



LAS VISTAS IN INVERRARY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS 2022

With the start of hurricane season in Florida, we wanted to provide this guide on hurricane preparedness. The hurricane season, which lasts from May through the end of November, always brings challenges and some of us have been through the worst of these events. We hope that our collective knowledge will help all of us get through another season safely.

We have asked our Operations Coordinator and Building and Grounds Committee to share in the responsibility of helping to keep you and our community safe during hurricanes and other potentially dangerous events. Throughout the season, we will be sending out reminders of what we should – and should not do – while preparing for a storm, during a storm, and the aftermath. You will hear over and over in our communication “do not procrastinate”. This is especially important now, as we prepare for this season.

We think it will be helpful to share the meaning of the different storm warnings you hear on TV, email, radio, etc. The following is a listing of the most commonly used terms during the alerts we receive:

- Tropical Storm Watch – Tropical storm conditions are possible, usually within 48 hours.
- Tropical Storm Warning – Tropical storm conditions are expected, usually within 36 hours.
- Hurricane Watch – Hurricane conditions are possible, usually within 48 hours.
- Hurricane Warning – Hurricane conditions are expected, usually within 32 hours.
- Mandatory Evacuation Order – Imminent threat to life and property exists. Individuals MUST relocate and seek refuge in an inland, non-evacuation area.
- Voluntary Evacuation Order – A threat to life and property may be imminent. Evacuation not required, but would be advantageous; particularly for tourists, the elderly and those with special needs.

Please keep in mind however that storms of this nature are difficult to predict. Especially when it comes to their precise strength and timing. You will hear terms like the “cone” of the storm. This simply means that anyone within the forecasted cone can possibly experience the storm itself. Hurricanes do not follow a straight line. They constantly move in many directions. The National Hurricane Center as well as other weather and storm centers throughout the U.S. utilize this approach when predicting a storm and whether it will aim at a specific location. But please keep in mind, even the experts cannot know precisely when and where a storm will hit. It is this unpredictability that we must plan for. Hope for the best – prepare for the worst. But always be prepared.

Our Operations Coordinator, Chuck Palazzo will keep our community updated when a storm is forecasted to be in our area. He will send out emails (to those unit owners who have registered an email address with us as their official method of communication) and will provide the status of the storms including the potential strength as well as approximate timing. In addition to these updates, whenever possible information will also be posted on our website, each of the building bulletin boards, and in the Clubhouse.

Regardless of the type of storm, they all have one thing in common. They have the potential of being extremely dangerous. We will do our best to prepare our building and grounds, the clubhouse and offices, and the pools and cabanas, in such a way as to keep damage to a minimum. But it is up to you, the resident, to ensure that your own unit is prepared and most importantly, you are prepared to ride out a storm, have adequate supplies, and stay safe.

As we are not in a declared flood or evacuation zone, it would be rare that our residents are mandated to evacuate our premises (by the Governor or law enforcement, etc.). However, there are

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several things to keep in mind if this ever happened, and the following information has been provided by our insurance carrier:

- Have a plan for where you will go and make sure everyone knows where you are going
 - If possible, plan to stay with your friends or relatives living in a non-evacuation area
 - Know where there are public shelters, etc.
- Check to see the accessibility of your evacuation route on the roads and highways you need to travel to get to your alternate location
- Have your car ready, with a full tank, emergency supplies, etc.
- Leave quickly and don't wait for the last minute
- Prepare and take with you a disaster kit which should contain:
 - Extra cash
 - ID information including passports, driver license, etc.
 - Bank account information
 - Credit Cards
 - Adequate supply of prescription drugs
 - Bring at least one change of clothing and make sure to include sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeved shirts, blouses etc.
 - Extra light blanket

When leaving your home, be sure to secure your premises:

1. Put down hurricane shutters on your patio
2. If applicable, remove all movable plants from back staircases or along sides of buildings
3. Remove any hanging ornaments from windows or doors
4. Protect your electronics by wrapping them up preferably in plastic
5. Unplug your smaller electronics and appliances
6. Keep your air conditioning on 80 degrees, turn off the circuit breaker to your water heater, turn off the main water valve to your unit, make sure that your toilets are full of water (place mineral oil on top of water to retard evaporation), and place a heavy object on toilet lid
7. Keep your refrigerator on, but remove easily perishable items, stack your freezer with bags of ice to compact it (to keep items colder if electrical power is lost). If you will be away from an extended period of time, empty the refrigerator, but keep it on.
8. Secure your valuables

Now is the time to prepare your shopping lists and start to stock up on the items we are listing below - particularly important items – especially water. The good news is that none of the items on the list will be wasted as they can be used during our day to day lives. Others can be stored for use during next season. But none are of the “throw away” category.

When checking your home inventory, see what you have, then make your lists of what you are missing. We urge you to start this process immediately. Please do not wait until a storm has been formed before you go out to the stores to shop. Often, when we wait, the stores are crowded, and the products will be flying off the shelves at a rapid pace.

We should also note that Publix, in the past, has published a “Ready for the hurricane. Ready for anything.” brochure which they gave out free and if they still do so, we will have a supply in the clubhouse for your convenience.

Basic Checklist

1. Drinking water. 1 gallon per day per person for at least 7 days.
2. 30-day supply of all prescription and over the counter medications

3. Toiletries
4. Oxygen as required. Be sure to check with your healthcare provider for details
5. Non-perishable foods (canned meats, soup, vegetables, fruits, etc.) peanut butter, crackers, jelly, instant coffee/tea
6. Cereals, granola, and nutrition bars
7. Powdered or boxed milk (non-perishable)
8. Manual can opener
9. Disposable plates, cups, utensils, trash bags
10. Flashlight (1 per person)
11. Battery powered lanterns and clock
12. Extra batteries
13. First aid kit (bandages, antibiotic cream, peroxide, etc.)
14. Mosquito repellent
15. Sunscreen (SPF 50 or higher)
16. Fully charged cell phones, laptops, tablets, - car chargers are a great addition as well
17. Place your important documents in a secured, plastic/waterproof bag (passport, insurance policies, etc.)
18. Take pictures of all important contents of your units, TV, computers, kitchen appliances, pictures, jewelry, etc.) - this will be crucial should you have to file a claim if anything becomes damaged or lost
19. Ice packs - there are various types of these available that can be re-used
20. Ice chest
21. Quiet games, books, playing cards

Lastly, we hope that you will be mindful of your neighbors and offer to help anyone you think needs assistance in getting supplies, pulling down shutters, etc. Our Las Vistas community has always been there for each other, and we know that tradition will continue.

Let's all of us stay safe and be prepared for this hurricane season!