

Hurricane Damage Threat and Preparedness

Hurricanes are dangerous! They can be life-threatening and very scary! Those of us who have experienced and lived through a powerful hurricane in Central Florida are fully aware of this fact. If you haven't had such an experience, you need to know that making serious plans and preparing for the worst is a necessity and we want to assist you in completing those tasks for your own safety.

Knowledge is power in preparing for and surviving a powerful tropical storm or hurricane, especially in a retirement community of manufactured homes such as we have in Water Oak Country Club Estates. The Homeowner's Association and our local Sun Management Office have sponsored the Water Oak Emergency Response Team (WOERT), and we are dedicated to keeping our residents informed and fully prepared when we are threatened by our most common weather emergency, a hurricane.

We have condensed the multitude of information sources and recommended preparatory steps available to our residents in the following pages with tips and checklists of actions and supplies that will help keep you safe and relatively comfortable in the event of a dangerous weather event. We urge you to take appropriate actions to keep yourself, your loved ones, your pets, and your property as safe as possible during and after a hurricane if one should hit our community and region.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State of Florida's Bureau of Preparedness and Response, and the Lake County Emergency Management Office, have all organized programs to assist our neighborhoods, and to better organize and prepare to survive a storm like Hurricane Irma (Category 3) that damaged our community in September 2017. The Neighborhood Preparedness Program (NPP) is designed to keep our residents well-informed and prepared with practical planning steps that deal with preparatory actions required to survive a hurricane and the aftermath of a storm in the days and weeks following a serious weather event.

Using Links within this Guide

This guide is put together as a single document, however, to find a specific topic without searching through the entire guide, you can refer to the **CONTENTS BY LINK** which follows.

Find the specific topic you are looking for on the Contents page and click on the link to be taken directly to that part of the guide.

If you hover over the link, your cursor should change into a pointing finger and click with your mouse when this occurs. If you do not see a pointing finger when hovering over the link, then hold down the CNTL key on your keyboard and then click. You will be directed to that section of the guide.

For those who are not well practiced using documents online, you will see blue colored text throughout the document. These are also links that will take you to the Internet and give you more information about that topic in the guide.

If you have any questions or problems using this guide, please contact Linda or Iris by calling them or copy and paste their email address into your computer or laptop.

Linda Spatta at 561-400-5285 or wowebadm2016@gmail.com or

Iris Hageney at 504-810-3940 or ihageney6700@bellsouth.net

READ

GET PREPARED

BE READY!

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For further information on Hurricane Preparation, follow this link to the on-line Lake County Hurricane Guide:

www.lakecountyfl.gov/hurricane_guide



Water Oak's Neighborhood Preparedness Program

and Water Oak Emergency Response Team

Purpose:

The Water Oak Homeowner's Association (HOA) and Sun Communities have taken the initiative to thoroughly plan our response to any possible weather disaster in order that our entire community can react calmly, safely, and efficiently during any tropical storm or hurricane.

Due to limited government resources, Lake County and other first responders may not arrive in a timely manner after a storm. Therefore, our Water Oak community has organized our own Emergency Response Team (ERT) with volunteer Block Captains for each designated geographical grid in Water Oak. The Block Captains will contact each resident and document those with physical, medical, cognitive or transportation limitations who may need additional assistance to adequately plan for their unique situation. To keep our residents well-informed and up to date on any impending storm, we will collect essential resident contact telephone numbers, email addresses, and an emergency contact name and telephone number. Water Oak Management has purchased a telephone "Robo" call system which will enable us to quickly contact all residents with vital information, weather watches, Water Oak gate closures, special precautions due to COVID-19 protocols, and any other subjects impacted by an impending weather emergency.

A street map of Water Oak with numbered grid sections is posted at the end of this section. Please locate your street, lot number, and grid number on the map. Following the map is a list of all Block Captains and their grid area of responsibility.

You should have been visited by your Block Captain recently and given a short **Pamphlet** explaining the Neighborhood Preparedness Plan and our Emergency Response Team's objectives; a **Questionnaire** to be filled out by a member of your household, and a laminated **OK/HELP sign**. Please annotate your Block Captain's name, address, and telephone number on the back of the pamphlet, if it has not already been filled out. If you are a new resident, a part-time resident, or for any other reason may not have been interviewed by your Block Captain yet, please identify your grid number on our map and then determine your Block Captain's name and telephone number. Give them a call and arrange a short meeting. If you have any significant change in your medical status or change of plans in evacuating or using a local county shelter, please call to update your Block Captain.

All Block Captains are volunteers and may not be immediately available, but you can leave a message or contact one of the Neighborhood Preparedness Managers for assistance:

Iris M. Hageney, Water Oak Neighborhood Preparedness Program Manager, 504-810-3940, ihageney6700@bellsouth.net

Ed Freeman, Emergency Response Team Chief, 203-240-3066, ed.freeman@centurylink.net

Be Smart About Safety!
Smart911
is a free 9-1-1 service
Available in Lake County

Be Smart About Safety!

