

Whispering Sands Condominium, Inc.

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS
FOR
UNIT OWNERS**

UNIT OWNERS HURRICANE PLAN

Some items not always considered in the event of a hurricane:

1. If you are going to leave town, do it before the I-75 corridor is filled. Depending where the predicted landfall occurs, evacuation notices along the West Coast will slow your progress. For storms originating from the Atlantic Ocean or eastern Caribbean, consider leaving when a Hurricane Warning (24 hour notice before the eye makes landfall) or evacuation notice is issued for the East Coast, not when it is issued for the West Coast. Of course, this depends on the predicted strength of the storm.

In the event of a hurricane coming “up the slot” that is, up through the Gulf of Mexico or western Caribbean, consider leaving when a hurricane watch (36 hours notice before the eye makes landfall) is issued.

2. All businesses require electricity to function. After a storm, unless you have established line of credit, or your grocer, pharmacist or gas station will accept checks, make sure you have plenty of cash before the storm. Plan to have cash for twice your normal living expense for at least 10 days. Credit cards may be useless, banks will not be able to operate and vendors will be more hesitate to accept checks.
3. Prescriptions, medications, baby diapers, formulas, and personal hygiene supplies will be limited after a storm. Have plenty on hand, at least a 10-day supply.
4. Carry personal supply of bottled water for personal drinking supply.

Hurricane Andrew reminded us just how devastating a hurricane can be. No structure may be safe in a Category 4 or Category 5 hurricane. (Hurricane Andrew was a Class 4 storm). Many injuries occurred in buildings previously considered “safe”. Don’t be misled. The safest option is to evacuate to a safer area. A tank full of gas, a 6-hour drive and a few dollars for a motel room is a lot less expensive than the risk of staying to protect your property.

GET READY BEFORE HURRICAN SEASON BEGINS

Hurricanes are one of the forces of nature than change drastically in a single day. However, thanks to today’s technology, we have advance warning of a hurricane’s approach. We can also respond evasively by evacuating to another, safer area if appropriate. Since we do have choices, it only makes sense to plan in advance to protect the persons and things we hold dear, always remembering that life comes first. There is no possession worth dying for.

Each of the following steps is easy and takes a relatively short amount of time to do NOW. On the other hand, each of these suggestions becomes difficult or impossible to do if attempted during Tropical Storm or Hurricane Watch conditions.

1. Attend a hurricane awareness seminar and first aid course in your area.

The hurricane awareness seminar will give you a better understanding of your community's planning, as well as providing you with up-to-date information that is specific to your area. The first aid course will make you better able to help yourself, your family, and others should a hurricane strike. To arrange your attendance in a first aid course in Sarasota County, call the Red Cross business line at 379-9300 or in Manatee County, call 792-8686.

2. Visit your local Emergency Management Office to look at the flood maps.

Emergency Management

Sarasota County: 951-5283

Manatee County: 749-3507

Call ahead so they know to expect you. The trip can be very worthwhile, as these maps are very informative. Many are color-coded and are very detailed. These maps are sometimes published as part of hurricane guides, and are readily available in most county offices, post offices, and even grocery and retail stores. They are free.

3. Don't depend on "vertical evacuation" in a high rise.

Many people in high rise apartments and condominiums think they are safe because they can escape the rising floodwaters. In fact, the storm surge can undermine the foundation of any building, including a high rise, making the whole structure unsafe. Also, hurricane winds are stronger the higher you are. Windows can pop out of their casings, further weakening a building's structure.

4. Make certain everyone in the family can be accounted for and has a safe place to go.

Under no circumstances, should older family members be left to weather the storm alone.

5. Have a contingency plan to cover the possibility that some of your family members may become separated.

Arrange a meeting place as part of your plan or select an out-of-town relative who can serve as a contact point for everyone.

6. If you have no family in tow, establish an extended family of friends who would also welcome the benefits of such planning.

7. If you plan ahead, you may be able to avoid evacuating to one of the shelters that will be established.

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A shelter is an option, but it is better to save yourself and your family the unavoidable crowded conditions while helping to reduce the burden on relief agencies.

