



# THE BELLEAIR BEACH BREEZE



The Hurricane Issue

June 2013

## City of Belleair Beach

### Mayor

Rob Baldwin

### Vice Mayor

Leslie Notaro

### Councilmembers

Jeril S. Cohen

David Dumville

Mitch Krach

John Pietrowski

Wanda Schwerer

### City Manager

Nancy G. Gonzalez

### City Clerk

Patricia A. Gentry, CMC

### Finance Officer

Melanie Neumann

### City Attorney

Paul J. Marino

### Community Services

Allen Godfrey

### Administrative Assistant

Pamela J. Nightingale

### Community Services Staff

Howard Chavis, Supervisor

Jana Mastilovic

### Community Improvement Officer

John Ouimette

### **Upcoming City Council Meetings**

June 3, 2013 - 6 pm

City of Belleair Beach  
444 Causeway Boulevard  
Belleair Beach FL 33786

727.595.4646

727.593.1409 FAX

Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm M-F

[www.cityofbelleairbeach.com](http://www.cityofbelleairbeach.com)

## June 1st

The date most Floridians dread. The first day of what will be a very long hurricane season. Dreaded by those born here, and transplants to the Sunshine state.

We have avoided any landfall event for a very long time, but there are still real concerns for us here on the Beach.

Our biggest enemy, short of a direct hit, is flooding. Even with the lack of a direct hit on our fair barrier island, flooding can be a devastating problem for low land dwellers. The strong storms of our rainy season can take a similar toll on lives and property as witnessed by the No-Name storm of 1993, also referred to as the Storm of the Century.

As many found out after the storm, Homeowners insurance did not cover damage from this storm for the simple reason that it was not named.

This type of occurrence is why our beach homeowners need to check their flood insurance policy this time of year. Check with your agent or carrier or check out [www.floodsmart.com](http://www.floodsmart.com).



## Early Predictions

The Weather Channel released its first 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook on April 8, 2013, calling for another active season.

The forecast calls for a total of 16 named storms, 9 of which are expected to become hurricanes, including 5 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale).

These forecast numbers are above the long-term average from 1950-2012 (12 named storms, 7 hurricanes, 3 major hurricanes) and slightly above the averages for the current active era from 1995-2012 (15 named storms, 8 hurricanes, 4 major hurricanes).

Three straight Atlantic hurricane seasons have had 19 storms. Only seven Atlantic seasons have had more hurricanes than last season's 10 hurricanes. Among the four U.S. landfalls were the most intense tropical cyclone to make a U.S. landfall prior to June 1 (Tropical Storm Beryl), a soaking Tropical Storm Debby, a painfully slow Hurricane Isaac, and one of the most destructive storms in U.S. history, Superstorm Sandy.

## A Message from NOAA The National Weather Service



History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. The National Weather Service is responsible for protecting life and property through issuance of timely watches and warnings, but it is essential that your family be ready before a storm approaches. Furthermore, mariners should be aware of special safety precautions when confronted with a hurricane.

The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

### 2013 Storm Names

The following names will be used for named storms that form in the North Atlantic in 2013. The names not retired from this list will be used again in the 2019 season. This is the same list used in the 2007 season, except for Dorian, Fernand, and Nestor which replaced Dean, Felix, and Noel respectively.

- Andrea**
- Barry**
- Chantal**
- Dorian**
- Erin**
- Fernand**
- Gabrielle**
- Humberto**
- Ingrid**
- Jerry**
- Karen**
- Lorenzo**
- Melissa**
- Nestor**
- Olga**
- Pablo**
- Rebekah**
- Sebastien**
- Tanya**
- Van**
- Wendy**

### Hurricane Season and Your Boat

Boat owners should know what their marina contract entails. For example, if a boat is ripped from the dock during a hurricane and smashes into the marina's storage rack, the boat owner could be responsible for the repair costs. Re-read your contract.

If you don't live near where you dock your boats, ask a friend or work with a representative from the marina to ensure your boat is secured before a storm hits.

