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# Hometown News

# HURRICANE

2018

## PREPARATION GUIDE



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# Be Red Cross ready: Safety steps for the hurricane season



AMERICAN  
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Rebecca  
DeLorenzo

Hurricane season starts June 1 and forecasters are predicting an above-average hurricane season this year, with an outlook of 14 named storms and seven hurricanes.

Be prepared. Be informed. Be safe.

Assemble your emergency preparedness kit, create a household evacuation plan that includes your pets, stay informed about your community's response plans, educate your family on how to use the Red Cross Safe and Well website and download the free Red Cross Emergency App. Know what your neighbors plans are, especially your elderly neighbors.

As always, contact the Red Cross with your preparedness questions.

Getting prepared may sound difficult or time consuming but, with a little help from the Red Cross, it's as easy as 1-2-3.

**1. Get a kit.** If you've ever fumbled to find a flashlight during a power outage, you know what it feels like to be unprepared. Make sure you are equipped with the proper supplies you may need in a disaster, and tell everyone in the household where emergency supplies are kept. Include a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water (one gallon per person, per day) for drinking and hygiene, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries, first aid kit, medications, copies of important papers, cell See RED CROSS, page 14

## Hurricane Guide 2018

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## HURRICANE WASTE PREPARATION GUIDE

### BEFORE A TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE (WITHIN 72 HOURS of expected landfall)

**DO NOT** cut down trees or vegetation or do any major yard work. Mass cutting of vegetation places a tremendous burden on the normal solid waste collection process, and collection of this debris a few days prior to landfall of the storm is **not guaranteed**.

**During a Watch or Warning period do not place materials at the curb.** Do not take materials to the landfill or transfer facility. Services may be suspended and facilities may close early to prepare for the storm.

For information on the status of our facilities and collection services, residents should consult the website or monitor local radio and/or television stations for service updates.

### AFTER A TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE HAS PASSED

Waste Management will continue to collect household waste, recyclables and **containerized** yard waste on their regular pre-storm collection schedule unless otherwise announced.

Storm debris collection is expected to start a few days after the storm has passed. Depending upon the severity of the storm and anticipated amount of debris generated it may be collected by either Waste Management, Inc., your regular solid waste hauler, or a separate Disaster Debris Recovery Contractor.

Please be patient! Following a storm, the Solid Waste Management Department's #1 priority is the collection of household garbage. Uncollected garbage attracts pests and contributes to the spread of disease. Garbage should never be mixed with vegetation or storm debris, which can wait for pick up.

### STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION

**Please monitor the County's or your City's website for updates on storm debris collection efforts.** Updates will be made daily and every attempt will be made to identify active collection zones/areas.

If a storm leaves debris on your property, please follow these steps to prepare storm-related debris for collection:

- Debris must be set out on the public right-of-way to be collected, but do **not** place storm debris in roadway or drainage ways.
- Separate your debris. This is extremely important for efficient collection!
- Keep all household garbage and recycling in the carts provided by Waste Management;
- Containerize loose vegetative debris (leaves, grass clippings, pine needles or shrubbery cuttings)
- Cut up trees and limbs into 4' lengths
- Neatly stack construction and demolition debris (drywall, roof shingles, siding, carpet, fencing and docks).
- Call Waste Management for collection of white goods (appliances: refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, etc.)
- **Never place any debris beside utility poles or transformers, under power lines, on top of water meters or sprinkler systems, on storm drains, by fire hydrants, near vehicles, or next to mailboxes or fences. Hidden electrical hazards can injure or kill collection personnel.**

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# Filling up



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

Jeffery Sposaro of Satellite Beach fills up gas cans at Charlie's Auto Repair in Satellite Beach in preparation for Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

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# Prepare your pool for the storm

By Michael Gaffey  
[mgauffey@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:mgauffey@hometownnewsol.com)

ment is made to be outside like that. We have all kinds of rainy weather, and wind and such."

Homeowners also should add a few jugs of chlorine to the pool before the storm arrives to prevent contamination from stormwater and debris.

"Then, depending on how long we're out of power, you may have to add extra, but if you're only out for a week or two, you'll be fine," Ms. Marchant said.

Homeowners shouldn't drain their pool to lower the water level, either, Ms. Marchant added.

"If it goes over, it goes over," she said of the pool's water level. "When you come back after the storm is over, if you need to pump some out, then that's a different story. You never know how much rain we're going to get in a storm. You could be draining a foot or just a couple of inches."

Leave covers off of pools, because debris likely will damage them, Ms. See POOLS, page 11

BREVARD COUNTY -- In the mad rush to prepare to ride out an approaching hurricane at home or evacuate, homeowners shouldn't forget to get their pool ready for a storm, too.

The most important thing to do to protect a pool is to cut power to pump motors, lighting and other pool systems by turning off circuit breakers at a home's electrical panel, said Cindy Marchant, manager of **VeroPool**, which has offices at 300 Ocean Ave., Melbourne Beach, and 645 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian.

"You don't want your pump surging," Ms. Marchant said. "You don't want the power surging with the pump on your pool running."

Ms. Marchant suggested not wasting time trying to protect pool equipment by wrapping the equipment in waterproof plastic.

"It's not really going to stay there," she said of the plastic coverings. "The equip-

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Four circular awards from Hometown News Reader's Choice, one for 2012-2013 and three for consecutive years (2015, 2016, 2017), all featuring a bird logo and the text "READERS' CHOICE".

A large, brightly lit grocery store interior. Large green letters spell out "DOWNTOWN PRODUCE MARKET & MORE" on the wall. Shelves are filled with fresh produce like apples, oranges, and leafy greens. Several people are shopping in the aisle.

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# Think ahead: Build a kit

For Hometown News  
newsm@hometownnewsol.com

A disaster supply kit is a collection of essential items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Assemble your kit, and review it annually. If you evacuate, take your kit with you.

## **Basic disaster supply kit**

We recommend having the following items as part of your basic disaster supply kit:

Water: one gallon of water per person, per day, for at least three days.

Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.

Battery-powered or hand crank radio, a weather radio, and extra batteries.