8. If you are on oxygen or require special medical attention be sure to make accommodations with your health care provider ahead of time. You can also provide the Whispering Sands office with any pertinent medical information which may be helpful in the event of an emergency; however the office is not responsible for obtaining or providing medical assistance.

9. Plan your evacuation route.

Using a local map, mark and evacuation route. Try to avoid flood prone or otherwise low lying roads. Keep in mind alternative routes in the event you come across fallen trees, flooding, etc. Drive the route and time it. Plan on TRIPLE the amount of time it takes to drive that distance under actual evacuation conditions.

10. Plan how you would evacuate.

Travel by car if possible. Do not tow a trailer or boat. The winds will be very high and the vehicle you're towing may be blown over. Be especially cautious when crossing areas with standing water. If you must traverse these areas, go very slowly to avoid splashing water on the engine. Tap your brakes lightly after you've cleared the standing water to be sure they are working.

11. Take your important papers with you.

- Birth certificates
- Deed or mortgage paperwork
- Insurance policies, homeowners, medical, auto, boat, life
- Lease agreement
- Passport, visa, or voters registration card showing your current address (You may need this to get back into your home)
- Photographs, slides, videos (These are truly irreplaceable items)
- Social Security Cards
- Wills
- Back up disks of home computer data

SUPPLIES TO KEEP ON HAND

Battery operated radio	Flashlight, batteries, and bulbs
Bleach (regular household type) To purify water, add ½ teaspoon Bleach to 5-gal water, or 8 Drops bleach to 1 gal water. Mix Well, then wait 30 minutes before using.	Sanitary supplies, i.e. tooth paste, sanitary napkins, toilet paper, etc.
Canned foods, canned milk, juices, etc. Bottled water	Manual can opener
First aid kit	Waterproof matches & candles
Hand tools, i.e. hammers, saws, nails, screws, etc.	Brooms, mops, pails, sponges, squeegees, etc.
Pots, pans, plates, cups, eating utensils	Water cooler
Trash bags	Camera and film
Heavy work gloves	Safety goggles
Masking tape and duct tape	Work knife
Fire extinguisher	Heavy work boots
Insect repellent	CB radio or cellular phone

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR PETS

Although no pets are allowed at Whispering Sands, you may find this information helpful for friends you know who do have pets.

There is not any geographical point in Florida that is more than 60 miles from saltwater. If you live in Florida you must plan for hurricanes and that includes planning for your pets. Any disaster that threatens humans, threatens animals as well.

- Public shelters will not accept pets. The only exception to this is for seeing eye dogs.

If you wait until the last minutes to evacuate, you may have no choice but to go to a public shelter. If such a situation should force you to leave pets behind, please prepare your children or other family members that their pets may not survive or may be irretrievably lost before you are able or permitted to return to your home. There is no way to know how long it will take before you are permitted back after the storm. Frightened animals quickly slip out open doors, broken windows or other damaged areas opened by the storm. Released pets are likely to die from exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food and water, or on the road where they can endanger others. Even normally friendly animals of different species should not be left together unattended in your unit, since the stress of the storm may cause distinct behavior changes.

Because of limited County resources, sheltering of all pets surviving a hurricane evacuation is the responsibility of the pet owner. The County is prepared to assist you in sheltering your dog or cat only, however, proof of current rabies vaccination is mandatory. The County Animal Control may be contacted for a list of locations to deliver your pet prior to a storm.

Sarasota County Animal Control (941) 861-9500
Manatee County Animal Control (941) 742-5933

Exotic pets (i.e. birds, reptiles, fish and other mammals other than dogs and cats, could be stored in local pet stores or zoological gardens in a safe area.

YOUR PET'S SURVIVAL KIT

- Proper ID collar and rabies tag
- Carrier or cage
- Leash
- Ample food and water for at least 2 weeks
- Spillproof water and food bowls
- Any necessary medications
- Special care instructions
- Newspapers, plastic trash bags to handle waste

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- Proper ID on all belongings
- Make sure your pets have had all their shots within the past 12 months. Pet shelters will require proof of vaccination.

