

EVACUATION PLANNING AND ENTITLEMENTS

So, what can you expect if a major hurricane threatens the Miami area and your neighborhood is in a mandatory evacuation zone? (Enclosure (2) illustrates evacuation zones for both Dade and Broward counties.) Where can you go? If you must evacuate, your choices are: (1) Coast Guard designated safe haven; (2) evacuate to friends/relatives; or (3) evacuate to local shelters.

Coast Guard Safe Haven:

If an area affecting Coast Guard families is declared a mandatory evacuation zone by local authorities, the regional Coast Guard District Commander is authorized to designate a "safe haven" evacuation site for Coast Guard non-essential civilian and military employees and their families. If you evacuate and the Coast Guard declares a safe haven for your neighborhood, you as family members will be entitled to reimbursement by the Coast Guard at standard rates for travel, meals and lodging, and Coast Guard employees will be reimbursed for travel and per diem. Will your active duty spouse be able to evacuate with you? That will depend on his or her unit's requirements.

For planning purposes this hurricane season, the location of the safe haven evacuation site for the Miami area is Orlando. A listing of some hotels in the area is provided as enclosure (3). The maximum lodging rate for Orlando is \$95 per night. Use the form provided as enclosure (4) to avoid paying hotel tax. The meal rate is \$42 per day, per person. Remember you must save all hotel and toll receipts in order to be reimbursed for these costs.

The Coast Guard Hurricane Evacuation Assistance Team (HEAT) will be deployed to a hotel conference room. The exact hotel and phone number will be released when the evacuation order is given. All personnel and dependents should seek hotel reservations on their own in the Orlando area. In the event the evacuee is unable to find lodging, the evacuation team will be able to assist in coordinating lodging for all Coast Guard active duty, reservists on active duty and civilian employees and their families, whether accompanied or not by the Coast Guard member.

The Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitor's Center can also assist with locating lodging during an evacuation. They are open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 8273 International Drive, phone number (800) 551-0181 or (407) 363-5872.

Consider using the buddy system to travel to Orlando. By driving in tandem with another Coast Guard family – you avoid trusting your evacuation to just one car. Leave as early as you can, because traveling will likely be slow and stressful. A normal 4-hour drive to Orlando may take 6-8 hours during an evacuation.

If you have pets, consider boarding them in a kennel instead of keeping them with you. A list of kennels in Orlando is attached as enclosure (4). Not all hotels accept pets; some hotels will allow pets for families that are evacuating, but may require an additional daily cleaning charge.

Evacuate to Friends/Relatives:

Can you stay with friends or family instead of evacuating to a Coast Guard safe haven? Absolutely! If you evacuate to somewhere other than Orlando, and stay in a hotel, you will be

eligible for reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging no higher than the Orlando rate. If you stay at a private residence, you will be reimbursed for travel, meals and incidental expenses only.

If you evacuate from your home, which is **not** in a mandatory evacuation zone, you will not be entitled to any reimbursement by the Coast Guard. If a mandatory evacuation is ordered after you have already left, you will be entitled to travel and expenses performed for the duration of the evacuation order, up to the amount authorized for the Orlando area.

Evacuate to Local Shelters (Dade/Broward County):

If you cannot find transportation, or do not wish to be too far away from your home during an evacuation, you may choose to evacuate to a local shelter if a mandatory evacuation is ordered.

If you go to a local shelter, consider these tips:

- ❑ Remember to take along your disaster survival kit with food, water, and bedding. Don't forget entertainment for the kids. Medical care will not be available at most shelters, and don't forget to take all prescription drugs with you. If you anticipate a need for medical care, arrange to evacuate to a medical facility instead.
- ❑ Don't bring alcohol or weapons.
- ❑ Pets are not allowed at any shelter. Consider leaving your pet in an interior room of your home with plenty of food and water. Most animals in such situations follow their natural instincts and survive quite well.

AFTER THE HURRICANE PASSES:

- ❑ Call the Coast Guard emergency information team at 1-800-872-4957, Ext. 307 for the latest information.

