



# Names used to designate hurricanes

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News.

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms had been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They are now maintained and updated through a strict procedure by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization.

Three 2020 names — Arthur, Bertha and Cristobal — have already been used.

The remaining 2020 names are:

- Dolly;
- Edouard;
- Fay;
- Gonzalo;
- Hanna;
- Isaias;
- Josephine;
- Kyle;
- Laura;
- Marco;
- Nana;
- Omar;
- Paulette;
- Rene;
- Sally;
- Teddy;
- Vicky; and,
- Wilfred.

Six lists are used in rotation and recycled every six years, i.e., the 2019 list will be used again in 2025. The only time there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity. If that occurs, then at

an annual meeting by the WMO committee (called primarily to discuss many other issues), the offending name is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it.

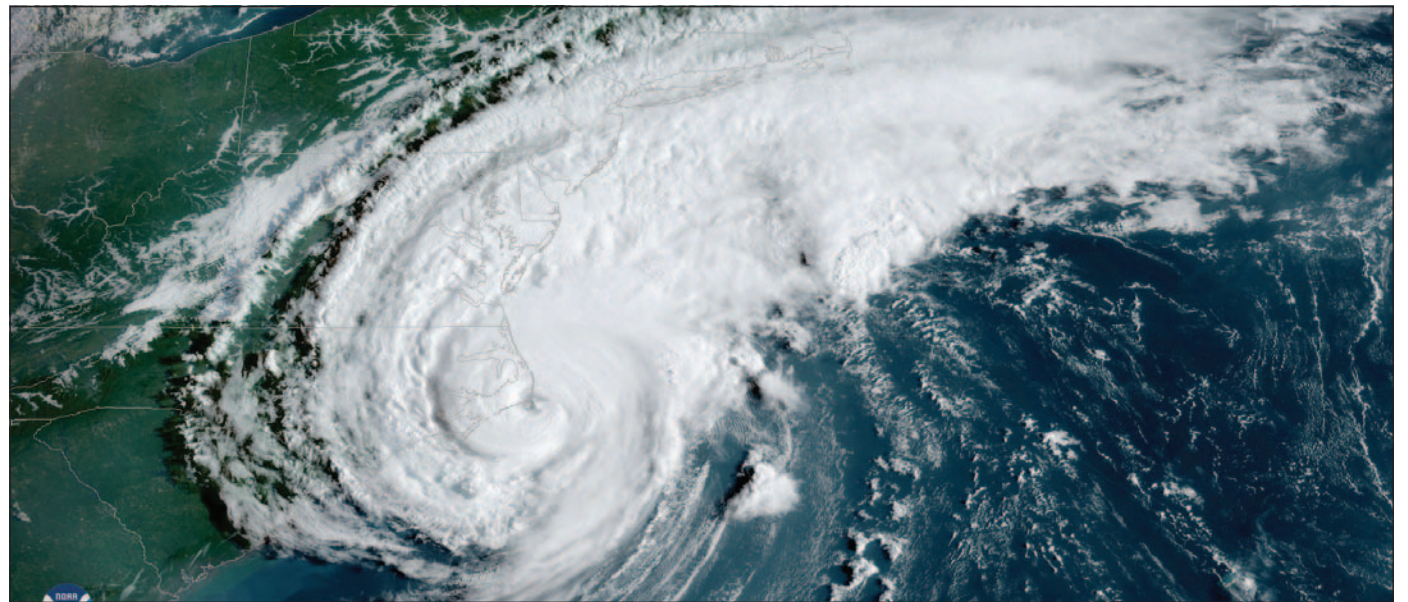
Several names have been retired since the lists were created. Here is more infor-

mation on the history of naming tropical cyclones and retired names.

If a storm forms in the off-season, it will take the next name in the list based on the current calendar date. For example, if a tropical cyclone formed on Dec. 28, it would take the name from the previous season's

list of names. If a storm formed in February, it would be named from the subsequent season's list of names.

In the event that more than 21 named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/NOAA  
Hurricane Dorian made landfall over Cape Hatteras, N.C., at 8:35 a.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, with maximum sustained winds near 90 mph. NOAA's GOES-East captured this view of the strong Category 1 storm at 8:20 a.m. EDT, just 15 minutes before the center of the storm moved across the barrier islands.

## TLC

Tony L. Carter  
Real Estate Inspection

Home Inspections  
4-Point Inspections  
Wind Mitigation  
Roof Inspection  
Mobile Home Tie Down  
Inspections



Printed or digital PDF Reports  
including images from your  
home inspection.

**Call & Schedule Today!**

**(863) 634-3693** ♦ [tonycartertcl@gmail.com](mailto:tonycartertcl@gmail.com)

Licensed FL (HI9756) & Insured



**Mohawk**  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

OFFICE - (863) 623-5274  
LIC# CRC 1327160

**SAND • FILL**  
**SHELL • ROCK**

House Pads • Land Clearing  
Debris Removal • Demolition  
Culverts • Driveways

**DUMP TRUCKS**  
**SITE WORK**  
**HEAVY EQUIPMENT**





# Tips from Waste Management on pre- and post-storm preparation

## Hurricane season began on June 1

### By Waste Management Inc.

POMPANO BEACH — Hurricane season began June 1. In order to prepare for hurricane season, and enable our drivers to restart essential services as soon as possible a storm passes, Waste Management offers the following tips to all its residential and business customers in Florida:

### Before the storm

- Trim your vegetation now. You must stop all yard maintenance and tree trimming activities at least four days prior to a storm's approach.
- Secure all garbage and recycling containers. Place containers in a secure location away from open spaces.
- Bundle and tie down all loose trash such as tree limbs, wood planks or building and roof tiles. Place these materials in a location where debris cannot become hazardous to homes and vehicles in high winds.
- Waste Management will continue to collect household garbage and recycling materials in the neighborhoods it serves according to regular schedules until sustainable winds reach 35 mph or local authorities instruct Waste Management to suspend service due to the closure of landfills or other disposal sites.