Flashlight and extra batteries.

First aid kit.

Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties.

Feminine supplies and personal

hygiene items.

Manual can opener for food.

Local maps.

Cell phone with chargers, inverter, or solar charger.

Cash.

Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, etc.

Additional supplies.

Once your basic supply kit has been stocked, additional items to consider include:

Prescription medications and glasses.

Infant formula and diapers.

Pet food and extra water for your pet.

Shot records for pet(s).

A carrier for each pet.

Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.

Complete change of clothing.

Matches in a waterproof container.

Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper

See KIT, page 10

# Jump in the line



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

Ellis Wong of Melbourne waits in line for sand bags at Calvary Chapel Church in Viera as Hurricane Irma approaches in September 2017.

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## BECOME A BIOTEST PLASMA SUPERHERO!

# Know what's coming: An overview of tropical cyclones

For Hometown News  
newsml@hometownnewsol.com

Tropical cyclones are massive storm systems that form over the ocean and move towards land. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale rates tropical cyclones' maximum sustained winds on a Category 1-5 scale. The higher the category, the greater potential for property damage. Threats from tropical cyclones include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes.

## Before

Review your five steps on your Pathways to Preparedness.

Decide early whether you will evacuate, and where you will go if ordered to leave.

## Prepare your home

If you don't live in an evacuation zone, find a safe room within your home — an interior room, closet, or bathroom.

Do not go outside during the storm until the National Weather Service con-

firms the storm has left the area.

## After

Return home when local officials say it is safe.

Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.

Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.

## Quick facts

The difference between a tropical storm and a hurricane is wind speed:

Tropical storms usually bring winds of 39-73 mph.

Hurricane wind speeds are at least 74 mph.

## Know your terms:

Watch – conditions possible within 48 hours.

Warning – conditions are expected within 36 hours.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October.

Tropical cyclones rotate in a count-

er-clockwise direction around the eye. The rotating storm clouds create the "eye wall" which is the most destructive part of the storm.

Evacuate if you live on the barrier islands, along the river, in a flood-prone area, or in a mobile/manufactured home.

## Potential Impacts

Tropical cyclones can cause loss of life and catastrophic damage to property along coastlines and can extend several hundred miles inland. The extent of damage varies according to the size and wind intensity of the storm, the amount and duration of rainfall, the path of the storm, and other factors such as the number and type of buildings in the area, the terrain, and soil conditions.

The effects include the following:

Death or injury to people and animals;  
Damage or destruction of buildings and other structures;

Disruption of transportation, gas, power, communications, and other ser-

vices;

Coastal flooding from heavy rains and storm surge; and

Inland flooding from heavy rains.

## Historic events

Although there are a lot of myths and misconceptions about Brevard County and its hurricane history, and whether or not we even experience hurricanes, Brevard was impacted by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 and Hurricane Irma in September 2017, which caused an estimated \$75 and \$199 million in damages respectively.

Aug. 18-23, 2008, Tropical Storm Fay stalled on top of Brevard County, producing record-setting rain that exceeded 20 inches and caused extensive flooding.

On Aug. 13, 2004, Hurricane Charley swept across the state, affected northern Brevard and produced heavy debris and hurricane force wind gusts.

On Sept. 3, a couple of weeks after Charley, Hurricane Frances affected Bre-  
See CYCLONES, page 8

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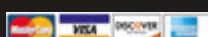
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# Have a plan for your pets

For Hometown News  
newsm@hometownnewsol.com

Having a plan is important, and that plan should include your pets. Pet owners are strongly advised to make prior arrangements for sheltering their pets during emergencies. To find information on hotels that will accept pets, visit:

**Pets Welcome** - <http://www.petswelcome.com>

**Dog Friendly** - <http://www.dogfriendly.com>

**Bring Fido** - <http://www.bringfido.com>

It is strongly encouraged that you make a list of potential hotels ahead of time, and begin calling immediately prior to evacuating. Be sure your plan includes a backup option, in case you can't care for your animals. Pets should not be left unattended.

Remember: What is best for you is usually what is best for your animals.

#### **Pet-friendly shelters**

Pet-friendly shelters are designed to accommodate household pets. Owners

are responsible for the feeding, care, clean-up, and behavior of their pets. Shelter openings are incident-specific. Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open.

#### **Pet disaster supply kit**

If you go to a pet-friendly shelter, you will need:

- Current rabies vaccination certificate
- Shot records
- Leash and collar
- County animal license tags
- Medications
- Create or cage for each animal
- Pet food
- Cleaning supplies
- Newspaper or pet pad
- Comfort items for your pets

#### **Large animals or livestock**

If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.

Ensure all animals have some form of See PETS, page 14



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# Catching waves

© Alex Schierholtz Photography



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Surf's up days after Hurricane Irma made landfall in Brevard County, as a brave surfer takes to the waves.



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# Be prepared to evacuate

For Hometown News  
[newsml@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:newsml@hometownnewsol.com)

and will be provided to residents who register a transportation request either as a part of a special needs application or if a resident has no means of transport to a shelter. Transportation will only be provided to and from a shelter. No other destinations will be provided.

### Stay or go?

When an Atlantic-approaching hurricane threatens Brevard County, a mandatory evacuation will be called for Zone A, which includes the barrier islands, Merritt Island and some mainland low-lying areas. In addition, those who live in mobile or manufactured homes, or in low-lying or flood-prone areas are also vulnerable and should also evacuate, whether on the mainland or the barrier islands.

All portions of the islands are included in an evacuation due to storm surge which can affect causeway and bridge approaches, making it impossible for vehicles to access. In addition, it is not safe for high-profile vehicles, like fire trucks or ambulances, to traverse bridges when wind speed exceeds 40 mph. Storm surge zones are based on scientific information from the National Hurricane Center and the most recent Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. Storm surge depends on a number of different factors and is incident specific.

### Evacuation routes

Know your primary and alternate evacuation routes; choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.

#### Evacuate early.

Travel tens of miles, not hundreds of miles, and shelter locally.

