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Jensen Beach Elementary School

2525 NE Savannah Rd.
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Port Salerno Elementary School

3260 SE Lionel Terr.
Stuart, FL 34997

Warfield Elementary School

15260 SW 150th St.
Indiantown, FL 34956

Indiantown Middle School

16303 SW Farm Rd.
Indiantown, FL 34956

JD Parker Elementary School

1050 SE 10th St.
Stuart, FL 34996

Citrus Grove Elementary School

2527 SW Citrus Blvd.
Palm City, FL 34990

Palm City Elementary School

1951 SW 34th St.
Palm City, FL 34990

► SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

Anderson Middle School

7000 SE Atlantic Ridge Dr.
Stuart, FL 34997

► PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER

Willoughby Learning Center

5150 SE Willoughby Blvd.
Stuart, FL 34997



► SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

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**.

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.

► GOING TO A SHELTER

When it is time for registered residents to go to a shelter, you will receive a call, which will verify your need to be taken to a shelter and give a timeline for when you will be picked up. Only service animals are welcome at the shelter. If you have pets you must make arrangements prior to going to the shelter.

► TRANSPORTATION

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**.





PETS

Include your pets in your plan. Make prior arrangements for sheltering your pets during emergencies. Pets must not be left behind.

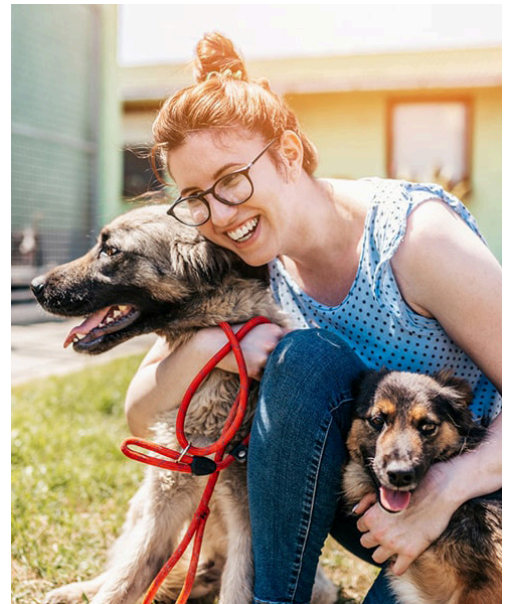
► PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS

If you 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.



► PET-ONLY SHELTER

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. Pets must be at the shelter before the storm arrives. No sick or aggressive animals will be accepted. You must bring your pet's vaccination records and have valid ID and rabies tags on their collar.



► PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER

If you are evacuating locally with your pet, the **Willoughby Learning Center** is Martin County's pet-friendly shelter, designed to accommodate you and your household pets (cats and dogs only). Owners are responsible for the feeding, care, clean-up, and behavior of their pets. Don't forget to bring a leash, collar and crate for each animal, pet food, medications, cleaning supplies, pet pads, and comfort items, as well as anything you need for yourself.

► LARGE ANIMALS

- Write down a list of emergency telephone numbers.
- Make sure every animal has durable and visible identification.
- Ensure that poultry has access to high perches if they are in a flood-prone area, as well as to food and clean water above the potential flood line.
- Reinforce your house, barn, and outbuildings with hurricane straps and other measures.
- Perform regular safety checks on all utilities, buildings, and facilities on your farm.
- Remove all barbed wire and consider rerouting permanent fencing so that animals may move to high ground in a flood and to low-lying areas during high winds.
- Identify alternate water and power sources.
- Secure or remove anything that could become blowing debris.
- If you use heat lamps or other electrical machinery, make sure the wiring is safe and that any heat source is clear of flammable debris.





▶ HOME PREPARATION (TREES, POOLS, SHUTTERS, SHEDS)

- Trim or remove damaged trees and limbs, remove debris and lawn cuttings, and dispose of them correctly before hurricane season.
- Inspect roof and repair or replace any damaged areas.
- Remove or 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.

▶ POOLS

- Do not drain or partially drain your pool before a storm.
- Outdoor furniture and accessories shouldn't be placed in the pool.
- Shock your pool before the storm arrives to help stave off some of the algae and bacteria if your area does flood.

▶ MOBILE & MANUFACTURED HOMES

All mobile and manufactured homes are considered to be Zone AB in the Storm Surge Evacuation Zones, regardless of where they are in the county.

- 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. No mobile or manufactured home is a safe shelter from hurricane-force winds or tornadoes.



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Take time to safeguard critical documents. Store important documents in a safety deposit box, an external drive, or on the cloud to make it easy to access during a disaster.

Be cautious about sharing personal financial information, such as your bank account number, social security number, or credit card number.

▶ **HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION**

- Photo ID
- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Military service
- Marriage License
- Pet ID tags

▶ **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTATION**

- Housing payments
- Insurance policies (home, auto, rental, health, etc.)
- Sources of income
- Tax statements

▶ **MEDICAL INFORMATION**

- Physician information
- Copies of health insurance information
- Immunization records
- List of medications & dosages

▶ **GET YOUR BENEFITS ELECTRONICALLY**

A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, significant way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks.

▶ **INSURANCE**

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. Regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding.
- Have a household inventory. Use photos or video, if possible.



No matter where your boat is, do not try to ride out a storm on board.

► **DRY STORAGE**

- Store in a secure, covered building.
- If outside, secure the boat to the cradle with heavy lines.
- Secure the unit to the ground with hooks and straps.
- Don't leave a boat in davits or on a hydro-lift.

► **BOATS IN A MARINA BERTH**

- Center the boat in the slip.
- Double all lines to secure the mooring and attach high on pilings to allow as much line as possible.
- Use cleats to distribute the load on the boat.
- Use fenders to protect the boat.
- Secure hatches and doors.
- Attach chafing gear.
- Disconnect power, water, and other connections from the dock.
- Remove all detachable items such as canvas, sails, cushions,

fishing rigging, radios and antennas, and all electronics.

- Anchor boats in a safe harbor.
- Cooperate with other boaters in securing vessels as long as it is safe.
- Use two heavy, durable anchors and no stern anchor.
- Line length should be at least six to nine times the depth of the water.

► **BOATS IN RESIDENTIAL CANALS**

- Boats should be secured in the center with several sturdy lines ashore to both sides of the canal.
- Attach lines high on pilings and allow as much line as possible.
- Face the boat towards the canal's entrance, as far back from open water as possible.



DISASTER PLAN

BUSINESSES

If you have a business, develop a plan. You can access a simple business planning tool at www.floridadisaster.org/business. Whether opened or closed, local businesses are still exposed to the same hazards as the rest of the community, and it pays to be prepared.

- Plan communication methods with employees throughout the disaster.
 - Protect your windows and doors against wind-borne debris.
 - Evaluate your roof system.
 - Remove overhanging trees and branches.
 - Anchor and brace tall bookcases, filing cabinets, shelves, and racks to wall studs to keep them from falling.
 - Relocate valuable equipment and fragile items to safer locations.
 - Take important business documents, employee files, licenses, and insurance documents with you (contracts, suppliers, accounts, employee records, checklists, emergency contacts, etc.).
- 
- Back up computer files.
 - Secure computers and other office equipment to desks, tables, or countertops with straps, Velcro, or similar materials.
 - Secure all appropriate items including water heaters, gas tanks, heaters, and other utilities, and raise them to higher locations to avoid water damage.
 - Shut off your utilities (electricity, gas, and/or water).
 - Update all gas appliances with flexible connections and/or breakaway gas shut-off devices.
 - Consider alternate location(s) for your business.



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.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

General ☐ Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies ☐ A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices ☐ Batteries ☐ Flashlights <i>Do not use candles</i> ☐ NOAA Weather Radio <i>Battery operated or hand cranked</i> ☐ Cash <i>Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm</i> ☐ Cell phone chargers ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children	First Aid ☐ First Aid Manual ☐ Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes ☐ Sterile gauze pads ☐ Hypoallergenic adhesive tape ☐ Triangular bandages ☐ Scissors ☐ Tweezers ☐ Sewing needle ☐ Moistened towelettes ☐ Antiseptic ☐ Disinfectant wipes ☐ Hand sanitizer ☐ Thermometer ☐ Tube of petroleum jelly ☐ Safety pins ☐ Soap ☐ Latex gloves ☐ Sunscreen ☐ Aspirin or other pain reliever ☐ Anti-diarrheal medicine ☐ Antacid ☐ Laxative ☐ Cotton balls ☐ Q-tips	Important Documents ☐ Insurance cards ☐ Medical records ☐ Banking information ☐ Credit card numbers ☐ Copies of social security cards ☐ Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates ☐ Other personal documents ☐ Set of car, house, and office keys ☐ Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership ☐ Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage ☐ Copy of Will <i>*Items should be kept in a waterproof container</i>
Phone Numbers ☐ Maintain a list of important phone numbers including: <i>County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family</i>	Food and Water ☐ Food <i>Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days</i> ☐ Water <i>1 gallon per person per day</i> ☐ Non-electric can opener ☐ Paper plates ☐ Napkins ☐ Plastic cups ☐ Utensils	Vehicle ☐ Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline
Clothing ☐ Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots ☐ Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves	Pet Care Items ☐ Pet food and water to last at least 7 days ☐ Proper identification ☐ Medical records/microchip information ☐ A carrier or cage ☐ Muzzle and leash ☐ Water and food bowls ☐ Medications ☐ Supplies for your service animal	Find more disaster preparedness tips at FloridaDisaster.org



STAY INFORMED

During a disaster, Martin County has several ways it can provide information to residents and visitors.

► WEBSITE

www.martin.fl.us

► SOCIAL MEDIA

- Emergency Management: Instagram, Facebook, @MartinCountyEMA
- Martin County Board of County Commissioners: Facebook, @MartinCountyBoard ofCountyCommissioners

► RADIO

- WQCS 88.9 FM
- WSTU 1450 AM

► LOCAL MEDIA

MCTV on Comcast channel 20 and U-Verse channel 99 for local information.

► WEATHER RADIOS

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.



Register for AlertMartin, our mass notification system at www.martin.fl.us/AlertMartin. You may also sign up by texting **AlertMartin to **888777**.**

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



WATCHES AND WARNINGS

Understanding the difference between a Watch and a Warning can help you act quickly and appropriately.

Hazard	Watch (Be Prepared)	Warning (Take Action)
Hurricane	A storm with winds of 74+mph may impact the area within 48 hours.	Hurricane-force winds expected within 36 hours.
Storm Surge	Possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline within 48 hours.	Danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline within 36 hours.
Tornado	Conditions are favorable for tornadoes—stay alert and be ready to act fast.	A tornado has been spotted or indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately!
Flood	Flooding is possible—monitor updates and get ready.	Flooding is happening or imminent.
Flash Flood	Flash Flood is possible in or close to the area. Issued for flood expected to occur within 6 hours after heavy rains have ended.	A sudden, dangerous flood is occurring. Threat to life and property—seek higher ground immediately.
Fire Weather	Dry conditions and winds could lead to fires in the next 12–72 hours.	Red Flag Warning high risk of fire behavior in next 24 hours.
Tsunami	A tsunami is possible—monitor official alerts.	Coastal flooding and strong currents expected. Move to higher ground.
Extreme Cold	Dangerously cold conditions are possible.	Hazardous cold is expected—protect people, pets, and pipes.
Extreme Heat	High heat is likely—take precautions.	Extreme heat is occurring or about to occur—stay hydrated and cool.

► **TROPICAL WARNINGS**



	Tropical Disturbance Disorganized Low		Tropical Storm 40-75 MPH Winds
	Tropical Depression Disorganized Low <40MPH Winds		Hurricane 75+ Winds

► **HURRICANES**

Hurricanes can bring other hazards such as tornadoes, storm surge, rain, flooding, and rip currents, no matter what the category is.

CATEGORY	WIND SPEED
	74 - 95 MPH
	96 - 110 MPH

CATEGORY	MAJOR HURRICANES
	111 - 129 MPH
	130 - 156 MPH
	157+ MPH

► **ACTIVATION LEVELS OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)**

Level 3 (Monitoring/Green):	Day-to-day operations.
Level 2 (Partial/Orange):	Partial activation, used when a threat is looming, or local emergency exists.
Level 1 (Full Activation/Red):	Immediate, high-intensity response to a catastrophic emergency or incident.



► RE-ENTRY

Be patient and stay safe. You may not be allowed to return home immediately after a storm. Hazards like downed power lines or debris must be cleared first.

- Residents should carry a valid photo ID showing current address.
- Businesses must provide a valid ID, proof of business ownership or rental, tax receipts, and a letter authorizing access.
- Avoid driving through water-covered roads—debris or hidden damage could pose serious dangers.

► YOUR HOME

Before entering, walk around your property to assess visible damage. Use extreme caution when stepping inside. Open doors and windows for ventilation. If flooding occurred, do not turn on power until an electrician has inspected the system.

Check the following:

- Gas leaks: If you smell gas or hear hissing, evacuate and call 911.
- Wet appliances: Shut off electricity at the main breaker.
- Water or sewage leaks: Turn off the main water valve.
- Contaminated food: When in doubt, throw it out.
- Chemical spills or sewage: Clean and disinfect thoroughly.
- Insurance documentation: Photograph damage and save all receipts.

► BUSINESSES

- Check in with staff who were assigned recovery duties—ensure they're safe and available.
- Keep customers, staff, and media informed about operational changes.
- Notify lenders of hardships, and document all changes to your recovery plan.
- Begin assessing long-term impacts and look into disaster relief or rebuilding loans.

► HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Avoid floodwater as it may contain harmful contaminants.
- Don't enter flooded buildings until they've been inspected.
- Clean wounds immediately and keep them away from dirty water.
- Always practice good hygiene, wash hands with clean water and soap.
- Use protective gear during cleanup such as gloves, boots, and N95 masks.
- Avoid open flames, use flashlights instead of candles when possible.
- Work in teams, take breaks, and stay hydrated, especially in hot weather.
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Use generators outside, 20+ feet from your home. Never run them indoors or near windows.

► POWER AND GENERATORS

- Never touch downed power lines or wires submerged in water.
- Keep generators outdoors, away from doors and windows.
- Always use heavy-duty extension cords and never plug generators directly into your home's power supply.
- Hire a licensed electrician if installing a transfer switch or backup system.
- Install battery-powered carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
- Store fuel outside your home, in approved containers, and away from ignition sources.
- Let generators cool before refueling to prevent fire or explosion.

Report flooding or damage online

To report visit www.martin.fl.us/MCFlood



► MOSQUITOES AND ANIMALS

- Dump standing water in buckets, toys, tarps, and gutters after a storm.
- Store boats and kayaks upside down if possible.
- Avoid stray or wild animals and secure all food and waste.
- Contact local authorities to remove animal carcasses or aggressive wildlife.

► DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

- Keep garbage, recycling, yard waste, and storm debris in separate piles.
- Place large vegetative debris at the curb—not under trees or power lines.
- Do not block roadways with trash bags or construction materials.

Sort curbside debris into the following six categories:

1. Electronics (TVs, computers)
2. Large appliances (refrigerators, washers)
3. Hazardous waste (batteries, paint)
4. Vegetation (branches, leaves)
5. Regular garbage
6. Construction debris (carpet, furniture)

Private Roads: To allow County cleanup, a Right of Entry Agreement must be filed after each storm.



► **CONTRACTORS AND PRICE GOUGING**

If your home is damaged, protect yourself:

- Be cautious of unsolicited offers or “leftover material” deals.
- Get three written estimates and verify licenses through the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- Check for insurance and bonding, and ask for references.
- Never pay in full upfront
- Don’t sign off on completion until work is done to your satisfaction.
- Insist on lien releases from subcontractors to avoid legal issues.



► **BOIL WATER NOTICES**

If issued, follow these steps:

- Boil water for one full minute before using it for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, or making ice.
- Use clean, covered containers to store boiled water.
- Bottled water is a safe and convenient alternative.

**Report scams to the
Attorney General’s Hotline:
1-866-9-NO-SCAM**

► **ASSISTANCE**

Help may be available from local, state, or federal agencies.

Call the Community Information Center or visit martin.fl.us for the most up-to-date information on available support.



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 before and after a disaster.

- Volunteer with existing disaster support organizations such as United Way, Salvation Army, or the American Red Cross.
- Become a licensed amateur radio operator and volunteer with the Martin County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).
- Request a disaster preparedness presentation from the Martin County Emergency Management team for your neighborhood or organization by emailing **mcema@martin.fl.us** or calling **772-287-1652**.
- Visit the Martin County Emergency Management booth at community events.
- Become a National Weather Service SKYWARN Storm Spotter by attending a free class and reporting storm information to the National Weather Service by visiting **www.Weather.gov/skywarn**.
- 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 and check on your neighbors so that they know their risks and encourage them to be prepared.
- Donate to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief.
- 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.

- ▶ **KNOW YOUR RISK**
- ▶ **MAKE A PLAN**
- ▶ **BUILD A KIT**
- ▶ **STAY INFORMED**
- ▶ **GET INVOLVED**



**MARTIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

800 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34994
www.martin.fl.us/EM

  @MartinCountyEMA



During disasters, call the
Community Information Center at
772-287-1652

To register for emergency updates,
text **AlertMartin** to **888777**