

# WAKULLA COUNTY

# DISASTER

## PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



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Produced by

*The* Wakulla **SUN**

# 2023 Disaster Survival Guide

## Be prepared, get connected, stay engaged

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, is grateful for the opportunity to coordinate with The Wakulla Sun in providing Disaster Preparedness and Survival information to our citizens. Our outreach mission is to foster the growth of a resilient community that can adapt and stand strong in the face of any disaster that may come our way.

As a lifetime resident of Wakulla County, I have seen our small town go through a lot of growth and change. Despite these changes we are still known as a community that comes together to support each other in times of need. It's those relationships and that whole community approach that makes us strong and resilient, and will ultimately help us recover when disaster strikes. Whether you are new to the county or have lived here for many years, it's important that you understand your risk, develop a plan that meets the individual needs of your family, and take action when necessary. Having a strong and resilient community is just not possible without the involvement of our local businesses, faith-based organizations, volunteer agencies, and citizens. The general rules of preparedness have not changed and we believe they can be broken down into 3 main topics that can be implemented at every level from the individual citizen to the local business. If we are all prepared, connected, and engaged we will continue to be the strong resilient community I grew up in.

### BE PREPARED

Do you know what hazards our community is vulnerable to? The first step in making a plan is knowing the answer to that question. Our community is vulnerable to tropical cyclones, storm surge, wild fires, severe weather, floods, pandemics, and man-made disasters but your specific vulnerability may differ slightly based on where your home or business is located. It's important to create a flexible plan that can be implemented in a variety of situations and addresses both what to do if you shelter in place as well as what you will do if you need to evacuate. As a coastal community every resident should have an evacuation plan and a basic understanding of how storm surge affects our community. Your plan should consider the dietary, medical, and mobility needs of each member of your house hold including any pets or livestock you are responsible for. It's also important to build a disaster kit that can be uti-



**JENNIFER NAGY**  
Wakulla County Director of  
Emergency Management

lized regardless of if you decide to stay or go. The first step is to choose a container that works for you. It can be a five-gallon bucket with a lid, a backpack or a plastic tote, the key is to make sure it works for your lifestyle and can be taken with you if you have to evacuate. Your kit should have enough supplies to sustain you for a minimum of five to seven days. When an evacuation is ordered, citizens will be expected to know their zone and comply immediately. You should have a plan ahead of time for where you will go. It's always better, if possible, to stay with a friend, family member or in a hotel. Shelters are designed for safety, not comfort and as such should be a last resort. If you choose to stay in a local shelter, be prepared to sleep on the floor of a common area. Snacks and water will be provided, but we recommend that you bring a sleeping bag or blanket, a pillow, snacks and all prescription medications. If you have special dietary needs, you will need to bring your own products to cover those needs. If you or a family member have a special medical need (electrical dependent, oxygen dependent, etc.) they should contact the Emergency Management Office for information on our Special Needs registry at (850) 745-7200.

If shelters are open in Wakulla County a pet-accessible shelter will be available. If you need to bring

a pet, please bring an appropriate pet carrier, and any required food and medication. Pets cannot be left at the shelter without their owner. Your pets will be housed in a separate area from the people and you will need to be prepared to look after their needs.

### GET CONNECTED

Do you know where to go for reliable local information and instructions? The internet is a valuable tool but sometimes it can be hard to find accurate information that you can count on. How to get and stay connected to the right information to help you and your family make important plans and decisions is vital. There are several good resources available that you can turn to for everything from a summer thunderstorm warning to evacuation orders and instructions. Local sources are always best for local information. The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office now has an app that can be downloaded to your smart phone. The app is available for download on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching "Wakulla County Sheriff, FL" The app gives users quick access to information being released by WCSO as well as features like shelter locations, evacuation information, and a portal to report damages after a disaster. You can also follow the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office on Facebook. In addition to these resources when severe weather, a tropical storm or a hurricane threatens our area, you can stay informed by following the National Weather Service Tallahassee, The National Hurricane Center, and local news broadcasts. When conditions require evacuations, you will receive information via local news networks on radio and television, EAS broadcasts over Weather radios, and via our Alert Wakulla notification system. Wakulla County currently utilizes Alert Wakulla to provide emergency notifications. You must sign up for this service for both landlines and cell phones. You can sign up for the service at [www.wcso.org/emergency-management/alert-wakulla/](http://www.wcso.org/emergency-management/alert-wakulla/)

### STAY ENGAGED

Community members and businesses must be active and engaged in making their community a safe place to live, work, and play. We all have a role to play and something to contribute. Please Consider volunteering with a local nonprofit organization, or contact Wakulla County Emergency Management at (850) 745-7200 for additional volunteer opportunities.

When disaster strikes local officials, first responders, and community partners will work around the clock to keep our community safe. We are all committed to the safety of our citizens and will continue to work together to face the challenges that future disasters may hold.