Choose a sturdy home or hotel outside of the evacuation zone, or a public shelter.

Remember, shelter openings are incident-specific, so tune into the local news, radio, social media, or contact the Community Information Hotline (2-1-1) for open shelter locations.

### Transportation assistance to a shelter

Transportation is free to all special needs and primary evacuation shelters,

sections of Brevard.

Category 1 Hurricane Erin made landfall near the Sebastian Inlet in southern Brevard on Aug. 2, 1995. This storm produced wind damage and extensive flooding countywide. It also spawned a tornado in Titusville which caused minor damage.

On Sept. 3, 1979, Hurricane David grazed the coast of Florida as a Category 2 storm. Though it made landfall as a Category 2 storm, the strongest winds were localized to the immediate area around landfall. The highest reported winds -- 70 mph sustained winds and 95 mph gusts -- occurred in Fort Pierce. Because the hurricane remained near the coastline, Hurricane David failed to cause extreme damage in Florida.

## Cyclones

From page 6

vard, producing widespread wind damage. Jeanne came through the same year on Sept. 26. Jeanne's hurricane-force gusts produced extensive wind damage in southern Brevard.

While the southeast section of Brevard experienced some hurricane-force winds, the majority of the county experienced hurricane-force wind gusts and strong tropical storm-force winds.

The center of Category 4 Hurricane Floyd passed about 115 statute miles off the coast of east central Florida on Sept. 15, 1999, producing wind gusts to near 70 mph. The areas hardest hit were coastal

# EFSC launches \$9 million effort to repair Irma-ravaged planetarium

For Hometown News  
newsml@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY - Eastern Florida State College is launching an effort in an attempt to gain \$9 million in needed funding to repair and renovate the Astronaut Memorial Planetarium & Observatory that sustained serious damage from Hurricane Irma.

Eastern Florida officials said they will take this approach:

- The college will add the project to its Capital Improvement Plan filed annually with the state of Florida that lists major funding needs in the hopes the Legislature will allocate the money.

- College officials will also explore the possibility of a capital campaign to determine if there is financial support in the community to fund the project.

The planetarium, which is located on the Cocoa campus, closed for safety reasons after Hurricane Irma and will remain shuttered indefinitely.

Its rooftop telescope, which is one of the largest public telescopes in Florida, escaped damage.

"Unfortunately, the college does not

have the funds to undertake such a large and costly project," said John Glisch, the college's associate vice president for communications.

"It is our hope this dual track approach will lead to ways where we might gain the money that's needed to repair and completely renovate the 45-year-old building."

The Planetarium, built in 1974 and comprising 48,500 square feet, has provided a window to the stars to students and members of the community through its telescope and laser light shows.

However, time has taken its toll on the aging structure during the past decade with a growing list of needed maintenance, renovation and upgrade requirements.

Then, last September came Hurricane Irma, which partially tore off the roof and caused extensive damage. A week of torrential rain that followed shortly afterward made things worse.

To determine the full extent of the hurricane damage and all other problems related to the building's age, the college contracted Cape Design Engineering Co.

to conduct a comprehensive engineering study of the structure.

The study found a number of significant problems classified as "life safety" issues that needed to be addressed immediately.

They included a new roof, new heating and air-conditioning system, new fire suppression system, and new emergency exits.

The study also identified a wide range of needed renovations to modernize the building and bring it up to code for long-term occupancy and use.

Cape Design estimated the total cost for all that work would be \$5 million.

Separately, a study conducted by planetarium officials in 2010 described the need for a large-scale upgrade to the old technology and equipment used for laser light shows and observatory operations.

The cost totaled more than \$3.3 million that, in today's dollars, would likely exceed \$4 million.

That brought the total cost to repair, renovate and update the building and its equipment to \$9 million, Glisch said.

The college has made previous efforts

to secure money from other sources to fix the Planetarium's problems and keep it open.

In 2016, college officials met with officials from Delaware North Corp., which operates Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

College officials thought the company might be interested in taking over the planetarium and adding the venue to its Space Coast visitor experience.

However, after touring the facility, Delaware North declined, citing the building's age and need for costly renovations.

Following Hurricane Irma, college officials also spoke with Brevard Public Schools officials to see if the district might want to assume ownership of the building.

In recent years, the school district has become by far the largest user of the planetarium, sending about 12,000 students annually to visit.

The district also declined, again citing the building's many needs.

For more information on the planetarium project, contact Glisch at (321) 433-7017 or [glischj@easternflorida.edu](mailto:glischj@easternflorida.edu).

## It's all in the preparation



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

Lori Swaiu and Kayla Murray, both of Satellite Beach, fill grocery bags with sand at Desoto Field in Satellite Beach in preparation for Hurricane Irma in 2017.

## Prepared for the worst



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

A shopper stocks up on water as Hurricane Irma approaches.

# Back-up power



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

Shoppers purchase generators at a hardware store before a storm hits.

## Kit

From page 5

towels and plastic utensils.

Whistle to signal for help.

Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.

Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children.

Paper and pen/pencil

### Persons with disabilities, barriers or impairments

By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation. Inventory what you use every day to live independently. Identify the essential items you will need for at least three days. Stock custom essentials in your kit like:

Durable medical equipment.

Assistive technology.

List of medications.

Contact information for doctors.

Have a method to communicate your

impairments and needs.

Pet disaster supply kit.

Don't forget to keep necessary items for your pets as part of your disaster supply kit in case you need to evacuate to a pet-friendly shelter. You will need these items:

Current rabies vaccination certificate.

Shot records.

Leash and collar.

County animal license tags.

Medications.

Create or cage for each animal.

Pet food.

Cleaning supplies.

Newspaper or pet pad.

Comfort items for your pets.

Remember, being ready is the key to maintaining your independence.

Pet Disaster Supply Kit.

### Rotate supplies

Review and change out your supplies before and after hurricane season each year to ensure your information is up to date, and you have enough food that your whole family will like to eat if necessary.



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# Storm Enforcement helps prepare for inclement weather

By Austin Rushnell  
arushnell@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY – One of the most important things you can do to prepare your house for the hurricane season is to reinforce entryways, roofing, and windows.