### After the storm

- If a major tropical storm or hurricane does impact your area, you must separate normal household garbage such as food, diapers and regular household waste from storm debris caused by high winds and rain. Storm debris including tree limbs, carpet, aluminum and wood fencing, and household appliances should be placed curbside in a separate pile.
- Separating normal household waste from storm debris will allow Waste Management employees to collect your household

garbage more quickly and safely. The separation is also necessary because other firms independent from Waste Management may be authorized to collect your storm debris in accordance with arrangements made by local municipalities and/or the county.

• Waste Management will restart curbside garbage collection of normal household waste as soon as local authorities deem it safe for our trucks to be on the road. Initial focus will be on streets that are passable. The company will expand its routes to additional areas as more streets become clear of debris and other impediments.

Waste Management uses various social media tools to assure that local residents can find up-to-date information in the event of service disruptions resulting from challenging post-storm conditions. Once a storm strikes and is severe enough to warrant community updates, turn to [wm.com/alerts](http://wm.com/alerts) for timely information about service.

"Following a powerful tropical storm or hurricane, one of the most essential needs for a community to begin recovery is the reliable return of its most vital services," said Dawn McCormick, director of communications for Waste Management Inc. of Florida. "Doing everything we can to prepare before a storm, and return to service and help local residents recover after a crisis, is what being a good community partner is all about."

More tips for hurricane preparedness are available at [ready.gov/](http://ready.gov/).

### About Waste Management

Waste Management Inc., based in Houston, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery and disposal services. It is also one of the largest residential recyclers and a leading operator of landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more information about Waste Management visit [wm.com](http://wm.com).

# Florida 511 is an essential hurricane preparedness tool

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — As hurricane season ramps up, residents and visitors should remember that the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Florida 511 Traveler Information System can keep them informed about roadway conditions during severe weather.

Florida 511 provides real-time traffic information about interstate, highways, many major roadways and most toll roads in Florida. This info can be crucial if high winds, flooding, toppled trees or other problems close roads and bridges during hurricanes and tropical storms hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Florida 511 can provide updates on weather and traffic conditions on evacuation routes. Users can register for a free My Florida 511 personalized services account and create customized door-to-door plans for evacuation routes or to other destinations. Each route includes travel time estimates, traffic incident

information and the ability to schedule email or text alerts. Registered users can also access information on their saved routes by calling 511 and saying, "profile."

Motorists also can check for urgent alerts and real-time traffic information in English or Spanish on [FL511.com](http://FL511.com) before getting in their vehicles. They can view roadway cameras showing current driving conditions along their planned route. The free Florida 511 mobile app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play, also features the interactive map showing traffic speeds and incidents on roads around the user's location.

Additional ways to receive information from Florida 511 include calling 511 toll-free from any phone in the state and following one or more of the statewide, regional or roadway-specific Twitter feeds (#FL511).

The Emergency Info tab on [FL511.com](http://FL511.com) offers crucial information, including links to evacuation route maps, safety tips and information about emergency shelters.



# Eli's

## WESTERN WEAR, Inc.

*We have everything you need for Summer!*



Follow us on



*Come shop with us today or online at*  
**[www.eliswesternwear.com](http://www.eliswesternwear.com)**

**907 NW Park St**  
**Okeechobee, FL 34972**  
**863-763-2984**



# Above-normal hurricane season predicted

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

An above-normal 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is expected, according to forecasters with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. The outlook predicts a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season and only a 10% chance of a below-normal season. The Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which six to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including three to six major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

"As Americans focus their attention on a safe and healthy reopening of our country, it remains critically important that we also remember to make the necessary preparations for the upcoming hurricane season," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. "Just as in years past, NOAA experts will stay ahead of developing hurricanes and tropical storms and provide the forecasts and warnings we depend on to stay safe."

The combination of several climate factors is driving the strong likelihood for above-normal activity in the Atlantic this year. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are expected to either remain neutral or to trend toward La Niña, meaning there will not be an El Niño present to suppress hurricane activity. Also, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, coupled with reduced vertical wind shear, weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds and an enhanced west African monsoon all increase the likelihood for an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Similar conditions have been producing more active seasons since the current high-activity era began in 1995.

"NOAA's analysis of current and seasonal atmospheric conditions reveals a recipe for an active Atlantic hurricane season this year," said Neil Jacobs, Ph.D., acting NOAA administrator. "Our skilled forecasters, coupled with upgrades to our computer models and observing technologies, will provide accurate and timely forecasts to protect life and property."

This year, as during any hurricane season, the men and women of NOAA remain ready to provide the lifesaving forecasts and warnings that the public relies on. And as storms show signs of developing, NOAA hurricane hunter aircraft will be prepared to collect valuable data for our forecasters and computer models.

In addition to this high level of science and service, NOAA is also launching new upgrades to products and tools that will further improve critical services during the hurricane season.

NOAA will upgrade the hurricane-specific Hurricane Weather Research and Forecast system (HWRF) and the Hurricanes in a Multi-scale Ocean coupled Non-hydrostatic model (HMON) models this summer. HWRF will incorporate new data from satellites and radar from NOAA's coastal Doppler data network to help produce better forecasts of hurricane track and intensity during the critical watch and warning time frame. HMON will undergo enhancements to include higher resolution, improved physics and coupling with ocean models.