As a preparatory measure, boat owners should document everything related to their prized possessions. Keep an envelope of paperwork explaining any work and upgrades, such as a new interior or recent servicing. Stash the envelope, along with pictures and receipts detailing the value of personal effects and fishing equipment, in an easily accessible place, like the boat's trailer.

### Pinellas County Pet Friendly Shelters



Dunedin Highland Middle School  
70 Patricia Ave.  
Dunedin, FL

Oak Grove Middle School  
1370 S. Belcher Rd.  
Clearwater, FL

Thurgood Marshall Middle School  
3901 22nd Ave.  
St. Petersburg, FL

You must pre-register with Pinellas County  
Animal Services at 727.582.2150

## Local Public Shelters (within 10 miles of Belleair Beach)

Largo High school	410 Missouri Ave., Largo
Bauder Elementary School	12755 86th Ave., Largo
Ross Norton Recreation Center	1426 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Clearwater
Highpoint Elementary	5921 150th Ave., Clearwater
Dunedin Community Center	1920 Pinehurst Rd., Dunedin
Dunedin Highland Middle School	70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin

### Condo Concerns

Here are tips for condominium dwellers:

- If you live in a condo, get homeowners insurance. At the outset of the hurricane season, take digital images or videotape your dwelling and its contents to help you prepare your Insurance claim if damage occurs.
- Move your balcony furniture indoors when a hurricane threatens or before you leave your apartment or condominium if you'll be gone during hurricane season.
- Be aware that winds are stronger at higher elevations. If you're not in an evacuation area and you plan to remain in your building, consider staying with someone on a lower floor.
- Stay in an interior room without windows. Bathrooms and closets are often good bets. Interior hallways and stairwells may be good options, too.
- Know the route to the nearest exit stairs. Elevators fail when the power goes out.
- If the government orders you to evacuate, go.
- If you evacuate, keep a binder that has all of your important information: credit card numbers, health insurance cards, mortgage information, personal identification, financial information, driver's license number and other information you may need.
- If you evacuate and leave behind a pet, be aware you may not be able to get back in when you want. If there's damage to the building, for instance, you'll have to wait for emergency officials to clear it for re-entry.

Put your valuables in the safest part of your residence. Take them with you if you leave.

### Evacuation Non-Compliance

The longer a person has lived in a coastal area, the less likely they are to evacuate. Hurricanes have a longer warning time than most disasters, but details of strength and track are only educated guesses. Official warnings, as with other scenario planning, are based on a worst case, which is not the most probable case.

Thus, hurricanes can be predicted to hit a coastal town many times without the town ever actually experiencing the brunt of a storm. When this more probable case happens a number of times, people tend to take evacuation orders less seriously.

Other factors are associated with noncompliance to an evacuation order.

Many cannot afford to leave. They may not have a reliable vehicle or other transportation in which to move their families and valuables, or they may not be able to locate suitable accommodations for the evacuation.

Those who are under outpatient medical care may not be able to arrange treatment away from their usual facilities. Those without secure employment may fear losing their livelihood if they are away for an extended period.

They may be concerned about the damage or loss of property in their absence, or lack of care for family pets.

They may be accustomed to weathering earlier storms that did little or no damage, so may not believe it will become life-threatening. Some will risk possible death or injury by staying behind, sometimes until it is too late to leave.



## Helping Children Cope With A Hurricane's Aftermath From FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

Disasters can leave children feeling frightened, confused, and insecure. Whether a child has personally experienced trauma, has merely seen the event on television or has heard it discussed by adults, it is important for parents and teachers to be informed and ready to help if reactions to stress begin to occur.



Children may respond to disaster by demonstrating fears, sadness or behavioral problems. Younger children may return to earlier behavior patterns, such as bedwetting, sleep problems and separation anxiety. Older children may also display anger, aggression, school problems or withdrawal. Some children who have only indirect contact with the disaster but witness it on television may develop distress.

