



HURRICANE SEASON 2009

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Another June/Another Season. This year, some forecasts are predicting a less than “average” storm season. Whatever the forecast, whatever you want to believe, remember-- it only takes one. It is so much easier to have established a personal plan (evacuation options, medications, pets, contacts, home preparation...) early, so if the “one” storm does threaten our area, you are prepared.

There are many well written articles and Hurricane Guides for Pinellas County that focus on hurricane preparedness, important phone numbers, evacuation procedures, available Shelters, post disaster re-entry permits, etc. The guides are updated annually, and distributed through the news media, NRB Town Hall, Post Office locations, home improvement stores and Pinellas County. Pick one up, and keep it close. You are responsible for your safety, the safety of your family, pets and property.

Should an evacuation be ordered, The Town of North Redington Beach is designated as one of the "first to go". Our evacuation route is north on Gulf Boulevard to Park Boulevard. You can sign up for a re-entry permit to North Redington Beach at Town Hall. If you haven't picked up a permit, what are you waiting for? Once a storm threatens North Redington Beach, Town resources will be focused on protection and preservation, and not on issuing re-entry permits. If an evacuation order has been given, **NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED.**

When/if a storm threat is eminent, or an evacuation order has been issued, Pinellas County (through the news media) will announce which Shelters are open and those supporting special needs. Shelters are identified and mapped in the Hurricane Guides. A Shelter should be a last resort; make arrangements to stay with family, friends or in a safe hotel/motel. Shelters are not comfortable and they are crowded; but, they help save lives.

Shelters of specific interest for 2009:

A.) Shelters accepting pets:

Dunedin Highland Middle School Gymnasium, 70 Patricia Ave, Dunedin
Oak Grove Middle School Gymnasium, 1370 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater
Thurgood Marshall Middle School Gymnasium, 3901 22nd Ave S, St. Petersburg

If you have a pet and you need to evacuate to a shelter, **you MUST make a reservation through Pinellas County Animal Control.** Enclosed is the form that must be completed and submitted to reserve space. Do not wait until the last minute - space is limited.

B.) Shelters for evacuees with special needs:

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

If you want to pre-register for a special needs Shelter, call the Department of Health (727-824-6900) or Pinellas County Emergency Management (727-464-3800) to understand the options. If an evacuation were to be called and you or a neighbor may require assistance in getting to a Shelter, fill out the enclosed **Evacuation Assistance/ Special Needs Registration form** and mail, or fax it to Town Hall- do it now! This form must be filed annually to anticipate Shelter and transportation needs, etc. Pinellas County will provide transportation to a Shelter from Town Hall or a resident's home if a transportation request form is submitted in advance.

We made the choice of residing in our beautiful beach community with known risks associated with living on a barrier island; and, it is **our** responsibility to be prepared for the 2009 hurricane season.