



May, 2015

Dear Miami Springs Residents,

Our City continues to be one of the most desirable places to live in Miami-Dade County. One of the major reasons for this is the high quality of life available in our community. We all remember Hurricane Andrew (1992), and, more recently, the hurricanes of 2004 (Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne) and Katrina, Rita and Wilma (2005). In the wake of those storms, City employees did an amazing job to ensure that we all could return to this quality of life as soon as possible.

We continue to improve our services, preparation and response to major situations such as these. This booklet is one of the many steps we have taken to ensure that our City and your family are prepared for any type of disaster.

Although Springs residents are experts in “battening down the hatches”, we know that advance planning for future storms and other catastrophes is key to keeping safe and getting things back to normal as calmly and quickly as possible. We encourage you to read this booklet, run through your pre-hurricane checklist and gather supplies for your family, home, pets and business to be self-sustaining for **a minimum of three days** because aid may not be able to reach us due to storm damage.

The only real defense against disasters is the informed readiness of the City and its residents. Together we can continue to make Miami Springs safe as well as beautiful.

Sincerely,
Mayor Xavier Garcia
Councilman Bob Best
Councilman Billy Bain
Councilwoman Roslyn Buckner
Councilman Jaime Petralanda
City Manager Ron Gorland

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Terms You Need to Know

Tropical Wave: A cluster of clouds and/or thunderstorms without a significant circulation and generally moving from east to west through the Tropics.

Tropical Depression: A cluster of clouds and/or thunderstorms without a significant circulation and sustained wind speeds of less than 39 mph.

Tropical Storm: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with top sustained winds of 39-73 mph. *Tropical storms can quickly develop into hurricanes.* When winds reach 39 mph, the storm is given a name.

Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of warning *within 36 hours.*

Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of warning *within 24 hours.*

Hurricane: An intense tropical weather system with a sustained wind speed of 74 mph or higher.

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of warning within 36 hours. During a hurricane watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a hurricane warning is issued.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of warning within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and immediately follow local emergency management officials' advice.

Eye: The hurricane's center; a relatively calm, clear area, usually 20-40 miles across. Damaging winds begin well before the hurricane eye makes landfall.

Eye Wall: The dense wall of thunderstorms surrounding the eye that contains the strongest winds within the storm.

Hurricane Size: Hurricane destructive winds and rains cover a wide swath. Hurricane-force winds can extend outward about 25 miles from the eye of a small hurricane and to more than 150 miles for a large one. The area over which tropical storm-force winds can occur is even greater.

Storm Surge: A large dome of water, 50 to 100 miles wide, that sweeps across the coastline near where a hurricane makes land-fall. It can be more than 15 feet deep at its peak. Storm surge is the greatest threat to life and property associated with hurricanes.

Tornado: TORNADOS usually occur in severe thunderstorms when wind changes direction and height, causing rotation. Wind speeds range from 40-318 mph.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category	Sustained Winds (MPH)	Damage
1	74-95	Minimal
2	96-110	Moderate
3	111-130	Extensive
4	131-155	Extreme
5	>155	Catastrophic

Important to Note: The category of a storm does not necessarily relate directly to the damage it will inflict. Lower category storms (and even tropical storms) can cause substantial damage depending on what other weather features they interact with, where they strike, and how slowly they move.

Household Disaster Plan

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to flooding and wind damage.
- The **City of Miami Springs is NOT in an evacuation zone**; however, some residents with special needs may be required to evacuate, and some residents may prefer to do so.
- If you decide to evacuate, you should try to evacuate to the home of a friend or family member. Red Cross Emergency Evacuation Centers should only be used as a last resort, and **not all centers will be open for every emergency**. Monitor local radio and TV stations, go to www.miamidade.gov/oem for a list of open evacuation centers, or download various disaster Red Cross apps from Apple App Store or Google Play.
- Red Cross Evacuation Centers will not accept animals. If you decide to evacuate with your pets, Miami-Dade County has established two pet-friendly shelters (see p. 20 for details).
- Have an out-of-state contact so all family members have a single point of contact during an emergency.
- Make sure you have a full tank of gas. Gasoline pumps are electrical and will not operate if a storm takes out the power lines. Also, check your oil, tire pressure and vehicle fluids.
- Check your insurance coverage, keeping in mind that flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. For general insurance information, visit www.iii.org. This site also has apps and software to assist you in making a home inventory.
- Stock non-perishable supplies and a disaster supply kit. Use the list on pp. 11-13 as a guideline.
- Have written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.