As the hurricane season gets underway, NOAA will begin feeding data from the COSMIC-2 satellites into weather models to help track hurricane intensity and boost forecast accuracy. COSMIC-2 provides data about air temperature, pressure and humidity in the tropical regions of Earth — precisely where hurricane and tropical storm systems form.

Also during the 2020 hurricane season, NOAA and the U.S. Navy will deploy a fleet of autonomous diving hurricane gliders to observe conditions in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea in areas where hurricanes have historically traveled and intensified.

As with every hurricane season, the need to be prepared is critically important this year.

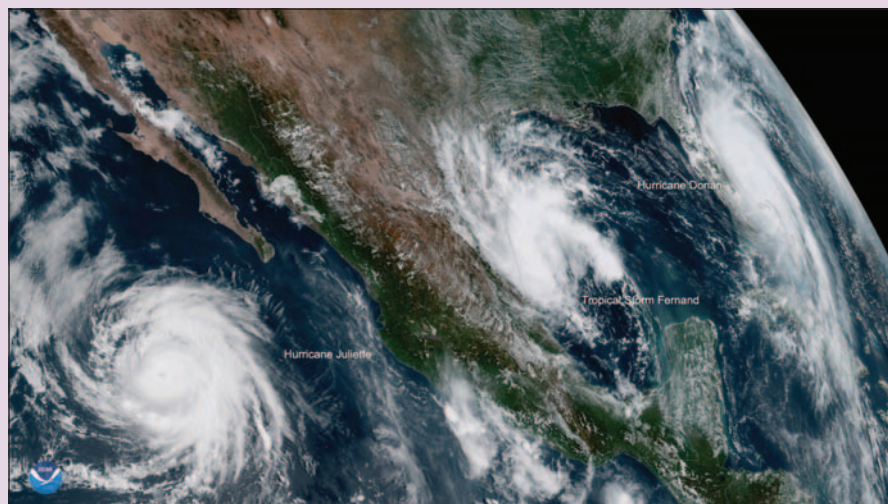
"Social distancing and other CDC guidance to keep you safe from COVID-19 may impact the disaster preparedness plan you had in place, including what is in your go-kit, evacuation routes, shelters and more. With tornado season at its peak, hurricane season around the corner, and flooding, earthquakes and wildfires a risk year-round, it is time to revise and adjust your emergency plan now," said Carlos Castillo, acting deputy administrator for resilience at FEMA. "Natural disasters won't wait, so I encourage you to keep COVID-19 in mind when revising or making your plan for you and your loved ones, and don't forget your pets. An easy way to start is to download the FEMA app today."

In addition to the Atlantic hurricane

season outlook, NOAA also issued seasonal hurricane outlooks for the eastern and central Pacific basins.

NOAA's outlook is for overall seasonal activity and is not a landfall forecast. The Climate Prediction Center will update the 2020 Atlantic seasonal outlook in August prior to the historical peak of the season.

Hurricane preparedness is critically important for the 2020 hurricane season, just as it is every year. Keep in mind, you may need to adjust any preparedness actions based on the latest health and safety guidelines from the CDC and your local officials. Visit the National Hurricane Center's website at hurricanes.gov throughout the season to stay current on any watches and warnings.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/NOAA

## They came three at a time

While Hurricane Dorian lashed the Bahamas throughout Labor Day weekend, two other storms were brewing — one in the Atlantic, and another in the Eastern Pacific. In this GOES-West view, captured at 1:20 p.m. EDT on Sept. 3, 2019, you can see all three storms: Hurricane Juliette, Tropical Storm Fernand and Hurricane Dorian.

## POWERFUL PREP TIPS

### BE PREPARED. STAY SAFE.



Before storms strike, download our SmartHub app for quick, accurate outage reporting and a live outage map.



Keep your trees trimmed away from power lines to avoid outages and line damage from encroaching limbs in a storm.



Prepare your home to safely use a generator; have an electrician install an interlock kit. Never directly connect a portable generator to your home's electrical system.

**OUTAGE REPORTING: USE OUR SMARTHUB APP OR CALL (863) 946-6200**



Find post-storm restoration updates on our Facebook page.  
(Facebook account is not required.)

[www.facebook.com/GladesElectricCooperative](https://www.facebook.com/GladesElectricCooperative)

**GLADES**  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

**24 hour emergency service**  
**Sales, Service and New Installation**

**Cooling Refrigeration SERVICES**  
**Heating & A/C Service**

**863.467.4733**

**Residential www.crsokee.com Commerical**



# Floridians less likely to evacuate due to COVID-19

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TAMPA — Floridians are increasingly concerned about the 2020 hurricane season, and the coronavirus is one of the reasons why.

According to a AAA survey — fielded last week — nearly a third (31%) of Floridians are more concerned about the 2020 hurricane season than they were last year. Two-of-five people (42%) say they are less likely to evacuate for a storm this year for fear of contracting the coronavirus. In fact, more than a quarter of residents (29%) say they would not leave their homes if they were warned to evacuate.

## FEMA advice for preparing during COVID-19 pandemic

“The coronavirus just complicates matters even more for those preparing for what is forecast to be an active hurricane season,” said Mark Jenkins, spokesman, AAA — The Auto Club Group. “AAA urges families to develop an emergency plan now. Your plan should include several evacuation destinations, in case a shelter or hotel is closed due to the pandemic. Also be sure to utilize the 7-day tax free holiday to assemble a supply kit. This year’s kits should include cleaning supplies, to provide peace-of-mind for evacuees.”

