

Carefree Hurricane Season Bulletin

1. Hurricane season is June 1st through November 30th each year. The season peaks from August to October. 2023 is predicted to be above-average hurricane activity. Experts emphasize “people should get prepared”.
2. Now is the time to download weather-related apps and explore government webpages for detailed hurricane preparation information and updates. Examples of web pages where apps are available are LeeEOC.com, AlertLee.com , and nhc.noaa.gov. Apps to download include LeePrepares and WGPU-90.1 FM.
3. Preparation must begin prior to a hurricane **Watch** being issued. You must prepare to evacuate when ordered by Lee County Emergency Officials and in the event of a hurricane **Warning**. Manufactured homes are not safe during a hurricane event. You must evacuate before tropical force winds arrive. The Carefree clubhouse will be shuttered and locked once a hurricane **Warning** is issued.
4. Start preparing supplies for a hurricane event. Even if we do not encounter a direct hit, electricity may be unavailable for an extended time. Even if you evacuate you will need hurricane supplies. Supplies might include masks, batteries, flashlights, moist towelettes, portable solar chargers or dc chargers for electronics, water, (1 gallon per person or pet per day), canned foods with a manual can opener, and a non-electric means of cooking, paper plates and utensils, extra cash, road maps, first aid kit, cooler, copies of important documents and records, insurance papers and a list of account numbers. Have all important contact information written down, not just on your cellphone. You can find a planning tool at www.FloridaDisaster.com.
5. Move patio furniture, grills, hanging plants or any pots inside. When evacuating, put valuable items, photographs, or other keepsakes in waterproof containers. Unplug TVs, computers, and other electric devices. Turn off any unnecessary electric breakers before evacuating. Refrigerators and a/c breakers should be left on when you leave but remove any food items that will spoil without a working refrigerator. As soon as you return, if there is no electricity, turn off the remaining breakers to prevent any surge damage.
6. Prepare and disperse a support and emergency information sheet. Include someone outside your immediate neighborhood. This plan should include medical needs and services, emergency contact names and phone numbers, insurance policy information, and your evacuation plan.
7. Consider strategies to deal with the effect of no electricity, transportation, air conditioning, refrigeration, or regular medical needs. FEMA recommends preparing for 5-7 days of self-reliance during a major weather event.
8. If you need life threatening medical services during a hurricane, you will want to register for a “special needs shelter” where there would be power and personnel to provide needed services. You must pre-register. Contact Emergency needs Coordinator at 239-533-0640.
9. Now is a good time to video your home’s interior contents, as well as the home exterior. Trim any limbs touching your roof or siding. High sustained hurricane winds can cause damage to those surfaces. As a storm approaches you may want to prepay bills to avoid fees due to weather related mail delivery delays or suspension.