Hurricane Planning Tips

YOUR FAMILY'S HURRICANE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Renter's insurance to cover personal belongings, regardless of whether you live on the economy or live in government owned or leased quarters. Coast Guard members living in government owned or leased quarters are restricted to a total government maximum settlement ceiling of \$40,000, based on depreciated replacement value. Renter's insurance with "replacement value" coverage is more likely to fully reimburse for damages in the event of a disaster. Insurance companies will not issue a new policy when a hurricane is threatening and some may not issue a new policy during hurricane season. Take care of your insurance needs early.
- A thorough property inventory (a videotape is excellent). Store with insurance and title papers in a safe place or send a copy to a relative out of the area. If you keep the copy with you, make sure when you evacuate, you take it with you.
- A "family disaster survival kit" ready to take with you if you evacuate. Include important papers, such as driver's licenses, special medical information and insurance policies. Provide a copy of your planned evacuation plan to family members outside the Miami area.
- Ensure your vehicle is operating properly. Authorities suggest keeping gas tanks at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full at all times throughout the hurricane season.
- Sufficient cash on hand during the hurricane season - enough small bills for at least three days' worth of meals for your family (recommend at least \$200.00). Coast Guard employees with a government travel credit card can make cash withdrawals at an automated teller machine during an evacuation.
- Up-to-date prescriptions: maintain at least a 30 day supply during hurricane season.
- Plans for pregnant women in their eighth month between June and November: register at the hospital where delivery is planned and inquire early to confirm plans on where to go, should delivery occur during a hurricane.
- Home preparation for evacuation: Store valuables/irreplaceable treasures in your empty appliances - washer, dryer, dishwasher, oven, and microwave. Put plastic bags over TVs, lamps, computers, etc. Pack clothes in plastic bags to keep them dry. Keep a set of tools with you during the storm. Fill new garbage cans with water to use for flushing, bathing, washing clothes, etc. Fill plastic gallon bottles with water and place in freezer. Pack freezer with newspaper and turn to lowest temperature. Clean out refrigerator of perishable items (dairy products, produce, etc.). Line the tub with plastic sheeting or clean shower curtain, or caulk the drain with silicone caulking - it will hold water for weeks and cleans up easily when dry. Plan on three gallons per person per day for all uses.
- Watch the news and prepare

- Get instructions from your unit
- Make sure you have important phone numbers, including the Seventh District Incident Management Team (IMT) 1-800-582-5943 Option 1 or 2, Hurricane Evacuation Assistance Team (HEAT) 786 229-2931, and the Hurricane Assistance Team (HAT) 305 216-8037.
- Arrange for a friend or relative outside the Miami area to be your point of contact for information about your family. Give your spouse the number. Have a long distance calling card to stay in touch with your point of contact.
- Follow evacuation instructions, if any, for your area.
- Check with the HEAT if you need info and CG evacuation sites, ensure your supervisor or the HEAT know if you intend to evacuate or not.
- If evacuating, daily call your supervisor or the HEAT to report evacuating location, phone number and intentions, instructions, seek CG assistance if needed, and any help with special needs (medical, shelter, emergency transportation etc).
- After the storm passage, as soon as it is safe to do so, call your unit supervisor or the HEAT/HAT (Call the Heat if the storm did not make landfall in your area and the HAT if you are in the affected area and the HAT has deployed there) to report that your safe or extent of damages and availability to report for duty; get return to work instructions, get information on deployed CG units & people.
- Call the Coast Guard HEAT AT 786-229-2931 for the latest information.



Make a Plan

Planning ahead will help you have the best possible response to disaster.

Talk. Discuss with your family the disasters that can happen where you live. Establish responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team. Designate alternates in case someone is absent. If a family member is in the military, also plan for how you would respond if they are deployed. Include the local military base resources that may be available.

Plan. Choose two places to meet after a disaster:

- ❑ Right outside your home
- ❑ Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate your neighborhood.

Choose an out-of-area contact for all members of the family to call in case of disaster. The selected contact person should live far enough away that they would be unaffected by the same event, and they should know they are the chosen contact. Remember that during a disaster, it may be easier to make a long distance phone call than to call across town.

Having predetermined meeting places will save time and minimize confusion should your home be affected or if the area is evacuated.

Learn. Each adult in your household should learn how and when to turn off utilities such as electricity, water and gas. Ask your local fire department to show you how to use a fire extinguisher.

Tell everyone in the household where emergency information and supplies are kept. Make copies of the information for everyone to carry with them. Keep the information updated.

Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case main roads are impassable or gridlocked.

Include your pets. If you must evacuate, take your animals with you. If it is not safe for you to remain, it is not safe for them.

Support your community. Support your community plans by volunteering in the community and by giving blood. More than one million people in the U.S. serve their communities. They come from all walks of life and backgrounds and are of all ages. Red Cross volunteers help people in emergencies. They translate for non-English speakers so that every-one can receive Red Cross services, teach first aid classes and organize blood drives. They connect members of the armed forces stationed overseas with their families during major family events. These vital community services are made possible by people like you. Contact your local Red Cross chapter and ask how you can help.

Police: call 9-1-1 or
Fire Dept: call 9-1-1 or
Ambulance: call 9-1-1 or
Family Doctor:
Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222
Visit www.redcross.org for more information

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Contact Card



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Household Members Contact Information

Out-of-town contact: _____

Family meeting place outside the neighborhood: _____

American Red Cross Emergency Contact Card

Directions:

1. Print this card for each household member.
2. Cut out the card along the dotted lines.
3. Write in the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers. If you need additional space, use the back side of the card.
3. Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
4. Carry your card with you so it is available in the event of a disaster or other emergency when you will want to contact each other.

For more information on creating a family disaster plan and a disaster supplies kit, as well as other valuable disaster preparedness information, visit www.redcross.org.