

# HURRICANE PLAN

## PUNTA RASSA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

### HURRICANE AWARENESS

Punta Rassa residents, be they owners or guests, need to be aware of the hurricane season and what to do in case of a hurricane.

Hurricane season is from June 1 through November 30.

A hurricane is an intense low-pressure system, which rotates counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and generates winds in excess of 74 miles per hour.

The storm surge, that accompanies a hurricane is a huge wall of water pushed inland by a hurricane and causes the most destruction. The storm surge is blamed for an average of nine out of every 10 hurricane related fatalities. According to the hurricane center forecaster, Bob Case, the ocean surface under the storm's center is drawn upward like water in a giant straw forming a mound a foot higher than the ocean. As this mound nears the coast it can grow to become a storm surge 50 miles wide and 20 feet high.

Ten-foot hurricane generated waves on top of the storm surge can crash into coastal areas, which are less than 10 feet above sea level along most of the Gulf and Atlantic States. **Punta Rassa is only five (5) feet above sea level.** Water weighs about 1,700 pounds per cubic yard, so the storm surge and waves can demolish a building designed to withstand wind but not water.

Tornadoes spawned from a hurricane often touch down where the eye of the storm crosses the coast, or to the immediate right, licking the land with deadly winds exceeding the hurricane force. High winds and heavy rains can be expected about 50 miles to the right and 75 miles to the left of where a hurricane eye passes.

The eye of the hurricane is where air flows in a downward pattern, a "hole in the clouds" caused by rising air around the storm's center. Storm experts say when the eye of the hurricane passes directly over an area; there could be minutes or even hours of calm and partly sunny skies before the wind and rain come again. There is danger for people who leave their homes when the eye passes over because the returning wind can be stronger.

A hurricane rapidly loses strength when it leaves the ocean's heat and meets friction over land, but it can carry torrential rain and wind for several days. Therefore, with this knowledge Punta Rassa residents will determine their course of action.

When a hurricane watch is issued for Southwest Florida, it doesn't mean a hurricane will strike the area. It means residents should get ready because there is a good chance they will be hit with hurricane strength winds and rain within 24 to 36 hours.

A hurricane watch is intended to give people living on barrier islands and low lying areas enough time to seek safety.

Coastal residents should decide before an actual hurricane watch what they will do if a severe storm threatens their area. By the time weather officials know exactly where a hurricane will strike land, it could be too late for procrastinating coastal residents to flee from danger.

### **RESIDENT CHOICE OF ACTION BEFORE HURRICANE STRIKES**

There are four choices of action when a hurricane threatens:

- 1) Stay in your home (a mandatory evacuation may be ordered)
- 2) Move inland with a relative or friend
- 3) Go to a public shelter
- 4) Leave Southwest Florida

You should decide before a hurricane threatens what course of action you will take and inform all your family members.

The decision by local officials to order an evacuation is a touchy situation because meteorologists cannot accurately predict where a hurricane will strike until about 12 hours before landfall. Evacuation of Southwest Florida coastal residents to safer inland areas could take more than 30 hours in the worst-case storm situation.

Post-storm conditions should also be considered when deciding what course of action to take. Utilities will likely be interrupted for days after a hurricane strike. There will be no phones, electricity, water or sewer. Other local services such as fire and emergency medical services will be overwhelmed and hampered by access problems. Elevators will not be operating.

## **DISASTER PLAN**

### **PUNTA RASSA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION**

Make a copy of this plan available to guests who may be using your unit.

In the event of a natural disaster (e.g. hurricane or tornadoes) or a man made disaster (e.g. war, chemical spills, etc.) tune your radio to a local station.

If an evacuation of the coastal areas of Fort Myers or Sanibel Island is ordered and you will need to use public shelter the designated shelter for Punta Rassa can be located in the information section of the local phone book.

If an evacuation is required by local authorities, and if time allows please do the following in your unit:

- a. Shut off the main electrical breaker in the unit.
- b. Turn off the main water valve in your unit.
- c. Remove all furniture from the patios and put it inside the unit.  
(If you are not present during the hurricane season, do this prior to departing for the summer)

Please be aware the Association will do the following if a disaster threatens the surrounding area:

- a. Elevators in all buildings may be shut down. Stairways located at the end of each walkway will be the only means of leaving the building.
- b. Main electrical breakers to all outside lighting may be shut off.
- c. Main water valves may be turned off.