Smart 911

Is a free 9-1-1 service

Available in Lake County



Sign up for Smart911 for free

Smart911.com

**No one plans to call 9-1-1, but now
you can plan - ahead!**

Sign up for Smart911 where you can provide valuable information about yourself, family members, your home, pets and even vehicles that will be immediately available to 9-1-1 responders when you make an emergency call. For example, if someone in your home requires oxygen to breathe, or has a serious heart condition, or that you have two dogs and one cat in your home. You can also provide emergency contact phone numbers for members of your family and list your work address and telephone number.

These details can save valuable seconds or even minutes during an emergency. Add as much or as little to your profile as you want. It is up to you, and **your information is safe and secure, it will only be seen if you should ever have to call 9-1-1.**

Your safety profile is free, private, and secure.

Check out more information about Smart911 on Facebook at:

Facebook.com/Smart911

Seconds save lives! Sign up today!

MAKE A HURRICANE PLAN.



Your Personal Plan for a Weather Emergency

You need to assess your situation honestly and take appropriate steps to ensure your safety and those who live with you in your Water Oak household.

If you believe you are physically and mentally able to perform the tasks of preparing for a storm, and you have the capability to evacuate the area on your own or have arranged for reliable assistance from a family member or dear friend, our Emergency personnel will allow you to take care of yourself without interference.

However, if you determine you do require assistance, we will help you determine the best course of action and help you make those arrangements.

In general, most Tropical Storms (heavy rains, winds vary between 39-73 mph) and Category I and II Hurricanes (heavy rains, winds between 74-110 mph), can be survived in a mobile or manufactured home, **but...** you may still incur significant structural damage. You must be personally prepared with the appropriate supplies to deal with a loss of electricity and possible clean drinking water for a period of 3-5 days on average. Your home should be as secure as you can possibly make it with secure tie-downs and boarded windows. Tornadoes are always a threat in any tropical storm or hurricane and there is little you can do to mitigate the effects of a direct tornado hit in a mobile home. Therefore, you must account for these **VERY REAL RISKS!** If you are physically limited in any way, these risks may very well be asking too much of your body and mind. If your capabilities are limited due to physical or mental capacity, you should have firm plans to evacuate the area and the path of the storm with the assistance of family or friends. If the storm is severe enough for local county shelters to open, you **NEED** to make those arrangements with Lake County Emergency Management Office **NOW** and prepare your personal shelter kit with important papers, clothing, medications, family emergency telephone numbers, and comfort items to endure a stressful few days at an emergency shelter. If you have one or more pets, you need to make adequate preparations for them, too. Your Block Captain and/or another emergency response team member in Water Oak can assist you in making these plans,

filling out paperwork, etc., but you must take the initiative and **request assistance long before** a storm threatens our area. Be sure to include whatever the current guidance given by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on COVID-19 protections, including face masks, disposable gloves, personal hygiene habits including frequent handwashing and disinfectant cleaning, as well as abiding by social distancing (6 ft. apart) as much as possible.

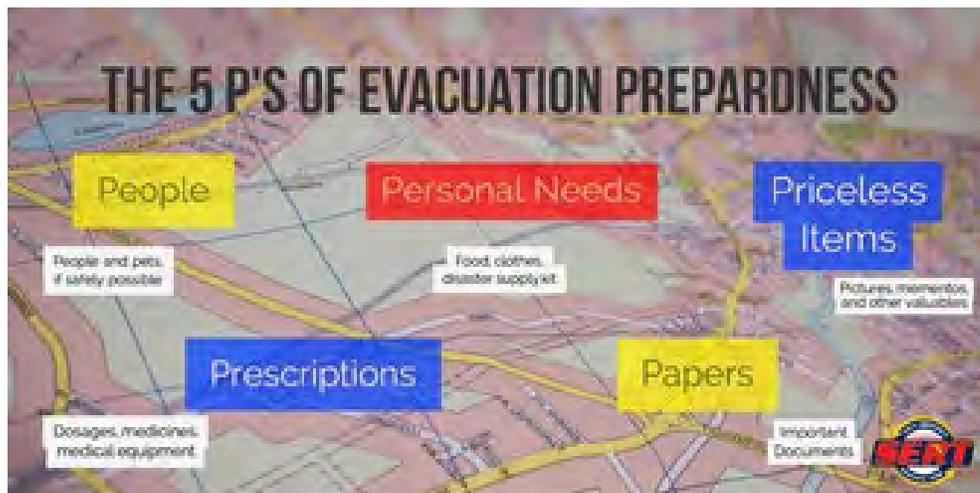


ALERT FLORIDA

Want to receive locally based emergency notifications and weather alerts?
Stay in the know. Sign up for Alert Florida today at
www.FloridaDisaster.org/AlertFlorida

FloridaDisaster.org | @FLSERT

The graphic features a satellite-style background of Florida with a white icon of a lightning bolt striking a cloud with raindrops. A semi-transparent grey box contains the text, and a blue banner at the bottom contains the website and social media information.



