



Hurricane Season

**starts June 1st through November 30th
Be Ready...Be Safe!**

PGA Property Owners Association, Inc. • 7100 Fairway Drive, Suite 29 • 561-627-2800

Hurricane Watch: Issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. Begin preparations and standby for information.

Hurricane Warning: Issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. Complete all preparations and monitor bulletins.

Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings: Take these alerts seriously. As we have seen in the past, although Tropical Storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, they often bring life-threatening flooding and winds.

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS:

- Decide where you will stay and make back-up plans in case there is a problem with your first choice.
- Arrange for an emergency meeting place in case you and your family get separated. Remember, cell phone service may only be working intermittently before, during and after the storm.
- Ask an out-of-town friend or relative to be your emergency contact, advise them where you will be during the storm and contact them as soon as possible after the storm. Let other friends and family members know who your contact is.
- Make emergency plans for your pets, most shelters will not accept pets.
- Check your emergency Hurricane Kit. Make sure you have a two-week supply of:
 - Water—one gallon per person per day. (change your stored water every six months to keep it fresh)
 - Non Perishable foods such as canned meats, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, nuts, crackers, cereals, snack items, etc. should be restocked each season. Don't forget canned foods for your pets.
 - Napkins, paper plates, plastic utensils.
 - Lots of ice—freeze some of your water supply, it will help to keep things cold after the power goes out and can be used for drinking water as it defrosts.
 - First aid supplies and over-the-counter medications. Be sure you have an adequate supply of prescription medications to last through any long-term power outage when they can't be filled.
 - Personal supplies – paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizers or wet wipes, soap, plastic trash bags, and air tight bags in case of emergency evacuation.
 - Miscellaneous supplies – battery operated radio, flashlights, and extra batteries (they go fast!). Non-electric can opener; portable coolers; duct tape, hammer and nails (for temporary repairs); household chlorine bleach.
- Trim trees and shrubbery and dispose of debris. Hanging and excess limbs can become deadly projectiles during a storm. Note: Do this WELL before the season starts; not after a watch has been issued!
- Check your installed hurricane shutters and repair as necessary. Tracks of accordion shutters should be cleaned of debris and dirt so that you can close them quickly. Remember to get POA approval before installing permanent shutters of any type.
- Check your insurance policies; including windstorm and flood policies. Make sure you know where all your important papers are and keep a copy in your safe deposit box or other secure area.
- Photograph or make a video of your home and personal property in case of loss (for insurance purposes).
- Watch out for your neighbors. There are a lot of "snowbirds" in PGA. If you know your neighbor is out of town, look after their home too. Their lawn furniture, etc., could damage your home!

WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED: *(48 hours before tropical-storm-force winds anticipated to arrive)*

- Locate storm shutters and garage door supports. If you hire someone to install your storm protection, be sure they are available. (NOTE: plywood and plain metal panels cannot be installed until a Hurricane WATCH has been issued!)
- Listen frequently to local radio and television stations or Weather Radio for updates.
- Fuel your vehicles.
- Retrieve loose items (lawn furniture, flower pots, flags, etc.) Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside your home.
- Have cash on hand in case power goes out and ATMs are not working, and banks may be closed for several days.
- Be sure you have prescription medicines to last for a while if the storm strikes and you are unable to take care of it then.
- Prepare a “safe room” if you plan to stay in your home. This room should be away from windows, skylights and outside doors.
- DO NOT trim trees, trash pick-up may be delayed and trimmed branches will become projectiles.
- Check your hurricane supply kit, making sure all portable radios and flashlights are functional and you have an adequate supply of batteries.

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED: *(36 hours before tropical-storm-force winds anticipated to arrive).*

- Closely monitor local radio and television stations or Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Close storm shutters and brace garage doors. Metal panels and plywood may now be installed.
- Verify that you have removed/stored loose items (lawn furniture, flower pots, flags, etc.) Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside your home.
- If you have a swimming pool, DO NOT drain the pool. Turn off the electricity to the pool equipment. If the filter pump is exposed, you can wrap it securely with plastic to protect from driving rain.
- Scrub your bathtub and fill with water for sanitary purposes (washing and flushing toilets). Fill all available jugs and plastic bottles with water for drinking to add to your purchased bottled water supply.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to maximum cold, do not open the doors unless necessary.
- Park your car in the garage if you have one, or as close to the house as possible.
- Close all windows.
- Unplug all small appliances, turn off propane tanks.
- Let your emergency contact know where you will be.

DURING THE HURRICANE:

- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Take refuge in your “safe room,” or in a small interior room, closet or hallway.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors. Do not open any windows. The myth about opening them to equalize pressure is ineffective and dangerous—open windows contribute to wind and water damage.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior 1st floor room or closet.
- Be alert for:
 - Tornadoes. They are often spawned by hurricanes.
 - The “calm eye” of the storm. It may seem like the storm is over but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force—the strongest winds of a hurricane are near the eye of the storm.
- If the power goes out, do not use candles or kerosene lamps; if there is a fire, the fire department may not be able to get to you.

AFTER THE STORM:

- Keep listening to local radio, TV or Weather Radio.
- DO NOT go “sightseeing”! Emergency personnel and POA’s Disaster Team are working to clear streets and check property. Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
- Watch for closed roads. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, do not try to drive through: “Turn Around Don’t Drown™.”
- Use both land line and cell phones only as necessary. Lines may be down and cell towers may be damaged. Leave lines open for emergency personnel use.
- Do not report individual interruptions in electric, gas, water or telephone service. Utility companies have storm plans to restore services as quickly as possible. Only call utility companies if you still do not have service after it has been restored in the rest of the neighborhood.
- Water supplies may be contaminated. Use your hurricane supply water until the all clear has been given by the authorities.
- Be careful of standing water and flooded areas, they may have hidden dangers such as downed power lines, snakes, etc.
- Do not touch any low hanging or downed power lines, they may be crossed with a live wire. Treat every power line as deadly!
- Use flashlights only to inspect for damage. Never use candles or other open flames indoors. Check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Remember POA Rules require that galvanized finish removable panels, “Fabric Shield” and plywood must be removed no later than seven days after the warning is cancelled or the hurricane passes, whichever is later.
- If you do need clean-up or repairs, beware of “fly-by-night” repair services. For any worker, request copies of their Occupational License, Certificate of Insurance (showing General Liability AND Workers Compensation coverage). Demand identification from any and all workers, including Claims Adjusters.

IF YOU EVACUATE TO A SHELTER: *(What to bring with you)*

- First aid kit.
- Medicines and prescriptions.
- Baby food and diapers.
- Games, books, music players with headphones.
- Toiletries
- Battery-powered radio and cell phones
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries.
- A blanket, pillow or sleeping bag for each person.
- Photo identification.
- Copies of key papers such as insurance policies.
- Cash, credit cards.

PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES:

- **PGA Property Owners Association: PHONE: 561-627-2800. PGA Security PHONE: 561-627-1600***
- Palm Beach County Emergency Management: www.pbcgov.com/dem/hurricane/ PHONE: 712-6400
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org PHONE: 561-833-7711
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov PHONE: 800-621-3362
- Hurricane Help Line: 800-227-8676
- City of Palm Beach Gardens Police – non-emergency number: 561-799-4445
- State of Florida Emergency Management: www.floridadisaster.org

*NOTE: PGA Security personnel are on site though the storm. They will be patrolling when safe to do so but have an Emergency Ops Center established and work closely with local municipalities and offices to clear main roads.