

Super Seniors News June 2014 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

This issue of "Super Seniors News" will be dedicated to "Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness." Hurricane Season official begins June 1st and ends November 30th. This hurricane season begin early developing or updating your hurricane disaster plan. Remember that disasters can happen at anytime and when you plan early, you will be able to protect your life and property.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn W. Gibson

Jacquelyn W. Gibson
Extension Faculty-FCS

**The Family & Consumer Science Program and the
4-H Youth Development Program has a New
Home!!**

New Location: Amelia Earhart Park

401 East 65th Street
Hialeah, FL 33013
Phone: 305-769-4050
Fax: 305-769-4052

Staff

Jacquelyn W. Gibson, FCS - jwgibson@ufl.edu
Cassandra Weston, 4-H - crweston@ufl.edu
Ruth Santos, 4-H - ruth.santos@ufl.edu
Shirley Bender, Secretary - skbender@ufl.edu

Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness-Are You Ready



The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st and ends November 30th each year. Although the past few seasons have been relatively quiet, we should guard against complacency through preparation. You should prepare for the entire season.

A written plan should be developed for your household. The plan should be reviewed frequently with all members of your household. Disasters can happen anytime and when they strike, you may not have much time to respond. The best way to protect your life and property is to plan ahead.

After a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but cannot reach everyone immediately. Your family will cope best by preparing for a disaster before it strikes. One way to prepare is to develop a Hurricane/Disaster Plan that takes into consideration your family's individual circumstances and needs. Making planning a family project will help ensure that everyone will know their responsibilities, and provide a sense of security.

Hurricane Sales Tax Holiday in Florida

The 2014 hurricane sales tax holiday which begins on June 1st and continues through June 14th, gives Floridians the opportunity to prepare in advance for the hurricane seasons. The tax break will cover supplies, such as flashlights, batteries, weather radios, and other basic items.

The 15 day sale is expected to save Florida families \$20 million as they prepare for the upcoming hurricane season by protecting their homes.

Items Included in the 2014 Florida Sales Tax Holiday

- A portable self-powered light source selling for \$20 or less
- A portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weather band radio selling for \$50 or less
- A tarpaulin or other flexible water proof sheeting selling for \$50 or less
- A self-contained first-aid kit for \$30 or less
- A ground anchor system or tie-down kit selling for \$50 or less
- A gas or diesel fuel tank selling for \$25 or less
- A package of AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries, selling for \$30 or less
- A non-electric food storage cooler selling for \$30 or less
- A portable generator that is used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage selling for \$750 or less.

Key Steps to Developing a Hurricane/Disaster Plan

- Learn about your community's emergency plan, evacuation routes and locations of emergency shelters.



- Verify if you live in an evacuation zone by visiting www.miamidade.gov/oem or by calling 3-1-1.
- Develop and review family evacuation plan.
- Check and replenish hurricane supplies.
- Shop for a 3-7 day supply of water and non-perishable food.
- Store at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for preparation/sanitation).
- Post emergency phone numbers at every phone.
- Review insurance policies and make copies (ensure that your insurance is adequate to cover your needs in the event of a disaster).
- Prepare a "Family Document Kit."
- Take an itemized inventory of household goods.
- Take photos of your home inside and out.
- Videotaped documentation of all valuables in home.
- Purchase or prepare a "First Aid Kit."
- Trim trees early.
- Inspect shutters.
- Make plans for persons with special needs, and pets.

Family Document Kit

Always keep these things with you:

- Photo ID
- Medical information such as blood type, health conditions, allergies, and your doctor's name, address and phone number.
- Credit cards
- Cash for emergencies
- Emergency contact information



Place valuables and copies of personal papers in waterproof containers and store them in the highest possible spot. Use plastic bags for large items. You can store many of these documents electronically on a CD, disk, or USB drive. You can also scan some of

these original documents into your computer so that you can have an electronic archive.

Include these items in your Document Kit

- A list of all your important contacts (family, doctors, insurance agents). This should include people to contact in a case of emergency. List at least one person who lives locally and another who lives out of state.
- Banking information
- Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill)
- Insurance documents (address & policy number)
- A list of medications and prescribing instructions
- Passports, social security cards
- Family records (birth/adoption, marriage/divorce, death certificate)
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Driver's license
- Inventory of household goods
- Wills (including living wills and advance directives)
- Deeds
- Stocks and bonds, mutual funds, CDs
- Educational records

Financial Hurricane Tips

When you hear a hurricane watch/warnings, take precautions to protect your family, yourself, your property, and take actions to protect your financial interests. The Florida Department of Financial Services offers these financial tips:

Withdraw Money!



Financial institutions normally close for at least two days after a direct hit. ATMs could be out of order even longer.

So withdraw some money before a pending hurricane.

Credit and Cash:



Have a credit card with at least \$1,000 available. Get receipts for cash purchases before and after a storm.



Paying by Phone or Online:



If you pay bills online or by the phone, do it before a hurricane hits, even if they are not yet due. A hurricane could interrupt phone service, causing you to miss payments and get late charges.

Paying by Mail:



Send payments by mail at least two days before a hurricane strikes. The post office will not pick up mail within 24 hours of a strike.

Confirm Payments!



After a storm, contact those you've mailed payments to and confirm they have received them.

Finance Repairs:



Use credit cards to finance necessary minimal repairs and document all transaction.

Emergency Preparedness and Your Health from the Florida Department of Health

Emergency Preparedness is not just for the young, especially when it involves specific health and medical needs. Elders of all ages can be prepared for any type disaster, with thoughtful planning and coordination's with family, friends and caregivers.

Whether you live independently, with family members or friends, now is the time to develop or review your disaster plan, and put together an emergency

Assistance Program prior to an emergency to ensure help will be given when needed. Pre-registered resident will receive priority during an emergency.

This program is specifically for individuals who live in their own homes or with their families. Residents in nursing homes or assisted living facilities are not eligible for this program as these facilities are required by law to develop an emergency plan and make arrangements for their residents to evacuate to a similar facility.

To obtain an application, call 3-1-1 or download the application at <http://www.miamidade.gov/fire/evacuation-program.asp>. Applications are available in English, Spanish and Creole.

Miami-Dade Alerts

Don't be the last to know when a hurricane is coming. Sign up for weather advisories with Miami-Dade Alerts. Find out more at <http://miamidade.gov/wps/portal/Main/safety>.

Important Phone Numbers & Web Addresses

9-1-1 Emergencies



3-1-1 Government Information

Toll-free outside Miami-Dade County
1-888-311 Dade (3233)
TTY/TDD:305-468-5402

2-1-1 Family Social Services

TTY: 305-644-9449

American Red Cross

305-644-9449
www.miamiredcross.org



Miami-Dade Department of Emergency Management

www.miamidade.gov/oem
305-468-5400



Federal Emergency Management Agency

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
TDD: 800-462-7585
www.fema.gov



Florida Power and Light

1800-4-OUTAGE(1-800-468-8243)
7-1-1(hearing impaired)
www.fpl.com



AT&T

1-888-757-6500
TDD 305-780-2273
6-1-1 (repairs)



Food safety during emergencies

www.foodsafety.gov/keep

Special Needs Registration (Miami-Dade County)

305-513-7700
305-468-5400
TDD- 305-468-5402



Florida Emergency Information Line - 1-800-342-3557

FEMA Fraud & Abuse Hotline (Dept. of Homeland Security) 1-800-323-8603

Elder Helpline (Information & Referral) Florida Dept. of Elder Affairs - 800-963-5337 or 1-800-96-ELDER)

Price Gouging Hotline Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services 1-800-435-7352