

# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

For an emergency requiring ambulance service, fire and rescue or the Sherriff's department,

## **call 9-1-1.**

For questions or concerns that are not an immediate emergency situation, call:

- Levy County Emergency Management 486-5213 or the Levy County Sherriff's Office 486-5111
- Gilchrist County Emergency Management 386-935-5400 or the Gilchrist County Sherriff's Office 463-3410
- Dixie County Emergency Management 498-1240 or the Dixie County Sherriff's Office 498-1231

To report a power outage, call CFEC at 1-800-227-1302 or (352) 493-2511.  
Follow the prompts on the outage reporting system.

For information, visit these Web sites:

[www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com)

[www.dixieemergency.com](http://www.dixieemergency.com)

[www.levydisaster.com](http://www.levydisaster.com)

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

Remember, personnel from all of these agencies will respond as quickly as it is safe to do so.

**CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE AND POST THIS SHEET WHERE IT CAN BE EASILY FOUND.**

# It's Hurricane Season

That's right, hurricane season is now upon us, and if you have not taken the time yet to prepare yourself, now is the time to do so – not as the hurricane is bearing down.

Many resources are available with checklists and helpful reminders, and even “already prepared” kits are available. Whether you use one of the Web sites listed on the previous page or make your own list of “must have” items in case of an emergency, being prepared is the best way to ensure that you will come through the emergency situation with as little discomfort as possible.

## THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT HURRICANES? TAKE THIS QUIZ.

Answer true or false:

1. Your family disaster plan should include a phone number for an out-of-state friend or family member.
2. Candles are the best source of light during a power outage.
3. Most deaths that result from a hurricane happen during the height of the storm.
4. It takes as little as two feet of water to carry away most vehicles.
5. Pets are welcome at emergency shelters.
6. Most homeowners' insurance policies cover flood damage.
7. Floridians need be concerned only about hurricanes that make landfall in Florida.
8. Tropical storms or depressions can cause more damage than hurricanes.

## THE ANSWERS

1. True. During an emergency, long-distance phone lines are more likely to be operational. Local phone lines could be affected by the disaster, and cell phone relay towers might be overloaded. With an out-of-state contact, each member of the family could check in to let loved ones know their safety status.
2. False. Candles pose a fire hazard and should not be used during an emergency, especially if there is a chance that a gas line is broken. Instead, use a flashlight and keep extra batteries.
3. False. Most deaths occur after the hurricane, during the clean-up phase, when failure to follow proper safety procedures can lead to chainsaw accidents, falls from roofs or carbon monoxide poisoning deaths from improperly ventilated generators.
4. True. Very little water is needed to move vehicles. Moreover, what looks like shallow water can mask a deep hole where the road has been washed away.
5. False. Due to health regulations, only service animals are permitted in emergency shelters. Contact animal hospitals or kennels outside your evacuation area that will care for animals during an emergency. If you want to stay with your pet, contact hotels to find ones that accept pets.
6. False. Most homeowners' policies do not cover flood damage. If you live in an area that can flood, contact a licensed insurance agent about flood coverage.
7. False. Storms may go any direction, even after landfall has occurred. A storm hitting the Gulf Coast can turn east and sweep into Florida. Storms can also circle or turn back out into the Gulf or Atlantic Ocean to regroup and make landfall at a later time. The point is to keep watching the news and storm track until the threat is completely gone.
8. True. Tropical storms and depressions can be just as damaging or deadly as hurricanes, causing severe flooding, major property damage and even deaths.

## BASIC HURRICANE SAFETY ACTIONS

- Know if you live in an evacuation area. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Have a written plan based on this knowledge.
- At the beginning of hurricane season (June 1st), check your supplies, replace batteries and use food stocks on a rotating basis.
- During hurricane season, monitor the tropics.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio.
- If a storm threatens, heed the advice from local authorities. Evacuate if ordered.
- Execute your family plan.

## FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A person requiring any type of assistance during an emergency situation is classified as someone with a Special Need. If you have some type of "Special Need," please contact your county's Emergency Management office. They will have a form for you to fill out so that they know what your particular need entails.

Once you are registered for the Special Needs Assistance Program, contact your Emergency Management office if there is a change in your "special need" status or if you move out of the area.

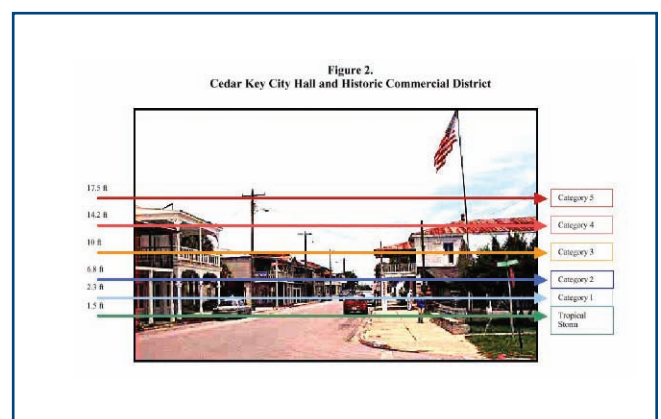
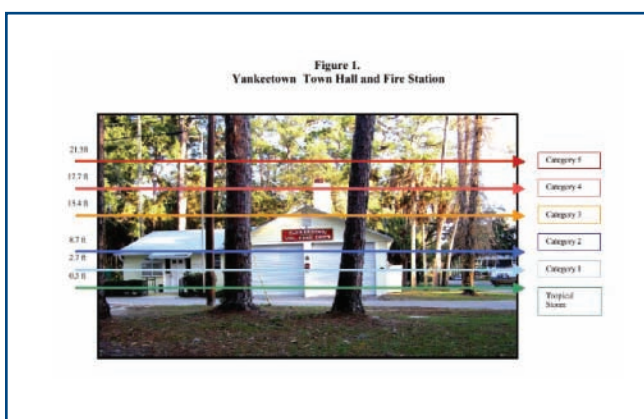
It is important to complete this information and be recognized as a person with special needs so that emergency management can meet those specialized needs in an efficient manner during an emergency situation.

Call your Emergency Management Office today!

## STORM SURGE

*THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF LIFE DURING A HURRICANE IS FROM THE STORM SURGE.*

Storm surge is a major ingredient of a hurricane. Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. Additionally, wind-driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides and the "spring tides" found along our area's coastline. Because much of the densely populated Atlantic and Gulf Coast coastlines lie less than 10 feet above mean sea level, **THE DANGER FROM STORM TIDES IS TREMENDOUS.**



These two pictures illustrate potential flood levels from storm surge. Because of this great risk, it is best to have an evacuation route mapped out and heed evacuation orders when issued.

For more information on storm surge, go to [www.levydisaster.com](http://www.levydisaster.com) or [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) and, under Hurricane Awareness, click on "Be Prepared," then click on "Storm Surge."