



ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF, MARION COUNTY
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Welcome Message from Emergency Management

Marion County Residents,

Marion County is vulnerable to a wide range of hazards, including hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, tornadoes, and hazardous materials incidents, to include a few. Preparing in advance is essential to protect your life, your family, and your property.

We encourage all residents to take the information in this guide into account when making preparedness plans:

Make a Plan

Develop a family emergency plan that includes evacuation routes, shelter go-kit, and a communication strategy in the event you become separated. Be sure to account for pets, children, elderly family members, and individuals with special medical needs.

Build a Disaster Supply Kit

Assemble a disaster supply kit with enough provisions to last at least seven (7) days. Your kit should include water (one gallon per person per day), non-perishable food, medications, a first aid kit, flashlights, extra batteries, important documents stored in a waterproof container, cash, and phone chargers.

Stay Informed

Remain aware of changing conditions by monitoring local weather reports and emergency notifications. Follow guidance from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service, reliable Marion County government websites and social media platforms.

Know Your Risk

Understand the hazards that may impact your area. The inland areas of Florida may face hazards such as hurricanes, severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, extreme heat, and wildfires. Knowing what hazards your areas may face, will help you prepare for future incidents.

Protect Your Property

Take steps to safeguard your home by installing storm shutters, securing outdoor items, and maintaining appropriate insurance coverage, including flood insurance.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility. By taking these steps now, you can reduce the impacts of disasters and ensure the safety of your household.

Thank you for your commitment to preparedness and resilience.



Purpose of the Guide

This guide is designed to help residents of Marion County prepare, respond, and recover from a disaster with confidence.

Why This Guide Matters

- **Protect Lives and Property** – Learn practical steps to reduce risks and safeguard your home, family, and pets.
- **Build Community Resilience** – Work together with neighbors, local agencies, and first responders to strengthen our county’s ability to withstand and recover from disasters.
- **Stay Informed and Ready** – Access reliable information on evacuation routes, emergency contacts, and preparedness checklists so you can act quickly when it matters most.
- **Empower Your Decisions** – Understand the hazards we face and the actions you can take before, during, and after an emergency.

Your Role in Preparedness

Preparedness starts with you. By making a plan, gathering supplies, and staying informed, you help protect not only yourself and your loved ones but also contribute to the safety and resilience of our entire community.

Together, we can ensure Marion County is ready for whatever challenges come our way



Know Your Hazards - Hurricanes

Hurricane Impacts in Marion County

Since 1867, Marion County has experienced:

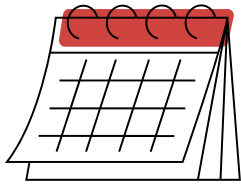
- 20 Hurricanes
- 31 Tropical Storms
- 21 Tropical Depressions
- 1 “not-not rated” storm in 1867



- Hurricanes form in warm tropical waters, producing violent winds, waves, rains and flooding.
- Hurricane paths can be predicted but are influenced by changing weather patterns.
- Florida experiences about 40% of all hurricanes that make landfall in the U.S. While the storm itself typically lasts 12–24 hours, its effects can persist for days.
- Wind and rain may start before the storm arrives and continue afterward. A hurricane begins to break apart upon landfall but can remain dangerous if part of it stays over water, maintaining its strength and causing flooding and higher storm surges.
- The hurricane’s center, or eye, is calm. Surrounding it is the eye wall, a ring of clouds with high winds and heavy rain, often the most destructive part.
- The northeast side is the most likely to cause damage due to tornadoes, high rainfall and storm surges.
- **NEVER** venture outside if you’re in the eye of a storm.











Know Your Hazards - Hurricanes



Hurricane Season June 1 - Nov 30

To Do List:

-  **Know your area hazards**
-  **Make a family plan**
-  **Make an emergency communications plan**
-  **Prepare an emergency kit**
-  **Make a plan for your pets**
-  **Trim trees and secure loose objects**
-  **Photo copy important documents and store safely**
-  **Take photos/ videos of your home and vehicles before the storm**
-  **Locate your water meter and electrical shut off.**
-  **Check insurance coverage**

Tropical Weather Terms to Know:

Tropical Disturbance – A tropical weather system with organized convection (generally 100- 300 miles in diameter) originating in the tropics or subtropics.

Invest – A weather system for which a tropical cyclone forecast center is interested in collecting specialized data sets and/or running model guidance.

Potential Tropical Cyclone – A disturbance that is not yet a tropical cyclone, but poses the threat of tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours.

Tropical Cyclone – A rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rain and squalls.

Tropical Depression – A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.

Tropical Storm – A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.

Hurricane - A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph, or greater.