At **Storm Enforcement, Inc.**, preparing for the wind and the weather is their specialty.

Storm Enforcement has been a long-standing part of Brevard County, and Manager Fabian Clerc takes pride in his work.

"We prepare homes for them to be structurally sound enough to go through hurricanes," Mr. Clerc said. "We

(also) build homes that are hurricane-resistant to 125-mph structures. In the existing homes that we remodel, we (reinforce many aspects of a home), from the soffit, to the doors, to the windows; we try to keep the house pressurized during a storm so that the roof doesn't lift off."

Storm Enforcement also provides services that help homes recover after a hurricane strikes.

"We absolutely (help homes recover)," Mr. Clerc said.

"What we replace things with is always geared towards handling a higher wind-rate, or [solving] a prob-

lem."

Some of the services that Storm Enforcement offers are:

Impact-Resistant Entry Systems

Impact Windows

Residential Construction

Commercial Construction

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One of the reasons that Storm Enforcement stands out from its competition is due to their longevity with working in Brevard County.

"We've been in the area [for a long time], and we're not trying to [simply] make money," Mr. Clerc explained.

"We just love what we do, and we

are successful because of the way that we do things. (Some companies might) put in the cheapest nails they can find, or the cheapest caulking, or labor, when we don't do any of that. We're competitive, and we care."

Storm Enforcement is at 6285 U.S.1, Melbourne. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

To schedule an appointment, learn more about their services, or to set up an appointment, visit their website at [StormEnforcement.com](http://StormEnforcement.com), or call (864) 436-2813.

## Pools

From page 4

Marchant said. And store pool chairs,

tables and toys inside so they don't become projectiles in high winds. Such items can be tossed in the pool as a last resort as long as they're not made of

metal, she added.

Little can be done to protect screened pool enclosures, Ms. Marchant said.

"Depending on the power of the storm, it might be there when you get back or it

might not," Ms. Marchant said.

For more information about VeroPool, call the Melbourne Beach office at (321) 373-2488 or the Sebastian location at (772) 589-6324 or visit [veropool.com](http://veropool.com).

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Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

PRC Property Renovations and Construction, LLC, has a showroom in Melbourne with a variety of roofing materials available for homeowners.

## Roofers ready to fix damage

By Brittany Mulligan  
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY — Last fall, homeowners far and wide across the county experienced various hardships after Hurricane Irma stopped by our coast for an unwelcome visit.

Despite the damage Irma left behind, Brevard is fortunate to have a multitude of establishments understanding and patient enough to help residents make repairs to their homes and businesses.

As the hurricane season approaches, it's smart to begin thinking about how you can best prepare your home to prevent any damage, as well as who you should call for repair work.

**PRC Property Renovations and Construction, LLC** is there to serve residents all over the county. PRC LLC has a central office at 2500 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

"The best thing you can do is fix your roof in advance; if your roof is 15 years old you really need to look at getting it done," said Greg Stow, commercial sales manager at PRC LLC. "Preparation beforehand, you need to know if your building can withstand what's happening during a hurricane."

Mr. Stow noted that it is important to remove all loose outdoor furniture and items to prevent flying debris from hitting the sides of the house or windows.

Windows can be protected by covering them with plywood or installing

impact-rated shutters, he added.

"For older-aged roofs, when you get past 12 years old, you really should start having inspections, getting an idea in budgeting for a re-roof," Mr. Stow said. "Just because it's not leaking doesn't mean that if a storm comes along, it's not going to peel it up like paper."

PRC LLC offers roofing, windows and doors installations, and home repairs. The company offers a showroom that can provide examples of different roofing options available for your home from tile to slate shingles and more.

PRC LLC can also install a metal roof, sun tunnels, skylights, window displays and more.

"We offer the full solution," Mr. Stow said. "We have project managers who oversee the crew. You'll have a liaison between the office and the crew so you'll always have someone to speak to on your project."

PRC LLC is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by appointment on Saturday only.

For more information, call (321) 421-6374, email [help@prcfla.com](mailto:help@prcfla.com) or visit [www.prcfla.com](http://www.prcfla.com).

Over in northern Brevard, **Johnny T. Wiedmann Roofing Inc.**, on 125 Bel Aire Dr. South, Merritt Island, is available to serve residents' roofing needs.

"I was raised here in Merritt Island my entire life, although my family has See ROOFING, page 15

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## Pets

From page 7

identification.

Evacuate animals whenever possible.

Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.

Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers. Note:

It is best to allow animals a chance to become accustomed to vehicular travel so they are less frightened and easier to move.

Ensure destinations have food, water,

veterinary care and handling equipment.

If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside.

## Red Cross

From page 3

phone chargers and extra cash.

**2. Make a plan.** Talk with household members and create an evacuation plan. Practicing the plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event. Choose a contact person from outside of the area and make sure all household members have this person's phone number and email address. It may be easier to call long distance or text if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. If you have pets, keep a phone list of "pet friendly" motels/hotels and animal shelters that are

along your evacuation routes.

**3. Be informed.** Learn about your community's hurricane response plan and find out how you would receive information from local officials in the event of an emergency. Know your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes in case main roads are impassable. Learn First Aid and CPR/AED so that you have the skills to respond in an emergency before help arrives, especially during a disaster when emergency responders maybe delayed. Visit [redcross.org/takeaclass](http://redcross.org/takeaclass) for online and in-class offerings and to register.

You can download the Red Cross Emergency App. Receive emergency

alerts and information about what to do in case of hurricanes and other disasters, as well as locations of open shelters. The free app also includes emergency first aid information and a "family safe" feature which allows people to instantly see if loved ones are okay. Download online at [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps) or search American Red Cross in app stores.

Remember, disaster preparedness isn't just a once-a-year personal plan. Share your plans with your neighbors. Learn which ones may need assistance with storm shutters, who has a chain saw, where will they evacuate if necessary and how can they contact you should a disaster strike when you

aren't home.

