



Town of Palm Beach **Hurricane Guide**



Be Prepared

As a coastal community in South Florida, the Town of Palm Beach is particularly susceptible to the impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes. The barrier island and low-lying areas are at risk of flooding, especially those near the Intracoastal waterway, and the entire Town can be affected by strong, damaging winds.

Widespread power outages are also likely during these events. Every household and business in Palm Beach must have a well-prepared hurricane plan tailored to their specific needs.

This guide provides valuable information to help you prepare for a potential storm. It addresses key steps to safeguard yourself, your family, and your property.



Make an Emergency Plan



Use this checklist to be prepared!

1. **Know Your Zone**—To find your evacuation zone and where you'll go if you're ordered to leave, visit www.ReadyPBC.com.
2. **Talk with Your Family** - Hold a family meeting. Get kids involved and go over your storm plan.
3. **Document Your Belongings** - Make a list and take photos or videos of valuable items.
4. **Check Insurance** - Review home, flood, and auto policies to ensure you're fully covered.
5. **Inspect Your Property**—Walk around your home, checking the roof, windows, doors, and yard. Make a repair plan if needed.
6. **Plan for Vehicles & Boats**—Decide where to safely park your car (especially electric vehicles) and relocate your boat. Keep insurance information handy.
7. **Prepare Your Home**—To protect your property, plan to install shutters, test and power the generator, and trim trees early.
8. **Account for Medical Needs** - Arrange care or shelter options ahead of time for anyone with special health needs.
9. **Plan for Pets**—**If you evacuate**, ensure you have food, supplies, and a safe place for your pets.
10. **Build Your Supply Kit** - Stock up on enough food, water, medicine, and other essentials to last at least seven days.
11. **Share Your Plan** - Let friends or relatives know your hurricane plan. Pick an out-of-town contact.

Year Round Preparedness



3 Months Before Hurricane Season

- **Create a Family Plan** - Talk through your emergency plan with all household members and practice it.
- **Plan Your Evacuation** - Know your nearest Palm Beach County shelter or arrange to stay with friends/family outside of evacuation zones.
- **Register if Needed** - If you or a family member has special medical needs or if you have pets, pre-register for a Special Needs or Pet-Friendly Shelter at www.ReadyPBC.com.
- **Start Building Your Supply Kit** - Slowly begin gathering food, water, and emergency supplies. Add a few items each time you shop.

Trim Trees & Clear Storage - Cut trees away from buildings and power lines. Clean out garages, carports, and storage spaces now before the rush.

1 Month Before Hurricane Season

- **Finish Your Emergency Kit** - Make sure you have all essentials (water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medicine, important documents). Refer to the checklist in this guide.
- **Check Prescriptions** - Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about keeping a storm-ready supply of medications.
- **Inspect Storm Protection** - Check and maintain your window shutters or other protective systems. Make repairs early while supplies and contractors are available.

When a Storm Threatens – Town of Palm Beach

- Review your family hurricane plan and ensure your emergency kit is fully stocked.
- Know the emergency plan of your child's school or daycare.
- [Sign up for Town alerts and news releases](#) and follow the Town of Palm Beach on social media.
- Bring in or secure all loose outdoor items like furniture, wind chimes, flags, grills, and trash cans.
- Use your phone or video camera to document your home's interior and valuables for insurance purposes.
- Photograph important documents and store them in a waterproof container.
- Withdraw cash in case ATMs and credit systems are down.
- Designate an out-of-area contact for your family to check in with.
- Identify a safe interior room in your home, away from windows.
- Test your generator if you have one, and make sure it's ready for use.



During a Hurricane Watch

- Keep a TV or battery-operated radio on for weather updates.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings to preserve food longer.
- Freeze extra water in plastic containers to help keep items cold if the power goes out.
- Fill clean containers with drinking water.
- Fill the bathtub with water to flush toilets if the water supply is interrupted.
- Fuel up all vehicles and propane tanks, and get extra fuel for generators.
- Install storm shutters or other window protection if available.

During a Hurricane Warning or Landfall

- Go to your designated safe room if conditions worsen.
- Stay tuned to a battery-powered radio or TV if the power goes out.
- Keep a flashlight nearby—avoid using candles.
- Stay away from all windows and do not open doors, even if they are covered.
- Do not operate grills or generators indoors, as carbon monoxide is deadly.
- Turn off utilities if local officials instruct you to do so.
- Unplug small appliances to avoid surge damage.
- If your home becomes damaged during the storm:
 - Stay away from doors and windows, even if they're protected.
 - Take shelter in a small, interior room, closet, or hallway.
 - Close all interior doors and secure exterior ones.
 - Lie on the floor under a sturdy table or object for protection.

If Your Home Is Damaged During the Storm

- Stay away from all windows and exterior doors even if they're protected.
- Take shelter in a small, interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- Close all interior doors to help reduce wind pressure.
- Secure and brace any external doors if possible.
- Lie low on the floor under a sturdy piece of furniture, like a heavy table, for added protection.



After the Storm – Town of Palm Beach

- Avoid driving unless necessary.
- Never attempt to drive through flooded streets—turn around, don't drown.
- Avoid disaster or heavily impacted areas to allow emergency crews to work.
- Follow the **Town of Palm Beach** on social media and sign up for alerts for updates and recovery information.
- If traffic lights are out, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.
 - **Flashing yellow** = proceed with caution.
 - **Flashing red** = come to a complete stop.

Report local damage, such as downed power lines or trees, through the appropriate reporting channel for the Town of Palm Beach.