Our local businesses and members of our community are vital partners in preparedness, response and recovery. We again urge you to be prepared, stay connected, and be engaged we know we are stronger together. #WakullaResilient

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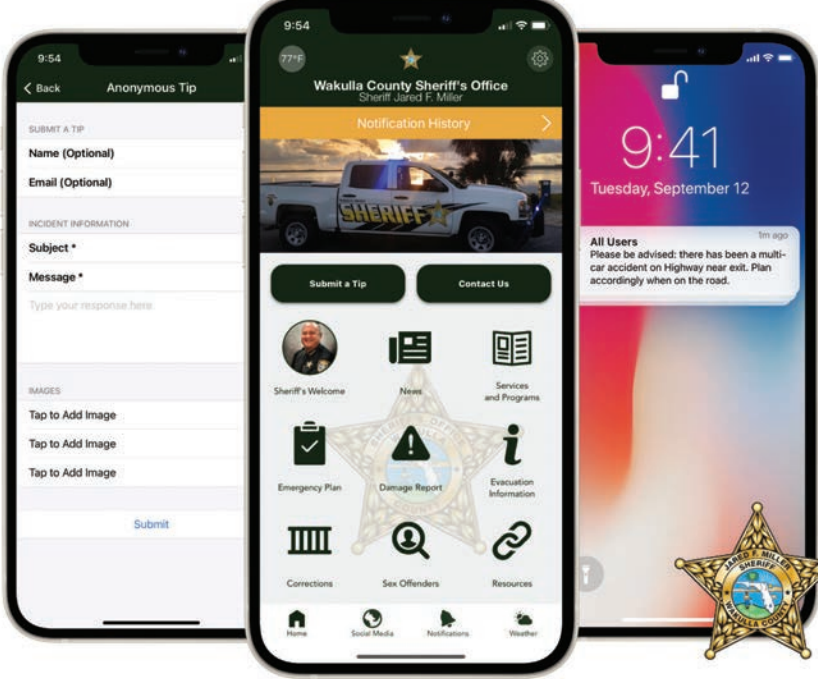
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# You need to have a plan

Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they can't reach everyone right away. Understanding your responsibilities and using the information provided by your local Emergency Management Office will help you better prepare for hurricane season and other emergencies.

To better cope with disaster, prepare in advance by working with your neighbors and local government agencies as a team.

Create a disaster plan for your family. If you live alone talk to your neighbors and friends about developing a neighborhood response plan.

Being prepared is your best protection and your responsibility.

A good disaster preparedness plan provides a margin of safety protecting you, your family and your neighbors.

Having a disaster plan improves your communities' ability to recover.

Emergency management is not one individual or government office, it is all members of the community working together to prepare, respond and recover from the effects of disaster.

If you have specific questions related to creating your disaster plan, call Emergency Management at (850) 745-7200.

Let's work together and be prepared.

## Being ready for an emergency is as easy as...

# 1

### EMERGENCY KIT

In an emergency you need to be ready to make it on your own.

What should you have in your disaster supply kit?

One gallon of water for each person per day. You should have enough water for at least three days. If you have four people in your family, you should store one gallon of water – 4 people x 3 days = 12 gallons of water.

Canned and dried food – food that is easy to prepare and doesn't need refrigeration.

- Manual can opener
- Sleeping bags or cots
- Flashlight or lantern with batteries
- First-Aid kit
- Bathroom supplies
- Medicines
- Prescription drugs
- Emergency contact list
- Soap and hand sanitizer
- Face masks
- NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio or battery-powered radio
- Credit cards and cash

- Duct tape
- Heavy garbage bags or tarps
- Important documents
- Waterproof container
- Fire extinguisher
- Whistle or airhorn
- Tools
- Pet supplies
- Games

Special needs:

- Baby formula, diapers, bottles and other infant supplies
- Extra eyeglasses
- Hearing aid batteries
- Special equipment for physically challenged
- Diabetic supplies
- Serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers
- Pet supplies such as a cage, leash, food and vaccination papers

Have two kits:

1. A large kit with three days of supplies.
2. A smaller kit if you must evacuate.

Preparedness plans come in all sizes, as dictated by individual and collective needs. Do you know the basic safety rules? Would your children know what to do if they were home alone? Do you have plans in place to move elders or people with disabilities to shelter quickly?

# 2

### MAKE A PLAN

Think ahead and create a family emergency plan.

Plan how you will get together in different situations.

Discuss what to do if you must evacuate.

Practice your plans with your family.

Have a contact list.

If phones are down, pick two meeting places:

1. Near your home
2. Somewhere outside the neighborhood

Test smoke/carbon monoxide detectors monthly.

Learn how to turn off gas, electric, water and heater systems at main breaker switches.

Learn First-Aid and CPR.

Discuss basic safety rules.

Make sure children know what to do if they are home alone.

Plan for elders or disabled family members and neighbors.

Include pets in your family emergency plan.

### BE INFORMED

Learn about the different threats:

- Severe Weather
- Fire
- Hazardous Materials (biological, chemical, explosive or radiological)
- Nuclear

Discuss the different hazards with your family.

Monitor TV, radio or trusted internet sites for information.

Stay calm, have plans ready and listen for instructions from local officials.

If you have questions, call your county emergency management office.

Visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org).

For kid friendly information and activities, visit [www.KidsGetAPlan.com](http://www.KidsGetAPlan.com).

# 3

# Prepare an all-hazards supply kit for emergencies

Having a basic survival kit on-hand to sustain yourself and your family after an emergency is an essential part of preparation.

Think first about basic survival needs: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Store your supplies in a portable container as close as possible to an exit and review the contents of your kit a few times a year (When the time changes from standard to daylight savings time is a great reminder!)

Start your kit by reviewing the lists below to see what you need. Don't let this list overwhelm you. Make it easy on your budget by picking up one or two items each time you shop.

## **Food Service Needs**

Drinking water: 1 gallon per person per day: 3-7 day supply

Non-perishable food that meets your dietary requirements: 3-7 day supply

Manual can opener or pop top cans/containers and eating utensils

Juice/soft drinks/instant coffee or tea

Plastic wrap/zip-lock bags/garbage bags

Paper plates, cups, aluminum foil

Cooler for food storage and ice

Lighter/matches, pots/pans

Camp stove or grill - outdoor use only!