Coronavirus aside, residents’ decision to evacuate often depends on the severity of the storm. Of those who would evacuate, four-of-five people (80%) would leave for a Category 2 hurricane or greater.

## What category hurricane would Floridians evacuate for?

- Category 1: 74-95 mph winds - 8%
- Category 2: 96-110 mph winds - 23%
- Category 3: 111-129 mph winds - 29%
- Category 4: 130-156 mph winds - 19%

- Category 5:  $\geq$  157 mph winds - 9%
- Did not know - 12%

Percentage denotes minimum strength of a storm that would cause them to evacuate.

## Flooding is #1 disaster in the United States

The two biggest sources of hurricane damage are wind and torrential rain resulting in flooding. Flooding is the number one disaster in the United States. Despite the risk, two-thirds (65%) of Floridians do not have flood insurance, which is separate from homeowners insurance.

“Flooding should be a major concern for Florida residents, whether they live in a high risk flood zone or not,” said Peter Corrigan, president of the Auto Club Insurance Company of Florida. “It’s important to make sure you have a flood insurance policy now, because if you wait until a storm approaches, it will be too late.”

- Just 1 inch of flooding can cause \$25,000 in damage to your home (FEMA).
- 20% of annual flood claims come from homes in low risk zones.
- 54% of Floridians are concerned about experiencing flooding at their home.
- 18% of Floridians have experienced flooding at their home.
- 24% of Floridians are unaware that homeowner’s insurance does not cover flood damage.
- A ‘preferred risk’ flood insurance policy can cost less than a dollar a day for coverage of \$75,000 in structural damage and \$30,000 for damage to contents inside the home. Visit [myfloodquote.com/new-floodtools/](http://myfloodquote.com/new-floodtools/) to check the flood risk in your neighborhood.

## AAA’s hurricane preparation tips

More than half (52%) of residents do not

have an emergency plan. Here are some things people can do right now to prepare for the storm season.

## Protect your home

- Secure Your Home – Inspect your home for minor repairs needed to roof, windows, down spouts, etc. Trim trees or bushes that could cause damage to your home in case of high winds.
- Take inventory – Update your home inventory by walking through your home with a video camera or smart phone. Keep a record of large purchases including the cost of the item, when purchased and model and serial numbers as available. Store important documents in a portable waterproof container.
- Stock emergency supplies – Plan for a week’s worth of non-perishable food and water. Be sure to have flashlights, extra batteries, battery-powered radio, medications, first aid kit, blankets, toiletries, diapers, cleaning supplies, etc. Prepare a portable kit to keep in your car should you need to evacuate.
- Identify a safe room – Identify a room where family members should gather, in case of emergency. This is typically an interior room with no windows.
- Protect your property – Review your homeowners insurance with your insurance agent to determine if you have adequate protection. Discuss your deductibles. Be aware that flood insurance is not typically covered under your homeowner’s policy. Flooding coverage for your automobile is available via an optional “comprehensive” inclusion to your auto insurance policy.

## Prepare for evacuation

- Make a contact plan – Identify ways to contact each other, alternate meeting locations, and an out-of-town contact person. Anticipate limited cell phone service.
- Know your evacuation route – Visit

[FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org) to track the recommended evacuation route for your region.

- Choose multiple destinations – Identify several places you will go in an emergency, such as a friend’s home, in another town, a hotel or shelter. Choose destinations in different directions so you have options during an emergency.
- Research shelter availability – Check with local officials about the availability of evacuation shelters. Your regular shelter may not open this year due to COVID-19. If you evacuate to a community shelter, follow the latest guidelines from the CDC.
- Prepare your pets – Identify a place to stay that will accept pets. Most public shelters allow only service animals.
- Prepare your vehicle for evacuation – Have your vehicle professionally inspected so it’s ready for evacuation. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- Gas up – If an evacuation seems likely, ensure you have a full tank of gas. Do not hoard gasoline you do not need. The pre-storm surge in gasoline demand often leads to temporary fuel outages before the storm. After the storm, be aware that gas stations may be closed or unable to pump gas due to structural damage, or fuel or power outages. As a result, begin looking for a refueling option when your tank is half full.

## About the AAA

### Consumer Pulse Survey

The AAA Consumer Pulse™ Survey was conducted online among residents living in Florida from May 20 – May 24, 2020. A total of 401 residents completed the survey. Survey results have a maximum margin of error of  $\pm$  5.9 percentage points. Responses are weighted by gender and age to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the adult population (18+) in Florida.



**Anderson**  
REALTY CO.

Past President, Okeechobee Board of Realtors

**Vicki S. Anderson**  
**863.634.4106**

Lic. Real Estate Broker  
Fax: 863.467.7822  
21442 E. SR 78, Buckhead Ridge  
Okeechobee, FL 34974

[www.AndersonRealtyCo.com](http://www.AndersonRealtyCo.com)  
[Vic\\_Anderson@earthlink.net](mailto:Vic_Anderson@earthlink.net)



**Lawrence Insurance Agency**  
**OVER 46 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

*"PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD... SERVICES YOU CAN TRUST"*

**We Specialize In:**

- Auto - Home - Mobile Home
- Boats - Health - Life Insurance
- Farm & Ranch
- Workers' Comp
- Commercial Liability & Property

**(863) 467-0600**  
2020 S. Parrott Avenue • Across from Walmart  
[www.lawrenceinsuranceagency.com](http://www.lawrenceinsuranceagency.com)