THE 5 P'S OF EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

- People** (Yellow box): People and pets, if safely possible
- Personal Needs** (Red box): Food, clothes, disaster supplies kit
- Priceless Items** (Blue box): Pictures, mementos, and other valuables
- Prescriptions** (Blue box): Dosages, medicines, medical equipment
- Papers** (Yellow box): Important Documents

The infographic is set against a background of a city map with yellow lines indicating evacuation routes. A logo for the Florida Department of Emergency Management is in the bottom right corner.

A. Keep Informed

When a major storm threatens our area, staying advised of Weather (WX) reports and advisories from the National Weather Service (NWS) and Lake County Emergency Management Office is essential for your family's safety. Be sure to watch and listen to local and national news stations for the latest reports on the predicted path of the storm and the strength of the tropical storm or hurricane.

1. Local TV stations include:

- ABC affiliate WFTV-TV channel 9
- CBS affiliate WKMG-TV channel 6
- NBC affiliate WESH-TV channel 2
- FOX-TV channel 35
- Central Florida News channel 13

2. Local Radio stations include:

- WLBE 790AM
- WVLG 640AM

Z88.3FM is the local entry point for Emergency Alert Stations (EAS)

3. Local Newspapers include:

The Villages Daily Sun Lake Sentinel The Daily Commercial

4. Internet

- Connect to the Weather Channel for the latest news on any threatening storm

5. Having a battery operated, tone-alert **NOAA Weather Radio** in your home is like

having **your own personal storm or tornado siren** – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every Lake County home, a NOAA Weather Radio should be as common as a smoke detector. A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warning, watches, forecasts, and other non-weather-related hazard information 24 hours a day.



» [An All-Hazards Warning System Brochure](#)



6. Lake County Emergency Notification System

First-time users can [Sign Up](#) to register for immediate weather alert messages that will be delivered to your cell phone or email account. Successful registration requires you to enter a valid email address and *username that will be case sensitive*.

Returning users can view and update their contact information and preferences by clicking the [Login](#) button and entering their username and password.

When the County issues a notification about a potential safety hazard or weather alert, you will receive a message on the voice or text communication methods that you registered. Alerts expire and are removed after 24 hours.

7. [Emergency Emails and Robo Calls](#) from:

- Water Oak Sun Management and the Emergency Response Team will send out email blasts to all Water Oak residents with an email registered in our emergency data base from the Questionnaire you completed for your Block Captain. In addition, the Water Oak Manager will send out “robo calls” on your telephone/cell phone with the latest emergency information we have available from the National Weather Service (NWS) and Lake County Emergency Operations Center. Please heed these advisories.

8. Opening Page Alerts on HOA & Sun Websites throughout the duration of a Hurricane Threat + Water Oak Country Estates Emergency Management Facebook page.

Both the WOHOA resident website, www.wateroakresident.com, the Sun Management Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wateroakcountryclub.com, and the Water Oak Hurricane Preparation Facebook page (www.facebook.com/wateroakemergency); all will feature an opening page Alert for all who sign onto the site whenever a tropical storm or hurricane is threatening Water Oak along with the latest NWS advisory and any watches or warnings that have been issued for local residents.



9. The Mission of National Weather Center is to save lives, mitigate property loss and improve economic efficiency by issuing the best watches, warnings, forecasts, and analyses of hazardous tropical weather, and by increasing understanding of these hazards. NHC is part of NCEP - National Centers for Environmental Prediction. NCEP delivers science-based environmental predictions to the Nation and the global community. They collaborate with partners and customers to produce reliable, timely, and accurate analyses, guidance, forecasts, and warnings for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. Check out their website at: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/mission.shtml>. You can also get a free app to the National Weather Center on your cell phone.

10. Please be aware of and abide by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) current guidance and Florida Health Department's guidance on suggestions to protect against the continuing health effects caused by COVID-19.



B. Know Basic Storm Terminology

- **Tropical Depressions** are cyclones with winds of 38 mph.
- **Tropical Storms** vary with wind speeds from 39-73 mph.
- **Hurricanes** have winds of 74mph and greater.

Category 1 Hurricane: Winds ranging from 74 to 95 mph and can be expected to produce some minor damage to property; with short-term power outages due to snapped power lines and downed trees. Local emergency officials may recommend evacuation for residents in mobile or manufactured homes.

Category 2 Hurricane: Winds range from 96 to 110 mph and can be expected to produce extensive property damage especially significant structural damage to mobile or manufactured homes. Greater wind velocities mean that debris poses a greater threat to humans and animals; significant structural damage to mobile homes, with extensive power outages ranging from a few days to a few weeks are common, and residents are encouraged to stock up on potable water as filtration systems also fail during this time. Local emergency officials may recommend evacuation for residents in mobile or manufactured homes.