Saffir Simpson Scale

Category	Wind Speed
1	74-95 mph
2	96-110 mph
3 (major)	111-129 mph
4 (major)	130-156 mph
5 (major)	157 mph or higher





DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

General

- Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Batteries
- Flashlights (*Do not use candles*)
- NOAA Weather Radio (*Battery operated or hand cranked*)
- Cash (*Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm*)
- Cell phone chargers
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:
County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family

Clothing

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

Special Needs Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

Food and Water

- Food (*Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days*)
- Water (*1 gallon per person per day*)
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

Important Documents

- Insurance cards
- Medical records
- Banking information
- Credit card numbers
- Copies of social security cards
- Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- Other personal documents
- Set of car, house, and office keys
- Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
- Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
- Copy of Will

**Items should be kept in a water proof container*

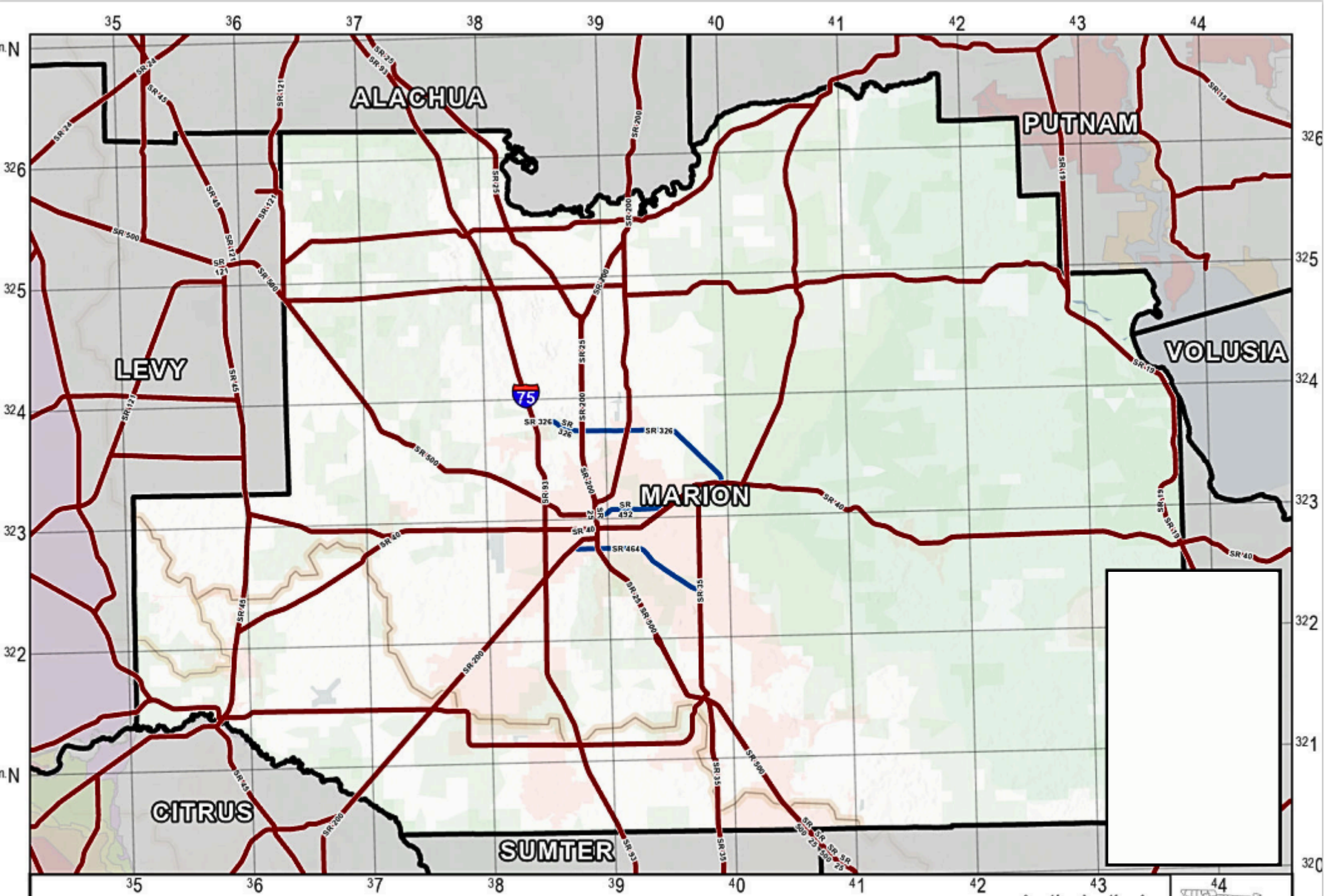
Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

More information on
Emergency Management:
www.AlertMarion.com



MARION
EVACUATION ROUTES

Created By: GIS Section
 Requested By: Standard Map Product
 Date: 11/21/2025
 Time: 10:11 AM
 Path: S:\Projects\Evacuation_Routes\Evacuation_Routes.aprx
 Disclaimer: Map is intended for reference only.
 No warranty for accuracy provided

0 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Know Your Hazards - Flooding

Terms to Know:

Flash Flooding - Flash Floods can be caused by a number of things but is most often due to extremely heavy rainfall from thunderstorms.