### Recognize Risk Factors

For many children, reactions to disasters are brief and represent normal reactions to "abnormal events." A smaller number of children can be at risk for more enduring psychological distress as a function of three major risk factors:

Direct exposure to the disaster, such as being evacuated, observing injuries or death of others, or experiencing injury along with fearing one's life is in danger.

### Vulnerabilities in Children

In most cases, depending on the risk factors above, distressing responses are temporary. In the absence of severe threat to life, injury, loss of loved ones, or secondary problems such as loss of home, moves, etc., symptoms usually diminish over time. For those that were directly exposed to the disaster, reminders of the disaster such as high winds, smoke, cloudy skies, sirens, or other reminders of the disaster may cause upsetting feelings to return. Having a prior history of some type of traumatic event or severe stress may contribute to these feelings.

Children's coping with disaster or emergencies is often tied to the way parents cope. They can detect adults' fears and sadness. Parents and adults can make disasters less traumatic for children by taking steps to manage their own feelings and plans for coping. Parents are almost always the best source of support for children in disasters. One way to establish a sense of control and to build confidence in children before a disaster is to engage and involve them in preparing a family disaster plan. After a disaster, children can contribute to a family recovery plan.

### Meeting the Child's Emotional Needs

Children's reactions are influenced by the behavior, thoughts, and feelings of adults. Adults should encourage children and adolescents to share their thoughts and feelings about the incident. Clarify misunderstandings about risk and danger by listening to children's concerns and answering questions. Maintain a sense of calm by validating children's concerns and perceptions and with discussion of concrete plans for safety.

Listen to what the child is saying. If a young child is asking questions about the event, answer them simply without the elaboration needed for an older child or adult. Some children are comforted by knowing more or less information than others; decide what level of information your particular child needs. If a child has difficulty expressing feelings, allow the child to draw a picture or tell a story of what happened.

## The Belleair Beach Re-Entry Hang Tag

If you don't have one...now is the time to stop by City Hall and pick yours up.

Please note you may not be able to stay in your home when these are required. Crews may still be clearing debris and repairing wires and other damage.



## Storm Surge

**Storm surge and large waves produced by hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property along the coast.**

**Storm Surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coastline.**

**Storm Tide is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide.**

**The destructive power of storm surge and large battering waves can result in loss of life, buildings destroyed, beach and dune erosion and road and bridge damage along the coast. Storm surge can travel several miles inland. In estuaries and bayous, salt water intrusion endangers public health and the environment.**

*Photography provided courtesy of Pinellas County Communications Department*

## Your must have Hurricane Supply List

- Flashlights & extra bulbs
- Battery-operated radio
- Battery-operated lanterns
- Batteries (in different sizes!)
- Matches
- First aid kit
- Duct tape
- Rain gear
- Clock (wind-up or battery-powered)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Fire extinguisher
- Scissors
- Can Opener
- Clean clothes
- Extra blankets
- Heavy gloves

