2020 Atlantic Hurricane Preparedness
Goals for Today:

• Introduction of myself and EM
• Emergency Management structure
• What we Learned from 2019
• 2020 Preview
• Hurricane Basics
• Let’s Prepare!
• Hurricane Preparedness in a COVID-19 World
Your City EM Team!

Amber Boulding, MPH, FPEM
Emergency Management Manager

Kyla Breland, MPH, MEP
Emergency Management Specialist
Primary responsibility for emergency response is at the local level!
Emergency Management Structure

Primary responsibility for emergency response is at the local level!
Mistakes are meant for learning, not for repeating.
2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season

- 18 named storms
  - SIX major
- Most remembered for Hurricane Dorian
  - Tied for the second strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic basin in terms of wind (185 mph)
- The 4\textsuperscript{th} consecutive above-normal Atlantic hurricane season
- 5 tropical cyclones formed in the Gulf of Mexico
What St. Pete can learn from 2019

- Responding to growing risk
  - No amount of preparation can protect a community from a cat 5 storm that hangs around for two days
- Personal responsibility
  - Staying informed
    - News fatigue: check periodically and act accordingly
  - Use the time you are given to take safety precautions and think through your plans
    - Being prepared can reduce pre-storm stress
2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Preview
What we hear and see on the news...

- “I predict a 75-percent chance that the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season will be near- or above-normal.”

- “I predict a 35 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, and a 25 percent chance of a below-normal season for the upcoming hurricane season, which extends from June 1 to November 30.”

- “I predict a 70-percent likelihood of 10 to 16 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 4 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes.”
But remember....

It only takes 1
“Hurricane Basics”
Hurricane Season

• June 1 – November 30
  • Busiest months for us are September – October

• Names
  • Rotate every 6 years
  • Devastating storms are “retired”

2020 Storm Names

Arthur  Hanna  Omar
Bertha  Isaias  Paulette
Cristobal  Josephine  Rene
Dolly  Kyle  Sally
Edouard  Laura  Teddy
Fay  Marco  Vicky
Gonzalo  Nana  Wilfred
Tropical Cyclones

• **Tropical Depression**
  • An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum **sustained winds of 38 mph or less**

• **Tropical Storm**
  • An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained **winds of 39-73 mph**

• **Hurricane**
  • An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained **winds of 74 mph**
Difference between Watch vs. Warning

**Watch**

- **Storm Surge Watch**: There is a possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, *generally within 48 hours*.

- **Tropical Storm Watch**: An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *possible within 48 hours* in the specified area.

- **Hurricane Watch**: An announcement that hurricane conditions are *possible within 48 hours* in the specified area.

**Warning**

- **Storm Surge Warning**: There is a danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, *generally within 36 hours*.

- **Tropical Storm Warning**: An announcement that tropical-storm conditions are *expected within 36 hours* in the specified area.

- **Hurricane Warning**: An announcement that hurricane conditions are *expected within 36 hours* in the specified area.
Let’s Prepare!
3 STEPS to Prepare For All Hazards

Stay Informed
CONNECT to vital emergency information about dangerous weather and other hazards.

Know Your Risk
ASSESS your risk from storms and other perils or emergencies.

Make a PLAN
PLAN where you’ll go and what you’ll do in an emergency.
Connect to Emergency Information

- ALERT St. Pete
  - [www.stpete.org/aler tstpete](http://www.stpete.org/aler tstpete)
- Weather radio
- Social Media
- Local news (TV and web)
- Citizens Information Center
- St. Pete 893-7111
- Pinellas County 464-3333
Assess Your Risks

- Storm Surge
- Wind
- Flooding
- Medically vulnerable
Storm Surge

- Storm surge is often the **deadliest hazard**
- A powerful dome of water pushing ashore
- It can occur in different locations than wind
- It can occur at different times than wind
- Response to surge is often different than wind (e.g. evacuation)
- Nine out of ten hurricane-related deaths are attributable to the effects of storm surge
• Evacuation zones based on storm surge
• Moves trees, cars, boats, houses and people
• Just 1 foot can sweep a car off the road
• Escape ahead of the storms surge
• Follow evacuation orders
• Go tens of miles, not hundreds
• Flooding and Storm Surge
• Know your zone!
  http://kyz.pinellascounty.org/
• Your evacuation zone is printed on your Utility bill
Wind