Category 3 Hurricane: Winds ranging from 111 to 130 mph cause significant damage to property, humans, and animals. Mobile/manufactured homes and poorly constructed frame homes are often destroyed, and even well-built frame homes commonly sustain major damage. **The decision to evacuate out of the path of the hurricane must be considered very seriously.** Residents with significant medical concerns need to strongly consider evacuation to a special needs shelter, hospital or nursing home that is an established evacuation ready location. Local emergency officials may call for **mandatory evacuation** for residents in mobile or manufactured homes.

Category 4 Hurricane: Winds range from 131 to 155 mph and can cause **catastrophic damage to property, humans, and animals.** Category 4 hurricanes often include long-term power outages and water shortages lasting from a few weeks to a few months, so again, it is important for any remaining residents to have a significant nonperishable food and water supply on-hand. If a Category 4 hurricane is forecasted to hit our area, local officials may issue a **mandatory evacuation**, especially for those of us living in a manufactured or mobile home.

Category 5 Hurricane: Winds at or greater than 155 mph cause catastrophic damage to property, humans, and animals (read: you should be nowhere near this storm!). **Complete or almost-complete destruction of mobile homes** is expected, and nearly all trees in the area will be snapped or uprooted. Power outages can last for weeks and possibly months. Long-term water shortages should be expected as well, and most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. A Category 5 hurricane will always involve a **mandatory evacuation order.**

Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical Storm conditions are **possible** in our area. Watches are issued within 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical force winds (up to 38 mph).

Hurricane Watch means conditions are **anticipated** within 48 hours with winds at tropical strength initially but increasing to intermittent Hurricane strength soon thereafter.

Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical Storm conditions are **expected** in our area.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are **expected** in the area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds but increasing soon thereafter to hurricane force winds.

Extreme Wind Warning/Advisory means that extreme **sustained winds of 115 mph or greater** are expected to begin **within an hour**, immediately take shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

C. Securing your home

Know how to secure your home in the event of damaging winds, heavy rain bands and possible flooding.

- Cover all windows with shutters or wood, if possible. Know that tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, but it does not prevent the window from breaking.
- If possible, secure straps or clips to fasten your roof or overhang to the structure of your home.
- Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and **clear rain gutters completely** so water can flow freely to the ground.
- Reinforce garage doors.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, small planters, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down.
- If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors, and secure and brace internal doors.

1. Snowbirds, Part-time Residents

Even though official Hurricane season is from June 1st thru the end of November, several strong storms and hurricanes have formed and come ashore before and after the official dates. Therefore, **part-time residents and snowbirds cannot ignore both hurricane preparedness** and taking action to secure their property from the ravages of a strong hurricane, even when you are hundreds of miles away.

Primary home owners who may be gone for 4-6 months of the year still need to **take responsibility** for the safety of their property and the safety of any temporary renters or vacationing family members who may be here during the prime timeframe for tropical storms and hurricanes.

The owner is obligated to fully inform anyone living in their Water Oak home for a temporary period, about the dangers and necessary safety requirements should a hurricane arrive while they are in Lady Lake. Temporary residents need to know the mission of our Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the basics of how to prepare your home, pets, and themselves in the event of a tropical storm.

If your home will be **completely vacant** when a storm may hit, it is likewise **your responsibility** to ask a good friend, neighbor, or contracted real estate agent to ensure your home has been thoroughly checked, inside and out, to withstand high winds and heavy rainstorms. This would include, but not be limited to: 1) tightly secure all items outside the home or bring them inside to prevent them from becoming a very deadly flying object that could cause significant damage to other homes or people; 2) ensure the gas and water lines are shut down from the incoming pipes to your house; 3) arrange for debris removal after the storm, as well as, 4) a full assessment of any storm damage to your home, and promptly advise you and arrange to meet an insurance agent to fully inspect all damages. In addition, **all part-time residents should advise the local Sun Management Office of your arrangements** to care for your home while you're away, and the name and telephone number of a local contact who will act as your representative until you return to the local area.

2. Power Outages

In the event a storm should leave you without electrical power, there are a few things you need to consider and help you be ready and stay safe in addition to your normal hurricane preparedness.

3. Gas: Make sure your **gas tank is full far in advance** of an approaching storm. Most people wait until the last minute, rush to get gas for cars and generators, and subsequently gas stations can run out early. You could wait in a long line at a gas station for hours, only to be told the station has completely run out of gas.

4. ATMs: Have extra **cash on hand** in the event no ATMs in our area are accessible and working after a storm has passed; credit cards may not be accepted due to a power outage or lack of electricity.

5. Cell Phones and Golf Carts: Charge your cell phones and golf carts and limit their use after power is out.

6. A/C: Losing air conditioning can be the most uncomfortable side effect of losing power during a storm. Try to prevent as much light from entering and warming your house by covering up windows on the inside. If you have battery operated fans, do not run them unless you are in the room. Fans create a

difference in perceived temperature but do not cool the room; instead, they create a cooling effect by dispersing the heat off your skin. Fans can add heat to a room just by running when no one is in the room.

