

2022 LeadingAge Florida Hurricane Preparedness Guide

Each year hurricane season begins on June 1 and lasts 5 months, with storms typically peaking in August and September.

Forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, are predicting above-average hurricane activity this year — which would make it the seventh consecutive above-average hurricane season. NOAA's outlook for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, which extends from June 1 to November 30, predicts a 65% chance of an above-normal season, a 25% chance of a near-normal season and a 10% chance of a below-normal season.

For the 2022 hurricane season, NOAA is forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence.

As with every hurricane season regardless of forecast, knowing the essentials of how to prepare and taking simple precautions can truly save lives.

Throughout the 2022 hurricane season, LeadingAge Florida will work with our state partners and other stakeholders to provide information and resources to our members. In addition to emergency contact information and other resources below, our staff stands ready to serve in any way that is helpful to you.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with the following LeadingAge Florida contacts at any time with any requests for assistance or information:

Steve Bahmer – (307) 287-4594
Susan Langston – (850) 545-6769

Dawn Jiménez – (850) 321-3569
Nick Van Der Linden – (863) 258-8665

LeadingAge Florida staff communicates frequently with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Florida Department of Health (DOH), and the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT). If a hurricane hits Florida, LeadingAge Florida will have staff at the SEOC throughout the storm and the recovery period to receive and communicate critical information as efficiently as possible.

Additionally, LeadingAge Florida will provide emergency communications via email alerts and social media posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), as necessary.

In case of an emergency, your first point of contact should be your local EOC. [Click here](#) to find contact information for all 67 County Emergency Management Offices. All emergency management offices maintain a list of people within the community with a disability or a special need so they can be assisted quickly during an emergency.

State Emergency Operations Center | 1-(800) 342-3557



The Florida Division of Emergency Management, which operates the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), offers an interactive online tool to help you develop an emergency plan for yourself, your family or your business. For more information or to create your plan, visit www.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/.

In case of an emergency, your first point of contact should be your local EOC. [Click here](#) to find contact information for all 67 County Emergency Management Offices. If you are unable to get through to your local EOC, the following numbers are operational during emergency events:

- State Assistance Information Line, (800) 342-3557
- ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services, State EOC, AHCA Desk (850) 410-1822
- ESF 8 – Desk Main Phone Number (850) 921-0214

In anticipation of possible evacuations in your area, please be advised of the following:

- [Evacuation Zones](#) - Know your zone and view designated evacuation zones.
- [Emergency Shelter Information](#)
- In the event that you have to evacuate your residents, and you need assistance, contact your [local EOC](#).
- Keep a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio in working condition in an audible location at your property. If a disaster occurs, keep it with you so you can stay updated at all times of changes, particularly if you have to evacuate. Keep a fresh set of batteries with you as well. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up signals. Broadcasts are found in the public service band at the following seven frequencies (HMz): 162.400, 162.452, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525 and 162.550.
- Contact your local transportation authorities immediately about increased frequency of bus routes. Tell them where your building is located and how many residents are in your building. Make sure your building is on the emergency bus route and the drivers are aware of the resident's age, physical limitations, etc.
- Be sure to gas up all your vehicles and fuel tanks for emergency power. Have extra flashlights and batteries on hand.
- Explore alternate ways to communicate with families in case traditional ways of communicating do not work.

Agency for Health Care Administration | (850) 412-4303



Please contact LeadingAge Florida if you need additional assistance in reaching AHCA or getting answers to your questions. LeadingAge Florida staff can quickly assist you in contacting resources and tracking down answers.

Emergency Status System (ESS)

AHCA requires all licensees providing residential or inpatient services to use the Emergency Status System (ESS) to report their emergency status, planning and current operations during an emergency. Each nursing home and assisted living facility must register for, and report emergency status information through ESS once AHCA opens an event. [Click here](#) to login, or to request access to register for ESS. For ESS resources and information, [click here](#).

If you have additional questions regarding your emergency management plans, please contact your local emergency management agency. Should you need help setting up an ESS account or have questions related to requirements of licensure, please contact the appropriate licensure unit listed below.