River Flooding - when water levels rise over the top of riverbanks due to excessive rain from tropical systems making landfall, persistent thunderstorms over the same area for extended periods of time



Flooding Awareness

- Find safe shelter right away.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Stay informed on emergency situations.
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance. Standard insurance policies **do not** cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.



Flash Flood Watch or Flood Watch

Flash flooding or flooding is possible within the designated watch area - be alert.

Flash Flood Warning or Flood Warning

Flash flooding or flooding has been reported or is imminent - take necessary precautions at once! Get to higher ground!



Know Your Hazards - Severe Weather

FOG

During a heavy fog advisory, visibility is reduced to a 1/4 mile or less. A dense fog can be hazardous to drivers, pedestrians, mariners and aviators. Make sure your headlights, not high beams, are turned on and reduce speed if necessary.

HAIL

Hail is an accumulation of ice pellets that can range in size and fall in showers. Hail is typically seen either leading up to or directly before a severe thunderstorm or tornado forms. Seek shelter immediately if you see hail falling from the sky.

HIGH WINDS

High winds can occur with or without warning and exceed 58 mph. They can have the same effects as a thunderstorm or tornado. Older homes are more at risk of damage if they have not been updated to code. To minimize damage in high winds, keep your home in good repair. Tack down loose roofing, trim trees, and keep gutters clean.

LIGHTNING

Lightning can strike at any time without warning. If you hear thunder, seek shelter. On average, Florida has over 1.2 million cloud to ground lightning strikes per year. Between 2011 and 2020, an average of 27 people lost their lives annually in the United States due to lightning strikes, according to research.

THUNDERSTORMS

The National Weather Service defines a severe thunderstorm as one which produces winds of 58 mph or greater, 1" hail or larger, or tornadoes. Several factors common to all storms are strong winds, large waves and storm surge. Thunderstorms can begin at any time and cause severe damage.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes in Florida move quickly. They may be less destructive than those in the Midwest, but they are just as dangerous if you're in their path. Know where the safe room is in your home or business and be ready to seek shelter immediately. Seek shelter in a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building. Wearing a helmet, if you have one, can offer extra protection. Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon them and go to the nearest sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a sturdy building, get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and drive to the closest sturdy building. **DO NOT** try to outrun a tornado. If flying debris occurs while driving, pull over and park. **As a last resort:** Stay in your vehicle with your seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows and cover your head with your hands and a blanket if possible. If you can safely get lower than the roadway level, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

Terms to Know:

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately if a tornado warning is issued for your area.



Know Your Hazards - Fire

Fire Safety: Be Ready. Stay Safe.

Fires can happen anywhere—at home, outdoors, or during emergencies like droughts or storms. In Marion County, dry conditions and natural vegetation can increase the risk of both structure fires and wildfires. Taking simple steps now can help protect you, your family, and your property.



Fire Safety at Home

Protect your home with these basics:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level
- Test alarms monthly and replace batteries at least twice a year during day light savings time
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and garage
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heat sources

Make an Escape Plan

- Plan two ways out of every room
- Choose a safe outdoor meeting place
- Practice your escape plan with your family twice a year
- Teach children how to call 911 in an emergency



During a Fire

If a fire occurs:

- **Get down, get out, get on the phone** -- do not stop for belongings
- Stay low to avoid smoke
- Check doors for heat before opening
- Call 911 once you are safely outside
- Never go back inside for any reason

If Your Clothes Catch Fire:

- **STOP** – Do not run
- **DROP** – Get on the ground
- **ROLL** – Smother the flames

Community & Neighborhood Safety

- Report smoke or fire immediately by calling 911
- Follow instructions from Fire Rescue and emergency officials
- Be aware of evacuation routes in your area
- Assist neighbors who may need help, especially seniors or those with disabilities



Know Your Hazards - Fire

Wildfire & Outdoor Fire Safety

Marion County can experience dry, windy conditions, increasing wildfire risk.

Reduce Your Risk

- Clear leaves, pine needles, and debris from around your home
- Keep grass trimmed and trees properly spaced
- Store firewood away from structures
- Maintain a defensible space of at least 30 feet around your home

Burning Rules & Safety

- Always follow burn bans and local regulations
- Never burn trash—it is illegal
- Only burn yard debris when conditions are safe
- Keep a water source nearby and never leave a fire unattended
- Fully extinguish fires before leaving

Fire safety starts with you.

Small actions—like checking a smoke alarm or clearing yard debris—can make a life-saving difference.

Fire Rescue is here to protect our community—but prevention is our strongest tool.