7. Generators: Determine the size of a generator that will fulfill your basic needs and use them sparingly. Gas and/or propane generators are always a good idea to have on-hand during any type of threatening weather that could cause us to lose power. The time to figure out what type of generator and the wattage you need or desire, is now, depending on what household items you want to maintain power for such as your refrigerator, freezer, or air conditioner. One good website on Amazon that can help you determine your wattage needs is at:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1000422531--](https://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1000422531--Amazon)

[Amazon](#). Plus, if you have a friend or neighbor who is an electrician or knowledgeable about generators, ask them for assistance. **Gas generators can be a dangerous hazard!** Always provide full ventilation when running a generator. **NEVER** operate a generator indoors! Resultant carbon monoxide poisoning can be a silent, odorless killer!

8. Water: In Water Oak, our water comes from underground wells which require generator power to pump it to the surface. Local Sun Management fully tests and maintains the back-up water generator once per quarter and immediately before a storm to ensure all parts are operational in the event of a loss of electricity which usually pumps water for daily use as well as providing sewerage operations. If the Sun water generator fails and may not be operational for 2-5 days or more, **it is imperative that residents take precautions in order to have clean water to drink**, use for minimal cooking, sanitary purposes, and to flush toilets without overwhelming the minimal sewerage operation. All residents should prepare for a loss of clean water by storing commercial water bottles, filling large containers clearly marked for drinking or cleaning, and filling bathtubs or other containers to flush toilets. Large water bladders are available at most hardware stores at reasonable prices for use in an emergency. Sun Management and the Water Oak Emergency Response team will also provide clean water by whatever means possible, either water bottles, a contracted water truck, seeking relief through the County Sanitation Office, or any other solution we can plan for in advance. These supplies will be made available at our **“Gathering Locations”** after a storm passes located at both the Main Clubhouse and the Satellite Clubhouse.

9. Food: Turn your fridge temperature down and/or freeze any food or drinking water that can be frozen if you expect a power outage. Have a cooler

or two with ice packs prepared to cool drinks and snacks after power has been out for more than 4 hours. Remember to store non-perishable, canned foods for an emergency that could last for 3-5 days. Include various snacks that do not require refrigeration. Please be careful to use perishable food items or frozen meats early on after the power has gone out and before they thaw and may become a hazard if eaten. BBQ pits can be used to cook these items and neighbors can share these food items before they are no longer safe to eat. Ensure you have an ample supply of charcoal and fuel (propane or small gas containers but avoid large container storage of highly inflammable fuel that can be very heavy to carry or move) and be sure to share with your neighbors so supplies will last, including food items that can be consumed before they are unsafe to eat.

10. A Disaster Supply Kit will help you and the members of your household to cope with a very uncomfortable situation in the aftermath of a hurricane, especially if we will experience a lack of electricity and fresh, clean water. You should prepare by stocking:

- One gallon of water daily per person and pets for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least 5 days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates and towels; and plastic utensils and cups

Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towels; hand sanitizers; special dietary considerations and incontinence pads, and toilet paper

- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps to cover damaged areas
- At least a two-week supply of prescription drugs for all inhabitants of your household, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicines and antacids
- Be sure to have an ample supply of hand sanitizer to avoid common contaminants on various surfaces you may need to handle
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and flashlight, with extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as your will, insurance records, medical records, bank account, Sun Prospectus, Social Security cards, lists of all credit cards and contact numbers, and a list of personal emergency numbers including family and close friends, doctors, pharmacy numbers
- A camera to document damages for insurance claims
- Rain gear and hard-sole shoes

- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food, water, and medicines
- COVID-19 Face masks, disinfectant wipes
- [Disaster Supply Checklist](#) from Lake County



11. Maintain clean storm drains to avoid flooding

Storm drains are designed to channel excess precipitation, in the form of runoff, away from the road and into the storm water system. Blocked storm drains cannot remove enough water from the roadway, causing localized flooding. Leaves and grass clippings in storm water runoff can also increase nutrient loading, which negatively impacts water quality in lakes and streams. Pet waste, antifreeze and oil all have the potential to be discharged to waterbodies when it rains.

Residents are asked to remember the slogan “Only rain down the storm drain” and follow these tips from Sun Management, Lake County, and the St. Johns River Water Management District to help maintain clear storm drains.

- Keep debris out of storm drains and ditches; prevent leaves and grass clippings from entering. the road and storm drain by blowing them back on the grass or bagging them.
- Clean out gutters and extend downspouts at least four feet from structures.

- Build up the ground around the home to promote drainage away from the foundation.
- Dispose of motor oil, paints, solvents, and other chemicals properly; never dump them!
- Choose appropriate ground covers and include vegetated buffers in your landscape plan.
- Report clogged ditches to Sun Management Administration Office, 352-753-3000.

