

# Emergency Management Department

Emergency Management is an ALL HAZARDS department responsible for the *Mitigation, Preparedness, Response* and *Recovery* of all types of natural and manmade incidents. This department is also responsible for Emergency Management in Wauchula, Zolfo Springs, and Bowling Green. Planning for wind events, large fires, hazmat, terrorism, agricultural incidents, weather events and everything in between is the primary role of our department. Interaction with all local municipalities is crucial to ensure that all agencies involved in the incident are working on the same plan.

## The Four Phases of Emergency Management:



**MITIGATION**—The acts of reducing or eliminating the effects of an event.



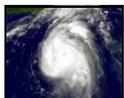
**PREPAREDNESS**—Planning and training how to respond in case an emergency or disaster occurs and working to increase resources available to respond effectively.



**RESPONSE**—Activities during and immediately following a disaster. They are designed to provide emergency assistance to victims of the event and reduce the likelihood of secondary damage.



**RECOVERY**—Return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards. Long term recovery is completed when the entire area is completely redeveloped, either as it was in the past or for entirely new purposes that are less disaster-prone.



**WATCH and WARNING...**  
Know the Difference

A **HURRICANE WATCH** issued for your County indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 48 hours. This WATCH should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated—especially those actions that require extra time such as securing outside items or evacuating, ect.

A **HURRICANE WARNING** issued for your County indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 36 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

**CAT. 1** 74-95 mph  
No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees.

**Cat. 2** 96-110 mph  
Some roofing material, door, and window damage. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, etc. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings.

**Cat. 3** 111-130 mph  
Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings, with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

**Cat. 4** 131-155 mph  
More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

**Cat. 5** 155 mph +  
Major damage to residential & commercial structures. Massive evacuation may be required.



## What to do During a Hazardous Materials Incident

### **If you are asked to evacuate:**

- > Do so immediately.
- > Stay tuned to a radio or TV for information on evacuation routes, temporary shelters, and procedures.
- > Follow the routes recommended by the authorities—shortcuts may not be safe. Leave at once.
- > If you have time, minimize contamination in the house by closing all windows, shutting all vents, and turning off attic fans.
- > Take pre-assembled disaster supplies.
- > Remember to help your neighbors, who may require special assistance—infants, elderly people and people with disabilities.

### **If you are caught outside:**

- > Stay upstream, uphill, and upwind!
- > Do not walk into or touch any spilled liquids, airborne mists, or condensed solid chemical deposits. Try no to inhale gases, fumes, and smoke. If possible, cover mouth with a cloth while leaving the area.
- > Stay away from accident victims until the hazardous material has been identified.

### **If you are in a motor vehicle:**

- > Stop and seek shelter in a permanent building. If you must remain in your car, keep car windows and vents closed and shut off the air conditioner and heater.

### **If you are requested to stay indoors (Shelter In-Place):**

- > Bring pets inside.
- > Close and lock all exterior doors and windows. Close vents, fireplace dampers, and as many interior doors as possible.

> Turn off air conditioners and ventilation systems. In large buildings, set ventilation systems to 100% recirculation so that no outside air is drawn into the building. If this is not possible, ventilation systems should be turned off.

> Go into the pre-selected shelter room. This room should be above ground and have the fewest openings to the outside.

> Seal gaps under doorways with wet towels or plastic sheeting and duct tape.

> Seal gaps around window and air conditioning units, bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans, and stove and dryer vents with duct tape and plastic sheeting, wax paper or aluminum wrap.

> Use materials to fill cracks and holes in the room, such as those around pipes.

For more information, please visit

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

### People with Special Needs



For more information and to request a Special Needs Application Form, please contact the Emergency Management Department at 863-773-6373.

Please remember when planning for a disaster it is always better to be prepared before it strikes your community.

### Pet Friendly Shelters

To pre-register for the Pet Friendly Shelter, please contact the Emergency Management Department at 863-773-6373 or you may visit our county website at [www.hardeecounty.net/eoc](http://www.hardeecounty.net/eoc).

Please remember that this is the first step to ensuring the safety of you and your pets.



If you or your agency would like to schedule a Disaster Preparedness Presentation, please contact our office and the Emergency Management staff will be happy to assist you.

Remember.... Being prepared before a disaster strikes will ensure the safety of you and your family members.



### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEBSITES:

Emergency Management: [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com)

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

[www.srh.noaa.gov](http://www.srh.noaa.gov)

Weather:

Hardee Co. Shelters:

[www.hardeecounty.net/eoc](http://www.hardeecounty.net/eoc)

Pet Friendly Shelter:

[www.hardeecounty.net/eoc](http://www.hardeecounty.net/eoc)

American Red Cross:

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

FEMA:

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

National Weather Srv:

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

For important information about creating your own Family Disaster Plan, please visit:

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve and protect the citizens of Hardee County.*



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Website:

[www.hardeecounty.net/eoc](http://www.hardeecounty.net/eoc)

**JILL NEWMAN, DIRECTOR**

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Emergency Management Department is to reduce the vulnerability of people and communities of Hardee County, to prevent loss of life, injury or damage and loss of property resulting from natural, technological, and manmade emergencies and to reduce the vulnerability of the infrastructure of the County and its Cities.