Hurricane Preparedness

Before the storm season begins:

- Test emergency equipment and generators.
- Trim trees and shrubs. **Do not trim trees and shrubs after a hurricane watch or warning has been issued! *The debris will not be picked up and can become harmful missiles during a storm.***
- Inspect roof and home for potential dangers.
- Purchase shutters or plywood and fasteners for doors and windows.
- Clear rain gutters and drains of debris.
- Update emergency contact list.
- Update disaster supply kit.
- Update and review evacuation plan.
- Have a plan in place for your pets.
- Review insurance policies and update inventory.
- Prepare your boat.
- Pre-register with the Special Needs Evacuation Office if you require medical or other assistance . (See p. 19 for details.)
- Fill prescriptions of emergency medications.
- Protect electronics with surge protectors.
- **Sign up to receive Miami-Dade County emergency text alerts at www.miamidade.gov/alerts**

During a Hurricane Watch:



- Listen to a weather radio or local radio or TV stations for the latest storm information.
- Prepare to take in lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants and all other objects that can be picked up by the wind.
- Tie down those items too large to move inside.
- Prepare to cover all the windows of your home using shutters or plywood. **Tape will not prevent windows from breaking.**
- Fill all your vehicle gas tanks.
- Fill the grill's propane tank
- Recharge appropriate equipment, electrical tools, cell phones, etc.
- Complete any last minute shopping for your disaster supply kit.
- Start making additional ice.



During a Hurricane Warning:

- Keep monitoring media broadcasts.
- Cover doors and windows with shutters or plywood.
- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings and do not open them unless absolutely necessary.
- Prepare your emergency water supply.

- Take down your satellite dish or antenna, if possible.
- Cover your pool pump and add extra chlorine to your pool to prevent contamination.
- Place valuables and personal papers (birth certificates, Social Security cards, marriage license, insurance policies, etc.) in a waterproof container.
- Have an adequate amount of cash on hand as banks may be closed and ATMs will not work if the electricity is out.

During a Hurricane:

- Stay indoors; an interior room without windows is best.
- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered.
- Keep listening to the radio or TV for updates and instructions from public safety officials.
- If you lose power, turn off all major appliances.
- If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.
- Keep a flashlight with you at all times in case the power goes out.
- Be alert for tornadoes. (Stay in a secure room/closet without windows.)
- If you are in a multi-story building, go to an interior first-floor room.
- **Do not go outside during the eye of the storm.** During the eye, the wind and rain may stop anywhere from a few minutes to more than an hour but **the storm is not over.** The wind will quickly pick up again from the opposite direction, and it may be with greater force than before.



After a Hurricane:

- Remain indoors until an “all clear” is issued by officials.
- Do not use your telephone unless it is an emergency. **Do not call 911 unless there is a life threatening situation.**
- Notify Florida Power and Light of a power outage at 1-800-4OUTAGE (800-468-8243).
- **Call the Miami Springs Police Department, 305-805-5100,** to report impassable streets, water main breaks, or live power lines down.
- Stay away from standing water and all fallen or low hanging wires.
- Listen for a “boil water order”. Assume the water supply is contaminated until you hear otherwise. See p.14 for water decontamination instructions.
- Inspect your home for damage. Make a list of damaged items, and take photos for the insurance company.
- Use flashlights at all times. For safety reasons, avoid using candles.
- Remove and store shutters or plywood as soon as safely possible.
- Do not operate charcoal grills, propane camp stoves or generators indoors.
- Take precautions to reduce mosquito breeding by draining standing water and use insect repellent.
- **Do not “sight see”;** roads will be dangerous due to debris, downed trees, and the potential for downed power lines.
- **Contact the Miami Springs Command Center to obtain information regarding ice, water, food distribution, and other information:**