# Badcock & more<sup>®</sup>

HOME FURNITURE

Since 1904



ONLY  
**\$699**

SUGGESTED RETAIL \$999

Shop now

119633

## HIGH-PERFORMING PORTABLE POWER.



POULAN 20" GAS CHAINSAW

**\$249.00**

\$299.95



POULAN GAS POWERED BLOWER

**\$139.00**

\$199.95

## SUMMER SALE: GRILLS STARTING AT \$149

TROY-BILT GAS  
STRING  
TRIMMER**\$199.00**

\$249.95

BRIGGS & STRATTON 5250  
WATT GENERATOR**\$699.00**

\$999.95



CHAR-BROIL GAS GRILL

**\$279.00**

\$399.95

CHAR-GRILLER GAS &  
CHARCOAL GRILL**\$399.00**

\$499.95



TROY-BILT 42" LAWN TRACTOR

**\$1,899.00**

\$2,299.95



TROY-BILT 46" AUTO LAWN TRACTOR

**\$2,299.00**

\$2,699.95

TROY-BILT 46" ZERO TURN  
RADIUS MOWER**\$3,699.00**

\$3,999.95

## QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED ON CERTAIN ITEMS

512 NW Park Street • Okeechobee, FL 34972

(863) 763-3823

Linda Ballinger, Owner

117 Bond Street • Clewiston, FL 33440

(863) 983-8166

Carol Giddens, Owner



# PLAN AND PREPARE FOR HURRICANES AND PANDEMICS

## KNOW YOUR HOME, KNOW YOUR ZONE

- You are encouraged to shelter at home, or with a relative or friend, if safe to do so
- If you live in a mandatory evacuation zone or do not feel safe in your own home, you should evacuate to a safe location as close as possible to your home

### PRIMARY STORM SHELTERS

- Clewiston High School
- LaBelle Middle School
- Pioneer Community Center



*Enhanced Screening and Isolation of clients will help protect clients.  
If you must use a shelter, please bring food, medicine and a face cover.*

## 6 FEET OF SPACE AND COVER YOUR FACE

- Wash your hands often, using soap & water or hand sanitizer
- Avoid close contact with sick people, even in your home
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places
- Avoid mass gatherings
- Use a cloth face cover when around others
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect touched areas daily

## 96 HOUR EMERGENCY KIT

- Review Insurance policies  
***Do they*** cover Flood and Wind?
- Go Bag for everyone in home
- Sanitation, PPE, hygiene items (hand sanitizer, moist wipes, etc.)
- 4-7 days non-perishable food
- 4-7 days water 1 gallon per person/ day
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper:
  - ❖ 16 drops per 1 gallon of water
- Basic first-aid kit
- Needed Medical equipment/supplies
- Medications and a list of prescription name, dosage, frequency, and doctor contact information
- Cooler with an ice pack for medications
- Emergency contacts
- Copies of important documents (birth certificate, license, insurances, etc.)
- Cash
- Baby formula, diapers, bottles
- Tools, Keys, Clothes, Radio
- Lights and Batteries

## SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

***You must register to receive these services***

Complete the Special Needs Program application with Emergency Management and Health Department

***(Pre-Registration Required)***

- **West Glades School is the designated special needs shelter for Hendry and Glades residents**

Registering with the Special Needs Program does not guarantee you will be assigned a space in the Special Needs Shelter. Your application will be reviewed by the Department of Health, and you will be assigned to a shelter where your needs can be managed.

If you have questions about the Special Needs Shelter Program, call 863.674.5400

[http://www.hendryfla.net/special\\_needs\\_program.php](http://www.hendryfla.net/special_needs_program.php)



Visit [PrepareHendry.com](http://PrepareHendry.com) for more Information or call  
Hendry County Emergency Management at 863.674.5400

To Register for Emergency Alerts Text "HENDRYFLA" to 888777

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

# The PEYTON Model

**\*Includes: Delivery, Setup  
Steps, Skirting, Air Conditioning.  
Bank Financing & Insurance Available.**

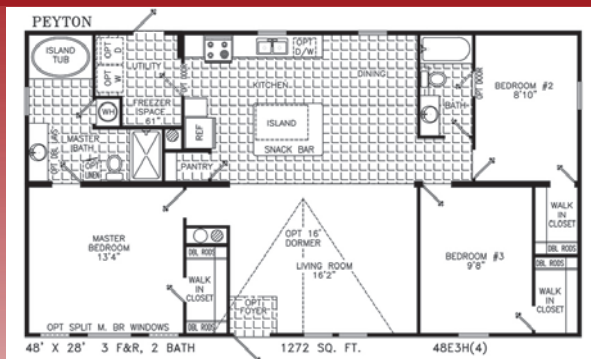
**\$68,545**

\*BASE PRICE

**3 Bedroom 2 Bath**

**28 x 48**

**1,272 SQ. FT.**



**Contact us today  
to find out more!**

**941-637-1122**

Mon - Fri 9-6 • Sat 9-5 • Sun 12-5

**Prestige Home Centers has the  
largest selection of doublewides  
in SWFL! Come see us.**

**With over 53 years of  
experience building  
homes in Florida, we are  
intimately familiar with the  
local building codes and  
requirements to create  
homes that stand up to all  
kinds of weather conditions**



4465 Duncan Rd. (Hwy 17N)  
Punta Gorda, FL  
(Off Exit 164)

[Prestigehomecenters.com/puntagorda](http://Prestigehomecenters.com/puntagorda)



# Don't let your home become haven for mosquitoes

By Brad Buck  
UF/IFAS

Hurricanes often leave standing water in the yards and homes of Florida residents. A University of Florida researcher suggests steps for making sure your home doesn't become a haven for mosquitoes.