CLEARANCE TIME (SARASOTA & MANATEE COUNTIES) 72 HOURS OR LESS

Clearance time refers to the amount of time it takes from the time evacuation orders are given to the time that the total population evacuating an area reaches the safety of a mainland destination point. The evacuation must take place during “Usable Time” that is, the time BEFORE tropical storm conditions reach the area. This is a critical point. When the National Hurricane Center makes landfall predictions, this generally refers to the time of the center or “eye” of the hurricane reaches land. But the leading edge of the storm, which radiates out from the center for more than a hundred miles, will be battering the land long before the “eye” reaches shore. Sarasota and Manatee County Emergency Management officials will make every effort to make the “Usable Time” to be during daylight hours, but this may not always be possible.

Therefore, if a hurricane is approaching, you must listen for reports of the estimated time that tropical storm conditions are expected in your area. The conditions will include heavy rains and winds in excess of 39 miles per hour. Your hurricane preparations should be completed by this time. If you plan to evacuate, preparations must be finalized in time for you to complete your evacuation from the area before tropical storm conditions occur.

If an evacuation order is issued by the local governmental authority for your area, everyone must leave. Clearance times will vary depending upon the storm strength, speed, and where your condominium is located. Barrier islands, mobile homes, and those in low-lying areas will be ordered to evacuate even in Category 1 storms. If your condominium is not one of the first to be evacuated, you must decide how much risk you want to assume. Packing up and leaving to go to a safer area will be accomplished easier if done earlier rather than later. You may find the major highways in a gridlock if your evacuation is not done soon enough. Those not in residence will be accounted for after the storm.

DURING THE HURRICANE WATCH

When a tropical storm poses a possible threat to the area, a Hurricane Watch is announced (eye may make landfall within 36 hours). This simply means “Be On Guard”.

1. Check the functionality of your storm shutters if you have them.

DURING THE HURRICANE WARNING

If the hurricane reaches a position, which constitutes an appreciable threat, the area is put on a Hurricane Warning (eye will make landfall within 24 hours). This designation does not include immediate danger, but serves to caution residents in the area.

1. Tune to your local news station on your AM dial for further advisories.
2. Safety precautions requiring more than 18 to 24 hours to fulfill should be started. Account for all your vital documents, i.e. insurance policies, mortgage information, banking information, other loans & investments, etc. Make sure you have sufficient emergency supplies.
3. Deploy your storm shutters if you have them. Tape your windows making several “X” patterns using reinforced tape (i.e. duct tape). Tape the inside of the window. This will minimize flying glass should the window be damaged by flying debris.
4. When you evacuate, you should do so 18 or 20 hours or more before the storm makes landfall. Remember it may take TRIPLE the time to make it to your destination. Select your shelter location if you plan to go to a shelter. Your nearest shelter locations are listed below.
5. Stay away from beaches or other low-lying locations which may be swept by high tides or storm waves. Leave those areas early because roads to safe locations may become impassable several hours prior to the arrival of hurricane conditions.
6. Bring in everything that could blow away – garbage cans, bicycles, patio furniture, plants, etc.
7. Move small fragile items to a safer, more confined area in your unit. Should a window break, every small item in the room will be blown around becoming projectiles, which may cause additional damage or injuries.
8. Make sure your flashlight is in good working condition. Get extra batteries if you need to. If it becomes necessary to use candles or other emergency lighting and cooking facilities, be careful of fire.
9. Fill clean containers with drinking water, enough for 2 gallons per person per day. Have large containers of water stored in your bathroom to flush the toilet if the normal supply is interrupted. You may fill your bathtub for this purpose also. Remember that your hot water heater contains about 40 gallons too.

Remember to turn off the power to your hot water heater prior to the storm. This will prevent the heater from burning out should the power be restored with having little or

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no water in the tank. Remember also to turn off the water supply to the hot water heater. This will prevent contaminated water from entering the tank.

10. Be sure to have sufficient food on hand that doesn't need refrigeration or cooking. Turn your freezer and refrigerator on the lowest settings. Avoid opening the doors unnecessarily.
11. Be especially careful of fires. Have a good fire extinguisher available.
12. Keep your radio on. A battery powered radio is a must in case of power failure. Make sure you have extra batteries. Follow the progress of the storm on your local news station where you'll be the first to hear the latest accurate information.