D. Evacuation



Florida 511 Traveler Information System, a service of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), provides real-time traffic and travel information on interstates, highways, toll roads, and major roadways throughout Florida. This free service gives motorists information about construction and congestion, crashes, important alerts, emergencies, evacuation route updates, and more. Prepare now, before severe weather

strikes. Visit **FL511.com** for interactive roadway maps showing traffic congestion and crashes, travel times, and traffic camera views. Sign up for “My Florida 511” account at **FL511.com** to create custom routes and register for email, text, or phone alerts.

Lake County residents who live in manufactured homes or low-lying areas should prepare themselves for potential evacuations during the 2019 hurricane season. Based on information from the National Hurricane Center, officials in the Lake County Emergency Operations Center could issue an evacuation order for residents of manufactured homes and low-lying areas within 36 hours before a hurricane begins to impact the County.

Because of the destructive power and torrential rainfall of a hurricane, **residents in a manufactured home or low-lying area should never ignore an evacuation order**. While manufactured homes are a popular way of life in Florida, the 2010 U.S. Census data estimate there are nearly 850,000 mobile homes in the state, riding out a hurricane in a mobile home can be a fatal decision.

Manufactured homes are particularly vulnerable to hurricane-force winds. That is why emergency officials recommend manufactured home evacuation even for a less powerful storm, such as a Category 1 hurricane. Although some manufactured homes are built to withstand higher winds than that of a Category 1 hurricane, Lake County Office of Emergency Management officials still believe these residents are safer in a site-built home or general risk shelter.

One of the few defenses a manufactured home has against high winds is proper tie-downs or anchors. Florida law requires all manufactured homes to be anchored. Faulty or unstable anchors can be a problem. A resident may be able to check the condition of the tie-downs, but it is best to hire a licensed mobile home installer or repair company.

While anchors prevent high winds from twisting or lifting the foundation of a manufacture home, they will not inhibit the wind from damaging the roof or walls.

Keep in mind when deciding if you should evacuate the area, stay at a county shelter, or remain in your home that emergency personnel are never dispatched during periods of winds more than 30 mph. Therefore, if you remain in your home and an emergency develops due to wind damage or you have a medical or fire emergency, your wait time for response by trained responders may very well be delayed for a considerable amount of time until weather conditions allow for a safe response.

For those who are strongly considering evacuating your home in favor of safer ground, you need to **plan far ahead to develop alternative contingency plans**. Hurricane paths can change direction suddenly and your evacuation route and ultimate location may need to change accordingly. If you plan on staying at a motel or other commercial location, you need to **ensure you have confirmed reservations**. **If**

you have pets, ensure the place you plan to stay allows pets on their premises. Thousands of people may be evacuating and headed in the same direction, so you need to keep track of traffic congestion and use the **Florida 511 Traveler Information System** described above. Remember to have an **ample amount of cash** since power outages may preclude use of both ATMs and credit cards. Cell phone towers and power sources are often adversely affected by storms miles away from the path of a hurricane. Likewise, gas stations are likely to be without power along your planned route or you may encounter exceptionally long lines at an open gas station.

Where Lake County Shelters are Located

Any Lake County resident who might need transportation assistance to a shelter during a hurricane should complete a Lake County Public Shelter Registry Form. The registry program helps Emergency Management staff to quickly identify and be ready for residents who may not have reliable transportation to a public shelter. For more information, please contact the Lake County Office of Emergency Management at 352-343-9420.

SHELTER LOCATIONS:

Public Shelter

- EAST RIDGE HIGH, 13322 Excalibur Road, Clermont
- EAST RIDGE MIDDLE, 13201 Excalibur Road, Clermont
- EUSTIS HIGH, 1300 E. Washington Ave., Eustis
- **LEESBURG HIGH, 1401 Yellow Jacket Way, Leesburg**
- **MOUNT DORA HIGH, 700 N. Highland St., Mt. Dora**
- **TAVARES HIGH, 603 N. New Hampshire Ave., Tavares**

Public and Pet Friendly

- MASCOTTE ELEMENTARY, 460 Midway Ave., Mascotte
- **ROUND LAKE ELEMENTARY, 31333 Round Lake Road, Mt. Dora**
- SPRING CREEK ELEMENTARY, 44440 Spring Creek Road, Paisley
- **TREADWAY ELEMENTARY, 10619 Treadway School Road, Leesburg**

Public and Pet Friendly and Special Needs

- ASTATULA ELEMENTARY, 13925 Florida Ave., Astatula
- **LEESBURG ELEMENTARY, 2229 South St., Leesburg**
- LOST LAKE ELEMENTARY, 1901 Johns Lake Road, Clermont
- UMATILLA ELEMENTARY, 401 Lake St., Umatilla

- **VILLAGES ELEMENTARY, 695 Rolling Acres Road, Lady Lake**



E. Special Needs Residents

Your Water Oak Emergency Response Team (WOERT) Questionnaire asks if there is a “special needs” person in your household and if you anticipate needing assistance during an emergency in order that we can identify that individual in our data base. We urge you to complete the Lake County Office of Emergency Management Special Needs Registry Form in their online portal (see the link at:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736724736#/login> or you can ask your Block Captain for a paper copy of the form to fill out and return to the Lake County Office of Emergency Management. Upon completion of a thorough review by the Department of Health, a letter will be issued to the mailing address provided on the form advising the applicant of the results of the review.