Some mosquito species can lay up to 200 eggs at a time, so it's critical to empty cups, birdbaths, pots or anything else on your property that has standing wa-

ter, said UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences entomology professor Phil Kaufman.

"No container is too small to empty," Mr. Kaufman said. In addition to getting rid of standing water, he recommends residents use mosquito briquettes to kill immature mosquitoes.

The mosquito briquettes are available at many stores.

When going outside to empty containers or do yard cleanup, Mr. Kaufman urged residents to wear

insect repellent (preferably with DEET) and light-colored clothing.

Containers are a haven for certain types of mosquitoes to lay eggs, particularly after heavy rains, he said. Mosquitoes that lay eggs in containers include *Aedes aegypti* — the Yellow Fever mosquito — and *Aedes albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito.

Both species can transmit Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses, which can cause fever and headaches, among other symptoms, Mr. Kaufman said.

But an increase in mosquito population is only one factor in whether mosquito-borne diseases would be transmitted to humans or animals, he said.

Other factors include the abundance of other animals or organisms that carry the disease-causing pathogen, Mr. Kaufman said.

"Every disease is going to be different," he said.

"So you can't say that just because we had a hurricane, we're going to see more disease."

After these rains, mosquito populations will be high for a few weeks, if not a month, Mr. Kaufman said.

So, it's very important to contact your local mosquito control officials to tell them if you have concerns over an infestation in your yard or neighborhood, he said.

The bigger problem for mosquito control in general might be flooded areas, Mr. Kaufman said. Mosquito populations — such as those of the Gallinipper — will increase more where standing water occurs, he said.

Although about six times the size of regular mosquitoes, Gallinippers are largely nuisance mosquitoes, rather than disease-transmitting species, he said.

## Hurricane season is here: Review your insurance coverage now

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — With the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) is reminding Floridians to review their insurance policies and coverage now.

"I urge all Floridians to review their insurance policy now and be prepared this hurricane season. It's also important to know that most homeowners' insurance policies do not include flood coverage. Consumers should reach out now to their agent or insurer to make sure they have the coverage they need," said Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier.

"My office has been actively planning for the 2020 hurricane season. As we consider social distancing and other important safety measures in response to COVID-19, we are encouraging insurers to identify new ways of doing business, such as deploying virtual claims handling, to protect consumers. It will always be my expectation that insurers clearly communicate with policyholders and provide prompt, efficient and fair claims adjustment service."

OIR provides the following consumer tips to ensure Floridians are prepared this hurricane season:

### Create a home inventory

• A home inventory is a list of significant items within the home, broken down by room, with an estimate of the item's current value, including photos and proof of ownership. These types of inventories can make

it easier for consumers to file an accurate, detailed insurance claim in case a home is damaged. Once the home inventory is completed, consumers should check with their insurer or agent to determine if they need additional coverage.

• Click here for several options to assist consumers in completing a home inventory.

### Understand your coverage and consider flood insurance

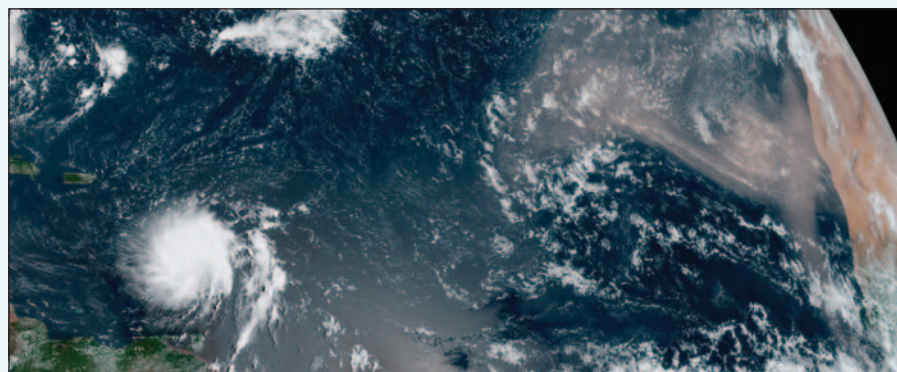
• Consumers should talk with their insurer or insurance agent about their coverage now.

• Flood damages are not typically covered in a homeowners' insurance policy. Flood coverage may be purchased separately or as an endorsement to their current policy.

### Add insurance documents to your disaster kit

• Gather important documents such as insurance policies and identification cards and keep them in a secure location. Consumers should store insurance contacts in case they need to quickly reach them later.

For additional information throughout the hurricane season, visit OIR's Hurricane Season Resources web page. Consumers can also visit the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS), Division of Consumer Services' website for consumer guides and resources or call the DFS toll-free Insurance Consumer Helpline at 877-MY-FL-CFO (877-693-5236).



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/NOAA

## Dorian picks up off dust plumes

Looking down from NOAA's GOES-East, the then-Tropical Storm Dorian is seen passing through the Lesser Antilles on Aug. 27, 2019. Well off to the northeast of Dorian, the satellite also picked up one of the largest Saharan dust plumes of the season being blown off North Africa. Saharan dust can inhibit Atlantic hurricane and tropical storm development by bringing warm, dry and stable air into the tropical systems.

**PROPANE**  
**The Reliable**  
**ENERGY Source**

**PROPANE TANK**

**glades gas**

Proudly serving Belle Glade,  
Pahokee, Clewiston, Okeechobee  
and surrounding  
communities

5 W. Avenue A, Belle  
Glade, FL  
**561-966-3046**



gladesgasac.com

License # 01852



# ARC outlines how to prepare for hurricane season

## Plans may have to be adjusted due to COVID-19

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

FORT MYERS — As we all deal with challenging demands of the coronavirus, hurricane season here and it's important to get prepared. Because of COVID-19, getting prepared will look a little different than in other years. With that thinking in mind, the Florida Gulf Coast to Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross has tips to help you.