Need additional help? That's why we're here! Red Cross preparedness programs can give your family a great start. Find helpful information, checklists and videos on disaster and emergency preparedness at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

Florida's Space Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross is proud to serve Volusia, Flagler and Brevard Counties with offices in Daytona Beach and Rockledge.

For more information, visit [redcross.org/centralflorida](http://redcross.org/centralflorida) or call (386) 226-1400.

*Rebecca DeLorenzo is executive director of the American Red Cross Space Coast Chapter in Daytona Beach.*

## The waiting game



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Kyle Smith of Merritt Island waits in line at Calvary Chapel Church in Viera for sand bags in preparation for Hurricane Irma.

## Getting ready for the storm



Teamwork makes the preparations go faster when it comes to filling sand bags as Hurricane Irma approaches Brevard County in 2017.

Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

# Roofing

From page 13

been here much longer," Mr. Wiedmann said. "Being a third-generation roofing contractor, I have done Florida roofing related-work for almost 20 years. I started my business in 2013."

From commercial roofing to residential roofing and repairs, Johnny T. Wiedmann Roofing Inc., works with metal roofs to shingles and tiles.

Shingle roofs seem to be the most popular in the area due to their longevity and cost efficiency, according to Mr. Wiedmann. Although metal roofs can cost more to install, he said he recommends a stainless steel and aluminum-standing seam panel for a metal roof for Space Coast homeowners, due to the salt air and sunlight that produces ultraviolet rays.

"You also have tile roofs, but you must make sure that your home or building has the payload to carry the weight of the tile themselves," Mr. Wiedmann added. "Finally, you can get into EPDM roofing (which is a durable

synthetic rubber roofing membrane), TPO (a single-ply reflective roofing membrane), granulated peel and stick cap sheets or torch down BUR (Built Up Roof)."

While hurricanes can certainly lift up and remove roofs, Mr. Wiedmann said that the best roof to prepare your home with would be a standing seam metal roof with hidden fasteners and clips to withstand the pressure.

If your roof needs to replaced or fixed, it can take a few days once permits and codes have been inspected and given.

"Your finished product is only as good as what lies below; good things take time," Mr. Wiedmann said. "Something as important as a roof should not be rushed. It should be thoroughly picked apart and done 100 percent accurately. That's why we approach each project as if it is our own roof, our friends' or a family member's."

Mr. Wiedmann learned his trade through serving as a foreman for his father's company, Jack W. Wiedmann's Integrity Roofing. During that time, he learned to pay attention to detail and

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**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

Johnny T. Wiedmann Roofing Inc. has a crew available to speak with homeowners about their roofing needs.

quality.

"When you do the very best anytime you do anything, and do it with sincerity and passion, people will see it, and in the long run it all pays off," Mr. Wiedmann said. "Live life with intention and passion and always hire a licensed

contractor."

Johnny T. Wiedmann Roofing Inc., is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call (321) 368-7966 or visit [www.wiedmannroofing.com](http://www.wiedmannroofing.com).

**"Once again hurricane season has arrived and it's time to start forming our plans." – Rep. Bill Posey**

**Be Prepared, Make Your Plan:** Whether you are a new resident or have lived here for years, it's important to make a plan for emergencies. The first step in making a plan is gathering information. Find your local emergency contacts for the types of emergencies that are most common in your community. Also, find out where to seek shelter in the event of an emergency.

**Other Helpful Tips:** It's important to understand your home's vulnerability, if you live in an evacuation area and how to get the National Weather Service forecasts for your area. Also, you can put together a supply kit, become familiar with evacuation routes and talk with your family and neighbors. Make a list of important emergency contacts and radio/TV stations in your area.

This advertisement and emergency card was prepared and published at taxpayer expense. It is provided as a service to 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Constituents.

### **Emergency Preparedness Contact Information**



**Disaster Assistance:** FEMA – 800-621-3362 and [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

**Hurricane Monitoring:** NOAA Watch – [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

**Flood Insurance:** National Flood Insurance Program 888-379-9531/ [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

**National Weather Service Forecast Office, Melbourne:** 321-255-0212 and [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

**Florida Emergency Information Line:** (only activated during disasters) 1-800-342-3557 or [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

**Brevard County Emergency Operations:** 321-637-6670 or <http://www.embrevard.com>

**Brevard Sheriff:** North Area: 321-264-5208 / East Area: 321-454-6652 / South Area: 321-253-6658 / West Area 321-633-2123

**U.S. Congressman Bill Posey:** DC: 202-225-3671 / Local: 321-632-1776 / [www.posey.house.gov](http://www.posey.house.gov)



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For more information, visit [www.spcabrevard.com](http://www.spcabrevard.com)  
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# All in this together



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

Hundreds of people wait in line for sand bags at Calvary Chapel Church in Viera in preparation for Hurricane Irma in 2017.



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For Hometown News  
[newsml@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:newsml@hometownnewsol.com)

If businesses are ready to survive and recover, the nation and our economy are more secure. America's businesses form the backbone of the nation's economy; small businesses alone account for more than 99 percent of all companies with employees, employ 50 percent of all private sector workers and provide nearly 45 percent of the nation's payroll.

A commitment to planning today will help support employees, customers, the community, the local economy and even the country. It also protects your business investment and gives your company a better chance for survival.

Use FEMA's Business Make a Plan template to develop and share your plan with all of your employees.

### Invest in a preparedness program

It is important to invest in a prepared-

ness program. The following statistics on why your business should have a preparedness program:

Up to 40 percent of businesses affected by a natural or human-caused disaster never reopen. (Source: Insurance Information Institute)

Customers expect delivery of products or services on time. If there is a significant delay, customers may go to a competitor.

Larger businesses are asking their suppliers about preparedness. They want to be sure that their supply chain is not interrupted. Failure to implement a preparedness program risks losing business to competitors who can demonstrate they have a plan.

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# Business

From page 18

replace customers.

Many disasters — natural or human-caused — may overwhelm the resources of even the largest public agencies. Or they may not be able to reach every facility in time.

News travels fast and perceptions often differ from reality. Businesses need to reach out to customers and other stakeholders quickly.