**In person: 201 Westward Drive,
Police Department entrance**

By Phone: 305-805-5100 or 305-888-9711

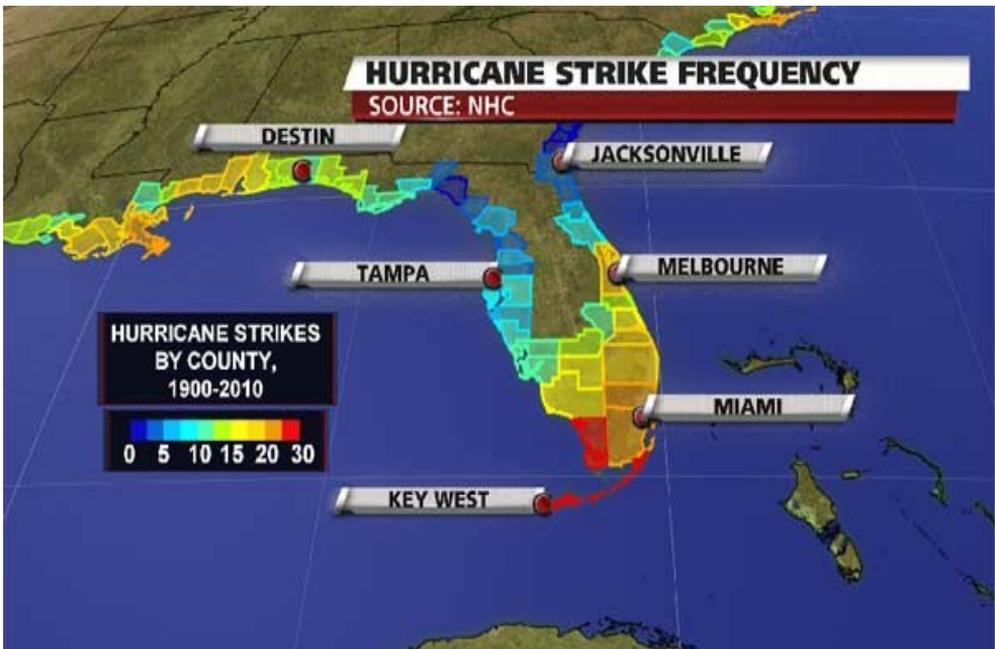
Disaster Supply Checklist



- Water**—at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days.
- Food**—see list on following pages
- Clothing** - seasonal/rain gear/sturdy shoes
- First Aid Kit/Medicines/Prescription Drugs: 2 weeks' worth**
- Special items for infants and elderly** – formula, diapers, bottles, medications/prescription drugs (two week supply), denture needs
- Toiletries** - hygiene items, moisture wipes, antibacterial lotion, sunscreen, insect repellent
- Flashlight and Batteries / Candles**
- Radio** - battery operated with NOAA weather radio
- Cash** - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods
- Extra set of keys**
- Toys, books, games**
- Important Documents** - in a waterproof container or watertight re-sealable plastic bag: insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle tanks filled**
- Grill or camp stove and Fuel** - Charcoal or Propane
- Lighter / Matches**
- Fire Extinguisher**
- Gas for generator**, if applicable



- **Pet Care Items** - identification, immunization records, medications, supply of food and water for 3 to 7 days, carrier or cage, muzzle, leash
- **Camera and batteries**
- **Water purifying agents** - iodine, chlorine or commercial tablets
- **Disposable plates and utensils, paper towels, toilet paper**
- **Manual can opener**
- **Garbage bags** - clear for FEMA debris, regular for other garbage
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape**
- **Gloves for yard work**
- **Cleaning supplies**
- **Phone set that does not require electricity or USB power bank charger for cell phone**



Non-Perishable Food List

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.