LOCAL RADIO STATIONS WITH EMERGENCY UPDATES

For Sarasota and Manatee Counties:

AM RADIO

WLSS	930
WTMY	1280
WWPR	1490
WENG	1530

FM RADIO

WCTQ	106.5
WSRZ	107.9
WLTQ	92.1
WHPT	102.5

NOAA Weather Radio

162.400 MHZ

EVACUATION TO A HURRICANE SHELTER

This option should be used only as a last resort because of a shortage of shelter space. You should go to a Red Cross shelter only if you have no other place to go or you cannot get to a safer inland location. Should you decided to go to a shelter bring the following items:

YOUR PORTABLE HURRICANE KIT FOR USE AT A HURRICANE SHELTER

- Four days of clothing per person in plastic bags to keep them dry
- Critical medications (i.e. insulin, heart medications, etc.)
- Bedding and sleeping bags, air mattresses, pillows, beach chairs
- Extra food and snacks, "special diet" foods
- Portable ice chest
- Entertainment including games, books, cards and a portable radio with headphones, etc.

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- Important papers
- Disinfectant
- Shampoo, soap, toiletries

PERSONAL SANITATION SUPPLIES

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Towelettes
- Feminine supplies
- Toilet paper
- Soap

ADULT SUPPLIES

- Cards, needlework, books, magazines, stationery, postcards, and stamps
- At least \$10.00 worth of quarters for telephone calls.

Additional consideration would be to take your important papers with you such as your driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies and property inventories. Let friends and relatives know where you will be going. Lock your windows and doors and turn off the electricity for your unit at the main breaker.

NEAREST COUNTY HURRICANE SHELTERS

1. Brookside Middle School, 3635 South Shade Avenue
2. Ashton Elementary School, 5110 Ashton Road
3. Gulf Gate Elementary School, 6500 Lockwood Ridge Road

These maybe subject to change, so check first.

DURING THE STORM

If you cannot leave, or you cannot get into a shelter, the safest procedure is to "stay put". Don't go out at all, except in emergencies.

Close the doors to all rooms in your unit. Should a window break, the wind and water damage may be confined to that room only. If you must ride out the storm in your own unit, find a small room, preferably one with no windows in the strongest interior location in your unit (i.e. interior bathroom or closet) and wait there until the storm passes.

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In case the eye or center of the hurricane passes directly over your area, skies may clear and there may be a lull in the wind lasting anywhere from a few minutes to a half hour or even longer. Remain in a safe place. Do not go outside until you have received word on the radio that the storm has passed and it is now safe to venture out. For up to the minute advisories, keep tuned to your local news stations.

AFTER THE STORM

1. Don't hinder the first aid and rescue work. Stay away from disaster areas unless it's at your own Association.
2. Stay away from broken or low hanging power lines, as well as metal objects which may be in contact with damaged power lines.
3. Do not drive unless absolutely necessary. If you must drive, watch out for debris, fallen trees, fallen wires, washouts, and swollen streams.
4. Be on the alert for rising water in streams, rivers, drainage ponds, swales, etc. even after the heaviest rain has ended.
5. Listen to your local news station for instructions about the necessity of sterilizing drinking water and other precautionary measures.
6. If power has failed, don't open freezer or refrigerator doors unless necessary until power is restored or you can obtain dry ice. Try to preserve the cold for as long as possible so your food won't spoil.
7. Use the attached list to make a list of damage to your unit for your insurance company.

DAMAGE REPORT

<u>ROOM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE</u>
Kitchen	
Dining	
Living	
Bedroom	
Bedroom	
Bedroom	
Bath	
Bath	
Laundry	
Lanai	
Garage/Carport	
Other	

EVACUATION NOTICE

Unit Number or
Address: _____ Date: _____

Name:
(List all) _____ Disabled: ___ YES ___ NO

_____ Disabled: ___ YES ___ NO

_____ Disabled: ___ YES ___ NO

List Disabilities:

Are you a tenant or an owner? _____

In the event of a Hurricane, I (we) intend to evacuate to Whispering Sands Condominium to the following location:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St., Zip: _____

In case if Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St., Zip: _____

Phone: _____

The name of my next to kin is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St., Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____
_____ Date: _____