## **Personal Items**

Sleeping bags, pillows, blankets

Lawn chairs, folding chairs, cots

Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, deodorant, denture care, etc.)

List of emergency contact information

Prescriptions & over the counter meds

Spare glasses, contacts, cleaning solution

Extra hearing aid batteries

Baby/infant needs (diapers, formula, extra clothes, etc.)

Rain gear, hot and cold weather clothing  
Closed-toe work shoes (no sandals)

## **Sanitation/Clean up Supplies**

Water for cleaning

Unscented bleach to disinfect water

Rubber gloves

Wet wipes and waterless hand sanitizer

Toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary supplies

Filter face masks (Dust Mask)

Assorted cleaners and disinfectants

Brooms, mops, towels and rags

Bucket with tight fitting lid for emergency toilet

## **Pets & Service Animals**

Water - 1 gallon per day for each animal: 7 day supply

Cage or carrier for each animal

Food and treats

Toys and comfort items

Clean up supplies

Immunization records and photos

## **Basic Safety Equipment**

NOAA Weather Radio

First Aid Kit and Instruction Book

Landline telephone (does not require batteries or electricity)

Battery powered television, radio, clock

Flashlights

Extra batteries

Chemical Light Sticks (to replace candles)

Whistle (to signal for help if needed)

## **Basic Tools**

Basic tool kit (hammer, wrenches, screwdrivers, pliers, etc.)

Specialized tools for water and gas valves, etc.

Plastic tarps with grommets or roll plastic sheet-

ing

Assorted screws, nails or other fasteners

Duct tape

Canvas or leather work gloves

Miscellaneous Items

Spare keys (home, vehicles, boats, etc.)

Important papers

ID (driver's license, insurance cards, etc.)

Cash, credit cards, coins, checks

Prepaid telephone cards

Pens, pencils and paper

Maps and evacuation information

Keepsakes, significant photos, etc.

Books, games and other quiet entertainment

## **Medical Equipment**

Medical equipment and assistive devices

Cooler with an ice pack if medications need to be refrigerated

Medical alert tags or bracelets to identify your disability-related need

## **Disinfect Water with Bleach**

Use household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper: 9 parts water to 1 part bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Use 16 drops of bleach to 1 gallon of water can be used to treat water in an emergency (do not use scented, color safe, or bleaches with added cleaners).

This supply kit is a good start, but depending on your situation, you may need more or less items to survive after an emergency.

Another good idea is to use a container or suitcase with rollers to store and move your kit.

Emergency responders may not be able to get to you immediately after a disaster. Being prepared means you are choosing to be a survivor.

# Develop your Emergency Disaster Plan

Each Spring the clock "springs forward" one hour, batteries get changed in smoke detectors and we scramble to file our taxes on time. This is also the time to make, or review, your Emergency Disaster Plan. Many of the same documents you use to complete your taxes are important to your Emergency Disaster Plan. Creating an Emergency Disaster Plan does not have to be an overwhelming, or time consuming endeavor.

On any ordinary day you may have some ideas about the hazards in your community that put you at risk, and how you would respond to those risks if they became actual emergencies. The key is to write down those hazards and your response plan(s).

## **Plan!**

Every good plan starts with a hazard analysis. "What am I at risk from?" This depends on where you live - in the country, in the state, and in your county. As a Florida resident, your risks are primarily from naturally occurring incidents: thunderstorms, lightning, structure fire, tornadoes, fresh water flooding, drought, wildland fires and hurricanes.

Many of these risks are common and require small or minimal response on your part (e.g. staying indoors, clearing brush from around your home, or watering restrictions). A few however are not as frequent and when they occur, the effects are widespread and may even require you to evacuate to another building, or another area of the state.

Once you've made a list of the hazards you face, the next step is evaluate what you need in order to respond to those hazards. For the more common and "smaller" hazards this can be as simple as having a designated meeting place and phone number for family members to call should you become separated, an evacuation map of your home in case of fire, and a family/friend/

hotel/motel nearby you will stay at in case your home is damaged.

However, for the larger, less frequently occurring hazards you may encounter, a bit more planning will be needed because they also have the potential to affect your entire community. It is for these events that you need to have supplies (i.e. food, water, medicine, etc.) and copies of your important papers.

You will also need to consider where you will shelter out of the area, and if you have pets, whether they can shelter with you. It is also important to plan for a place to temporarily call home in the event that your home is destroyed and resources are limited in your community afterwards.

## **Prepare!**

Before you realize it, you have written your plan. Now that you have identified what you will need to survive the hazards you have identified, take a look around your home. Ask yourself: "Do we already have the supplies we need?" Check your pantry, is there enough food for 3 days that does not need to be cooked?

If you have food that needs to be cooked, do you have a gas or charcoal grill that you can use outside your home to cook with? As you go through your list of supplies, try to identify items that you can purchase in little amounts throughout the year in order to spread out the cost.

## **Pass It On!**

You have a Plan. You have taken your inventory of supplies and are Preparing. Now you can Pass It On by sitting down with your family to talk through your Emergency Disaster Plan. Share the Plan for each type of hazard, the expected response, and where important documents, including the Plan,

and supplies are located. Make sure to include any family or friends located out of the area, which have a role in your Plan, in the conversation. Encourage co-workers, friends and other family members to take a little time out of their day to write down their Emergency Disaster Plan. Review your employer's Emergency Disaster Plan to ensure you know what is expected of you during an emergency, and if it may affect your Family Emergency Disaster Plan.

**Plan** ✓ (done)  
**Prepare** ✓ (done)  
**Pass It On** ✓ (on-going)

Now What?

