



## **KNOW YOUR ZONE, KNOW YOUR HOME**

### **Florida Division of Emergency Management – 2020 Hurricane Season**

#### **Background**

Every year it's important for residents to know if they live in an evacuation zone, a low-lying, flood prone area, a mobile home or an unsafe structure during hurricane season. These areas and buildings are most likely to be evacuated and knowing these zones helps Floridians prepare to evacuate and better understand orders from local officials.

This year, it is also very important for residents to know their home. If an evacuation order is not issued for your area and your house is not in an evacuation zone, you may consider sheltering in place. If you shelter in place, it's important to know your home and its ability to withstand strong winds and heavy rain.

Take a look to see where your zone is at [Know Your Zone Map](#).

#### **Partners**

- [Florida County Emergency Management Agencies](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA)
- [Emergency Support Functions](#) (ESF)
- State agencies
- Local counties and municipalities






#### **Web Content**

The greatest threat to life from a hurricane is storm surge flooding, so anyone in an ordered evacuation zone, low-lying flood area, or in a mobile home, must evacuate if ordered. On the other hand, if someone is not in an ordered evacuation zone, low-lying flood prone area, mobile home or unsafe structure, it may be safer to shelter at home to avoid possible COVID-19 exposure.

Evacuation zones are designated from A to F. Generally, Zone A is most vulnerable and most likely to be evacuated first, and Zone F is most likely to be evacuated last. Take the time now to find out which zone you are in and remember to pay attention to local authorities during a storm to find out if an evacuation is ordered. Know your zone today by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone>.

In addition to knowing if your home is in an evacuation zone, also consider the strength of your home. Generally, homes built after 2002 include features that make them more resilient to hurricanes. There are also improvements you can make to your home to strengthen it against future storms. Know your home and learn more by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare/secure-your-home/>.

## Social Media

- After determining if your home is in an evacuation zone, consider the strength of your home. Generally, homes built after 2002 include features that make them more resilient to hurricanes.  
Use this tool to determine the building codes used in your community, or contact your local government for info about building codes used in the past   
<https://inspecttoprotect.org/>
- Did you know there are steps you can take to make your home more resilient against potential storms?  
 Know your home and learn more: <https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare/secure-your-home/> #KnowYourHome #KnowYourZone
- Do you #KnowYourZone? In order to know when to evacuate for hurricane surge flooding, you need to know your zone!  
Zone info: <https://floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone>
- Own a mobile or manufactured home? Mobile homes without proper tie-downs are less resistant to high winds.  
Have your mobile/manufactured home tie-down system checked by a licensed mobile home installer to reduce possible damage to your home and your neighbor's property, especially in the event of a storm. <https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/dealers-installers-manufacturers-distributors-importers/mobile-home-installer/list-of-licensed-mobile-home-installers/>
- Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowner's insurance. Don't make assumptions – be sure to check your policy today.
- Preparing your home for hurricanes can mean the difference between minor damage and complete destruction:
  -  Trim and anchor down trees and foliage.
  -  Reinforce the garage door and tracks.
  -  Tie down any free-standing fixtures in your yard.

## Graphics

**Don't make assumptions.**

**Check your  
insurance policies today!**

**Do you know  
your *zone*?**

**EVACUATION  
ROUTE**





### Newsletter Content

With hurricane season heating up while COVID-19 remains a threat, people across Florida are asking the same question, “Should I evacuate if a hurricane threatens my area this year?” To answer this question, you will need to know your zone and know your home.

The greatest threat to life from a hurricane is storm surge flooding, so anyone in an ordered evacuation zone, low-lying flood area, or in a mobile home, must evacuate if ordered. On the other hand, if someone is not in an ordered evacuation zone, low-lying flood prone area, mobile home or unsafe structure, it may be safer to shelter at home to avoid possible COVID-19 exposure.

Evacuation zones are designated from A to F. Generally, Zone A is most vulnerable and most likely to be evacuated first, and Zone F is most likely to be evacuated last. Take the time now to find out which zone you are in and remember to pay attention to local authorities during a storm to find out if an evacuation is ordered. Know your zone today by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone>.

