

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE

In the event a hurricane or other natural disaster or event is impending for our area, the following guidance is provided to families seeking services that are pregnant or with children ages 0-3. For the most current information on any impending disaster, visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/>.

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### PLANNING

Before the disaster, each family needs a disaster plan. Families can complete their own plan, customizable to them through the Florida Department of Health website at: <https://apps.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/family.aspx>

And/or for Charlotte County, including the location of shelters:

<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/emergencymgmt/Site%20Documents/Charlotte-County-Disaster-Planning-Guide.pdf>

Or they can use the Red Cross attached.

In addition, a “ready to go kit” is essential for optimal health and safety during the event. The FEMA guidance attached is helpful for families to customize their own plan. On page 5 of the FEMA guide is the supplies handout.

If you receive home visiting services from Healthy Start in Charlotte County, your home visitor can assist you in developing this disaster plan and reviewing the FEMA guidance. *You need to contact your home visitor to make sure there are no immediate needs as the disaster approaches and before the situation becomes dangerous.*

### **CHARGE YOUR CELL PHONE FULLY BEFORE YOU EXPECT POWER TO BE OUT**

To find out **the latest information in Charlotte County**, including signing up for alerts; know your zone; shelter listings; how to stay informed, and much more, make sure you have the local Emergency Management contacts in your phone before the storm/event:

**Phone: 941 833-4000**

**Website: [Emergency.Management@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Emergency.Management@CharlotteCountyFL.gov)**

**<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/emergencymgmt/Pages/default.aspx>**

**Phone: 2-1-1**

**Charlotte 2-1-1's database contains over 600 health, human service, & public safety providers, representing local services available throughout Charlotte County. Our**

goal is to expedite the exchange of information between customers and service providers.

Access the database at: [www.Charlotte211.com](http://www.Charlotte211.com)

#### DURING THE STORM/EVENT

Home visitors, like families, are encouraged to have their own plan, make arrangements for their own family, and adhere to the local warnings, evacuations notices, and advisories. Therefore, home visiting services are not available during a disaster. It is imperative that you make sure you have contacted your home visitor with any emergent needs before the storm or impending disaster.

#### AFTER THE STORM/EVENT

Your home visitor will contact you after the event, to verify your safety and evaluate your needs. If you have not heard from your home visitor within 24 hours of the end of the storm/event, call 941 764 3500.

If you are not in a home-visiting program, please answer the phone when you receive a call from this number. This call will be from **Community Connect**, a program that assesses your needs and can connect you to a home-visiting program of your choice so that you may access the resources you need for you and your family.

#### OTHER

While we can't say which way the wind will blow the hurricane, we want to ensure that pregnant women and their families are taking the necessary precautions in hurricane preparedness in case things take a turn for the worse. It is vital to have a plan for disasters such as hurricanes to avoid added stress on a family, especially during pregnancy.

#### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergencies call 911

To speak to a Healthy Start worker call 941-764-3500

These tips should come in handy in creating a family communications plan so mom, dad and any other family members involved know what to do as a team before, during and after a hurricane or in an evacuation.

As already mentioned, everybody needs to have a Disaster Supplies Kit and secure any missing items if possible and make sure their cars are filled with gas, etc. But if you are pregnant or have an infant, it is important to plan accordingly.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

For pregnant moms, [March of Dimes](#) has a recommended packing list found [here](#). Make sure to pack enough bottled water to keep hydrated and do not lift large or heavy objects – have a friend or family member help you. If you are close to your due date, talk to your health care provider about what to do in case of emergency. For moms with infants, [March of Dimes](#) has many helpful tips for families facing emergency situations:

- Keep a list of numbers that are important including your health care provider, case manager and hospital and keep a copy of you and your baby's medical records and your baby's immunization records.
- Babies have an increased need during emergency situations for comfort provided by breastfeeding and it can also provide stress relief for mom. It is the best recommendation during hurricanes as you do not need refrigeration or clean bottles.

If you are concerned about the health of you or your baby, contact your health care provider or emergency room immediately.

After the hurricane blows over, there are still many precautions to take. Do not bring any babies or children into a home that has been evacuated from until it has been checked for gas leaks, electrical system damage and sewage and water line damage.

### WATCHES AND WARNINGS

[The National Weather Service](#) issues a hurricane watch when the threat of hurricane conditions falls within 24-36 hours, and when conditions are expected in 24 hours or

less a hurricane warning is issued. It is important to follow the advice of government officials and local law enforcement, so please listen when told to evacuate under their direction for the safety of you, your baby and your whole family.

#### OTHER RESOURCES:

- [Gas Buddy](#) - Find local stations with gas
- [Traffic Updates / Waze](#) - Check road status
- [Zello Walkie-Talkie](#) - Free push-to-talk application to communicate with low levels of connectivity
- [Florida Power and Light Home Page – Information about power outages](#)
- [Florida Power and Light Maps – Power outage maps](#)
- [Federal CMS Emergency Preparedness Information](#)



Family Last Name(s) or Household Address:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Family Member/Household Contact Info (If needed, additional space is provided in #10 below):

Name

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Pet(s) Info:

Name:

Type:

Color:

Registration #:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Plan of Action

**1. The disasters most likely to affect our household are:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. What are the escape routes from our home?**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**3. If separated during an emergency, what is our meeting place near our home?**

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4. If we cannot return home or are asked to evacuate, what is our meeting place outside of our neighborhood?

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What is our route to get there and an alternate route, if the first route is impassible?

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5. In the event our household is separated or unable to communicate with each other, our emergency contact outside of our immediate area is:

Name

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email:

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*After a disaster, let your friends and family know you are okay by registering at "Safe and Well" at <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/> or by calling 1-800-733-2767. You can also give them a call, send a quick text or update your status on social networking sites.*

6. If at school/daycare, our child(ren) will be evacuated to:

Child's Name:

Evacuation Site (address and contact info):

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7. Our plan for people in our household with a disability or special need

is: Person's Name:

Plan:

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8. During certain emergencies local authorities may direct us to "shelter in place" in our home. An accessible, safe room where we can go, seal windows, vents and doors and listen to emergency broadcasts for instructions, is:

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**9. Family Member Responsibilities in the Event of a Disaster**

Task	Description	Family Member Responsible
Disaster Kit*	Stock the disaster kit and take it if evacuation is necessary. Include items you might want to take to an evacuation shelter. Remember to include medications and eye glasses.	
Be informed	Maintain access to NOAA or local radio, TV, email or text alerts for important and current information about disasters.	
Family Medical Information	Make sure the household medical information is taken with us if evacuation is necessary.	
Financial Information	Obtain copies of bank statements and cash in the event ATMs and credit cards do not work due to power outages. Bring copies of utility bills as proof of residence in applying for assistance.	
Pet Information	Evacuate our pet(s), keep a phone list of pet-friendly motels and animal shelters, and assemble and take the pet disaster kit.	
Sharing and Maintaining the Plan	Share the completed plan with those who need to know. Meet with household members every 6 months or as needs change to update household plan.	

\*What supplies and records should go in your disaster kit? Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**10. Other information, if not able to be included above.**

*Congratulations on completing your family disaster plan! Please tell others: "We've made a family disaster plan and you can, too, with help from the American Red Cross."*

Get the facts about what you should do if an emergency or disaster occurs at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)