Enjoy everything that North Florida has to offer each day, practice your Emergency Disaster Plan with your family at least once a year, and review your Emergency Disaster Plan at least once a year for any changes or additions. Then when there are events that are covered by your Plan, use it.

When there are hazards that threaten your community, listen to your local Emergency Management Agency and activate your Family Emergency Disaster Plan accordingly.

Most Importantly: Evacuate when ordered to do so by your Local Emergency Management Agency. Also check with your local Emergency Management Agency for Family Emergency Disaster Plan assistance, and ask if they have a fill-in-the-blank template you can use to make it even easier to complete.

If you have a family member living in an Assisted Living Facility, or Nursing Home, it is important to know what the Facility's Emergency Plan covers. Refer to page 11 for a list of questions you should be asking to ensure your family member's safety during an emergency.

Knowledge is not enough to protect you, your family and your home. You must put this information to work. Don't wait until the storm is nearly here, or it will be too late!

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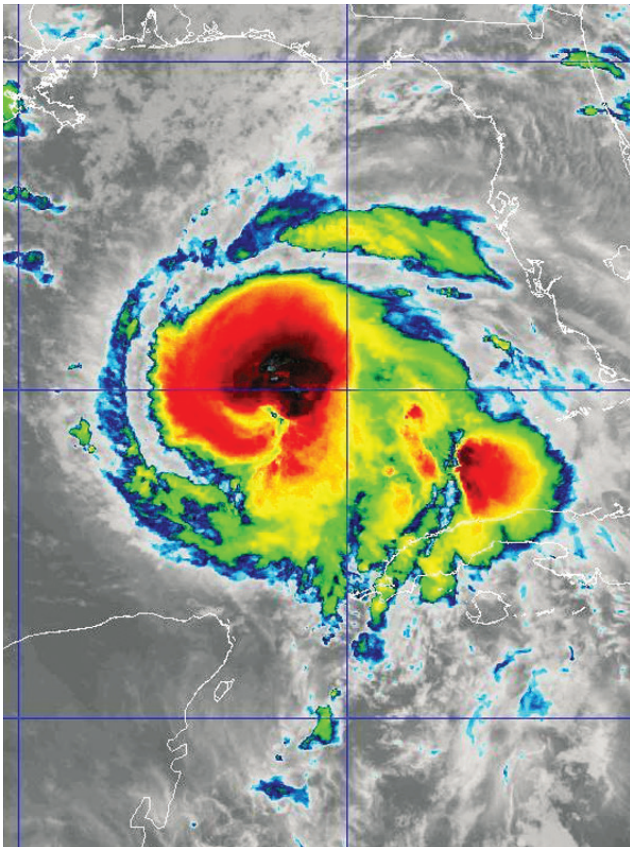
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# WHAT TO DO...

## BEFORE A HURRICANE

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Know your surroundings.
- Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding is forecast.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.

- Make plans to secure your property.
- Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.

- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.
- Consider building a safe room.

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (NFIP) website, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-800-427-2419.

## DURING A HURRICANE

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.

- Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.

- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure – such shelter are particularly hazardous during hurricane no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building – hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a

river or on an island waterway.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your wind-safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Avoid elevators.

## AFTER A HURRICANE

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- If you have become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact FEMA or the American Red Cross.

FEMA has established the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRS), which has been developed to help reunite families who are separated during a disaster. The NEFRS system will enable displaced individuals the ability to enter personal information into a website database so that they can be located by others during a disaster.

The American Red Cross also maintains a database to help you find family. Contact the local American Red Cross chapter where you are staying for information. Do not contact the chapter in the disaster area.

- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- If you cannot return home and have immediate

housing needs. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).

• For those who have longer-term housing needs, FEMA offers several types of assistance, including services and grants to help people repair their homes and find replacement housing. Apply for assistance or search for information about housing rental resources.

• Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads and sidewalks.

• Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.

• Walk carefully around the outside your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage before entering.

• Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building or your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.

• Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of dam-

age, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

• Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles. Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering – the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.

• Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.

• Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.

• Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.

• Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.

• Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

• NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.