The Special Needs Application form is considered and treated as a confidential medical document and is kept in a locked file. These records do not fall under public records laws. Your assigned Block Captain or one of our other Emergency Response Team members can assist you with this registration. You may be assigned to a **Special Needs Shelter** if your medical condition requires you to be on life-sustaining medical equipment and are electrically dependent. If your medical condition is beyond the care that can be provided at a Special Needs Shelter, you may be assigned to an **Acute Care Facility** such as a hospital which requires an admit order from your physician in the event of a mandatory evacuation order due to an impending hurricane. Other individuals may be assigned to a **Public Shelter**, especially because we live in a mobile or manufactured home.



Any Lake County resident who might need transportation assistance to a shelter during a hurricane is encouraged to complete a [public shelter registry form](#). The registry program, administered by the Lake County Office of Emergency Management, helps quickly identify, and be on the alert for, residents who may not have reliable transportation to a public shelter when a storm hits. Please take a look at the [Public Shelter Registry Brochure](#) to learn more about this program.

The **Main Clubhouse and the Satellite Club House** located on the grounds of Water Oak Estates **ARE NOT approved storm shelters** because the building structure and amount of glass windows in each facility are not considered safe or survivable in a storm.

There are nine primary shelters in Lake County, and additional safe shelters are available if necessary. In most circumstances, the primary shelters open first. Any Lake County resident who might need transportation assistance to a shelter during a hurricane should complete a Lake County Public Shelter Registry Form. The registry program helps Emergency Management staff to quickly identify and be ready for residents who may not have reliable transportation to a public shelter. Shelter availability and medical protocols due to COVID-19 protection limits will severely impact the acceptable numbers of people allowed into public shelters. Residents who will evacuate from their Water Oak homes should plan on staying with relatives or friends with a site-built home in the local/regional area. Also, hotel/motel reservations should be considered, and firm arrangements made as far in advance as possible. For more information, please contact the Lake County Office of Emergency Management at 352-343-9420. The two closest shelters to Water Oak are located at:

Villages Elementary, 695 Rolling Acres Road, Lady Lake; it is also a pet friendly shelter.

Leesburg Elementary, 2229 South St., Leesburg; it is a Special Needs and pet friendly shelter.

Lake County will announce their final list of shelters available for the 2019 hurricane season in early June, but if you plan to use a county shelter, you should register as early as possible.

Special needs shelters are designed for residents who have registered with the county's [special-needs program](#).

F. Recovery After the Storm

Adhering to the adage '**stop, look and listen for safety hazards**' is a good rule of thumb after a storm passes our area. Other than downed power lines and uprooted trees, a host of other safety concerns could be present after a hurricane, including fire risks and potential illnesses. To greatly reduce chances of becoming a casualty it is important to be able to identify potential hazards and follow the outlined safety tips. Some types of fire-and health-related hazards present during and after a hurricane are:

1. Chemical safety

- Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area. Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources.

2. Electrical safety

- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Have a licensed electrician check the home if damage is suspected.

3. Gas safety

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If there is a suspected gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave all doors open.
- Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.
- Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional.

4. Sanitation and hygiene

- Basic hygiene is important during and after any emergency. Always wash hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected. Wash hands before

eating and after toilet use, participating in clean-up activities and handling articles contaminated by flood water, use hand sanitizers frequently.

- Flooding that occurs after a hurricane may mean that water contains fecal matter from sewage systems and septic tanks. If open cuts or sores are exposed to the floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing them with soap and clean water. Apply antibiotic ointment to reduce the risk of infection.

G. Water Oak Neighborhood Gathering Locations

After a storm has passed and it's safe to go outside, our Block Captains and other Emergency Response Team members will inspect all neighborhoods in Water Oak to evaluate the overall damage, check on individual neighbors who decided to stay-in-place at their homes (**please use your OK/HELP signs** in a front window or door), and report to our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Ceramic Room of the Main Clubhouse. The Water Oak EOC will prioritize our neighborhoods needs and report to the Lake County EOC to ask for emergency assistance. Of course, if you experience a **medical or fire emergency, please call 911 immediately!**

The Main Clubhouse and the Satellite Clubhouse will be used as Neighborhood Gathering locations where neighbors can come together to find out the latest on storm damages within Water Oak and Lake County. Sun Communities has pre-positioned an emergency supply trailer on-site and will distribute needed supplies as necessary and request additional supply trailers from around their sites in Florida to assist those trailer Sun Communities that have experienced the most damage. Keep in-mind, these supplies are limited, and you should prepare yourself with adequate supplies ahead of any pending storm event. COVID-19 protection items will be required (face masks, disposable gloves, disinfecting wipes) for anyone entering either Gathering location.