- Damage, walls blowing out, roofs collapsing
- Weakened foundation of buildings
- Increased speed with the height of building
- Mobile/manufactured homes are NOT SAFE

Run from the water, hide from the wind!
Flooding

- Flash flooding is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States
- Over 50% of flood-related deaths are vehicle related
- Stay away from flood waters: *Turn around. Don’t drown*
- Every property in Pinellas County is in a flood zone
- Flood insurance
- Mortgage requirements
- Find your flood risk at [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding)
Mobile Homes

- Mobile homes, manufactured homes, recreational vehicles
- Mobile homes are not safe havens
- Mobile home residents must always evacuate, regardless of where they are located
Preparing for a hurricane with COVID in mind

- Multiple face coverings for everyone in your family
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitizing wipes
- Social distancing is key!
Plan what you’ll do – will you stay or will you go?

When an evacuation is called:
• Listen carefully to the evacuation order.
• What zone is being told to evacuate?
• Is it your zone?
• Evacuations have a begin and end time.
• Be at your safe shelter by the “end time”
• If your evacuation zone is not being told to evacuate, consider staying in your home.
• Check on your neighbors, friends family.
• Make sure you have your emergency notifications set.
If you go...

• Decide where you will go
• Check on all backup plans
• Know your options
• Finish your survival kit
• Keep car filled with gas
• Free PSTA service to shelters
• Go to http://pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm to register if you need assistance
Out of town

- Leave days in advance of the storm
- Fill your gas tank as early as possible
- Bring your emergency kit
- Have an emergency kit for your vehicle
- Stay away from the forecasted path and beyond
- Re-entry may be restricted after the storm
Hotel/Motel/Airbnb

Check the evacuation zone

Make reservations early

Call ahead to confirm

Have two backup plans

Bring enough food and water to take care of yourselves

For availability during emergencies: www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/storm
Be one or stay in one!

- Look for:
  - Friends and family
  - Business
  - Faith-based communities

- Allows more space for shelters
- Have company, share supplies, preparations

- COVID-19 considerations:
  - Separate sleeping arrangements
  - Restroom/kitchen plans
  - Sanitizer stations
Public shelters

• A lifeboat – not a cruise ship
• Consider it your last option
• But if you need it, use it
• Family units will be assigned a space based on size of group
• There will be a buffer between the units
• Cloth face coverings will be required
• Sanitizer stations will be provided as much as possible
• Bring sanitizer, sanitizing cloths if possible
Special Needs Shelters

- Minimal medical needs
- Dependent on electricity for life-sustaining equipment
- Immediate family members and caregivers stay together as buffer provided between units
- Precautions will be taken to keep the area clean and sanitized
- Bring medical equipment
- Cloth face covering
- Sanitizer
- Registration is requested
- If you need transportation assistance, you must register
  www.pinellascounty.org/specialneeds
Pet-Friendly Shelters

- Dogs and cats stay in a separate area in crates
- Owners must be present to care for them
- You must provide the crate, leash, collar, food/water bowls, litter box/litter, medicine, comfort foods
- Food/water supplied.
- Pre-registration is not required
- Download enrollment form at www.pinellascounty.org/animalservice
- Service animals are always allowed at any of the public shelters. Bring supplies for them too.
BUILD a Survival Kit

- Is it a “go” kit or a “stay” kit?
- 5 gallon bucket or other water-tight container
- Face cloth covering
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitizing wipes
- Water – One gallon per person per day
- Non-Perishable food
- Can Opener
- Medications
- First aid kit
- Important papers
- Flashlight
- Portable Radio
- Extra Batteries
- Cash
- Games
- Phone chargers
Don’t stay behind with the plan to call for help if needed!

Why?

First responders CAN’T respond in sustained winds 40 mph and above
During the Storm

• Emergency crews will not respond during dangerous winds
• Loss of power
• Water supply
• Boil water notices
• Sewer outage
• Phone, cable and cell service down
• If your home is breached, move to interior room
After the Storm

- Shelter in place
- Getting back home
  - You NEED identification and proof of residency
- Safe driving
  - Follow re-entry orders and road closures
- Prepare for 2 weeks on your own
- Watch for critters
- Getting help
- Price gouging
- Who to call
  - Citizens Information Center – 893-7111
  - Duke Energy Outage Line – 800-228-8485
Resources-
www.StPetePrepares.com
www.pinellascounty.org/emergency
www.floridadisaster.org

Questions –
Emergency.Management@stpete.org