



Severe Weather / Hurricane

Emergency Response Guide

Chief McGilloway
07/10/2022

Introduction

This emergency response guide has been developed to educate the Useppa community homeowners, employees, and guests in preparation of a natural disaster. This guide has been approved and adopted by the Useppa Island Club Management (UICM)

The intent of this guide is to provide an overview of responsibilities and resources while preparing for severe weather that will impact our island. In addition to your preparation, it will aid in the process for returning to the island. Please go to our website <https://useppafire.org/hurricane-preparation> for information, videos and forms to use as checklists.

When an evacuation order is implemented, it is for your own safety as the goal is to always prevent loss of life and minimize loss of property. Understanding your role is crucial to the sustainability, safety, and success of an evacuation.

Asking yourself these questions in preparation will help:

1. Do I truly know what I need to be sustainable for 3-7 days
2. Do I know what essentials I need, how much, and can I move or transport them myself
3. Do I know where I am going and how I am going to get there...
4. Can I secure my home or do I need assistance, has that been arranged or predetermined
5. Do I have what is needed for my pets to be sustainable for 3-7 days

Some suggestions:

- Have emergency supplies stocked including flashlights, batteries, portable battery- operated radio, non-perishable food, and enough drinking water to last a minimum of three (3) days.
- Do not forget your medications!
- Be sure to install hurricane shutters or designate someone to install them. If you do not have shutters, be sure to have enough $\frac{3}{4}$ in. plywood and hardware to cover all window and doors on hand. Consider the time for installation.
- Remember we are on an island! Boat transportation must be arranged, consider the availability of the launch or other water taxis. Weather changes and conditions will impact travel and timelines, don't be fooled by the clear skies prior!
- If you have your own boat, consider the extra time it will take to secure it.
- Ensure all insurance policies are up to date and will cover total property value. Place all-important documents in secure waterproof containers.
- Check the location of local shelters and hotels. Make sure they are open, and space is available. Public shelters do not accept pets, so special arrangements will be necessary. Alcohol and firearms are prohibited in public shelters.

Responsibility of UIFR

Useppa Island Fire Rescue (UIFR) is in direct contact with the Lee County Emergency Operations Center. We are given detailed information on the progress and intensity of a major storm or event. This information is used when implementing the plan of evacuation.

UIFR will:

- ✓ Notify Useppa Island Club Management (UICM) with developments in information
- ✓ Alert the community via web page and social media.
- ✓ Chief will assist in information sharing and updates and secure the fire station and equipment
- ✓ Make a list of occupied dwellings and attempt contact by going door to door, compiling a census of residents and guest.
- ✓ Guest shall be evacuated immediately. Residents and employees will be required to evacuate no later than 12 hours prior to the storm surge
- ✓ Coordinate with UICM on the launch, transportation schedule and if additional water taxi services are required.
- ✓ Arrange mass transportation from Pine Island with the LCEOC for residents and guest who may not otherwise have their own transport to a public shelter.
- ✓ Track and record events.

Responsibility of Property Owners

It is the responsibility of the property owner to protect their property and ensure that all outside items are moved indoors and/or properly secured to minimize injury and damage to surrounding properties. It is a good idea to have an authorized agent in advance if the owner is not present to secure the property.

Responsibilities of Useppa Island Club

Provide the UIFR with a list of occupied dwellings (residents and guests).

Notify all guest of the situation and prepare them for evacuation.

Notify water taxi services with details of how many guests will require transportation off island. Notify land taxi services as need be for guest.

Provide guest with information as to evacuation routes and location of shelters. Advise them that pets, alcohol, and firearms are prohibited at public shelters.

No visitors are to be brought to the island once an evacuation order has been given. Property owners may be admitted enabling them to secure their property.

No one is to return to the island until it has been determined safe by the UIFR and Lee County Emergency Operations Center (LCEOC).

Emergency Contact Information

Emergencies:	9-1-1
Useppa Island Fire Rescue:	239-283-7578
Useppa Island Club	239-283-1061
Lee County Sheriff:	239-477-1200
Lee County Emergency Operations Center:	239-533-0622
National Weather Service:	813-645-2323 / 813-645-2506-7-8

Taxi Services

Island Girl Charters:	239-633-8142
NCIC:	239-395-1001
Boats and Fun	800-991-3259
Pine Island Taxi (Land):	239-283-7777

HELPFUL LINKS	LOCAL TELEVISION		
	Station	Channel	Website
Useppa Island Fire Rescue https://useppafire.org/hurricane-preparation	CBS-WINK	11	http://www.winknews.com
Lee County https://www.leegov.com/hurricane	NBC-WBBH	20	http://www.nbc-2.com
National Weather Service: http://www.weather.gov	ABC-WZVN	26	http://www.abc-7.com
Emergency Operations Information: https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement	FOX-WFTX	36	http://www.foxnews.com
Lee County - Family Emergency Plan: https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/Documents/Emergency%20Management/2014%20Family%20Emergency%20Plan-Editable.pdf	RADIO		
Florida Power and Light (FPL) https://www.fpl.com/storm/home/prepare.html	NOAA Weather	WXK83	FM 162.475
CERT Community Emergency Response Team Info: http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams			

CAPE WEATHER Web Cam: <http://www.capeweather.com/pineland-marina-webcam.html>

TRAVEL - BRIDGE WARNING - STAY OFF BRIDGES WHEN WINDS REACH **40 MPH**

Q: Does Lee County Close Bridges During Tropical Storms and Hurricanes?