If the electricity goes off:

FIRST, use perishable food and foods from the refrigerator. THEN, use the foods from the freezer. To minimize the number of times you open the freezer, post a list of freezer contents on it. In a well-filled, well-insulated freezer, foods will usually have ice crystals in their centers (meaning foods are safe to eat) for at least three days. FINALLY, begin to use non-perishable foods and staples:

- **Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables**
- **Canned juices, milk, soup**
- **Staples:** Sugar, salt, pepper, mustard and ketchup packets
- **High energy foods:** peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- **Dried fruits and fresh fruits with a longer shelf life**
- **Vitamins**
- **Foods for infants, elderly persons, or persons with special diets**
- **Comfort/stress foods:** cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops
- **Instant coffee, tea bags**



Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water

Boiling: Vigorous boiling for one minute will kill any disease-causing microorganisms present in tap water. The flat taste of boiled water can be improved by pouring it back and forth from one container to another, by allowing it to stand for a few hours, or by adding a small pinch of salt for each quart of water boiled.

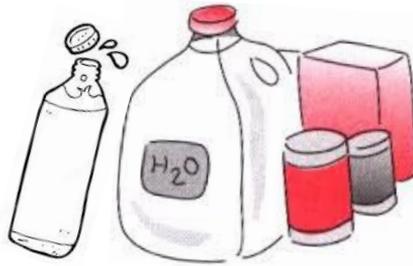
Chlorine Bleach: When boiling is not practical, chemical disinfection should be used. Common household bleach (without any additives) contains a chlorine compound that will disinfect water. The procedure to be followed is usually written on the label. When the necessary procedure is not given, find the percentage of available chlorine on the label and use the information in the following table as a guide.

Available Chlorine	Drops per Quart of Clear Water
1%	10
4-6%	2
7-10%	1

If strength is unknown, add ten drops per quart of water. *Double amount of chlorine for cloudy or colored water or water that is extremely cold.*

The treated water should be mixed thoroughly and allowed to stand, preferably covered, for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor; if not, repeat the dosage and allow the water to stand for an additional 15 minutes. If the treated water has too strong a chlorine taste, it can be made more pleasing by allowing the water to stand exposed to the air for a few hours or by pouring it from one clean container to another several times.

Plan ahead: one gallon of water per person per day!



Safety Tips

- Sterilize bathtubs, jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils. Let the tub and other containers dry, and then fill them with water that can be used for sanitary purposes.
- Water may be contaminated due to flooding. Assume that the water is not safe and only use properly stored water. Refer to the Emergency Drinking Water Disinfection instructions in the previous section.
- Do not use matches until gas lines have been checked for leaks.
- Avoid carbon monoxide injuries by using all grills outside.
- Avoid sight-seeing; roads will be dangerous due to debris, downed trees, and the potential for downed power lines.
- Avoid downed power lines, and all metal objects near downed power lines.
- Do not drive across flooded roadways, and stay clear of moving water, especially rivers, canals and drainage systems.
- **Treat all intersections as a 4-way stop.** *Drive only if absolutely necessary.*
- Be aware of pest problems, such as mice, rats, insects, and snakes.



Safe Generator Usage

- If you choose to buy a generator, make sure you get one that is listed with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).
- Ground your generator and never use a portable generator inside your home. Do not connect it to your home's electrical system.
- Look at the labels on lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator to determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate the equipment. Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of appliances, etc. you plan to connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on.
- Follow the directions supplied with the generator. **Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors, including inside a garage.** Adequate ventilation is necessary and proper refueling practices, as described in the owner's manual must be followed.
- It is a good idea to install one or more Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms inside your home to detect if CO gas from the portable generator is entering your home.
- Be sure to let the generator cool down before refueling. Do not store the fuel in a garage or anywhere else inside the home, as vapors can be released that may cause illness and are a potential fire or explosion hazard.
- **Unless your home's power supply was installed with a disconnect to the main power feeding lines, power you put into your home from a generator could "backfeed" into the main line and cause problems for the electrical utility company, your neighbors, or yourself.**



“Backfeeding” is supplying electrical power from a generator at the residence into the incoming utility lines. This occurs when the necessary equipment used to isolate the generator from the incoming power lines is not installed.