Know Your Hazards - Sinkholes and Ground Depressions

What is a Sinkhole?

Sinkholes are a naturally- occurring geologic phenomenon and a common feature of Florida's landscape. In fact, many of the lakes in Florida were once sinkholes. They can be various shapes and sizes ranging from a few inches deep and several feet across to giant holes that can cause significant damage to roads and structures

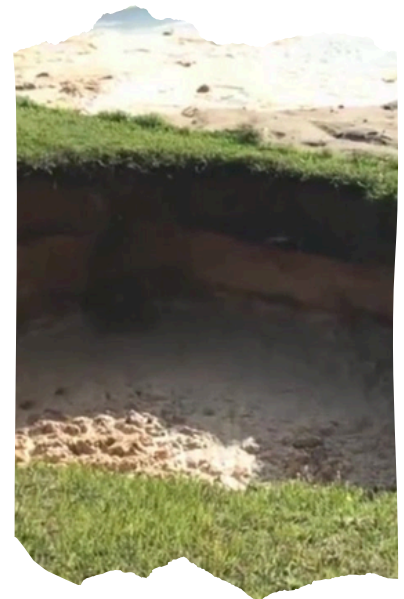
Is it a sinkhole?

Not all surface depressions are sinkholes.

Some other possible causes of depressions on the ground could be from buried debris from past construction activity, decomposition of roots from a tree that was removed, or damages from an abandoned underground tank.

What are some warning signs?

Some sinkhole warning signs include newly exposed foundation or roots, cracks forming along internal or external walls, loss of pool water, and rainwater pooling in areas where it never did before.



Why are sinkholes so common in our area of Florida?

Beneath the sand and silt, the earth in Florida is mostly made up of limestone. Because of its porous nature, water filters through it. Eventually the limestone can dissolve and erode which makes the surface unstable. A sinkhole can occur anywhere in Florida, but they are most common in the central and western areas of Florida.

What should I do if I think there is a sinkhole on my property?

First and foremost, safety is always primary. Keep children and pets away from the area. If your home is threatened, get out immediately. You can contact a geological surveyor or sinkhole remediation company to evaluate the area. Consider contacting your homeowners' insurance. If you are a renter, contact your landlord. Many ground depressions can be repaired. There are several methods used to do this, but every situation is different. We recommend professional advice.



Know Your Hazards - Other Hazards

Boating Safety

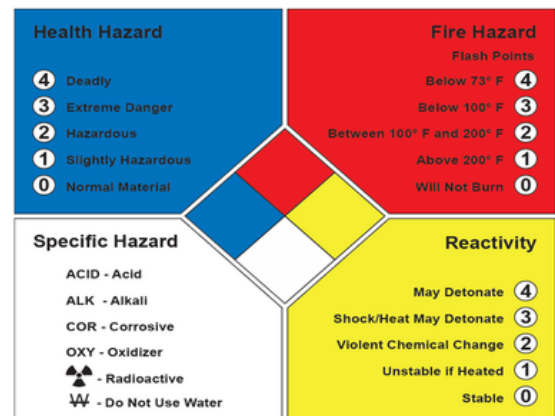
1. **Wear a Life Jacket** - It could save your life if you fall overboard unexpectedly
2. **Pay Attention** - Maintain 360-degree awareness while operating a boat or personal watercraft
3. **Designate a Sober Driver** - Boating while impaired by alcohol or drugs is dangerous and illegal
4. **Check Safety Gear** - Carry an emergency locator beacon, whistle/horn, lights, fire extinguisher, and flares
5. **Take a Safe Boating Course** - Online and classroom courses are available
6. **Watch the Weather** - Be on the lookout for storms
7. **File a Float Plan** - Let family and friends know where you're going and when you plan to return



WEAR IT
A program of the National Safe Boating Council

Hazmat

1. **If told to evacuate:**
 - Move to the designated area/shelter.
 - Stay calm and quickly gather essentials unless told to leave immediately.
 - Keep car windows and vents closed. Do not use the air conditioner until out of the evacuation area.
2. **If told to Shelter-in-Place:**
 - Stay inside until officials say it is safe to leave. Bring pets indoors.
 - Close all doors and windows. Seal gaps with damp towels and duct tape.
 - Turn off heating, cooling or ventilation systems.
 - If advised, cover your mouth and nose with a damp cloth.



Know Your Hazards - Other Hazards

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat often results in the highest annual number of deaths among weather-related disasters.

Tips For Extreme Heat:

1. Find air conditioning, if possible.
2. Drink plenty of fluids.
3. Check on family members and neighbors.
4. Watch for heat illness.
5. Wear light clothing.
6. Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.
7. Never leave people or pets in a closed car.
8. Avoid strenuous activities.



