

TAP Hurricane Plan

Hurricane Season is Here -

Hurricane Preparedness is, or at least should be, an ongoing, never ending exercise. It seems that every hurricane has provided new lessons to be incorporated into our plans. Our plan becomes more detailed after every exercise. In all of it, we have tried to be as specific and detailed as possible. We hope that the hours spent in preparation will never again be put to use, but we are not willing to assume such.

You should lay in additional supplies for dealing with the contingencies that we have come to expect. Some of those include canned foods, bottled water, first aid kits, tools, flashlights and batteries, tarps, duct tape, charcoal, charcoal grills, gasoline, diesel fuel and padlocks and chain for securing items in your yard. Every attempt will once again be made to mitigate damages, while keeping you, the owner, posted as to the situation at hand as is possible.

In preparation, each owner should take a close look at his/her own property and address individual responsibility and needs. Some, but certainly not all, areas that should be addressed include:

- Removal all items from individual balconies, back yards, etc. Flying debris such as deck furniture is one of the prime causes of damage during a hurricane. This is owner responsibility, not the HOA's. If you are a winter resident, and have left items out, you must make arrangements to have someone secure them. If you are an absentee homeowner, you must have a local contact on file with TAP you may need to verify that they will be able to fulfill this need for you. If you have not notified TAP of the name and telephone number of your local contact, please do so immediately.

If you are an absentee owner, every attempt will be made to keep you up to date of what is happening, but you must realize that each of us will be busy securing our own property and families.

- When you are absent for more than a week, or if you evacuate due to a warning, remove all foodstuffs from your refrigerator. Power is always lost, sometimes for days, and cleanups are difficult without having to deal with spoiled food.
- Upon departure, draw all curtains and blinds, and consider placing rolled towels at the base of windows and doors if you have tile floors. This sometimes helps to slow the flow of any water blown inside from entering other area. Secure all hurricane shutters.

- Carpets hold water and any wood furniture in contact with the floor will absorb moisture from wet carpet. Consider removing wood furniture to a tiled area or placing the legs or base of furniture on blocks or plastic to help protect from moisture. Don't forget drapes and bed dust ruffles that may also contact the floor.
- Turn off the water supply to your residence. This is a good idea any time you are gone for more than a couple of days any time of the year.
- If you leave a vehicle, boat or other motorized vehicles on your property, BE SURE TO LEAVE KEYS TO ANY VEHICLE LEFT ON PREMISES DURING AN EVACUATION WITH YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT. If vehicles need to be moved during a hurricane threat, you will be responsible for moving and securing them. Please leave a contact number with the designated duty officer. Duty Officers names and contact information will be posted on the White Boards on the Gates.
- If you have portable or temporary structures on your property, they must be taken down in the event of a hurricane. Failure to do so in a timely manner will require TAP to hire someone to remove the structure and costs incurred will then be billed to the property owner. This is an updated requirement per TAP Board of Directors meeting – April 15,2009.
- Marina
We would ask you to remove all boats from the Marina upon the first warning of a storm. We would ask that these boats be stored securely on your own property, or in a commercial storage facility. IF you are unable to remove your boats from the water, please follow prescribed procedures for safely mooring watercraft during a storm. (see the coast guard website for proper procedures for water mooring during storms) All dock boxes and/or other personal items must be removed immediately. If they are not removed by you or your representative, they will be removed by TAP at your expense (you will be billed), and we cannot be responsible for their storage or return.
- Air Craft

Must be secured. Have a plan in mind if your aircraft isn't hangered. Don't wait until the last minute. Have a plan in mind to have adequate fuel on hand to evacuate the aircraft if need be.

- In the aftermath of a Hurricane, If there is the need to communicate regarding your property, you or your contact will be notified, and the latest news will be posted on this site as we are able to do so. You should have a complete list of emergency contact information on file with TAP at all times. You should also have a list of emergency numbers handy for your own use. One such website is <http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/c-side> (click South West Florida) You also obtain one of these sheets from the Monroe County Libraries. Also remember that 511 on your phone is a free service of the Fla. Dept of Transportation for access to "anticipated travel delays, roadway blockages, accidents and other pertinent information.
- Check your insurance policy, or call your agent to review and possibly update your coverage. Once a named storm is in the Gulf or Ocean, hurricane policies will not be written for your property. Be sure that your policy also provides for some coverage for reimbursement for any necessary special assessments to repair common areas.
- If you are in residence and an evacuation order is issued, LEAVE. In addition to the danger of the storm, the aftermath may leave the community without electricity, water, and communications, sometimes for days. The water and food stored by the village and county is for those addressing the issues of bringing the facility back on line, and not for stubborn residents who failed to evacuate or prepare their pantry.
- When you evacuate, take any valuables that need both physical and sentimental protection. After a storm, the remediation efforts sometimes require that each home be opened, windows and doors left open or ajar so that airflow is created to help dry the building to prevent mold and mildew. Security is a concern, and we always do our best to prevent entrance by all but necessary personnel, but sometimes that is not completely possible in the heat of the activity.

As learned from pervious storms, take your animals (all of them) with you, or make arrangements for them well in advance. Rules on pets in shelters have changed, but you must be responsible for all the animals in your care. Check the rules in advance.

- Make an inventory of your property and its content by written list, pictures or videotaping. It will considerably reduce the efforts to re-construct such after the storm damage is done. Receipts, dates of purchase and such should be stored for possible claim efforts as well. Most insurance adjusters in my personal experience are very liberal in their valuations, but one never knows what may happen, so a bit of overkill here may be the best course.

- DO NOT attempt to return until notified by the Emergency management that it is safe and feasible to do so. Roadblocks may be in effect, so you might be turned away. Gasoline will be in short supply, grocery store shelves bare and debris will be covering the roads. Electricity is sporadic, water may be contaminated, and food may be unavailable.
- **During a hurricane threat and /or in the aftermath of the storm, our facilities may be used by emergency personnel or services. We will make every effort to make sure that their equipment follows our procedures and rules and regulations. Please be aware that during these 'unusual and possibly chaotic times', some procedures may be waived to accommodate life saving procedures. The aviation committee (board) will make every attempt to keep you informed of all activities.** The board will designate a preparedness and cleanup spokesperson to deal with the local state and federal officials that may need to use our facilities. All requests to use the facilities by outside agencies must be cleared through the designated board member. Due to the special nature of our facilities, we would ask that you keep in mind that in the event of major catastrophic damage, we will do everything in our power to assist others in our community. Due to the special skills of many of our residents, you may be called on to use those skills to assist in the community.
- This is by no means all-inclusive, but will serve to highlight the main points for you.