- **Improper connection methods not only endanger the building occupants, but pose a serious hazard to electric utility workers as well.**
- Have a fully charged, properly rated fire extinguisher (i.e., rated for electrical and gas fires) ready at all times.
- If operating continuously during a prolonged outage, shut the generator down at least once every 24 hours to allow it to cool and to inspect for equipment problems.
- When placing your generator outside, consider where the emission of fumes will occur. Do not place a generator where fumes can enter your home, *or a neighbor’s home*.
- Use heavy-duty extension cords that are specifically designed for outdoor use and are long enough to be placed far away from windows, doors and vents to the home.
- Make sure the wattage rating for each cord exceeds the total wattage of all appliances connected to it.
- Consider turning the generator off at night, if possible, so that your neighbors are not subject to the noise and/or fumes.



Evacuation Centers and Pick Up Sites

You should try to evacuate to the home of a friend or family member who lives outside the Evacuation

Zones. Red Cross Evacuation Centers should only be used as a last resort, and you will need bedding, clothing, water, medications, hygiene/childcare items, cash and snacks.

Not every site will be open for every evacuation! Please monitor the local radio or TV stations, or call the Miami-Dade Answer Center at 3-1-1 to find out which centers are available when an evacuation order is given. Some nearby sites are:

Lawton Chiles Middle	8190 NW 197 th Street
Barbara Goleman Sr. H.S.	14100 NW 89 th Avenue
Ronald Reagan Sr. H.S.	8600 NW 107th Ave.
Hialeah Gardens Sr. H.S.	11700 Hialeah Gardens Blvd.

Miami-Dade Transit will activate specific bus pick up points within the hurricane evacuation zones. These pick up points are identified by a sign that reads “HURRICANE EVACUATION BUS PICK UP SITE.” The buses placed into service will have displays that read “EMERGENCY EVACUATION” and will only travel between the pick up site and the Hurricane Evacuation Center.

Since Miami Springs is **not** in an evacuation zone, the closest pick up site is 8181 NW South River Drive, Medley Mobile Home Park.



Elderly and Other Special Needs Residents

No shelter has been established within the City of Miami Springs to care for individuals who are dependent upon assistance with activities of daily living or who require specific medical monitoring. Miami-Dade County has established the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) to meet the needs of such individuals who live alone or with their families.

The EEAP offers individuals on the registry priority assistance, shelter and transportation evacuating to a facility appropriate for their level of care. Liftgate buses and other specialized transportation will pick up those registered and take them to and from their homes to their assigned facility.

You must pre-register for these services. Do not wait until a hurricane is pending. You may call the Miami-Dade Answer Center at 3-1-1 to receive an application in English, Spanish, or Creole. Applications in English and Spanish may also be downloaded at www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/evacuation-assistance.asp

Miami Springs Senior Center pre- and post-disaster services are detailed on p. 29.



Pet-Friendly Evacuation Centers

Most Red Cross hurricane shelters only accept service animals such as seeing-eye dogs. If you choose to evacuate with your pet(s), you may shelter in the Pet-Friendly Evacuation Centers (PEC). Pet friendly evacuation centers accept more than just cats and dogs. They also accept birds, ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats and rabbits (small-sized, under 10 pounds, such as California or Dutch breeds). There are currently two centers that accept families with their pets during emergencies:

E. Darwin Fuchs Pavilion 10901 SW 24th St.

Dr. Michael M. Krop Sr. H.S. 1410 County Line Rd.