# WHAT TO DO...

## WHEN YOU LOSE POWER

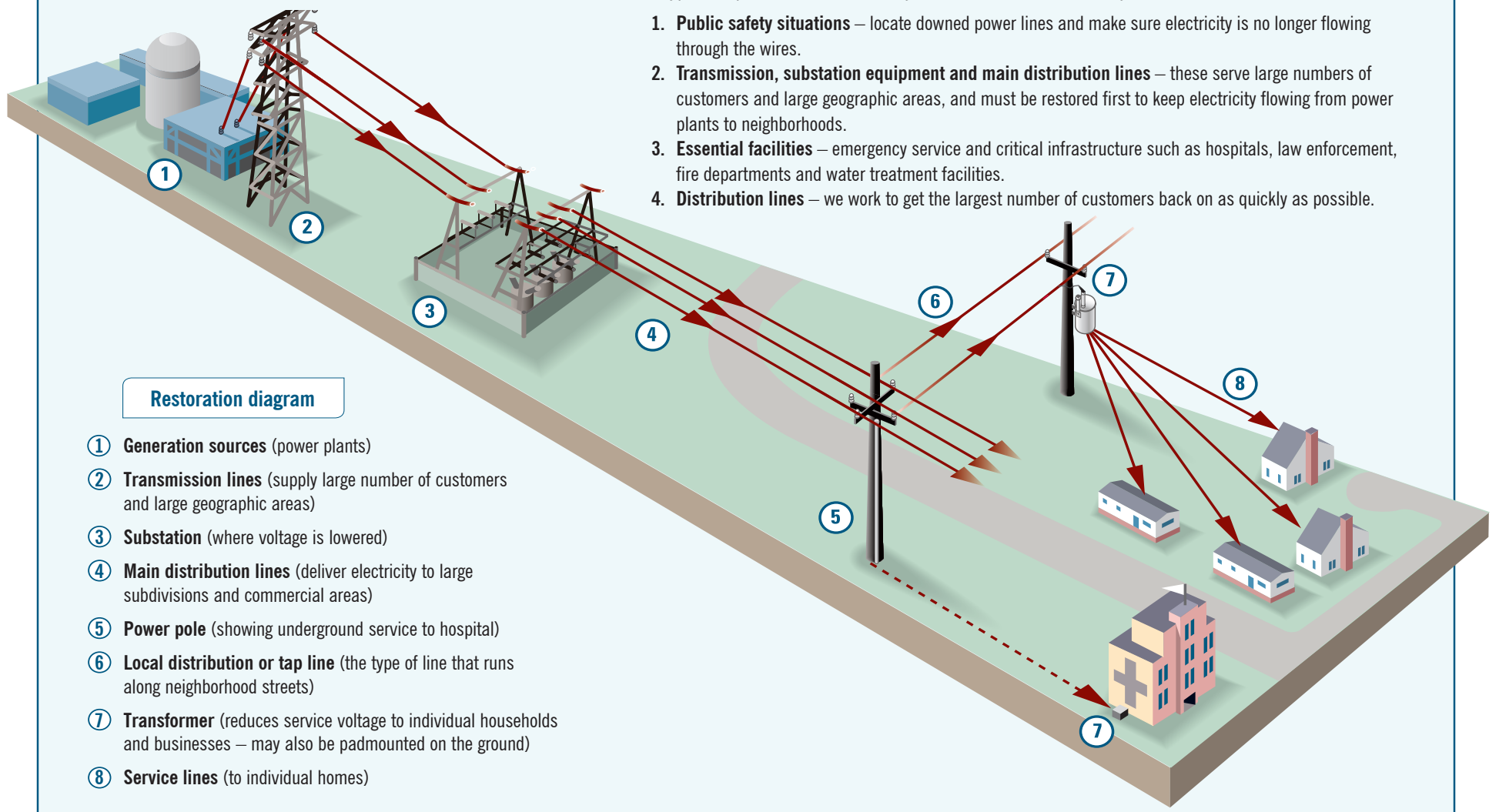
### How Duke Energy Restores Power



Duke Energy focuses on restoring power in a sequence that enables power restoration to public health and safety facilities and to the greatest number of customers as safely and quickly as possible.

A typical sequence of activities, many of which occur simultaneously, is as follows:

- 1. Public safety situations** – locate downed power lines and make sure electricity is no longer flowing through the wires.
- 2. Transmission, substation equipment and main distribution lines** – these serve large numbers of customers and large geographic areas, and must be restored first to keep electricity flowing from power plants to neighborhoods.
- 3. Essential facilities** – emergency service and critical infrastructure such as hospitals, law enforcement, fire departments and water treatment facilities.
- 4. Distribution lines** – we work to get the largest number of customers back on as quickly as possible.



Restoration diagram

- 1. Generation sources** (power plants)
- 2. Transmission lines** (supply large number of customers and large geographic areas)
- 3. Substation** (where voltage is lowered)
- 4. Main distribution lines** (deliver electricity to large subdivisions and commercial areas)
- 5. Power pole** (showing underground service to hospital)
- 6. Local distribution or tap line** (the type of line that runs along neighborhood streets)
- 7. Transformer** (reduces service voltage to individual households and businesses – may also be padmounted on the ground)
- 8. Service lines** (to individual homes)

### Talquin Electric Cooperative:

#### Powering Up After An Outage

When a major hurricane causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. A single pole, if damaged beyond repair, can take anywhere between 8 and 18 hours to replace.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



#### 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

#### 2. Distribution Substation

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist further down the line.

#### 3. Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.

#### 4. Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

#### 5. Service Lines

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please contact us so we can isolate the issue.

# WHAT TO DO...

## TO PREPARE YOUR BOAT FOR A HURRICANE

The key to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe, threatening weather is planning, preparation, and timely action. The following precautions and checklists are meant as guidelines only.

**Do Not Stay Aboard.** Winds during any hurricane can exceed 100 mph, and tornadoes are often associated with these storms. First and foremost, protect human life.

1. Prior to the hurricane season, develop a detailed plan of action to secure your vessel in the marina. If permitted, remove your boat from the threatened area, or take your boat to a previously identified hurricane refuge. Before hurricane season, practice your plan to ensure that it works.

2. Arrange for a friend to carry out your plans if you are out of town during hurricane season.

3. Check your lease or storage rental agreement with the marina or storage area. Know your responsibilities and liabilities as well as those of the marina.

4. Consolidate all records, including insurance policies, a recent photo of your vessel, boat lease agreement with the marina or storage area, and telephone numbers of appropriate authorities (i.e., harbor master, Coast Guard, insurance agent, etc.) and keep them in your possession.

5. Maintain an inventory of both the items removed and those left on board. Items of value should be marked so that they can be readily identified, if dispersed by the storm.

6. When a hurricane is approaching, and after you have made anchoring or mooring provisions, remove all moveable equipment such as canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, cushions, Biminis and roller furling sails. Lash down everything you cannot remove such as tillers, wheels, booms, etc. Make sure the electrical system is cut off unless you plan to leave the boat in the water, and remove the battery to eliminate the risk of fire or other damage.