Extreme Cold

When cold weather is in the forecast, it is important to remember the “5 P’s of Cold Weather Safety.” The 5 P’s are:

Protect People: Remember to dress in layers and wear a hat and gloves. It is important to try to stay out of the wind and to stay dry.

Protect Pets: If cold weather is in the forecast, be sure to bring outdoor pets inside or give them a warm shelter to stay in.

Protect Plants: Cover cold sensitive plants to protect them from the dangerous temperatures.

Protect Pipes: Cover pipes and allow outdoor faucets to slowly drip to prevent them from freezing and breaking.

Practice Fire Safety: Use safe heating sources indoors. Do not use fuel-burning devices such as grills; they release carbon monoxide, which is a deadly gas. Also, make sure to use space heaters according to their instructions and be attentive to open flames.



Preparedness - Pets During a Disaster

ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR PETS IN YOUR DISASTER PLANNING!

- Determine where you will go if evacuation is necessary and include your pets in your evacuation plan. Be sure you're equipped to safely transport your pet and that your destination accepts animals.
- Get a microchip for your pet. It's a permanent form of identification that enables your lost or stolen pet to be traced back to you from anywhere in the country. Microchips are available at the Animal Center and many veterinarians' offices. Don't forget to make sure your contact information is up to date by calling the center at 352-671-8700.
- Be sure you can comply with the shelter parameters:
- Owners must provide proof of rabies vaccinations and county licenses for their pets.
- When sheltering birds, please bring a secure cage. Birds should be in their secure cage at all times while at the shelter.
- Owners must stay with pet at shelter but will not be housed in the same building as their pets.
- Exotic animals, aggressive dogs or animals weighing more than 80 pounds are not accepted. Make alternative plans in advance.



You know you should stock up on batteries, canned food and bottled water for you and your family. But make sure to account your pets when calculating the amount of water and food you keep on hand.

Keep the following items compiled and in an easy-to-carry container such as a duffel bag or covered storage bin.

Pet Disaster Preparedness Kit Checklist

- Pet carrier
- Five-day supply of food and water
- Pet first-aid kit
- Special medications your pet needs regularly
- Veterinarian records
- Proof of rabies vaccine
- Spare leash and collar
- Familiar toys and/or blanket to reduce stress
- Pet sanitary items (litterbox, extra bag of litter, paper towels and trash bags to collect pet waste)
- Current photo and description of your pet to help others identify your pet if they become lost.



Preparedness - Special Needs Registry

The Special Needs Shelter Registry is a confidential list of people who will need assistance during an emergency. The registry is updated annually. Residents with special medical needs like nebulizers, oxygen, feeding tubes, or Alzheimer's disease may be eligible for the registry. Before you register, discuss your medical needs with your doctor. **To register, visit Alertmarion.com or call 352-369-8100**

You may be eligible if:

- You have special medical needs but do not require hospitalization.
- You need assistance with basic everyday tasks.
- You have a chronic condition that requires assistance.

You should register if you need:

- Assistance with medication
- Observation by a health professional
- Electricity for life-supporting medical equipment
- Basic nursing care
- Oxygen therapy
- Assistance to evacuate

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THERE'S AN EMERGENCY TO REGISTER.

Pre-registering with the Special Needs Shelter Registry will ensure that you have a back-up plan. If you can stay with family or friends or at a hotel out of the emergency area, you should. If you have special health and medical needs, pre-register and be prepared to go to the special needs shelter. Caregivers are encouraged to go with residents who use special needs shelters.

Special Needs Sheltering

A shelter may be in a school or other public facility and be crowded and noisy. It will not be as comfortable or convenient as a home or hotel. It will not be able to provide the level of care found in a medical facility.

The following basics are provided at the shelter:

- Food and water. If you require a special diet, please bring the food you need.
- Basic medical assistance and monitoring
- An area for you and your caregiver
- Back-up electricity for light and essential medical equipment
- Bring all the medical equipment and supplies you need, along with a caregiver.
- Complex medical equipment or care is not available in the special needs shelters.



STORM PREPAREDNESS

SHELTER ITEMS CHECKLIST For Special Needs Residents

Before an emergency threatens the state, have a plan in place. Preregistration for a spot in a special needs shelter is important and strongly encouraged to make sure necessary resources are available.

Go to [FloridaDisaster.org/Shelters](https://www.floridadisaster.org/shelters) for special needs registration by county.

If you are a caregiver, you should accompany the special needs client. Bring enough items to last at least five days for both you and the client. Use this checklist to prepare for your stay.

Medical Supplies and Equipment

- List of current prescription and over the counter medications. A seven-day supply is recommended.
- Documentation of medical information and service providers. Include provider contact information.
- Diabetes equipment and supplies.
- Catheter supplies.
- Ostomy supplies.
- Nebulizer and supplies.
- Oxygen supplies.
- CPAP/BiPAP machine and supplies.
- Wound care supplies.
- Incontinence supplies.
- Any other specialized medical item you may need.