## Special Needs Shelters

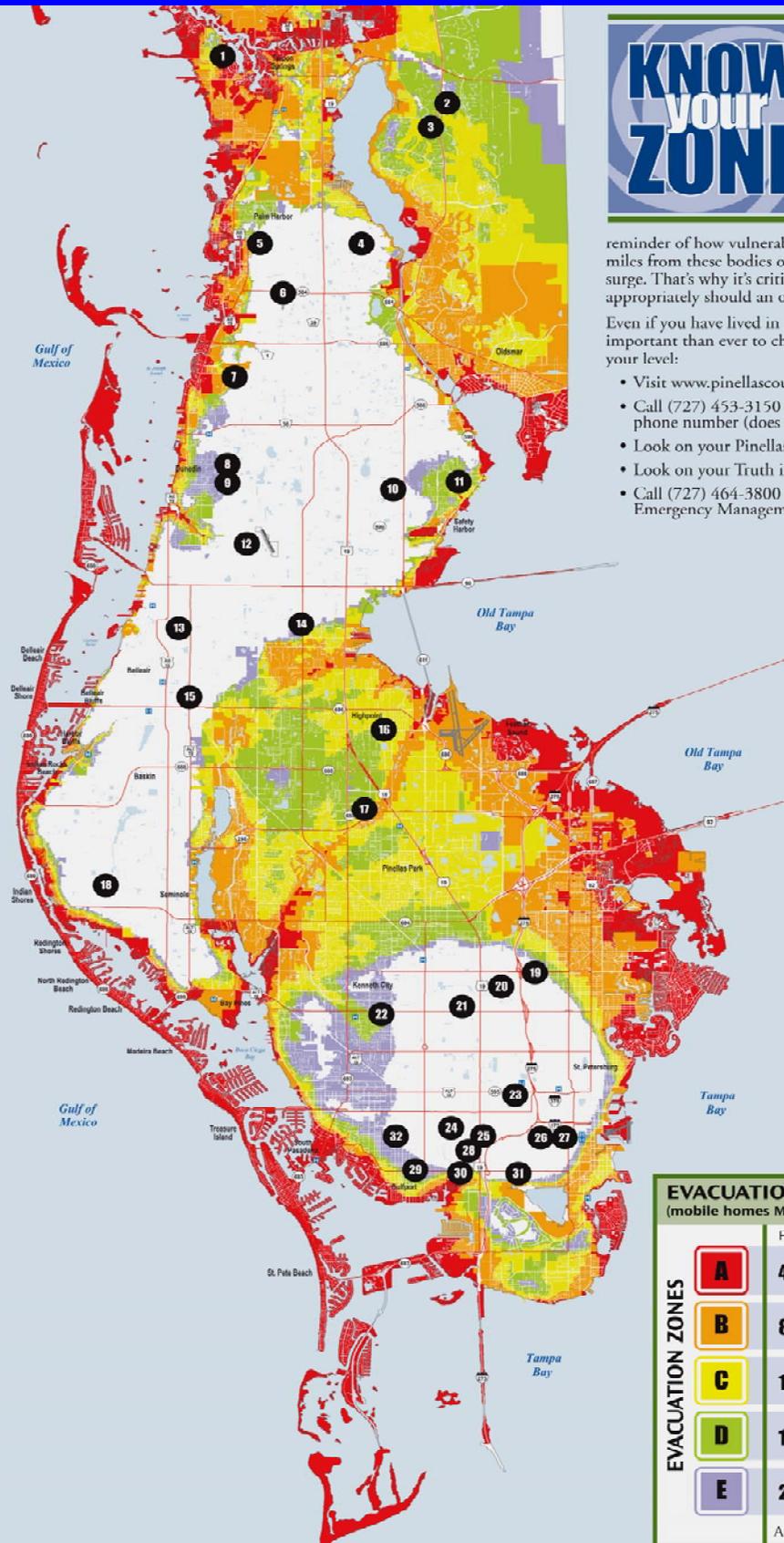
Every person's abilities and needs are unique, but planning for emergencies can be a real challenge for millions of Americans with physical, medical, sensory or cognitive disabilities, the elderly, and/or their caretakers.

You must register for Special Needs Shelter. Call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800 to receive a form by mail.



**Dunedin Middle School**  
70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin  
**Oak Grove Middle School**  
1370 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater  
**John Hopkins Middle School**  
701 16th St. S., St. Petersburg





## KNOW your ZONE

The deadliest hazards in a hurricane are not the high winds, heavy rains or possible tornadoes. The deadliest hazard is the storm surge – a dome of water pushed ashore by the storm's high winds. In a worst case scenario, this can mean water of 29 feet above the normal water level, causing tremendous damage and claiming a large number of victims.

While those residents who can see the gulf or the bay have a visual reminder of how vulnerable they are to the water, residents who live miles from these bodies of water can still be vulnerable to storm surge. That's why it's critical to identify your evacuation level and act appropriately should an order go into effect.