## Prepare your landscape for hurricane season

By Anne Yasalonis  
UF/IFAS Extension

Hurricane season began June 1. You are probably aware of preparations you need to make inside the home, but what do you need to do in your landscape? Survey your property now and look for things that may be an issue such as:

- Flooding;
- Erosion;
- Wind directions;
- Tree failure (and the potential impacts to your property); and,
- Live oak canopy.

### Prune trees properly

To prune or not to prune, that is the question. First and foremost, properly planted and maintained trees are the best defense against any potential hurricane damage. But, if it has been a while since you pruned your trees, make sure that you follow this checklist:

- Remove any dead or broken branches;
- Stake leaning trees and leave newly planted trees staked;
- Remove limbs that overhang structures;
- Prune your trees with a healthy central leader in mind.

Be wary of services willing to "hurricane prune" your trees and palms! Always contact a certified arborist and make sure any pruning does not include topping, tipping, or lion-tailing.

- Cabbage Palm — Palms must be pruned properly as well. Only remove dead leaves (completely brown) and never prune above the 3 and 9 hands on a clock. For more information on properly pruning palms visit [blogs.ifas.ufl.edu](https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu)

• Clean gutters — Really, this is important before the start of the rainy season anyway. Make sure that your gutters are clean and clear so that when large rainfall events occur water can flow freely.

- Make a plan for potted plants ... and other objects around your yard. Where and how will you secure them if needed?

• Anchor and/or brace outdoor structures and consider how to deal with potential wind damage to solid fencing. Can you remove any panels from your solid fence so that wind can move through?

- Take photos and document your property before the storm.

There is a lot of very helpful information on the UF/IFAS woody landscape plants website at [hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/index.shtml](https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/index.shtml). Just select "trees" and you will find information on everything from tree selection to design and pruning.

"Every year, communities across the United States face disasters," said Jill Palmer, executive director for the chapter. "It is important for us all to take the time now to prepare so that we can protect and be ready."

**Make a plan.** In light of the coronavirus, you may have to adjust any previous plans you made.

- If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit (see below).

- Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you need to share transportation.

- Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you are able to stay with them. Check and see if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or people at higher risk in their home, make other arrangements. Check with hotels, motels and campgrounds to see if they are open. Find out if your local emergency management agency has adapted its sheltering plans.

- Check with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and update emergency plans due to coronavirus.

- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes. Remember, if it's not safe for you to stay home, it's not safe for your pets, either.

**Build a kit.** Assemble two kits of emergency supplies and a one-month supply

of prescription medication. Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now. Start with this basic supply list:

**Stay-at-home kit:** Include everything you need to stay at home for at least two weeks with items such as food, water, household cleaning and disinfectant supplies, soap, paper products and personal hygiene items.

**Evacuation kit:** Your second kit should be a lightweight, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly. Include everything you need to be on your own for three days:

- Food and water
- Personal hygiene items
- Cleaning and disinfectant supplies that you can use on the go (tissues, hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol and disinfecting wipes)

- Cloth face coverings for everyone in your household who can wear one safely. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others in public. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove it without help.

- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks

Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification

and bank account records should be saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container.

Keep a one-month supply of prescription medication, as well as over-the-counter medications like cough suppressants and fever reducing drugs and medical supplies or equipment. Keep these items together in a separate container so you can take them with you if you have to evacuate.

**Be informed.** Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities.

Use the Red Cross interactive map ([www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/common-natural-disasters-across-us.html#all](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/common-natural-disasters-across-us.html#all)) to identify likely disasters in your area.

Learn about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine whether these plans have been adapted because of COVID-19.

Find contact information for state, local and tribal governments and agencies, and for state emergency management agencies.

Because of COVID-19, stay current on advice and restrictions from your state and local public health authorities as it may affect your actions and available resources and facilities.

Visit [redcross.org/hurricane](https://redcross.org/hurricane) for full information about what to do before, during and after a hurricane.

## Get ready for Hurricane Season!



Our Tree Services include:

- ◆ Tree removal
- ◆ Tree trimming
- ◆ Stump grinding
- ◆ Stump removal
- ◆ Debris removal
- ◆ Annual tree maintenance
- ◆ Tree planting
- ◆ Land clearing



Demolition of

- ◆ Mobile Homes
- ◆ Building
- ◆ Houses
- ◆ Sheds
- ◆ Barns
- ◆ Pools
- ◆ Decks
- ◆ Concrete Removal

Please Call Danielle for your free estimate  
**863-634-9104**

Locally owned, operated, licensed and insured • Demo License # OCSL3234



# Awnit

YOU NEED IT? WE'RE AWNIT!