Assisted Living Unit

Phone: (850) 412-4304

E-mail: assistedliving@ahca.myflorida.com

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Adult Family Care Homes

Long Term Care Services Unit

Phone: (850) 412-4303

E-mail: LTCStaff@ahca.myflorida.com

- Homes for Special Services
- Hospices that operate freestanding inpatient facilities and residential units
- Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled
- Nursing Homes
- Transitional Living Facilities

Make sure that you:

- Test your generators and have sufficient fuel on-site for 96 hours of operation.
 - Generator rules: [Assisted Living Facilities](#) and [Nursing Homes](#).
- Review your state and federal emergency plans, and update as needed.
 - The Emergency Management Planning Criteria must be submitted annually to the county emergency management agency for review and approval.
 - Emergency Management Planning Criteria: [Assisted Living Facilities](#) and [Nursing Homes](#).

- Test the implementation of the emergency management plan annually, either in response to a disaster, an emergency, or in a planned drill.
- Have adequate food and other supplies available.

Florida Department of Health



The Florida DOH's website also has valuable information that can help you plan for emergency situations: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html.

Florida Department of Elder Affairs



The information provided in the “Disaster Preparedness Guide for Seniors” by the state Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) can help seniors take proper steps to be safe and secure during and after an emergency event. Please view the links below for additional

information and the newly updated Disaster Guide Contact Page.

- <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/disaster.php>.
- [2021 Disaster Resource Guide for Older Adults](#)

The Department publishes their Resource Guide each year either in May or early June. The electronic version of this plan will be updated once the 2022 Guide is published. You can also check the Departments Disaster Preparedness webpage for this year's version.

Additional Assistance

Remember to stay tuned to traditional lines of communications, such as local television and radio stations. You also may want to check social media platforms, such as Facebook™ and Twitter™, for updates regarding severe weather situations and available emergency assistance. Below are additional websites to which you can refer to get valuable information:

- Florida Department of Emergency Management - www.floridadisaster.org
- American Red Cross - www.redcross.org

- Federal Emergency Management Agency - www.fema.org
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LeadingAge Disaster Resources: Preparedness, Response and Recovery



LeadingAge has a user-friendly toolkit that includes videos, guides, worksheets and checklists to help housing organizations prepare to respond when disaster strikes. You can access this guide [here](#).

Additional Tips for Senior Housing Providers

- Coordinate with your local emergency management office. Let them know what your needs will be, especially if there are restrictions on the use of public shelters and special needs shelters. Ask if they can do a presentation for your staff and residents to emphasize the importance of being prepared.
- Determine which of your residents have health conditions that would require a special needs shelter, especially if your building were to lose power. This would include residents with medical devices that require electricity or medications that require refrigeration.
- Encourage high-risk residents to register for a special needs shelter (<https://snr.flhealthresponse.com/>) as soon as possible since completing the registry application does not automatically qualify an individual. Even if a resident registered in the past, they should register again. Residents who do not have a computer might need your help to register on line. Contact your local Emergency Management Office to see if individuals can apply in other ways.
- Determine if residents with special needs can make arrangements to evacuate to the home of a relative or friend who has a generator as a backup plan if a special needs shelter is not available to them.
- If you have a generator capable of powering common areas, determine if it would be safe to allow residents with special needs to shelter in place. Involve your corporate attorney in that decision.
- Ask all residents to think ahead and make a plan with family or friends about where they would go if there is a need to evacuate, especially if your community is in a flood zone.
- Give residents a list of what they will need in the way of emergency supplies, water, food and medication if there is a hurricane. Encourage them to start purchasing those items whenever they have the opportunity since shopping is still not back to normal because of the coronavirus. [Click here](#) for a sample “[Hurricane Preparedness Guide](#)” for residents graciously shared by LeadingAge Florida member Westminster Communities of Florida.
- All buildings should have some type of emergency communication system in the event that services are disrupted. Make sure yours is in good condition. You should also have a battery-

powered radio and supplies of flashlights, lanterns, and batteries on hand in the event of loss of power.

- Stock up on the supplies you did not plan for but needed during the last hurricane.
- The Department of Elder Affairs (<https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/disaster-preparedness/>) publishes a disaster preparedness guide every year in late May or early June. It contains checklists that could be of help to you and your residents while preparing for hurricane season.
- Florida's Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday starts on Saturday, May 28, 2022, and ends on Friday, June 10, 2022. During the sales tax holiday period, tax is not due on the retail sale of eligible items related to disaster preparedness. [Click here](#) for more information on eligible items.