Even if you have lived in Pinellas County for a long time, it's more important than ever to check your home's evacuation level. To find your level:

- Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)
- Call (727) 453-3150 and enter your 10-digit home phone number (does not work for cell phone numbers)
- Look on your Pinellas County Utilities water bill
- Look on your Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice
- Call (727) 464-3800 and speak with Emergency Management staff



EVACUATION GUIDELINES	
(mobile homes MUST always evacuate)	
<b>EVACUATION ZONES</b>	<b>A</b> Potential Surge Heights (in feet) <b>4' to 8'</b> Evacuate red areas and all mobile homes
	<b>B</b> <b>8' to 14'</b> Evacuate red and orange areas and all mobile homes
	<b>C</b> <b>14' to 19'</b> Evacuate red, orange and yellow areas and all mobile homes
	<b>D</b> <b>19' to 26'</b> Evacuate red, orange, yellow and green areas and all mobile homes
	<b>E</b> <b>26' to 29'</b> Evacuate red, orange, yellow, green and purple areas and all mobile homes
Areas shown in white are non-evacuation zones.	

## Generators

Even if you don't experience flooding or severe wind damage in a hurricane, it's a pretty good bet that you're going to lose power -- possibly for weeks.

Falling trees usually knock down electric lines, and the damage is so widespread that it takes power companies a long time to hook everyone up again.

The solution is to have a generator that will make electricity for you, *but there are some serious safety issues that you need to be aware of before you use one.*



### Carbon monoxide

Most generators are powered by a gasoline engine just like the one in your car or lawn mower. Gasoline engines produce deadly carbon monoxide gas in their exhaust, so that means you cannot use a generator indoors. It needs to be outside in a well-ventilated area -- preferably in a shed or under a canopy where it's protected from rain. But not in your garage.

### Limited capacity

Generators also don't have unlimited capacity. Each one is designed to produce only so much power, or amps. That means you can't plug every appliance in your home into it and expect it to run -- that is unless you have a very large professionally installed generator that's specifically designed to do that. You will have to pick a few appliances based on your generator's capacity, and just run those. Overloading a generator can damage it and may cause electrical short-circuits and fires.

### Extension cord safety

When using a generator, you're probably going to use it with a long extension cord running inside your home. Make sure you have one that's good enough for the job. Any firefighter will tell you that one of the most common causes of house fires is an overloaded extension cord. Thin, cheap extension cords will quickly overheat and spark fires if you have too many appliances plugged into them. Also, make sure you're not running your extension cord through water, wet areas, or a place where it might be cut or damaged by vehicles or foot traffic. A generator should also be properly grounded to help avoid electric shock or short-circuits.

### Using generators with your home wiring

One of the most common causes of electrocution after hurricanes is when people plug generators into their home's wiring or fuse box. You should never do this. Not only are most generators not strong enough to handle the load, electricity can travel back up the power lines outside of a home and shock power company workers who are working with electric lines that they believe are dead. When power is restored, electricity can pass down into the generator, damaging it or causing short circuits. If you're going to have a large generator that you intend to use with your home circuitry, it's best to have it installed by a licensed electrician who will install the proper switches and safeguards to make sure it'll work properly and nobody will get hurt.

# Are You Safe?

## Your Important Documents

Important papers to take with you:

- Insurance policies
- Prescriptions
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Passports
- Drivers licenses or personal identification
- Social Security cards
- Recent tax returns
- Employment information
- Wills, deeds and recent tax returns
- Stocks, bonds and other negotiable certificates
- Bank, savings and retirement account numbers
- Home inventory

Be sure they are stored in a waterproof container.

## SAND BAGS

Sand, bags and shovels will available throughout the hurricane season during normal business hours.

Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 4:30 pm  
you will be able to fill sand bags.

Sand will be available after those hours, but you will need to provide a shovel.

*This is for Belleair Beach Residents only and proof of residency is required.*