Impact Windows, Doors & Hurricane Shutters

**Austin Harvey**  
*Owner & Project Manager*

**863-634-3100**



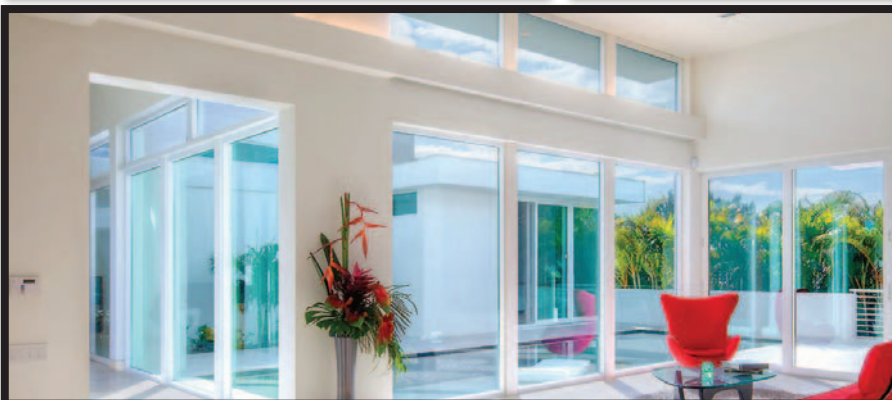
**Rolling Shutters**



**Accordion Shutters**



**Storm Panels**



**PGT Wingard Impact Resistant  
Windows & Doors**



**StormBreaker Plus Series  
Windows & Doors by Simonton**

**Are You Prepared?**  
**Get Awnit**



A partnership of  
AHSS & RollShade



Visit [Awnit.com](http://Awnit.com) for more information

**Veteran Owned – Family Operated – Licensed & Insured**





# Your Personal Injury Attorney

*"It is about YOUR legal rights"*

## Get Your Life Back...

with **JEFFREY A. FADLEY P.A.**

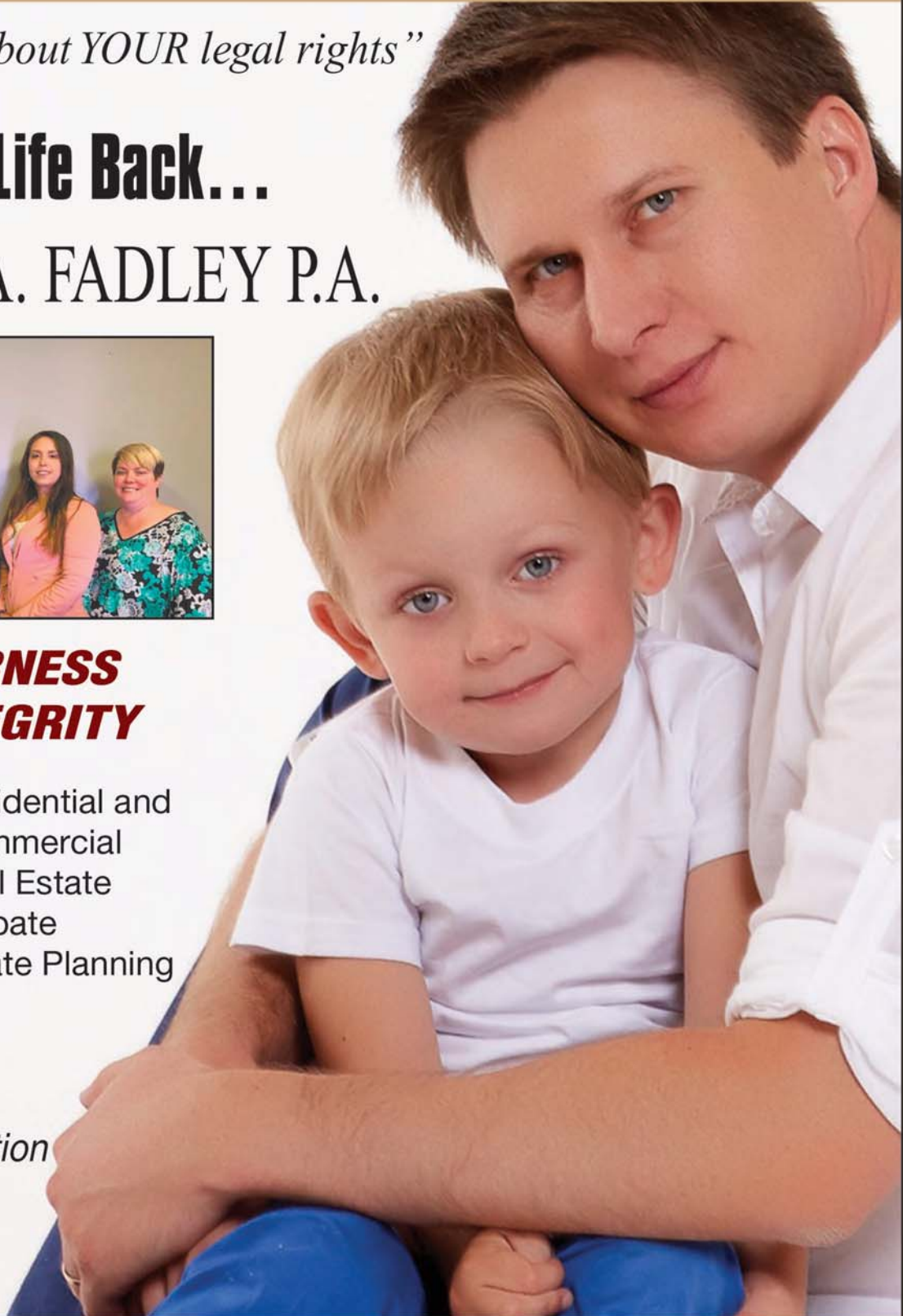


**JUSTICE | FAIRNESS**  
**RESPECT | INTEGRITY**

- Personal Injury
- Civil Litigation
- Family Law
- DUI
- Criminal Law
- Residential and Commercial Real Estate
- Probate
- Estate Planning

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*To provide effective, quality, legal representation in a fair and timely manner.*



180 NW 3rd Avenue Ste A, Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(Located across from the Okeechobee County Judicial Center)  
PH: 863-763-5733 • FAX: 863-763-6199 • fadleylaw.com