Assistive Devices and Supplies

- Dentures.
- Hearing aids with extra batteries.
- Extra pair of glasses or dark glasses.
- Cane, walker, wheelchair, electric wheelchair/scooter or any other mobility device.
- Extra batteries and chargers for electrical equipment such as a wheel chair, scooter, etc.
- Any other specialized assistive items you may need.

Food

- Non-Perishable snacks.
- Non-Perishable drinks.
- Special dietary foods if you require them.

Equipment and Entertainment Items

- Cellphone with charger.
 - Radio and compatible headphones or ear buds.
 - Flashlight and batteries.
 - Books, magazines, quiet games, etc.
 - Small personal entertainment devices.
- ### Personal Items
- Body wipes or washcloth and towels.
 - Toiletries.
 - Shoes—especially specialty ones.
 - Extra clothing, including undergarments and socks.
 - Sheets and blanket or sleeping bag and pillow.
 - ID with current address.
 - Important papers and emergency contacts.
 - Insurance card.

Service Animal Supplies

- Food and dishes.
- Plastic bags and other similar items.
- Crate and leash.
- Medicine.

Pet Supplies

Not all shelters allow pets, check with your county for pet-friendly locations near you.

- Food and dishes.
- Plastic bags and other similar items.
- Crate and leash.
- Medicine.

Preparedness - Know Your Home

The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter.

According to recent wind technology research, it's important to strengthen the exterior of your house so wind and debris do not tear large openings in it. You can do this by protecting and reinforcing these five critical areas:

ROOF | STRAPS | WINDOWS | DOORS | GARAGE DOORS

A great time to start securing - or retrofitting - your house is when you are making other improvements or adding an addition.

Remember: Building codes reflect the lessons experts have learned from past catastrophes. Contact Marion County Building Safety to find out what requirements are necessary for your home improvement projects.

- The newer the home is in relation to Florida Building Code (2002 or newer), the more resistant the home may be to hurricanes – as long as the exterior system (Roof, Hurricane Straps, Windows, Doors, Garage Door) are in proper condition.
- Additionally, it is very important that windows, doors and garage doors be impact resistant or have a protective covering (rated hurricane shutters, or 5/8" inch plywood) properly secured to the opening.
- To protect your residence, be sure to anchor all loose items outside (such as garbage cans or lawn chairs) because they could become projectiles in the wind. Fuel and gas lines should be turned off at the tank.

HOME RESILIENCY CHECKLIST

The resiliency of these areas can be verified through a Wind Mitigation Inspection

1. Check roof coverings (ex. shingles), roof decking, secondary water barrier, roof-to-wall connections, wall-to-foundation connections and gables
2. Reinforce soffits
3. If they are not impact resistant, protect windows, exterior doors and garage doors
4. Consider standby electricity with a Whole Home Generator. If using a portable generator, consider utilizing a Circuit Breaker Interlock, or just power devices directly to the generator
5. Trees and shrubs near your home should be trimmed or removed to prevent damage to your home



- When protecting your pool, don't drain it. Leave it full and add some extra chlorine. If possible, cover the pool tightly. If your pool pump could be susceptible to flooding, disconnect it and store it in a safe place.



Preparedness - Insurance

- Flooding is the nation's most common and costly natural disaster. Flood damages are not typically covered in a homeowners' insurance policy and flood coverage must be purchased separately or as an endorsement to their current policy. Even a small amount of water in a home can be very costly.
- It is important to maintain an updated inventory of your home. A home inventory is a list of significant items within each room of your home, with an estimate of the item's current value. These types of inventories can make it easier for you to file an accurate, detailed insurance claim in the event your home is damaged or destroyed in a disaster. As part of the home inventory, you should include photos and proof of ownership. Once you have completed your home inventory, you should check with your insurer to determine if you need additional coverage.
- In the event of a flood, your National Flood Program (NFIP) policy covers direct physical losses to your structure and belongings.
- The NFIP offers two types of coverage; building coverage and contents coverage.
- There are many circumstances that factor into what is covered, such as where you live, the kind of house you live in, the age of your home, and how it's built and arranged.



BEFORE THE STORM

Review your policy/coverage:

Before hurricane season, review your homeowners and flood insurance policy with your agent to ensure coverage. Confirm that your policy covers hurricane damage and flooding.

Strengthen your home:

For areas that are more prone to hurricanes or storms, work with your insurance company to help fortify your home (roof replacement, shingles, hurricane proof glass). By strengthening your home, you could also potentially qualify for lower premiums.

Create a home inventory:

Take pictures and videos of all the rooms in your house. Write down notes about the value of belongings to refer to if a claim is filed.