An Ad Council survey reported that nearly two-thirds (62 percent) of respondents said they do not have an emergency plan in place for their business.

## **Developing a preparedness program**

The five steps in developing a preparedness program are Program Management, Planning, Implementation, Testing and Exercises, and Program Improvement. By utilizing FEMA's comprehensive business preparedness planning tool, you will be able to ensure the readiness of your business.

# Hurricane Irma makes landfall



© Hometown News Brevard

Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

A firefighter walks past a damaged building in the wake of Hurricane Irma, which knocked out power and toppled structures throughout Brevard County as it ravaged the state last year.

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# Get coverage, check insurance plans before any hurricanes hit



By Brittany Mulligan  
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY — There's nothing like the force of Mother Nature entering your home and damaging your life's possessions.

This hurricane season, arm yourselves with the knowledge of where your coverage lies with the help of local insurance and claims agents, so if the worst comes to the worst, they can work to get you reparations.

In Brevard County, **State Farm** has agents prepared to help homeowners get through any issues that may arise from the upcoming hurricane season, according to Eric Ponce, State Farm insurance agent.

"When a calamity occurs, it's a substantial disruption to the homeowner," Mr. Ponce said. "State Farm has an army of adjustors that handle catastrophic events. They provide the adjustors with cars, rental homes and hotel rooms."

It's also important for residents to be familiar with what coverage they have, to understand the deductible and how it applies, he added. Mr. Ponce suggested that residents review their policy at least once a year.

When a hurricane nears, Mr. Ponce encourages residents to take a video of

the inventory within their home with a newspaper showing the date the video was taken. Jewelry and other expensive items should be appraised, as well.

"There's a lot of fraud," Mr. Ponce said. "There's some unscrupulous practices by some vendors, so it's important to immediately contact the insurance carrier with the loss."

Mr. Ponce compared State Farm's policies as the "Cadillac" of coverages for a homeowner.

"State Farm is very strong, financially, and can handle two or three, even four hurricanes in a calendar year," he explained. "State Farm has mobile homes that are brought in that are command centers with electronic and wireless equipment, and the latest technology, to handle any loss."

State Farm has 33 agents throughout Brevard from Cocoa to Indian River County and farther south.

State Farm offices are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and available on an appointment basis for Saturday.

For more information, visit [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com).

State Farm agents across the county are available to help homeowners with their insurance needs this hurricane season. Homeowners should document their belongings before a hurricane is scheduled to arrive, and review any insurance policies they have at least once a year with their local agent.

**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

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**Emergency Management Website**

During a disaster, the Brevard County Emergency Management website will display all of the latest information.

Emergency Management press releases

News releases and information about news conferences and media briefings also will be posted here. You can sign up to receive these news releases via email at <http://apps.brevardcounty.us/PublicInformationReleases/>

**Social media and text messages**

Social media postings and text messages include information about prescribed fires, severe weather, accidents/incidents that impact major roadways or otherwise affect many people, space launches, and preparedness tips.

Follow @BrevardEOC on Twitter

"Like" Brevard County Emergency Man-  
See INFORMED, page 30

**Irma makes landfall****Pixabay.com**

Hurricane Irma was one of the most powerful hurricanes of 2017, making landfall at Cudjoe Key, Florida, as a category 4 storm.

# Travel insurance can be a bright spot when vacation plans are ruined

For Hometown News  
newsmi@hometownnewsol.com

So you have prepared for a trip for many months, excited about the many memorable experiences that can be enjoyed in your destination of choice.

You have made all necessary arrangements, including the purchase and packing of the things you will use, the reservations for your accommodation, and the purchase of the cruise tickets as well.

But by some streak of bad luck, here comes a hurricane on the eve of your scheduled trip and you need to prepare your home and evacuate your family.

What will you do with your cruise tickets or plane ticket as well as your resort reservations?

Unpredictable situations are why trip cancellation insurance is important. Trip cancellation insur-

ance protects your interests. Without the appropriate travel insurance, you stand to lose all that you've paid for with regards to your travel expenses.

With trip cancellation insurance, you are sure to be reimbursed a substantial portion of your financial loss, provided that the reason for the cancellation is a valid one and is included in the terms of the said trip cancellation insurance.

Here are five essential things that you need to know about travel insurance that includes a trip cancellation clause.

1. Trip cancellation insurance can reimburse what you have paid for your travel expenses if you have to cancel your trip because of some serious injury or illness. Such injury or illness should render you incapable of making the trip, or at the very least, force you to skip the journey

to avoid aggravating your medical condition. This is a valid ground for the grant of trip cancellation insurance benefits.

2. Trip cancellation insurance can also reimburse your losses for reasons that are not your fault. This includes operator failure or the collapse of the party that arranged your trip, or other unfortunate events that led to your trip's cancellation.

3. Trip cancellation insurance is also applicable for cancellations caused by destination disasters or natural disasters. If a named storm moves toward your destination or the country you want to plunges into civil war, you may cancel your travel and seek reimbursement from trip cancellation insurance.

4. Trip cancellation insurance is not that expensive. You could expect to pay the price in the range

of \$4 to \$7 for every \$100 worth of travel expenses.

Sometimes, you already have trip cancellation insurance without knowing about it. If you paid for your travel expenses via your credit card, for example, your credit card company might have a built-in trip cancellation insurance. Call your credit card company to learn the exact details.

Travel insurance has many additional benefits above and beyond trip cancellation coverage, so get the appropriate policy BEFORE the storm affects your travel plans.

Contact us at (321) 800-2680 or visit [TravellInsuranceBrevard.com](http://TravellInsuranceBrevard.com) to learn about different options and the exact pricing to protect your travel investments. Let us do the clicking for you to save time and effort on your part.

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# Here's what to bring if you must evacuate to a nearby shelter

**For Hometown News**

[newsml@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:newsml@hometownnewsol.com)

A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation, but it can be noisy, crowded and have few personal comforts. Shelters should be your last resort if you have nowhere else to go. A shelter is a stressful environment for everyone; please treat your fellow evacuees with courtesy and kindness.