Requirements for admittance to Pet Friendly Evacuation Centers:

- Provide proof of residency within an evacuation zone, unsafe structure or mobile home
- Present medical and current vaccination records for each pet. Annual rabies vaccinations and a visible Miami-Dade County dog license are required by Miami-Dade County Code. Strict enforcement concerning these violations is essential to ensure a rabies-free community. Cats are also required to have annual rabies vaccinations.
- Pet owners must bring supplies for themselves and their pet(s)
- Limit four (4) pets per household
- Family member must remain in the PEC with the pet(s)



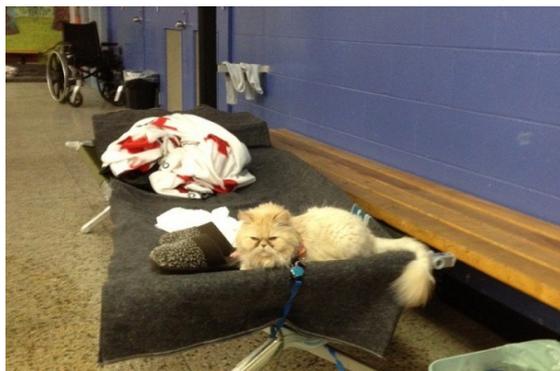


Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning!

Miami-Dade County Animal Services does not board animals during emergencies. The shelter will be crowded due to displaced animals immediately after a storm, and it is not possible to kennel owned animals prior to an emergency event.

For a list of pet-friendly hotels and boarding kennels in Greater Miami, Broward, Palm Beach, Naples and other surrounding areas that may accept your pet in the event of a hurricane, go to www.officialpethotels.com.

If you have to leave your pets behind as a last resort, prepare an emergency pen in your home that includes a three-day supply of dry food and a large container of fresh water. Make sure that their immunizations are up to date and that they are wearing a collar with identification.



Boat Owners

Trailer Boats:



- Store your boat inside a garage or warehouse if possible. If you must leave your boat outside do the following:
- Place wooden blocks between the frame member and axle inside each wheel.
- Release about half of the air from the tires.
- Fill the boat one-third full of water to help hold it down.
- Tie your boat and trailer securely to a strong object such as a telephone pole or large tree using heavy-duty line.

Boats in the Water:



- Hurricane moorings should be located in advance.
- Make a practice run to check accessibility, anchorage, depth of water, bridges and locating aides and/or obstructions to navigation. (Drawbridges will not open for boats if an evacuation has been ordered.)
- Record and keep with you your vessel registration number, a description of your vessel and where it is secured.
- Check your contract or policy with the marina. Know your responsibilities.
- Wind direction will reverse during a hurricane. Secure your boat for the possibility of wind coming from all directions.
- Seal all openings to make the boat as watertight as possible. If your boat is on a davit, open the boat drains before securing.
- Strip the boat of all movable equipment and latch down everything that cannot be removed.
- Be sure not to block the passage of other boats, which have moorings farther inshore.

Preserving Important Information

Make a complete inventory of your home, garage, and surrounding property. Be sure to include any out buildings. The inventory can be either written or digital images. Be sure to include information such as serial numbers, make and model numbers, physical descriptions, and price of purchase. (Include receipt, if possible.)



Vital documents such as birth, marriage, divorce, adoption and armed forces separation certificates, car titles, tax records, insurance policies, passports, credit card numbers, mortgage and financial records, and wills and trusts can be lost during a disaster. Make two sets of scans or photocopies of these documents and keep the originals in a safe deposit box. Keep one set in a safe place in the house, and give the second set to a trusted out-of-state relative or friend.

If you have a scanner, save yourself space and heartbreak by scanning family albums and images of other keepsakes, burn those to CD and keep a copy in your "take box", or make a copy of all your pictures, videos, music and documents on a external hard drive that you can keep in your "take box".