### **Trailerable Boats**

1. Be sure your tow vehicle is capable of properly and adequately moving the boat. Check your trailer: tires, bearings



The dock in Panacea during Tropical Storm Debby.

and axle should all be in good condition.

2. Once at a "safe" place, lash your boat to the trailer and place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Owners of light weight boats, after consulting with the manufacturer, may wish to consider letting about half the air out of the tires, then filling the boat one-third full of water to help hold it down. (The blocks will prevent damage to the springs from the additional weight of the water.)

3. Secure your boat with heavy lines to fixed objects. Try to pick a location that allows you to secure it from all four directions, because hurricane winds rotate and change direction. It can be tied down to screw anchors secured into the ground. Remember that trees are often blown over during a hurricane.

**Non-Trailerable Boats in Dry Storage**

When selecting a "safe" location, be sure to consider whether storm surge

could rise into the area. Never leave a boat on davits or on a hydro-lift.

### **Non-Trailerable Boats in Wet Storage**

The owner of a large boat, usually one moored in a berth, has three options:

1. Secure the boat in the marina berth.
2. Moor the boat in a previously identified safe area.
3. Haul the boat.

Each action requires a separate strategy. Another alternative, running from the storm, is not encouraged except for large commercial vessels—unless there is enough time to get your boat beyond the storm's projected path.

### **Boats Remaining in Marina Berth**

1. Double all lines. Rig crossing spring lines fore and aft. Attach lines high on pilings to allow for tidal rise or surge. Make sure lines will not slip off pilings.

Inspect pilings and choose those that seem strongest and tallest and are properly installed. The longer the dock lines, the better a boat will be at coping with high tides. It is also essential to double up on all lines and use chafe protectors at any potential chafe points.

2. Install fenders to protect the boat from rubbing against the pier, pilings and other boats. Cover all lines at rough points to prevent chafing. Wrap with tape, rags, and rubber hoses, etc.

3. Assess the attachment of primary cleats, winches and chocks. These should have substantial back plates and adequate stainless steel bolt sizes.

Batteries should be fully charged and checked to ensure their capability to run automatic bilge pumps for the duration of the storm. Consider backup batteries. Cut off all devices consuming electricity except bilge pumps.

## FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS

### **People with Disabilities**

Estimates vary, but as many as one in four people live with some type of disability. Sometimes signs are obvious, a wheelchair, a guide dog or a cane. However, many times a disability is not obvious. Whether obvious or not, awareness and sensitivity toward persons with disabilities makes good sense.

People with disabilities must assume personal responsibility and be prepared for an emergency. The basic steps of a personal safety plan are the same for everyone.

Emergency Management has been an active participant in the a number of functional needs committees to gain insight into needs during a disaster. Every effort will be made with our partners to assure that functional needs are addressed. The American Red Cross operates shelters within Wakulla County and strives to identify and meet the needs of evacuees.

Practicing disability etiquette makes people with disabilities feel

more welcome and comfortable. Here are a few things anyone can do to make a person with a disability feel more at ease in any situation.

Remember, a person with a disability is a person first. Ask before you help. Don't assume a person with a disability needs your help with a task. If you are asked for help, be sure to ask what kind of assistance is needed.

Be sensitive regarding personal space and physical contact. Respect personal space and remember that people often consider their equipment part of their person.

Think before you speak. Speak to the person, not their aide or companion. Converse with a person with a disability as you would any other person. Get permission from a parent or guardian before interacting with children.

### **Special Needs Program**

Some people have medical issues that cannot be accommodated in

a regular public shelter. For those people whose health would quickly deteriorate in a public shelter, and have no other safe place to go, there are Special Care shelters available. Some residents do not have transportation to get to a shelter. The Special Needs Program provides shelter and transportation to Wakulla County residents at no cost.

You must complete an application to see if your medical issues qualify for a Special Care shelter, or if you need transportation. Applications are available on our website ([www.wcso.org](http://www.wcso.org)) and can be submitted directly online. There are specific criteria and requirements to be eligible for the Special Care shelter. You must have a caregiver with you during your stay at the Special Care shelter. During an emergency we have very limited staff working in the shelters, so your caregiver is critically important for your health and safety.

As at any other shelter, you must bring the emergency supplies you

need to survive. In any emergency situation you should have a plan for where you will go if you cannot return to your home because of damage. Food and water will be provided at the shelter. It is a good idea to bring some drinks and snacks in case you get hungry between meals. If you require a special diet, you must bring that with you.

When Wakulla County enters the 5-day forecast cone for a hurricane or tropical storm, we stop processing Special Needs applications so we can prepare for evacuations.

### **Transportation**

Wakulla Transportation will provide transportation for the Wakulla County Special Needs Program

At the point when the winds reach a sustained 40 mph, Wakulla County will pull all emergency vehicles from the road until the storm has passed. This includes ambulances, fire trucks, police vehicles and buses.

Contact Emergency Management if you have any questions.

# WHAT TO DO...

## TO HELP CHILDREN IN A DISASTER

Disasters strike quickly and without warning. These events can be traumatic for adults, but they are frightening to children if they do not know what to do.

During a disaster, children may have to leave their homes and have their daily routines disrupted. This may leave a child frightened, anxious and confused.

As an adult, you will need to cope with disaster and also give your children crucial guidance about how to respond and handle the situation.

Children depend on their daily routines: They wake up, eat breakfast, go to school, play with friends.

When emergencies or disasters interrupt this routine, some children have difficulty coping with these changes.

In a disaster, they will look to you

and other adults for help and guidance. How you react to an emergency gives them clues about how to act.

If you react with alarm, a child may become scared. They see our fear as proof that the danger is real. That is why it is important to have a plan for each hazard that threatens our community and to ensure that children are included in development and exercising the plan.