#### **IF YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME ...WHAT TO DO**

1. Stay indoors.
2. Stay on the side of the unit away from the wind. As the wind direction changes move accordingly. The utility room or baths may be the safest rooms during a storm.
3. Stay away from windows and glass doors.
4. Don't go out during the brief calm that accompanies the "eye" of as it passes overhead.
5. Listen to the radio for information from official government sources. Unexpected changes can call for last minute relocation.
6. Use the phone only for emergencies.
7. Conserve Batteries.
8. Stay inside until you receive an "all Clear" from official sources.

## **ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND IF YOU STAY**

1. Flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs
2. Battery operated weather radio
3. Bottled beverages
4. Water
5. Canned food
6. Manual can opener
7. First aid supplies

## **WHAT TO DO WITHIN YOUR UNIT IF YOU STAY**

1. Clean your bathtub with bleach, rinse and fill with water for drinking.
2. Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.
3. Deploy storm shutters and install extra supports.
4. Make sure your car has a full tank of gas.
5. Store all patio furniture, plants and outdoor items inside. When caught in the wind, loose items become lethal projectiles.

## **IF YOU GO TO A PUBLIC SHELTER – WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**

1. Turn your refrigerator to the coldest settings in advance of leaving.
2. Shut off your electricity at the main breaker.
3. Store all patio furniture, plants and outdoor items inside.
4. Deploy storm shutters and install extra supports.
5. Make sure you have a full tank of gas in your car.

## **ITEMS YOU SHOULD BRING TO AN EMERGENCY PUBLIC SHELTER**

1. Valuable papers and identification tags
2. Non-perishable food to last you and your family at least 24 hours. Suggestions: canned meat or fish, cheese, ready to eat soups, peanut butter, dry cereal, bread, crackers, canned beverages, etc.
3. Water for 24 hours (2 gallons per person) in plastic containers
4. Manually operated can and bottle openers
5. Eating utensils
6. First aid supplies, medicines and special items such as baby formula and diapers. If items need to be refrigerated use a small cooler
7. Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, cots or lounge chair to sleep on.
8. Battery operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries
9. Extra clothes
10. Personal hygiene items
11. Toys for children, card games and books
12. Plastic trash bags
13. **NO PETS** Public shelters will not accept pets plan accordingly

## **ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES IF A HURRICANE THREATENS**

A committee needs to be organized in the event a hurricane is forecast for our area and the maintenance staff is unable to get to the property to secure it. The committee should have one person as the head of the committee to organize the other members. There should be at least four other persons.

Chairman's Duties (if maintenance staff is unable to get to the property)

1. Announce a hurricane evacuation order over the speaker system.
2. Instruct the rest of the committee members to do the following to secure the property:
  - a. All common loose outdoor items need to be secured:
    - i. All pool furniture needs to be put inside the swimming pool.
    - ii. Picnic tables to be stored under building.
    - iii. Shuffleboard and horseshoe equipment to be secured
    - iv. Tennis court windscreens and nets need to be taken down and stored.
    - v. All electrical systems not necessary for running the complex need to be turned off at the breaker including:
      1. Pool pumps
      2. Exterior lights
      3. Fountain
      4. Elevators parked on top floor and shut off
    - vi. All gas devices, i.e. spa heater to be turned off.
    - vii. Stone tables and furniture should be turned on its side
    - viii. Playground equipment secured.

## **MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE EVENT OF HURRICANE**

Individual safety is of greater importance than the need to safeguard property. Management and maintenance staff should not endanger the safety of their families or themselves. Hurricane preparations will be performed sufficiently in advance of a threatening storm to allow personnel to attend to the needs of their families and themselves.

### **Management Responsibilities:**

1. Make all reasonable efforts to safeguard association records including post event contact information.
2. Prepare a hardcopies of the owners list to be kept off site and with the association attorney.
3. Organize maintenance staff as to their duties.

### **Maintenance Staff:**

1. Announce hurricane evacuation order over speaker system if issued.
2. Secure all common loose outdoor items.
3. All pool furniture needs to be put inside the swimming pool.
4. Picnic tables to be stored under building.
5. Shuffleboard and horseshoe equipment to be secured
6. Tennis court windscreens and nets need to be taken down and stored.
7. All electrical systems not necessary for running the complex need to be turned off at the breaker including:
  - i. Pool pumps
  - ii. Exterior lights
  - iii. Fountain
  - iv. Elevators parked on top floor and shut off
8. All gas devices, i.e. spa heater to be turned off.
9. Stone tables and furniture should be turned on its side
10. Playground equipment secured.

Once the property has been secured, the management and maintenance staff will evacuate the property.

As soon as all danger has past, management and maintenance staff will report to the property as soon as is reasonable in light of existing circumstances, to assess damages and to take corrective action.