When Property Damage Occurs on a HUD Property:

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has a website with information and guidance. Multifamily Housing Guidance for Disaster Recovery is available at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/disasterguide. We encourage you to review this website **before** an event occurs.
- [Chapter 38 of HUD Handbook 4350.1](#) outlines procedures and forms to be used by a HUD property when property damage occurs due to a natural disaster.
- Owners and Management Agents are obligated to always **immediately report** physical damage to a property interior or exterior that has resulted from a fire, flood, wind, severe cold, or other natural disaster or weather event. Owners are encouraged to complete and forward damage assessments forms to HUD. Please use the form applicable to your situation:
 - For a FEMA Declared Emergency or Disaster: [Preliminary Disaster Assessment Form \(Appendix A-3 of Chapter 38 of Handbook 4350.1.\)](#)
 - For an Event not declared by FEMA: [Basic Damage Assessment Form](#)

Please forward the appropriate Assessment Form within 24 hours of the damage occurrence. Either form should be legibly handwritten or typewritten and emailed to:

AtlantaDisasterAssistance@hud.gov for properties assigned to an Account Executive reporting to the Atlanta Regional Office or DamageAssessmentsFlorida@hud.gov for properties assigned to an Account Executive reporting to the Jacksonville Satellite Office.

To find your assigned Account Executive, please [click here](#).

Owner Responsibilities for Preparing Building and Residents

Owners/agents are responsible for:

- Developing a pre-disaster checklist that is shared with tenants.
- Developing an emergency relocation plan to relocate residents prior to the storm, especially at Section 202 Elderly and Section 811 Disabled residents properties.
- Ensuring that the property and property records are secured, and that residents' possessions and valuables are secured and protected to the greatest extent possible.
- Contacting the local HUD office immediately following a disaster.

- Providing a status report of the residents and property conditions.
- Ensuring that residents provide EMERGENCY contact numbers, especially if they become displaced from the property.
- Determining the extent of damage, security needs, resident property protection needs, etc.
- Contacting the property's insurance provider to apply for property and business interruption claims.
- Maintaining inventory of all residents, property, phone numbers, mailing address, and emails.
- Determining which residents have been displaced due to unit damage or a failure of a major building system such as the electrical system, etc.
- Tracking each displaced resident's temporary location and maintaining contact information for each displaced resident, particularly if the property will likely have units off-line for more than 30 days.
- Contacting FEMA for on-going guidance and instructing residents to register with FEMA through 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or www.fema.gov.
- Applying for assistance with FEMA, Small Business Administration, Housing Finance Agency and others.

Hotlines for Emergency Relief

- State Assistance Information Line (SAIL): 1-800-342-3557 -- <https://www.floridadisaster.org/>
- LeadingAge Florida: 1-850-671-3700 -- www.leadingageflorida.org
- Volunteer and Donations Hotline: -- <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/> (website is main resource) 1-800-FLHELP1 (1-800-354-3571)
- American Red Cross Donations Hotline: 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669) or visit: <https://www.redcross.org/>
- American Red Cross Information Hotline: 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
- Salvation Army Donation Hotline: 1-800-728-7825 -- <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>
- Salvation Army Emotional & Spiritual Care Hotline: 1-844-458-4673

Power Company Contact Information

- Florida Power and Light Hotline: 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)
- Gulf Power: 1-800-GUPOWER (1-800-487-6937)
- Duke Energy: 1-800-228-8485
- TECO: 1-877-588-1010

Hotlines for Financial and Recovery Assistance

- FEMA Disaster Assistance Hotline: 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)
- SBA Business Physical Disaster Assistance Loan and SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: 1-800-659-2955

- To verify contractor licensure, call: 1-850-487-1395, or visit: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/>
- To report unlicensed activity, call: 1-866-532-1440 or email the department at ULA@DBPR.state.fl.us.
- To report price gouging, call: 1-866-966-7226 or report violations online at <http://myfloridalegal.com/>.
- Reemployment Claims and Benefits: 1-800-204-2418

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