Re-Entry

The Emergency Re-Entry List helps our out-of-town residents, property and business owners return to the island after an evacuation.

Who Should Apply?

- Out-of-town residents, property owners, leaseholders, or business owners

Authorized representatives of property owners

You do not need to apply if your Florida driver's license lists a Palm Beach address unless you're authorizing someone else to return on your behalf.

How to Apply

- Complete the application on the Town's website
- Submit government-issued ID
- Apply at least 2 days before expected landfall
- Once approved, you'll be on the Emergency Re-Entry List

For updates and full details, visit the Town of Palm Beach Re-Entry Program webpage.

Hurricane Kit

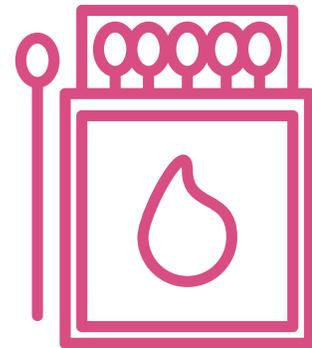
Essentials

- 1 Gallon of water per person/day (7-day supply)
- Non-perishable food (7-14 days)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Flashlights/lanterns
- Extra batteries
- Solar phone charger
- First aid kit
- Medications



Sanitation

- Hand sanitizer & disinfectant wipes
- Bleach (unscented)
- Soap and detergent
- Hygiene items & feminine supplies
- Toilet paper & moist wipes
- Bucket with lid
- Trash bags



Tools & Supplies

- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Mosquito repellent
- Fire extinguisher
- Crowbar or multi-tool
- Tarps & plastic sheeting
- Waterproof matches/lighter
- Rope, duct tape
- Manual can opener
- Cash (small bills)

Hurricane Kit

Important Documents

- ID, passport copies
- Insurance policies
- Health cards & prescriptions
- Bank records & wills
- Inventory of valuables
- Emergency contacts (print copy)



For Pets

- Pet food (7-day supply)
- Water & bowls
- Leash, harness, carrier
- Litter & waste bags
- Vaccination records



For Babies

- Formula & baby food
- Diapers & wipes
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Baby medication



Car Emergency Kit

- Jumper cables, flares
- First aid kit
- Flashlight & batteries
- Food & water
- Manual can opener
- Tool kit & shovel
- Blankets, clothes, rain gear
- Cell phone car charger
- Extra fuel (safe container)

Evacuation

Know Your Zone

Know your evacuation zone and have a plan, especially if you live on the barrier island or in low-lying areas. View Palm Beach County's evacuation map:

www.ReadyPBC.com



Town of Palm Beach is Zone B



Important: Staying behind in an evacuation zone carries serious risk, as emergency responders may be delayed or unable to reach you for an extended period after the storm passes.

- Travel only when it is safe to do so.
- Evacuate a short distance outside of the evacuation zone. Driving far away may increase traffic when returning back to the town.
- Shut off utilities, store outdoor furniture and other loose outdoor items inside, pack breakable items in boxes, and place them on the floor.
- Take your pets with you.
- Charge electronics and bring extra gas.

Shelter in Place

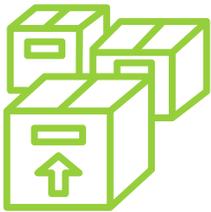
What Does It Mean to Shelter in Place?



Sheltering in place means staying indoors in a safe, secure location during a storm, rather than evacuating, until officials declare it is safe to leave. Residents should:



- Choose a small, windowless, interior room on the lowest floor.
- Stay inside away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- Have your emergency supply kit and communications devices nearby.
- Remain indoors until the Town gives official clearance, even if it seems calm outside (it could be the eye of the storm).



Sheltering in place is only advised if your home is structurally sound and not in an evacuation zone.

Set Up a Safe Room

- Select an interior room without windows.
- Stock with water, snacks, flashlight, blankets.
- Charge your phone and keep a weather radio nearby.

Protecting Yourself After the Storm

Immediate Safety Reminders for Palm Beach Residents

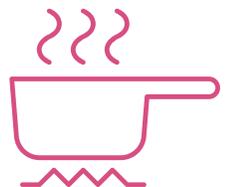


- Keep all cooking equipment outdoors – never use grills or camp stoves indoors due to fire and carbon monoxide risks.
- Wait until standing water has fully receded before switching your main power breaker back on.
- Do not plug in or use any appliances that have been exposed to water.
- Leave your air conditioning system off until power is stable across the island.
- Operate generators well away from windows or neighboring homes to prevent dangerous fumes from entering.



- Use caution with chainsaws and storm cleanup equipment. Injuries often happen during recovery.
- Avoid any fallen power lines, large debris, or unstable trees. Report hazards to the Town.
- Follow boil water alerts issued by the Town or utility providers before using tap water for drinking or hygiene.

- Check food items carefully – if the power has been out for several hours, it's safer to discard perishable food.



Important Resources

For more information and resources visit our [Hurricane Page](#)



Follow us on social media for updates

Town of Palm Beach:

- **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/TownPalmBeach/>
- **X** - @townofpalmbeach
- **Instagram** - @thetownofpalmbeach
- **LinkedIn** - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/townofpalmbeach/>

Other Resources

- **Emergency (Police-Fire-Medical)** - 911
- **Police Non-Emergency** - (561) 838-5454
- **Palm Beach Fire Department** - (561) 838-5420
- **Palm Beach Town Hall** - (561) 838-5400
- **Department of Public Works** - (561) 838-5440