What to do After a Traumatic Event

- Talk to other people about your experiences, reactions, and feelings.
- Take it easy – don't push yourself!
- Plan extra time to do usual tasks – you may be distracted and not able to function as efficiently as usual.
- Reestablish your normal routine as soon as you can do so comfortably – this helps you regain a sense of stability and predictability. This is especially important for children.
- Discuss your current emergency plan with family and friends and prepare for future crises.
- Don't forget to eat, and eat wisely – avoid junk food, excessive sugar, alcohol, and caffeine.
- Rest, but get some exercise.
- Recognize that the information about the event can be as upsetting as it is helpful.
- Turn off your radio, computer, smartphone or television when you start to feel overwhelmed by the news.
- Reach out to help others – either through volunteer activities, donations of supplies, money, or personal support to friends or neighbors.

*If you start to feel overwhelmed or increasingly stressed, you may need to seek professional help. The SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline is dedicated to providing free year-round immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress, anxiety or depression related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents. Call **1-800-985-5990** or text **TalkWithUs** to **66746** to connect with a trained crisis counselor. SAMHSA also has an interpretation service that connects callers with counselors in more than 150 languages. Call 1-800-985-5990 and press 2. For texting support in Spanish, text **Hablanos** to **66746**.*

Helping Children Cope with a Traumatic Event

- Be calm and reassuring. Your demeanor will either calm or alarm them.
- Turn off the radio or TV – overexposure to the media can be traumatizing.
- You should acknowledge to your children that the event is upsetting to you, too. Remember to remain calm and have a composed demeanor.
- Give your children extra time and attention.
- Let your children ask questions – it is important that they express their feelings about the event.
- Keep regular schedules for activities such as eating, playing, and going to bed to help restore a sense of security and normalcy.
- Help children express their emotions through conversation, writing, drawing, and singing. Most children want to talk about a trauma, so let them. Accept their feelings and tell them it is okay to feel sad, upset, or stressed. Crying is often a way to relieve stress and grief. **Pay attention and be a good listener.**
- Consider how your child can help. Allow them to assist with age-appropriate activities. Children are better able to regain their sense of power and security if they feel they can help in some way.



Disposing of Debris in Miami Springs Before and After a Storm

Within 72 hours of an impending storm do not trim trees, cut branches, or place any objects such as furniture or appliances outside. The Public Works Department may not be able to remove them and they have the potential to become deadly missiles or projectiles.

- Once you have received your last scheduled garbage pick up prior to the impending hurricane, secure your 90-gallon trash container and your recycling cart by placing them in the garage or tool shed. As a last resort, securely tie them to your fence.
- Do not begin plumbing work that is not of an urgent nature unless it can be completed within 48 hours of an impending hurricane. Assistance from Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department may not be available if a water line is accidentally broken.
- Once the “All clear” has been given by Miami-Dade County, the Public Works Department will mobilize to clear the main arteries in order to provide access for emergency vehicles.
- Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer will also mobilize to safely restore water service where it has been interrupted
- Place all trees, branches, and other storm debris in the swale in front of your home, being careful not to block fire hydrants or valves. Do not place debris in the alley. Most utilities are serviced from the alleyway, and **service cannot be restored if the alley is blocked.**
- It is important to separate flammable and non-flammable debris. Any debris or material that is to be bagged must be done so in clear see-through bags. FEMA contractors will not pick up material that is not visually identifiable.

- **After a hurricane has left the area, all residents (including those who normally receive alley service) are to place the City garbage container on the front swale on their normally scheduled pick-up day. Container roll out service will temporarily be suspended. Garbage pick up may be delayed. Leave the container on the swale until the garbage is picked up.**
- Continue to separate your recyclable materials; do not include them in your garbage or in the clear bags.
- After the storm, if you have questions, contact the Miami Springs Emergency Hotline at 305-888-9711.



2005 post-hurricane photos provided by Public Works Department

Other Critical Incidents

Much of the information in this booklet applies to many other types of critical incidents besides natural disasters (hurricanes, tornados etc.) The potential threat from terrorist hazards, active shooters, violent protests, pandemics and technological and accidental hazards such as blackouts, hazardous materials incidents, household chemical emergencies and nuclear power plant incidents all require that we are informed and prepared.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Know where emergency exits are located in buildings you frequent. Notice where exits are when you enter unfamiliar buildings and be aware of alternate exits.
- Think about how you would leave a crowded public area or get out of heavy traffic if you had to. Do not be afraid to move or leave if you feel uncomfortable or threatened.
- Take precautions when traveling. Be aware of unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave your luggage unattended. If you see something unusual such as suspicious packages or strange devices, tell police or security personnel.
- Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay where you are, sheltering in place, or evacuate. Listen to authorities, watch TV and check the internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available. They will help you decide if you are in immediate danger.