Children's fears also may stem from their imagination, and you should take these feelings seriously. A child who feels afraid, is afraid. Your words and actions can provide reassurance.

Feelings of fear are healthy and natural for adults and children. But as an adult, you need to keep control of the situation.

When you're sure that danger has passed, concentrate on your child's

emotional needs by asking the child to explain what is troubling them.

Your response during this "problem time" may have a lasting impact.

Be aware that after a disaster, children are most afraid that:

- The event will happen again.
- Someone will be injured or killed.
- They will be separated from the rest of the family.
- They will be left alone.

### HOW TO DEVELOP A DISASTER PLAN

You can develop your family disaster plan by following these simple steps:

- Learn what hazards exist in your community. Here in Wakulla County we face many potential hazards ranging from fires or chemical spills to

hurricanes. Some of your plans may be different for various hazards.

- Meet with all family members to discuss what you will do, as a group in each situation.

- Take steps to prepare your family for disaster such as: post emergency phone numbers, select an out-of-state family contact, assemble a disaster supplies kit for each member of your household and install smoke detectors on each level of your home.

Finally, practice your Family Disaster Plan so that everyone will remember what to do when an emergency or disaster does occur.

### AFTER THE DISASTER

Keep the family together.

Calmly and firmly explain the situation to your children.

Encourage children to talk about how they feel.

Include children in recovery activities such as cleaning, shopping, etc.

## SENIOR CITIZEN DISASTER PREP LIST

This hurricane season, local senior care experts are encouraging families to prepare their senior loved ones for severe weather emergencies and the possibility of evacuation.

"We know that a disaster can be deadly for some seniors because of physical and other limitations," said Scott Harrell, owner of the Home Instead Office serving Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties, as well as the panhandle. "It's important for families to talk with their senior loved ones and begin preparing in advance for any kind of emergency that could threaten their health or safety. Consider this checklist as you help your older adult get ready."

Home Instead Senior Care's Disaster Prep Checklist For Seniors:

- Tune in. Contact the local emergency management office to learn about the most likely natural disasters to strike your area. Stay abreast of what's going on through your local radio or television.

- Take stock. Decide what your senior can or can't do in the event of a natural disaster. Make a list of what would be needed if a disaster occurred. For example, if your loved one is wheel-

chair-bound, determine an evacuation strategy ahead of time. Prepare for whatever disaster could hit the area.

- To go or to stay? When deciding to evacuate, older adults should go sooner rather than later. By waiting too long, they may be unable to leave if they require assistance.

- Make a plan. Schedule a family meeting to develop a plan of action. Include in your plan key people – such as neighbors, friends, relatives and professional caregivers – who could help.

- More than one way out. Seniors should develop at least two escape routes: one to evacuate their home and one to evacuate their community. The local emergency management office can tell you escape routes out of the community.

- Meet up. Designate a place to meet relatives or key support network people outside the house, as well as a second location outside the neighborhood, such as a school or church. Practice the plan twice a year.

- Get up and "Go Kit." Have an easy-to-carry backpack including three days non-perishable food and water with an additional four days of food and water readily accessible at home. Have

at least one gallon of bottled water per person per day. Refresh and replace your supplies at least twice a year. And don't forget the blanket and paper products such as toilet paper.

- Pack extras and copies. Have at least a one-month supply of medication on hand at all times. Make ready other important documents in a waterproof protector including copies of prescriptions, car title registration and driver's license, insurance documents and bank account numbers, and spare checkbook. Also take extra eyeglasses and hearing-aid batteries. Label every piece of important equipment or personal item in case they are lost.

- Your contact list. Compile a list of important contacts, including the senior's support network, doctors and other important health-care professionals. The information can be recorded and kept in a free Home Instead Senior Emergency kit, available at [www.senioremergencykit.com](http://www.senioremergencykit.com).

- If you can't be there. If you're not living close by to help your loved one, enlist the help of family or friends, or contact a professional caregiving company.

For more information about disaster preparedness, contact Home Instead Senior Care at (850) 297-1897 or [www.homeinstead.com](http://www.homeinstead.com).

## TO PREPARE FOR YOUR PETS

Only 38 percent of U.S. households have children, but 43 percent have pets!

Take time now to plan how you will protect yours during a weather emergency.

### IF YOU PLAN TO EVACUATE

All pet owners should make arrangement for their pets if they plan to evacuate.

If Crawfordville Elementary School is opened as a risk shelter it will be a pet accessible shelter. The pets will be kept at the same location but in a separate room where the owner can access them to care for them. There will be a volunteer working in the pet area to make sure that pets are only released to their owners.

If you can't take your pets with you, arrangements should be made with a clinic or kennel that is outside of the evacuation area. These arrangements should be made well in advance because available spaces fill up quickly as a storm approaches.

If you plan to take your pets with you, you may want to ask your vet for a mild sedative (for the pet) and remember to take these items for their care:

A secure pet carrier of appropriate size  
Food/water bowls  
A one week supply of dry food  
Water in plastic containers  
Medications and health records  
Leashes (muzzles if necessary)  
Newspapers and paper towels for cleanup  
A favorite blanket

Many hotels/motels will accept pets, especially in emergency situations.

If you plan to go to a motel, determine in advance if pets are welcome and what, if any, special rules are applicable.

It is also a good idea to photograph each of your pets and include these pictures with your health records.

All pets should have current immunizations and ensure that they have a collar with proper identification.

### SERVICE ANIMALS

Though pets are not allowed in public shelters, in compliance with 28 CFR Part 36, supporting the

American Disabilities Act, service animals will be allowed in both general and special needs shelters.