Residents going to a shelter need to take their own supplies, some of which may be found in your disaster supply kit:

Bring your own pillows, sheets, blankets, portable cot or air mattress, chaise lounge, folding chairs or sleeping bags.

**Cots or beds are not provided**

If you are on a special diet, bring a supply of nonperishable food that will be sufficient for 3 days per person.

All required medications and medical support equipment:

Wheelchair/walker, oxygen, dressings, feeding and suction equipment, diapers,

etc.

Any specific medications or care instructions (2-week supply)

Personal hygiene items, like toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, towels, brush/comb, dentures, glasses, eye drops, diapers, etc.

Entertainment items, like games, cards, books, magazines, etc.

**Persons with disabilities, barriers or impairments**

By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation.

Inventory what you every day to live independently. Identify the essential items you will need for at least three days.

Stock custom essentials in your kit like: durable medical equipment, assistive technology, etc.

Have a method to communicate your impairments and needs.

Remember, being ready is the key to

maintaining your independence.

**Shelter options**

There are three types of evacuation shelters available to the public: Primary Evacuation Shelters, Special Needs Shelters, and Pet-Friendly Shelters.

**Shelter openings are incident-specific**

Never go to a shelter unless local officials have announced it is open. Shelter opening will be announced through local television, radio stations, social media, and the Brevard County Emergency Management Website.

Shelters are designed to house residents of the barrier islands (including Merritt Island), those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, those in mobile/manufactured homes, or those with no other sheltering options.

If you choose to go to a shelter, follow these instructions:

Stay as calm as possible, and take your disaster supply kit.

Bring your own cots or sleeping materi-

als.

Bring changes of clothing, and wear sturdy shoes.

If you have dietary restrictions, bring food that you will be able to eat.

Bring what you need to stay comfortable and entertained.

Not all shelters will have electricity throughout the emergency.

**Shelter Rules** – If staying in a shelter, be aware of the shelter rules:

We are guests. Please treat the facility, equipment, and staff respectfully.

No disorderly or disruptive behavior will be allowed.

No smoking, alcohol, or drugs allowed.

No guns or weapons of any kind permitted.

You must sign in when you arrive and sign out when you leave.

Shelters are intended to keep you safe, not necessarily comfortable. Remember, a shelter is a life boat, not a cruise ship.

## Buckling down



**Photo courtesy of Florida Power & Light**

A Florida Power & Light Mobile Command Center truck.

## Restoring power



**Photo courtesy of Florida Power & Light**

A Florida Power & Light lineman works to restore power.

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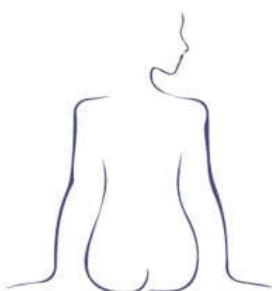
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# Don't stress, let Five Star Claims Adjusting take care of you

By Brittany Mulligan  
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY — One of the most stressful aspects of a hurricane, depending on its strength, can sometimes be the damage it leaves behind.

When it comes to calling your insurance companies in the aftermath, it can be difficult to know how to handle the situation you've been put in.

The team at **Five Star Claims Adjusting**, 4450 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Suite 120, Melbourne, can help navigate you through the process and get the maximum amount owed to you whether it is a residential or commercial claim.

"We represent the insured to their insurance company to help maximize their settlement from their insurance claim," said Chelsee Camero, director of marketing. "We handle the entire claims process for our clients from beginning to end."

Five Star Claims Adjusting has been

serving Brevard residents needs for the past 10 years, making life a little easier for those struggling with post-hurricane issues.

As one of the largest firms in Florida, according to its website, Five Star Claims Adjusting has been able to help more than 20,000 Floridians recover more than \$400 million from insurance companies.

"You don't always have to go to your insurance company first when noticing damage, you can contact your own personal adjustor," Ms. Camero said. "A lot of the claims that we received after hurricane Irma and Matthew were clients who were either denied by their insurance company or received a low-balled settlement from their insurance company compared to the amount of damage that was actually done to their home."

"We really try to make it as easy as possible and ensure our clients are in the loop so they don't have to deal



**Photo courtesy of Chelsee Camero**

Agents of Five Star Claims Adjusting are prepared to help clients with any claims this hurricane season. with the difficult aspects of the insurance claim process."

Five Star Claims Adjusting is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through

Friday. For more information, call (321) 701-1371 or visit [www.AskAnAdjuster.com](http://www.AskAnAdjuster.com).

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# Local businesses help restore homes after a big hurricane

By Austin Rushnell  
arushnell@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY – When a hurricane hits, preparation is everything. After the storm subsides, however, water may remain and cause damage to your home.

If your home is damaged, **ABS Plumbing and Septic**, 2814 S. Harbour City Blvd., Melbourne, can handle all your plumbing and septic needs.

ABS has been serving Brevard County for more than 16 years, and strives to always provide same-day service for their customers.

"We take pride in our customers and getting to know them as well as their septic system," ABS officials stated. "A good relationship helps us to provide you with a complete and accurate maintenance plan; your health is our priority. Anything your waste management system needs, you can rely on us."

One of the main dangers of a hurricane is the storm surge, which can

flood coastal waterways and damage housing developments.

"Basically, when a hurricane hits, we pump out the water," ABS dispatcher Trisha Tundidor said. "Houses get backed up because of the high levels of water, and it backs up the septic system, and we're there to pump them out."

ABS stands out due to its "consistency and honesty," she added. "And pretty much the lowest prices around."

ABS also services a variety of sewer, drain and plumbing needs, such as:

- Toilets, residential & commercial
- Water heaters, gas & electric
- Faucets, residential & commercial
- Food waste disposers
- Hydrojetting
- Main line stoppages
- Drain stoppages
- Roof drains

ABS is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 24 hours a



**Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer**

ABS Plumbing and Septic provides pumping and plumbing services to all of Brevard County.

day on weekends.

For more information about ABS Plumbing and Septic, call (321) 676-8927, or visit [www.ABSseptic.com](http://www.ABSseptic.com).