Recovery - Property Damage and Reporting

Home and Property Damage Reporting

If your property has sustained damage due to a storm or hurricane, make sure that you document the damage with photographs as soon as it is safe to do so. Additionally, you should make emergency repairs such as covering broken windows and damaged roofs, and if your home is uninhabitable, please seek safe lodging.

To report damage to the Marion County Property Appraiser, file a report at www.pa.marion.fl.us, call their office at 352-368-8300, email damageassessment@pa.marion.fl.us, or download the Marion County PA app on a smartphone. Visiting their website or using the app on a smartphone is the fastest way to report damage. Additionally, even if you report damage to the Marion County Property Appraiser, you should still contact your homeowner's insurance company or landlord!

Florida law provides relief pertaining to your property tax assessment due to catastrophic damage from hurricanes, fire, or other calamities. For additional information about this law, please contact our office at 352-368-8300 or email us at mcpa@pa.marion.fl.us.



AFTER THE STORM, SELF-REPORTING FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE CAN BE DONE AT THE MARION COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER WEBSITE



www.pa.marion.fl.us



Recovery - Safety

Traveling On Roads

Avoid driving, especially through flooded roadways. Roadways may have debris that blocks lanes of travel. Treat intersections with inoperable signals as 4-way stops. Do not attempt to remove debris or repair damages.

Stay Alert

Listen to local officials for emergency information. Avoid standing water. Always supervise children. Do not wade in floodwaters.

Fire Safety

Use battery-operated flashlights, instead of candles. Do not burn garbage and debris. Use grills and fire pits with precautions and never leave a fire unattended.

Wildlife Awareness

Be cautious of displaced wildlife like snakes, insects, alligators, or other animals on higher ground due to floods. If threatened by a dangerous animal, **call 9-1-1**. Report injured or endangered animals to Animal Services or wildlife to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Water Safety

Avoid drinking tap water until officials confirm it is safe. Drink bottled or boiled water. Boil water for one minute to kill organisms, and store it in clean, sanitized containers.

Purchasing a Generator

Generators provide power during outages. They can be portable or stationary. Choose the right generator by considering the appliances and equipment you'll use and whether you need multiple or varied outlets.

Generator Safety

- Perform routine maintenance on your generator.
- **NEVER** connect a portable generator to building wiring to avoid dangerous back feed to the power grid. Generators should be installed by a licensed professional.
- Avoid power strips or split extension cords.
- Place generators outside and away from windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Turn off and cool down generator before refueling and check oil level.





CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY: THE BIG PICTURE

Taking your generator outside is the only safe way to use it. It is absolutely mandatory for keeping your family safe from carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, odorless threat. There are other things to know about generator safety including potential electrical hazards. By educating yourself about all risks, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself, your family and others.



www.TakeYourGeneratorOutside.com



1. ALWAYS READ THE OPERATOR'S MANUAL FIRST

2. KNOW THE SYMPTOMS

- HEADACHE
- NAUSEA
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- DIZZINESS
- FATIGUE

IF YOU FEEL SYMPTOMS, LEAVE RIGHT AWAY



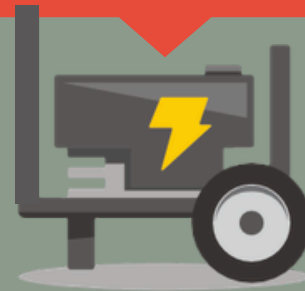
3. STAY ALERT WITH CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

4. PROTECT LINE WORKERS FROM BACKFEED. INSTALL A TRANSFER SWITCH BEFORE CONNECTING A GENERATOR DIRECTLY TO HOUSEHOLD WIRING.

5. CHOOSE GENERATORS WITH CO SHUT OFF SYSTEMS THAT MEET ANSI/PGMA G300-2018 STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

6. KEEP IT OUTSIDE AND FAR AWAY FROM DOORS AND WINDOWS

7. POINT FUMES AWAY FROM HOME AND PEOPLE





PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY CHECKLIST

Here's what to DO.



DO:

PURCHASE A GENERATOR WITH AN **AUTOMATIC CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) SHUTOFF** (COMPLIANT TO ANSI/PGMA G300-2018 OR NEWER). USE A GENERATOR THAT IS **APPROPRIATE FOR THE POWER DEMAND.**



DO:

STAY ALERT AND **INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS** IN A CENTRAL LOCATION OUTSIDE **EACH SLEEPING AREA** AND ON **EVERY LEVEL** OF THE HOME.



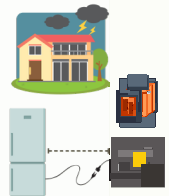
DO:

READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL **FIRST**. OBSERVE THE RECOMMENDED **SAFE DISTANCES** AND FOLLOW **ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.**



DO:

MAKE A PLAN FOR HOW YOU INTEND TO USE YOUR GENERATOR IN AN **EMERGENCY**. THAT MEANS, **PRE-MEASURE THE SAFE DISTANCES** BETWEEN THE GENERATOR AND ANY APPLIANCES/EQUIPMENT TO BE OPERATED, THEN **PURCHASE ADEQUATE LENGTH EXTENSION CORDS** TO REACH THESE DISTANCES.