Miami Springs Senior Center Services

All services to residents enrolled in the City's Senior Center will be continued as long as feasible prior to a forecasted disaster with priority given to information and referral, shopping assistance, home delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation and screening and assessment of special needs.

The catering firm currently under contract with the Elderly Services Department has emergency provisions on hand and the ability to prepare meals using generator power; therefore, both home delivered and congregate meals will be provided immediately before and after a disaster if possible.

Should post-disaster conditions at the Senior Center disable use of the building, operations may be moved to a nearby safe local site for a period of time. Home delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, and information and referral services will be resumed as soon as roadways are safe.

- **Assisted Care Shelters:** No shelter has been established within the City of Miami Springs to care for individuals who are dependent upon assistance with activities of daily living or who require specific medical monitoring. Seniors with special needs are urged to pre-register with Miami-Dade County's Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (p.19).
- **Transportation:** The Senior Center's 16-passenger bus may be able to provide limited emergency pre-disaster and post-disaster local transportation for seniors who wish to "weather" the disaster at another's home in Miami Springs, to those accepted by Fair Havens Retirement & Nursing Center for assisted care, to meal sites and food and supply stations. If transportation is offered, it will be provided to those enrolled participants able to ride the city bus and as long as the roads are passable before and after any disaster.
- **Referrals:** All new referrals for senior citizens in need of immediate services will be processed by Elderly Services staff and the Miami Springs Police Department as soon as possible after a disaster. Additional information on available assistance may be obtained by contacting the Alliance for Aging's Elder Helpline at 305-670-4357.

Lightning Alert



Do you hear loud horns going off for about 15 seconds as a storm approaches? Or notice a strobe light flashing at Prince Field, Peavy-Dove Park, Stafford Park or the tennis courts?

Mistaken by some residents as car horns or burglar alarms, these are actually the City's **Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System**. By measuring changes in the atmosphere, this system warns us that within a one to two mile radius there is a high probability of a lightning strike within the next 8 to 20 minutes. A base unit in the Community Center tracks the hazard level and number of lightning discharges during a storm. Explanatory signs are posted in the parks and tennis courts.

When the horns sound, immediately seek safe shelter and remain there until the all clear signal (three short five second blasts) sounds and the strobe light stops flashing, even if it has stopped raining.

Florida is called the Lightning Capital of the United States with about 90 thunderstorm days a year. Because of this, Florida has more lightning deaths than any other state. **Lightning kills more people in Florida than all other weather hazards combined.** Since the Thor Guard system was installed in 2007, there have been no outdoor lightning accidents reported in Miami Springs!



Who do you call to notify of downed traffic signs, signals and street lights?

Miami-Dade County Traffic Control at 305-592-0831

Important Phone Numbers and Web Sites

**Miami Springs Police Department
City Emergency Hotline
305-888-9711**

**Miami-Dade County Emergency
and Fire Rescue (for medical emergencies)
9-1-1**

**Miami-Dade County Information Answer Line
3-1-1**

**Miami Springs Public Works Department
305-805-5170**

**Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department
305-274-9272**

**Florida Power and Light
1-800-OUTAGE (468-8243)**

**Miami-Dade County Traffic Control
305-592-0831**

**Miami Springs City Hall
305-805-5000
www.miamisprings-fl.gov**

**Alliance for Aging's Elder Helpline
305-670-4357**

**American Red Cross (South FL)
305-644-1200
www.redcross.org/fl/miami**

**Poison Control Help Line
1-800-222-1222**

**FEMA
1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov**