

Hurricane season officially begins **June 1st and goes thru November 30th**. In the last few years there have been a few named storms prior to June 1st. KTS can't control the weather, but we can plan for a major storm event. Everyone's priority needs to be life safety. Storm surge on an Island is the biggest threat 75% of all storm deaths are from storm surge.

Evacuations are ordered when there is a threat of storm surge. Residents need to go inland away from the water.

Storm Predictions for 2022

Another above-average hurricane season is in the forecast for 2022. A prediction issued Thursday by scientists at Colorado State University says there will be [at least 19 named storms](#) and 9 hurricanes — four of which will be Category 3 or higher. An average season normally has 14 named storms, around seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes. Residents living along the U.S. coastline and in the Caribbean should be prepared for "an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall" near their homes, researchers said.

Source: NPR

Lessons learned from Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma gave a false sense of security, we were fortunate! Those who stayed during Irma now think they can ride out any storm.

Hurricane Irma was a category 5 hurricane for three days, with 185 mph sustained winds for 37 hours. The movement of the storms projected path by 30 to 40 miles made a huge impact to this area. The highest sustained winds were only 68 mph, which are tropical storm strength, however, there were wind gusts at times that exceeded 100 mph. Storm surge was originally predicted up to ten feet, and for Lido Beach it would have washed over the entire Island causing extreme damage and loss of life. The Islands sustained damage. Can you imagine the damage of a category 2 to 4 storm?

When residents are ordered to evacuate, YOU MUST LEAVE THE ISLAND. All fire, police, public works, and town representatives all leave the island and do not return until the storm is over. It could be days! No support services will be available to those folks that do not evacuate!

Condo Owner Disaster Planning

When notification has been issued, owners and residents should take the following actions:

- **Personal Property** – All outside personal property needs to be removed from balconies. This includes all furniture and décor items. We want to prevent projectiles from flying at each other.

- **Units** – All windows and doors **MUST** be closed and locked to secure individual units. The water valves MUST be turned off. Electrical and HVAC setting should remain on and in the recommended “AWAY” setting.

Individual Emergency Plans – Each KTS resident should then follow their individual emergency plan and vacate the property to ensure their personal safety. All of us need to have personal disaster plans. Here is information that you may find helpful for creating/updating your plan.

1. Prepare an evacuation plan. Beforehand, decide where you'll go, map the route and create a family communication plan for what to do if family members get separated and can't reach one another.

2. Have a go-kit ready and other preparations. Some items to include are spare car keys, cash (don't count on ATMs working), a two-week supply of medications, phone chargers, hygiene items (toilet paper, hand sanitizer, menstrual products, diapers), important documents (insurance policies, proof of homeownership, lease agreement), a battery-operated emergency radio, a flashlight, batteries, and rain gear.

Make sure to have your gas tank filled **prior** to a storm and/or evacuation. You may not be able to get gas, or you could run into long lines.

3. Use a checklist to make sure you don't forget anything in the stress of the moment. The [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/pdfs/hurricane/EN_Hurricane-Safety-Checklist.pdf) has a checklist at this link

- https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/pdfs/hurricane/EN_Hurricane-Safety-Checklist.pdf

4. People with Special Needs - As part of Sarasota County's disaster preparation, the respective Office of Emergency Management maintains a “People with Special Needs” registration program designed for assisting folks if there is a major weather event.

Sarasota County – <https://www.scgov.net/government/emergency-services/emergency-management/medical-needs-program>

5. If you are caught in a storm or any type of an emergency situation at KTS, HEAD FOR THE STAIRWAYS! Its not going anywhere and it will be the first and fastest place you will be found by first responders. You need to keep stairway doors closed at all times to protect the building and lives. Never use the elevators in an Emergency.

Note, IF the Generator is able to work, it provides only lighting in all hallways, stairways, and at the building exits. No electricity is inside of any unit.

If you are using an oxygen generator, please make sure you have portable oxygen tanks to take with you. DO NOT rely on portable oxygen generators. They require electricity and the batteries don't last long.

Sarasota Facts

Lido Beach is in Sarasota County. When Sarasota County declares a state of emergency, KTS follows direction from Sarasota County under the provisions of Florida Statute 252 related to disaster and related operations response.

Florida tax-free holiday for disaster preparedness

The Florida Legislature established the 2022 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday for May 28 through June 10th. The 14-day tax holiday removes the sales tax from certain items to help residents prepare for hurricane season. Some examples of tax-free items include flashlights and lanterns costing \$40 or less; radios costing \$50 or less; tarps costing \$100 or less; coolers costing \$60 or less; batteries costing \$50 or less; smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide detectors costing \$70 or less; and generators costing \$1,000 or less. The holiday also includes a number of items related to the safe evacuation of household pets.

Please develop your personal plan today to ensure that your family is prepared if we have a major event.

Thank You from all of us at Key Towers South Owners Association, Inc.