Hopefully, we will still have a working water generator to supply fresh, clean water to all residents, but if the generator is down, Sun has contracted for trucks to bring in water provided local streets and highways are not blocked and commercial contractors are up and running.

Neighbors with medical experience have offered to give First Aid for minor injuries, but any serious medical problems will still need the assistance of 911 and notification to the Water Oak Emergency Operations Center (EOC) who work with Lake County's EOC. This will ensure whatever emergency medical assistance is required within Water Oak will receive top priority including ambulances, fire trucks, and helicopter evacuations as well.

Both Clubhouses will be equipped with whatever supplies and tools we can supply. If electricity is down, we will have a limited number of generators to

provide some assistance for air conditioning within the clubhouses, cell phone recharging, and some pre-positioned fuels, propane and gas, and determine the need and availability of additional fuel supplies from the local area.

Both electrical power and pumps providing our water may be down for 3-5 days, but the Water Oak EOC in conjunction with Sun Communities will endeavor to relieve our neighbors of any serious shortages by sharing neighborhood supplies among residents and adequately manage the situation we find ourselves in after a major storm. This is the reason we work so hard throughout the year, not just during hurricane season, to plan and prepare our residents, stocking needed supplies of all types and systematically planning for our collective needs will let us respond calmly, safely, and efficiently whenever a disaster strikes.

As always, our neighborhood Block Captains are the key to all of us communicating our status, needs, available supplies, and required assistance in our neighborhoods. The Block Captains will be able to coordinate with the Water Oak EOC and, the EOC will request needed assistance from appropriate government entities.

Please keep your Block Captains well-informed and call the Water Oak Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at **352-458-7146** to report any damage or incident, and to request assistance.



This document was reviewed and updated for currency by the WOERT MGR and CHIEF as of June 1, 2020.



REFRIGERATOR MAGNET

Call 911 immediately for any Medical or Fire Emergency

Relative Contact Name & Tel# _____

Neighbor/Friend Contact Name & Tel# _____

Your Block Captain _____ Tel# _____

Water Oak Emergency Operations Center ____ 352-458-7146 ____

Water Oak Hurricane Prep, General Information, at: www.wateroakresidents.com

Water Oak Emergency Management Facebook at: www.facebook.com/emergencymanagement

Sign-up for Lake Alert Weather Notices at www.lakecountyfl.gov

Florida Evacuation Traffic Status: www.fl.511.com

Sign-up for Smart 911 at: www.smart911.com

Florida Elder Helpline, Lake County: 800-262-2243

Special Needs Registry, Lake County: 352-343-9420

Red Cross, Lake County: 352-793-1901

Sun Management, Water Oak: 352-753-3000

W.O. ERT Manager: Iris Hageney, 504-810-3940

W.O. ERT Chief: Ed Freeman, 203-240-3066

Ensure you get a 30-day supply of prescriptions after a declared Emergency

Complete Disaster Supply List

Ensure you have cash on-hand

Keep important papers in a travel container, ready-to-go!

Water Oak Grid Map

If you would like to contact your block captain find your block number on the map and look up your captain on the following page.



Block Captains

If you need to speak with your Block Captain about a weather emergency; use the following key for contact.

1 Gentry, Debbie	352-217-3179
2 Pending	203-240-3066
3 Perry, Deb	352-350-7895
4 Sisco, Jim	352 516-2253
5 Pacilio, Elsie	610-359-1589
6 Hageney, Iris	504 810-3940
7 Kainrad, Susan	330-931-0778
8 Digilio, Kathy	631-912-5483
9 Freeman, Ed	203-240-3066
10 Campos, Madeline	516-735-8024
11 Dewey, Kathy	517-449-0493
11.1 Freeman, Ed	203-240-3066
12 Pending	203-240-3066
13 Button, Judy	518-335-9458
14 Derrig, John	321-427-8084
15 Wolfe, Joy	936-444-3903
15.1 Karamanos, Joanne	716-803-9937
16 Maloy, Tom	239-777-5454
17 Mirr, Eileen	414-324-8354
18 Knight, Al & Toni	352-751-3563
19 Peters, Richard	406-381-0409
20 Johnson, Jerry	352-636-9230
21 Frontario, Frank	352-259-5184
22 Hill, Jan	352-750-5967
23 Villiard, Donna	781-249-1596
23.1 Auger, Ron	401-829-8427
24 Patti Nadeau	203-240-3066
25 Hill, Jan	352-750-5967
26 Sanders, Caroline	352-561-6461
27 Snyder, Chuck	321-297-7536
28 Corina Slattery	585-703-4445
29 Geary, Jack	757-284-7324
30 Van Mol, Janny	352-750-9473
31 Tomes, Larry	352-750-6481
32 Konefke, Lynn	734-776-1045
33 Morin, Sharon	352-561-8395
34 Phillip, Paula	508-450-1719
35 Macker, Kelly	352-350-3780
36 Garren, Ken	352-552-8486