A: Lee County cannot literally “close” bridges during tropical storms or hurricanes. However, we strongly advise drivers to stay off of bridges – and the roads leading to them— when sustained winds reach **40 mph** (tropical storm force). At those speeds, wind gusts can already be much higher. Winds also become stronger at higher elevations, so dangers increase on higher bridges and elevated roadways.

Island Re-Entry

After the storm passes. The UIFR will make access to the island to begin damage assessment and rescue efforts if necessary. Information and assessments will be relayed on to Lee County Emergency Operations Center for reporting, documentation, and resource assistance.

The island will remain closed until permission is given by Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). This will minimize injuries, and property loss. UIFR staff will work with the other emergency services agencies to allow for a quick and safe re-entry to the island so that further recovery work can proceed. Your patience and understanding will be required to ensure the overall safety of the island infrastructure, (power, water, sewer) and the viability of every home or structure. Interference can delay operations, delaying your opportunity to return. Communications will be established through a single channel for optimum notifications.

Hurricane Preparedness

The Lee County All Hazards Guide is on our webpage.

<https://useppafire.org/hurricane-preparation> available to review or download.

This is a valuable resource containing all the information you need in any sort of emergency, including hurricanes. Every home should have a Supply Kit for emergencies prepared prior to hurricane season. The basics are listed below; you might need to tailor it to your particular situation.

All Hazards Supply Kit for Emergencies

- ◆ 3-day supply of water: 1 gallon per person per day
- ◆ 3-day supply of nonperishable food
- ◆ Manual can opener or pop top cans/containers and eating utensils
- ◆ Medical equipment/assistive devices
- ◆ Medications and a list of prescription name, dosage, frequency, and Doctor contact info
- ◆ Cooler with ice pack if medications need to be refrigerated
- ◆ Medical alert tags to identify your disability related needs
- ◆ 3-day supply for service animals or pets: food/water, ID tags, proof of vaccine, Vet contact info
- ◆ Flashlight/batteries
- ◆ Portable battery-powered radio (preferably NOAA Weather Radio)
- ◆ Basic first aid kit and manual
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Whistle
- ◆ Filter face masks (N95 or dust mask)
- ◆ List of emergency contact information
- ◆ Photocopies of important documents (birth certificate, license, insurance information)
- ◆ Cash and coins
- ◆ Sanitation and hygiene items
- ◆ Household chlorine bleach (without additives) and medicine dropper: 9 to 1 water/bleach for use as disinfectant; 16 drops of bleach to 1 gallon water can be used to treat water in emergency
- ◆ Items for infants (formula, diapers, etc.)
- ◆ Items for special needs, handicap, or elderly family members

Recommendations from the Chief

When a major storm approaches, it is best to be prepared for the worst. Securing your property, having enough supplies on hand, and evacuating in a timely manner can save your life. Storms are unpredictable. Their intensity and heading can change at any time with little notice. Storm surge can level entire land masses. Having a plan that includes getting off the island is a part of you and your families' safety.

Be a good neighbor! Look after your fellow islanders and assist whenever possible.

If an evacuation order is given, it means Southwest Florida is in the potential path of a major catastrophic event. It may be given 48 to 36 hours in advance of landfall. The weather may be clear and calm when the order is given. It is your responsibility to ensure your property, family, pets, and guest are safe. Make this the time to get them to safety.

Keep in mind:

- That the roads will be congested as many will be leaving.
- Bridges are dangerous in high winds at or above 40mph
- Hotels will fill up quickly. Most DO NOT take pets.
- The fire station is **NOT** a shelter.
- UIFR staff will also evacuate the island and re-enter as soon as possible.

Sustained winds, accompanying tornadoes and heavy rains can cause substantial property damage or complete loss. The fallen trees and debris left behind will create an unsafe environment and will require the complete shutdown of the island until it can be evaluated and cleared of any hazards. It may be days before returning to the island is possible.

We suggest visiting the Lee County web site <https://www.leegov.com/hurricane> and review our webpage <https://useppafire.org/hurricane-preparation>. Take the possibility of a major event seriously. Plan to help protect your property and keep you, your family, pets, and guests safe.

Be Well... Be Safe!



Robert McGilloway

Fire Chief

Useppa Island Fire Rescue
