

**WHITNEY LAKES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
C/O  
AMERI-TECH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

**HURRICANE AWARENESS PLAN**

The hurricane season officially starts on the first of June and continues through the first of November. The peak of the hurricane season is mid August through mid October. Caution and planning must be taken for the entire hurricane season, not just the peak times.

**Preparing your home for the storm**

You must make provisions to prepare your home for an impending hurricane. This will consist of:

**Key Emergency Numbers:**

**Ameri-Tech Property Management (727) 726-8000**

**Pinellas County Shelters near you - (727) 464-3800**

**County Government Office -(727) 464-3800**

**Florida Highway Patrol - (727) 570-5010**

**Pinellas County Sheriff's Office - (727) 582-6900 (in case of looting)**

**American Red Cross - (727) 446-4177**

**Salvation Army - (727) 446-4177**

If your home is without electrical power, check your circuit breaker box to ensure that all breakers are on. If they are all on, check to see if other homes on your street have power. Report power outages to Progress Energy at:

**Verizon 1-800-483-1000**

**Knology- 1-866-745-3685**

**Brighthouse- (727) 329-5020**

**Assemble a disaster supplies kit:**

1. First aid kit and essential medications
2. Canned food and can opener (include pet food if needed), non perishable, packaged, snack foods, paper plates, plastic utensils
3. At least 3 gallons of water per person for 3-7 days.
4. Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags
5. Battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
6. Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members
7. Written instructions for how to turn off water if authorities advise you to do so. Water turnoff is located by your water heater
8. Cash with small bills-banks (or atm. may not be open or available for extended times.)

- A. Remove all furniture off patio decks.
- B. Remove all potted plants and garden ornaments from decks, patios, and lawn areas.
- C. Use a minimum of 1/4 inch nylon or polypropylene line to secure all patio deck items that cannot be moved inside such as patio tables. (patio tables should be turned upside down to reduce wind resistance).
- D. If the possibility exists that evacuation will be required, you need to select your evacuation route and shelter. If your plans are to go inland and stay in a hotel/motel call and make your reservations immediately. Write the motel confirmation number down and take it with you. (Note 24 hrs before the hurricane will be off our coast, no hotel/motels will be available in the immediate inland areas. This will result in long drives on congested highways and interstates.)
- E. Fill your bath tubs with water and sanitation purposes.
- F. Turn your refrigerator and freezers to their coldest settings.
- G. Collect all valuables that are portable as well as all important papers. Back up your computer and take back up diskettes with you. (Be sure you have a copy of your homeowner's insurance policies with local and national claims phone numbers and your photographs or video of your property).
- H. Identify a family member or friend who lives outside the exposed area an emergency contact for the association as well as your family and friends.
- I. If you see a downed tree on the property, call Ameri-Tech Property Management A.S.A.P.
- J. As you are leaving, turn off all utilities, lock all windows and doors, and let your contact person and neighbors know where and how to reach you.
- K. Check the general condition of your vehicles, and have them completely filled with fuel. If you evacuate, try to return with a full tank of fuel. Local power outages and flooding may make refueling difficult.
- L. It is a wise idea to have a neighbor or a company lined up to secure your property in case you are traveling when a hurricane comes up the coast.
- M. It is very wise to photograph or video record the interior of your home and your contents as well as the exterior of your home. This will greatly assist you if you have to file an insurance claim after the storm has passed.

### **Planning for your Pets**

Many residents refuse to evacuate for pending hurricanes because of their pets. If you have a pet, establish a plan for how you are going to handle your pet during an evacuation. If you plan to go to a hotel/motel, select one that accepts pets. Make your reservations early. (Many hotels and motels will allow pets in the case of a pending hurricane disaster). To find a listing of pet welcome motels and hotels by area, go to the internet and log onto: [www.petwelcome.com](http://www.petwelcome.com). If you do not have a computer, please have a neighbor look up the listing for you or refer to the hotel/motel list provided in this package.

## **BEFORE THE DISASTER**

Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.

Have a current photograph of your pet.

Keep a collar with identification on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.

Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal - carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.

Plan your evacuation strategy. Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.

**If you plan to shelter your pet - work it into your evacuation route planning.**

### **DURING THE DISASTER**

Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have: Proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings, a carrier or cage, a leash, an ample supply of food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications, specific care instructions and news papers or trash bags for clean-up.

Bring pets indoor well in advance of a storm - reassure them and remain calm.

Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.

### **AFTER THE DISASTER**

Always walk pets on a leash. Often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, downed power lines, reptiles brought in with high water and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.

If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet if possible.

After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

**Don't forget your pet when preparing a family disaster plan.**

### **PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

- Proper identification including immunization records
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash

### **Absentee owners**

As an absentee owner you still have the responsibility to ensure that your property is secured for hurricanes. You need to establish a local person or neighbor to get your property ready for a pending hurricane. As an absentee owner you need to do the following:

- A. Identify what person/company will be securing your property in your absence. This person should have access to the interior of your home. This person/company needs to know where all utility shutoffs are, as well as where all rope and duct tape will be kept.
- B. The absentee homeowner must have enough rope to secure all items that cannot be moved inside.

### **Returning home after the storm:**

The first thing you need to know is when it is considered safe to return home. To find out when Pinellas County and Florida disaster control considers it safe to allow residents back into the area, listen to public broadcasting or by calling Pinellas County Emergency Management Center (727) 464-3800.

To find out whether or not the water supply is safe to drink, call the city. It is key that you do not drink your tap water without calling first.

Note: If your home is without power and you elect to use a portable generator, do not connect the generator into your home electrical wiring. This will pose a life threatening condition for any Progress Energy linemen trying to repair your service. Plug you appliances and lights directly into the portable generator. Make sure you keep generators outdoors.

If you have interior damage, contact your insurance carrier as soon as possible.

If you have used duct tape, remove the tape off your windows as soon as possible. Duct tape tends to become very difficult to remove after several days in the sun. (Duct tape's only value is reducing the number of glass pieces you will have to clean up if the storm blows out your windows.

**Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens your area.** If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location for any of the reasons specified with in this letter, then it is important to consider the following points:

**If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.**

If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.

**Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.**

In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large, multi-county hurricane evacuation event.

**If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait**

**in traffic.**

The large number of people in this state who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.

If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of the hurricane season.

**If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave.**

Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.

**If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels/motels rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter.**

Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your [disaster supply kit](#) with you to the shelter.

**Make sure that you fill up your car with gas, before the hurricane hits.**