Water damage from a hurricane not

only affects plumbing and septic systems, but also the foundations of a house itself.

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See RESTORATION, page 29

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## Restoration

From page 28

is a family-owned business that provides services for mold assessment, mold remediation, water remediation and carpet cleaning.

"If (a family) has had any damage after a hurricane, or they suspect that they've had damage, we can go through their home and 'moisture-map,' and find out where there is excessive moisture that shouldn't be in the home," said Darlene Marcout of Sunsation. "We can do testing to find out if there's any kind of growth going on, etc. We can also write protocols for remediaters to follow so that it's done correctly."

The experts at Sunsation Restoration are certified by the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification, and by the National Organization of Remediaters and Mold Inspectors.

"As a family-owned and operated



business with over 28 years in the remediation industry, you know that you can trust us with your mold and water problems," Sunsation Restoration officials stated. "We are dedicated to helping combat whatever issues you have, whether they are minimal or extensive, so don't hesitate to contact us to take a look at what you might need done.

"Remember, an assessment or remediation job today could save you thousands down the road."

Sunsation Restoration is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and is located on Merritt Island.

For more information, call (321) 453-4220 or visit [www.sunsationrestoration.com](http://www.sunsationrestoration.com).

## Red Cross ready



**Photo courtesy of American Red Cross**

American Red Cross members distribute supplies to citizens in need following an emergency.

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## Informed

From page 22

agement on Facebook.

To ensure that you see all of our posts, click "Get Notifications" under the "Liked" button.

To receive text message updates on your cell phone, text Follow Brevard EOC to 40404 (normal text messaging rates apply).

### Community Information Hotline

Before, during and after an emergency, residents may dial 2-1-1 to reach the Community Information Hotline. The hotline is a partnership of Brevard County Emergency Management and 2-1-1 Brevard, a nonprofit 24-hour helpline. Specialists have the most up-to-date information on topics such as sandbags, evacuation routes and shelters, as well as how to get help after a storm. During Hurricane Matthew in 2016, 2-1-1 staff and volunteers answered almost 4,500 calls.

**AlertBrevard**   **Mass**   **Notification**

### System

Residents of Brevard County can be notified about emergencies in their area through an automated call notification system. AlertBrevard is a primary tool used by Emergency Management to send important information to the public. However, call notifications go only to landline telephones unless other numbers are added to our database. If you rely on a cellular phone as your main telephone number, you are strongly encouraged to register your number here.

AlertBrevard is used by Brevard County Emergency Management, Utilities, and Fire Rescue to notify businesses and residents for public safety purposes such as hazardous materials incidents, wildfires threatening homes, boil-water notices, and other emergency situations. The calls will provide specific instructions for people to follow in order to keep themselves and others safe.

The new and enhanced version of the Emergency Notification System also provides the opportunity to receive this information via email or text message. It also offers the option of a variety of weather notifications.

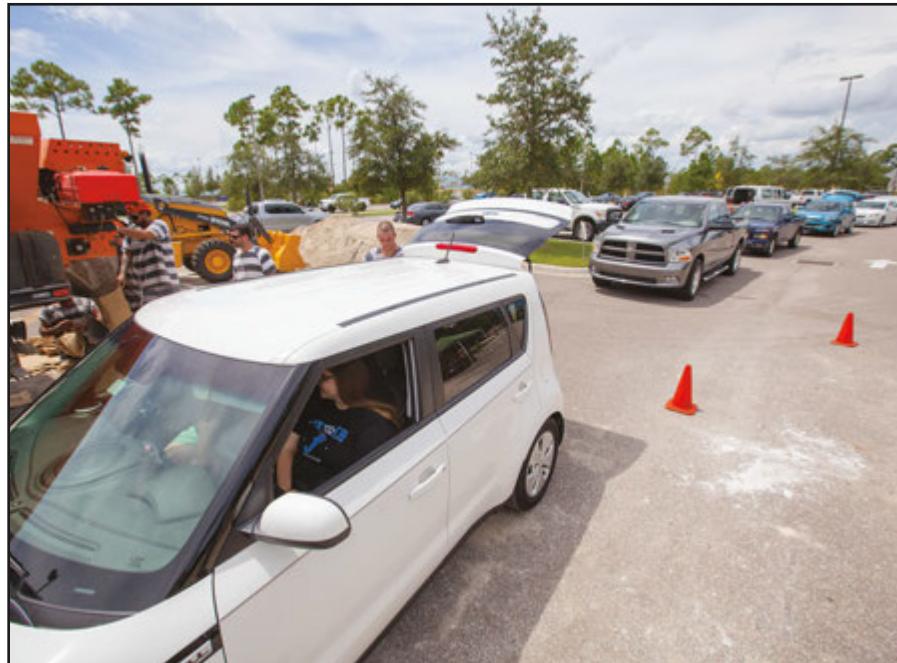
## Post-hurricane help



Photo courtesy of American Red Cross

A member of the American Red Cross assists a person in need.

# Each car will get a turn



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Megan Stueber of Palm Bay waits in line for sand bags at Max K. Rhodes Park in West Melbourne as Hurricane Irma approaches in September 2017.

# Assessing damage



Photo courtesy of Florida Power & Light

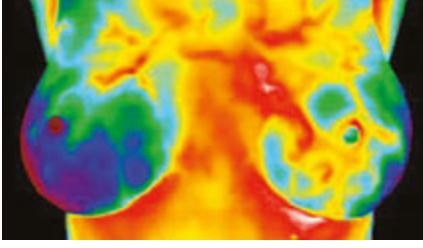
Florida Power & Light staff members survey an area following a storm.

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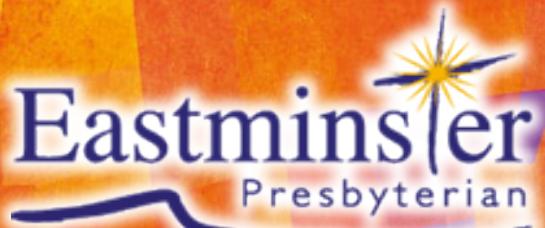


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