



## **Have A Plan, Know Your Plan.**

**What will you do when a hurricane threatens your area?**

**What is your evacuation zone?**

**Get information and answers immediately. During an emergency, count on the Hillsborough Infoline. 272-5900. TTY 301-7173. HTV22, Hillsborough County government's television station on cable channel 22. [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)**

**Hurricane Season · June - November 30**

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**A hurricane can strike with little time to prepare what you need to stay safe. Do you have a plan? Follow these simple steps to plan for safety:**

- 1. Familiarize yourself with the hurricane jargon and Hillsborough County government's role during an emergency.**

- Hurricane WATCH - Issued when coastal lands are in danger of experiencing hurricane conditions within the next 36 hours.
- Hurricane WARNING - Issued when coastal lands are in danger of experiencing sustained winds of at least 74 miles an hour within the next 24 hours.
- Voluntary & Mandatory Evacuations - Voluntary evacuations are ordered by Hillsborough County when severe wind gusts or heavy rainfall is expected to cause local flooding and debris hazards. Some School Board and Red Cross shelters will open. Mandatory evacuations are ordered to protect residents from storm surge or tropical force winds. It is against the law not to obey a mandatory evacuation order. Remember, emergency responders cannot respond to calls once the weather becomes too dangerous.
- Hillsborough County's Role - By County Charter, Hillsborough County emergency officials are responsible for making the decisions that affect your safety during a declared emergency: ordering evacuations, opening shelters, and more. During this time, the safety of Hillsborough County residents--whether they reside within the city limits of Tampa, Plant City or Temple Terrace--is the primary responsibility of Hillsborough County government.

## **2. Create a Disaster Plan.**

- Meet with your family. Discuss with your children the importance of preparing for the event of a hurricane. Take into account the special needs of you and your family members, and apply for a special needs application.

- Pick two places to meet. Meet either at home or outside of your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact."
- Discuss the possibility of an evacuation. Make arrangements to stay with family or a friend who lives on higher ground, or find out where your nearest shelter is located. Shelters should be used as a last resort and remember, most do not accept pets.
- Make a survival kit. Include enough supply of water, food, clothes, medicine, special items for children or seniors, batteries, important documents and pet items. Refer to the convenient shopping list included in this information kit.
- Make a checklist of things to do when a state of emergency is declared. Include the possibility of reinforcing your home, notifying family and friends of your plans, obtaining enough cash, turning your water and power off, or filling your tank with gas.

### **3. Practice & Maintain Your Personal Plan.**

- Review your plan every few months and take any changes in your family's needs into consideration.
  - Quiz your children so they remember what to do.
  - Replace stored water every 3 months and stored food every 6 months.
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**What is your evacuation zone?  
Go to [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org) to use  
“HEAT”**

**Hurricane Evacuation Assessment Tool**

HEAT is an easy tool to assist you in finding out your evacuation zone, nearest shelters, hospitals, fire stations and sandbag locations. Simply type in your address!

**If you do not live in a mobile home, an evacuation zone, or low-lying area or flood prone area, stay where you are during a declared emergency.**

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**Remember!**

- You can keep your important documents in this water-proof plastic bag. Include your will, insurance policies, contracts, social security cards, family records, bank and credit card account numbers, inventory of valuable household goods and important telephone numbers.
- Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons. Special needs residents should register early to receive additional medical and transportation assistance during an emergency. Consult your healthcare provider or go to the County's Web site for an application.
- HART will begin its bus routes through evacuation zones 30 minutes after shelters are opened. Call 272-5900 to find out where the nearest pick up point is if you live in an evacuation zone.

- Stay away from downed power lines. When evacuating, use routes recommended by emergency officials--shortcuts may be dangerous. If your power goes out, do not light matches or turn on electrical switches. Use flashlights if you suspect damages.
- Hillsborough County residents can watch HTV22 or go to [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org) for continuous updates or sign up for an emergency news e-mail subscription service.