DO:

USE **EXTENSION CORDS THAT CAN SAFELY POWER ALL OF YOUR ITEMS**. ALWAYS STORE THESE EXTENSION CORDS AND FUEL FOR OPERATION **NEAR THE GENERATOR.**



DO:

KEEP GENERATORS **OUTSIDE** WHILE IN USE, FAR FROM DWELLINGS, DOORS AND WINDOWS. **POINT EXHAUST FUMES AWAY** FROM HOMES, PEOPLE AND PETS.



DO:

SHUT DOWN AND ALLOW GENERATOR TO COOL BEFORE REFUELING.



For more safety tips, visit pgmaonline.com and takeyourgeneratoroutside.com

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HURRICANE CLEAN UP - Separating Your Debris

Debris should be placed curbside, without blocking the roadway or storm drains.

NO PICKUP ZONE

Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up.



Normal Household Trash

Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up with disaster debris. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.



VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

- Logs
- Plants
- Tree branches
- Leaves (do not put in bags) * If you have a lot of leaves and small twigs in plastic bags, please set those aside from any brush piles. ▼



CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

- Building materials
- Carpet
- Drywall
- Furniture
- Lumber
- Mattresses
- Plumbing



APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS

- Air conditioners
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Washers, dryers
- Water heaters



ELECTRONICS

- Computers
- Radios
- Stereos
- Televisions
- Other devices with a cord



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Check with your local government.

* The brush will be ground into mulch, so plastic must be avoided.

DEBRIS SEPARATION

Separate debris into the six categories shown.

DO NOT STACK OR LEAN

Placing debris near or on trees, poles, or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?

If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch, or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between storm-related debris and regular household trash?

- Storm debris includes any trees, tree limbs and shrubs that went down in the hurricane.

When will storm debris be collected from my curb and what should I do to prepare?

- For pick-up schedules and debris information please visit www.marionfl.org

When will my regular household collections resume?

- Regular collections of garbage, recycling, and normal yard waste resume as soon as it is safe for crews to do so.



Volunteer In Your Community

When disaster strikes, it's all hands on deck – everyone, from our local government to community groups, schools, businesses, and all of our Marion County residents.



For more information visit:
<https://www.marionso.com/emergency-management-volunteering>

Get Involved!

CERT: Community Emergency Response Team

The CERT Program is designed to train citizens how to prepare and take care of themselves during times of disasters. This program teaches several topics such as Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology, Disaster Preparedness, Search and Rescue and more. The program also establishes and maintains community response teams around the county that help promote preparedness and provide initial disaster response to their specific community. These teams are exposed to additional advanced trainings to include:

- CPR/AED
- Storm Spotter

G-317: BASIC COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING

Free quarterly CERT training is available for interested citizens. Topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety, medical operations, search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism.

MERT: Marion County Emergency Radio Team

Founded in 1952, the ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) is a reserve communications group supporting government agencies in emergencies. When activated, certified volunteers provide essential communication services. Passionate about ham radio and civic duty? MERT may be for you!



Important Phone Numbers and Resources

Online Resources

alertmarion.com	nhc.noaa.gov
marionso.com	uwmc.org
pa.marion.fl.us	redcross.org
marionfl.org	salvationarmyusa.org
animalservices.marionfl.org	dhs.gov
floodsmart.gov	cdc.gov
floridadisaster.org	fema.gov
myfloridacfo.com	flash.org
mysafeflorida.org	stopthebleed.org
weather.gov	usda.gov

ALERT MARION

Receive **time-sensitive emergency alerts** to your cell phone, home phone, business phones, email and/or text message.

Sign Up at:
Alertmarion.com
or call
352-369-8100

Phone Numbers

Marion County Sheriff's Office	352-732-8181
Marion County Sheriff's Office - Non Emergency	352-732-9111
Marion County Sheriff's Office - Emergency Management	352-369-8100
Marion County Property Appraiser	352-368-8300
Marion County Animal Services	352-671-8700
Marion County Solid Waste	352-671-8465
Disaster Distress Hotline	800-985-5990

United Way - Marion County	352-732-9696
Red Cross	904-358-8091
Salvation Army (Ocala)	352-732-8326
Ocala Electric	352-629-2489
SECO	352-793-3801
Duke Energy	800-700-8744
Clay Electric	352-685-2111
TECO People's Gas	352-622-0111
FEMA Helpline	800-621-3362
NOAA Weather Radio FIPS (Marion County)	012083



