

## **JBCC Residents HURRICANE/MAJOR STORM SAFETY TIPS**

**DISCLAIMER** – These Safety Tips are offered as suggestions for JBCC Homeowners and are not required by the Jensen Beach County Club Association, its Directors or members. This document provides tips and a check list for preparations that should be completed at least 24-48 hours before a hurricane and/or major storm impacts the JBCC /Eagle Marsh Community. The Safety Tips and preparation/task list for JBCC Residents is compiled from the National Hurricane Center, Florida and Martin County Government Safety Tips for hurricanes and severe weather events.

It should be noted that major storm systems that involve tornados do not allow time for the types of preparation and completion of tasks for a residence. In this instance, the goal of any preparation is to get all persons and pets inside a residence and into safe, tornado resistant surroundings.

**Emergency Contact Information** –Obtain one or two copies of the most current Emergency Contacts list from the JBCC Property Managers Office at the Pin Oak Club House.

**Hurricane/Major Storm Monitoring** - Two internet sites that can be monitored repeatedly during the 24-48 hour period before and after a hurricane and/or major storms are:

- <https://www.findlocalweather.com/radar/fl/fort+pierce.html>
- <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

### **Items to Consider:**

**Electric Generators** – Should be maintained and operated per manufacturer’s instructions. Generators should be “load tested” (actually used to power the appliances in the residence) at the beginning of hurricane season (May or June).

**HVAC Systems** - It should be noted that during a hurricane and/or major storm event where lightning strike(s) can occur near a residence can destroy the capacitors which run the central HVAC units located on cement slabs outside a residence. If a hurricane and/or major storm is imminent, JBCC Homeowners should consider turning off their central HVAC system. Similarly, if there is a power outage, do not turn the HVAC system back on until power is restored.

**Swimming Pools And Hot Tubs** - Swimming pools and hot tubs that run constantly, or are on an automatic timer should be turned “Off” prior to a hurricane or major storm. They should be managed in the same fashion as the HVAC system.

**Hurricane/Major Storm Emergency Kit** –Include NOAA battery powered radio; battery powered lights; extra batteries; First Aid Kit; extra oxygen tanks; extra medical device batteries; whistle(s); plastic gloves; masks to protect from inhaling debris; moist towelettes; hand sanitizer; extra paper towels; absorbent pads; garbage bags and ties for waste disposal; basic tools; duct tape; foul weather clothing and footwear.

Fill buckets with water and place in showers and/or bathtubs to provide water for toilet flushing and/or hygiene purposes if the water supply is interrupted.

**Drinking Water and Food Supplies** - Have at least three days of drinking water and canned foods which can be stored at room temperature and easily prepared for consumption. Be sure to have a manual can opener for canned foods. Refrigerated and/or frozen foods are usually consumable for more than 24 hours (refrigerated) or longer (frozen). Preparing one or more coolers filled with ice is recommended.

**Waste Removal** – Waste removal service can be interrupted so consider capacity for storing waste for at least one week.

**Hurricane Shutters and Panels** – Preparation for hurricane impact for a residence involves the most time consuming procedures that can be anticipated. Closing accordion type hurricane shutters may be quickly accomplished, but putting hurricane panels in place may take 4- 6 hours.

#### **Hurricane (accordion type) Shutters**

Make sure the guide posts of all horizontal hurricane shutters are inside the guide channels and that the shutters close easily into the locking position. Any guide posts which are out of position should be placed into the guide channel. A clear silicone spray lubricant can be used to clean and lubricate the tracks of your accordion shutters. You can find silicone spray lubricant at any hardware store. Avoid using WD-40 or any other oily lubricant as dirt and salt will build up faster with this this type of lubricant.

#### **Hurricane Panels**

For hurricane panels, place the angle iron attachments or “U- shaped” attachments on the sills, thresholds or decks where these tracks are to be located. There is usually a diagram for each residence that indicates where and what type of track has been installed. Make sure all “hurricane bolts” and wing nuts used to secure the tracks and panels have good threads and that the screw heads/wingnuts are not stripped or broken. It’s a good idea to have extra “hurricane bolts” and wing nuts to secure all tracks and panels. If bolts do not thread easily, apply a little silicone spray lubricant. If the thread on a “hurricane bolt” is damaged, replace immediately. Battery powered drills with Phillips head bits and wingnut application heads will expedite attachment and securing tracks and panels.

**Planters/Decorative Objects** – Move all outdoor planters or decorative objects that weigh less than 50 pounds to an interior space. Objects that weigh more than 50 pounds should be relocated against a solid cement block wall or against a wall in a sheltered area (lanai or entryway.)

**Trees/Plant Materials/Street Drains** – Flowering trees should be trimmed to prevent broken limbs and possible projectile damage to residences. Bottle Brush and Pin Oak Trees can be uprooted by high winds. Either of these trees should be trimmed back to just healthy limbs no more than 6-8 feet long.

Most varieties of Palm Trees are resistant to hurricanes and severe storms, but they can be blown into a leaning position or uprooted. Dead palm fronds or limbs should be removed routinely so they do not break off and become projectile objects in a hurricane/severe storm event. Fronds can also block street drains, traps, bubblers and other storm water outflow structures. Yard debris from shrubs should be bagged and removed to a location that is remote from any storm water outfall structure.

#### **Home Health Care Needs –**

- If someone is dependent upon supplemental oxygen, extra oxygen should be acquired.
- Extra medication should be available
- Extra batteries for assist devices
- Residents who require home health care services should notify the Front Gate Guard

#### **Pets –**

Have at least three days of emergency supplies of food, water, litter, absorbent pads, waste-removal bags etc. All pet medications should be updated and in ample supply.

**Electrical Outages And Post Hurricane/Major Storm Precautions** – The most destructive event post hurricane and/or major storm is power surges which can affect a residential electrical system. If electric power is interrupted, it may be considered that computers, electronic appliances, central HVAC systems be turned off.

If water supply is interrupted, be sure to consult Martin County Utilities as to the quality of the water supply

**Additional Preparations and Tasks** – JBCC Homeowners may need to perform other preparations and tasks that do not appear in these Safety Tips. These Safety Tips only serve as advisory for Hurricane/Major Storm events. If individual JBCC Homeowners have alternative or additional methods that they would like to share with their neighbors, please contact the JBCC Communications Committee with their suggestions.

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#### **References:**

1. Local Weather website: <https://www.findlocalweather.com/radar/fl/fort+pierce.html> which gives Doppler weather information from Fort Pierce, FL.
2. National Hurricane Center website: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> Provides satellite information on cyclone activity (hurricane/major storms) in Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Provides US and European tracking projections and statistical data from storms that threaten Florida.
3. State of Florida Hurricane Preparedness: <https://www.stateofflorida.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness-guide.aspx>
4. Martin County Hurricane Preparedness: <https://www.martin.fl.us/hurricane>