



Street Captains: The Calm Before The Storms

As the hurricane season approaches, the Town is taking steps to prepare for potential disasters and to mitigate damages in the event of a major storm. As always, we are implementing a range of measures to ensure that residents are equipped to cope with the effects of severe weather conditions.

The preparation process begins with taking measures to lessen the impact of a hurricane or other significant rain event. Our 2019 Supplemental Emergency Management Plan lays out the steps for how to prepare for and respond to a significant storm. This includes yearly clearing of brush and trees, maintenance of town culverts and swales, securing a retainer for tree removal after a storm, and generator maintenance so that post-storm, the Town office can begin to focus on storm response and interagency communication.

The Street Captain program is a team of residents who reach out to neighbors before and after a hurricane. Officially activated once a Hurricane Watch is initiated in our area, these dedicated volunteers will contact each person in their zone in order to not whether they are staying or leaving for the storm, whether they have any health needs (which may require uninterrupted access to electricity, for example), or whether they need help in preparing for the storm. Once the storm passes, the Street Captains touch base once again in their assigned zone to let residents know which help is available and where/how to access it. We have developed a robust disaster response plan to coordinate the efforts of all Villagers in the event of a hurricane. This plan includes detailed procedures for providing shelter, access to power in order to charge electronics, and a place to take a break from the heat. Other provisions such as clean water, batteries, ice, laundry services, and possibly generators for those with the greatest health needs will be available as well. As the Town begins its post-storm response, these activities will shift over to the AHF Hall. We will coordinate the delivery of essential supplies and services to those affected if needed.

In conclusion, the Town is taking the threat of hurricanes seriously and is taking proactive steps to prepare for the worst-case scenario. It is vital that residents are informed and equipped to cope with the effects of severe weather conditions, and the Town is well-prepared to manage a hurricane-related emergency if and when it occurs.

Take a moment to identify your street captain by referencing the map on the town website (melbournevillage.org) under the tab "Storm Center." And please consider joining the Street Captain program. It's simple to do and so rewarding! If activated, you contact your list of residents using a short information-gathering form and pass that information to the Head of the Street Captains. If you'd like more information about joining the Street Captains, contact Sue Ditty via NextDoor, or phone (321) 626-7554.



HURRICANE SUPPLY LIST

- Prescription Medicine (two-week supply)
- Books, Magazines, Games
- Ice Chest and Ice
- Disposable Plates, Glasses, and Utensils
- Manual Can Opener
- Battery-operated TV/Radio and Clock
- Spare Batteries
- Flashlights/Lanterns
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers and Wipes
- Baby Food/Formula
- First Aid Kit
- Plastic Sheeting/Tarps
- Duct or Masking Tape
- Rain Gear
- Nails, Rope, Lumber, Hand Tools
- Plastic Garbage Bags
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Disinfectant
- Soap and Detergent
- Bleach for Sterilization (unscented, with hypochlorite as the only active ingredient)
- Tincture of Iodine or Water Purification Tablets
- Fire Extinguisher
- Fuel for Generator and Vehicles (do not wait until last minute)
- Propane Gas (for grills)
- Charcoal and Lighter Fluid
- Waterproof Matches/Sterno
- Cash (ATM's may not work after storm)
- Non-Perishable Food (powdered/evaporated milk, canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables, dried pasta, rice, canned soups/chili, dried fruit and nuts, cereal, crackers and cookies, coffee and tea, peanut butter and jelly, pudding, bread)
- Pet Food and Medicine
- Personal Hygiene and Sanitation Items
- Evacuation Plan
- Paper Map

BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER THE STORM



BEFORE

- Bring in all outdoor furniture, potted plants, garbage cans, décor, and anything not tied down.
- Cover windows with shutters or wood.
- Charge cell phones, tablets, rechargeable batteries, and power banks.
- Test and service generator if needed.
- Clean and fill bathtub with water for flushing toilets, washing hands, and boiling for cooking.
- Take video and photos of entire property, exterior of building(s), inside all rooms and closets.
- Locate important papers such as home and vehicle insurance policies, birth certificates, wills, life insurance policies, etc.
- Notify friends, family, and your Melbourne Village Street Captain of your intention to stay or evacuate in advance of the storm.
- Freeze any drinks that can be frozen in order to minimize air space in freezer(s) to help keep items frozen longer.
- Download apps to your smartphone (such as the WESH2 weather app) to help guide you through the storm's approach, arrival, and aftermath.



DURING

- Tune to WESH2 News for updates.
- Stay away from doors & windows. Keep windows closed. It is a myth that opening them will equalize pressure. Stay on the ground floor.
- Stay indoors until the hurricane passes completely.
- Use your cell phone for urgent calls only. Do not use a landline if you hear thunder.
- Do not use candles or kerosene during the storm.
- As winds intensify, go to your safe room. If your house begins to sustain damage, cover yourself with a mattress and pillows. If your safe room is the bathroom, get in the bathtub and cover with a mattress.



AFTER

- Closely supervise children.
- Use extreme caution. There may be dangerous situations all around you.
- If your house is damaged, move carefully to get out. Do not return until inspected by officials.
- Turn off circuit breakers if power goes out and unplug everything. Leave one breaker on with a lamp plugged in so you know when power comes back on.
- If power is out, don't open freezers unless you have to. Food will stay frozen longer if freezers stay closed. Consider opening once a day and taking out what you need for the day and putting it in a cooler.
- Do not drink tap water until officials have announced it's safe.
- Avoid driving if possible because of debris and road blockage.
- At intersections with traffic lights out, treat it as a 4-way stop and use extreme caution.
- Phone lines and cell towers will be damaged or overloaded. Try making calls at "off peak" times.
- If power remains out for an extended period, FEMA will set up relief stations to provide free ice, water, and other necessary items.
- Reach out to your TMV Street Captain to let them know your status.



USEFUL LINKS

Brevard County Emergency Management	brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement
NWS/NOAA Hurricane Preparedness	weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness
Hurricane Season Preparedness Toolkit	www.ready.gov/hurricane-toolkit
National Hurricane Center	www.nhc.noaa.gov/
News13 Interactive Storm Tracker	www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/weather/radar
WFTV Storm Tracker	www.wftv.com/weather/eye-on-the-tropics/
WESH Storm Center	www.wesh.com/hurricanes
FEMA and Federal Aid after a storm	www.fema.gov
Melbourne Village Street Captain Program	www.melbournevillage.org/street-captains