In addition to knowing if you are in an evacuation zone, the strength of your home is another factor to consider. While it is the responsibility of the homeowner to make this decision, generally homes built after 2002 include features that make them more resilient to hurricanes. There are also improvements you can make to your home to strengthen it against future storms. Know your home and learn more by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare/secure-your-home/>

### FAQs

#### **Q. Should I evacuate if a hurricane comes this year?**

A. The greatest threat to life from a hurricane is storm surge flooding, so if you are in an ordered evacuation zone, low-lying flood area or in a mobile home, the life-safety risk of a hurricane will be greater than the risk of COVID-19 exposure. On the other hand, if you are not in an ordered

evacuation zone, low-lying flood prone area, mobile home or unsafe structure, then it may be safer to stay in your home. **Always heed the advice and orders of local officials during a storm.**

**Q. How do I know if my home is strong enough to shelter in during a hurricane?**

A. If you are in an evacuation zone that is ordered to evacuate by local authorities or in a flood zone, you should evacuate no matter what. If you are not in any of these areas, then it may be safer for you to stay in your home. While it is the responsibility of the homeowner to know if their home is strong enough to withstand a hurricane, generally homes built after 2002 include features that make them more resilient to hurricanes. There are also improvements you can make to your home to strengthen it against future storms. Know your home and learn more by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare/secure-your-home/>

**Q. What can I do to make my home stronger?**

A. The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter. According to recent wind technology research, it's important to strengthen the exterior of your house so wind and debris do not tear large openings in it. Learn more by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare/secure-your-home/>

**Q. How will I know if I'm ordered to evacuate?**

A. Monitor local news and pay attention to alerts from authorities. Evacuation zones are designated from A to F. Generally, Zone A is most vulnerable and most likely to be evacuated first, and Zone F is most likely to be evacuated last. Take the time now to find out which zone you are in and remember to pay attention to local authorities during a storm to find out if an evacuation is ordered. Know your zone today by visiting <https://floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone>.

**Q. If I need to evacuate or stay in a shelter, what should I bring with me?**

A. In addition to the supplies that you would normally bring, make sure that you have hand sanitizer, masks and other materials to protect yourself from COVID-19.

**Q. What supplies do I need to be ready for a hurricane?**

A. Check out this disaster supply checklist and use it to make sure you have what you need: <https://floridadisaster.org/globalassets/plan--prepare/disaster-supply-checklist.pdf>

**Q. If I need to evacuate my home will I have to stay in a public shelter?**

A. If you need to evacuate, your safest and easiest option may be to stay with friends or family who live outside the evacuation zone or in a stronger house. Check with nearby friends and family now and have a plan in place for what to do if you are ordered to evacuate. Shelter information can be found at: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/shelters/>.

**Q. If I need to stay in a shelter, will I be exposed to COVID-19?**

A. The state has been working with CDC, FEMA, and the American Red Cross to develop guidance for counties ahead of the 2020 Hurricane Season. This includes non-congregate sheltering plans, maintaining 6 feet social distancing between families, taking temperatures and screening individuals prior to entry, routine cleaning and disinfecting, and designated isolation areas in case an individual in the shelter becomes ill.



**Q. Will shelters be different this year?**

A. Non-congregate sheltering will be used when possible. Overall, the CDC is encouraging every county to use smaller shelters of less than 50 people when possible. Regardless of the number of people in a shelter, the CDC and American Red Cross recommend a minimum of 60 square feet per person. The state is recommending that counties screen all clients before entering. If rapid testing is available, it should be used. The state also sent out a statewide survey to hotels to gauge how many businesses would be interested in providing non-congregate sheltering if a hurricane were to threaten a community. It's important to note, the 200 hotels who responded to the survey are not actively sheltering individuals. They expressed interest in providing sheltering during the upcoming hurricane season. All decisions regarding sheltering during a storm will be decided by local county emergency management. To view the list of hotels that expressed interest, please click [here](#).