### IF YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR PET AT HOME

If you have to leave your pets at home try to secure them in a safe area of your home. Otherwise, your pets may escape and become disoriented as a storm could alter landmarks and scent trails. Make sure the pet is wearing a collar with proper identification.

Remember, don't leave dogs and cats in the same space. Even if they normally get along, things may change as the storm approaches. Some other things to remember are:

- Place pets in ventilated safe rooms without windows.

- Leave at least a three day food supply.

- Leave plenty of water.

- Leave access to elevated spaces in the event of flooding.

- Pet stores sell slow-release feeders for fish tanks if you evacuate.

After the storm, walk pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home and surroundings.

Downed power lines and other debris pose risks for you and your pets. Don't let pets consume food or water which may have become contaminated.

# Do you know your Evacuation Zone?

Hurricane Evacuation Zones are no longer referenced by storm category, but are now named by Hurricane Surge Evacuation Zones A/B/C/D/E. We want you to Know Your Zone, and challenge your friends and family to do the same.

### Why is it important to Know Your Evacuation Zone in Wakulla County?

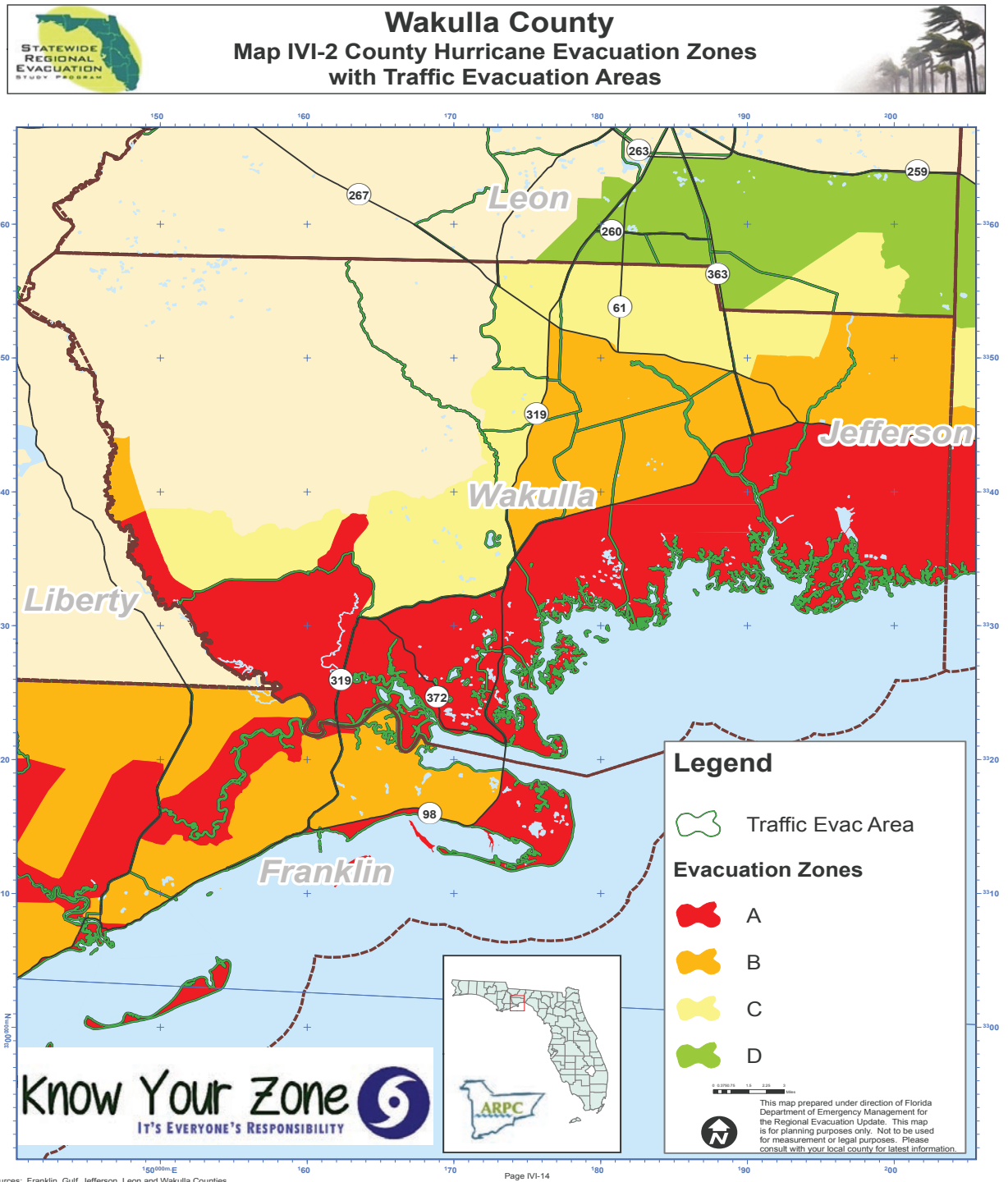
We evacuate by zones for storm surge and wind, in a phased manner. This means we may order the evacuation of Zone A before you see any effects of the tropical cyclone.

How can I be better prepared?

### How can I be better prepared?

1. Find helpful tips and links at [www.wcso.org](http://www.wcso.org)
2. Get a Plan and Print a copy of the Family Emergency Plan
3. Follow us on Social Media to stay informed

To get to the county GIS portal Hurricane evacuation map where you can find your zone as well as shelter information, go to <https://gis-portal-update-wakullaplanning.hub.arcgis.com/pages/hurricane-evacuation-map>



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