

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, locations of the safe haven evacuation sites are shown below:

Safe Haven	Geographic Areas	Maximum Lodging	Meals/ Incidentals
Orlando, FL	Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Ft. Pierce, Port Canaveral, Key West, Islamorada, Marathon, Ft. Myers, Bradenton, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tampa, Ponce de Leon Inlet and Yankeetown	\$104	\$56
Atlanta	Savannah and Charleston	\$132	\$56
Greenville, SC	Georgetown and Myrtle Beach	\$82	\$56

Remember you must save all hotel and toll receipts in order to be reimbursed for these costs.

The Coast Guard Personnel Support Team (PST) 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 safe haven 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.

In the Orlando area, 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 your safe haven. 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 may take 6-8 hours during an evacuation.

If you have pets, consider boarding them in a kennel instead of keeping them with you. 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

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 PST at 786-229-2931 to check in and receive the latest guidance BEFORE returning home. You may not be able to return your dependents for several days after the storm passes and must receive guidance from the PST and/or EHRT prior to returning.