

2012 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

CONGRESSMAN GUS BILIRAKIS



In Florida, we know how destructive natural disasters can be. With hurricane season approaching, I want to provide you with some helpful information as you and your family prepare for the possibility of a storm.

The effects of a natural disaster can be reduced if you remain aware of the steps you can take before, during and after a storm. It is also important that you and every member of your family keep on hand the emergency phone numbers listed in this update.

One of the most important lessons we can learn from previous storms is that citizens need to have supplies for at least three days after a hurricane hits. Attached is a valuable hurricane preparedness checklist.

It is an honor to be your voice in Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

www.bilirakis.house.gov

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COURTESY OF CONGRESSMAN GUS BILIRAKIS

Chairman, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,
Response and Communications

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Flashlight and batteries: 1 per person
- Liquid soap and hand sanitizer
- Teeth cleaning wipes
- Water purification kit
- 2-week supply of prescription drugs
- Fire extinguisher
- Extra eyeglasses and sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen

Infant Necessities:

- Infant medicine
- Diapers
- Baby formula and bottles

First-aid Kit Including the Following:

- Bandages and tape
- Antiseptic
- Pain relievers
- Digestive medicines (e.g., Maalox)
- Anti-diarrhea medicines (e.g., Imodium)
- Antacids
- Medications for common illnesses

FOOD AND DRINK

- Drinking water: 1 gal. per person per day
- Non-potable water: for hygienic use only
- Propane gas for barbecue grill
- 2 coolers for food and ice
- Manual can opener

Two Weeks' Supply of the Following:

- Nonperishable foods
- Plastic tableware and cups
- Plastic wrap and plastic trash bags
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Wet wipes

IF YOU EVACUATE

- Pillows, blankets & sleeping bags or air mattresses (shelters do not provide)
- Folding chairs or cots
- Extra clothing and shoes
- Large bath towels
- Personal hygiene items: toothbrush, deodorant, etc.
- Food, water and ice
- Prescription medications in original containers
- Books, toys and/or handheld games

MISCELLANEOUS

- Cleanup supplies: mop, buckets, towels, disinfectant, bleach
- Camera/camcorder (record property before storm & document damage after)
- Extra batteries
- Tire repair kit
- Work gloves
- Full tank of gas
- Appropriate clothes for post-storm: hat, closed-toe shoes, dry socks, rain gear
- Animal care (keep proper food and water stocked)
- Cash (ATM and credit card networks might be down)

LEARN MORE

www.fema.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency

www.redcross.org

American Red Cross

www.nws.noaa.gov

National Weather Service

www.noaa.gov

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

COURTESY OF
**Congressman
Gus Bilirakis**



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What to do AFTER the hurricane...

- **BE CAREFUL.** The conditions that exist after a storm can be just as dangerous as the storm itself. Take care when re-entering your home. Ventilate your home by opening doors and windows. Be aware of downed electrical and other utility lines. Consult an electrician before restoring power to your home if it has flooded.
- **DOCUMENT DAMAGE.** This is necessary for insurance purposes. Also, save all receipts for repairs you may have to make before an adjuster can visit.
- **MAKE REPAIRS.** This will prevent further damage to your home and make it habitable again. Don't make extensive repairs, until you have fully assessed the damage and contacted insurance companies, etc.
- **CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY.** File any claims as soon as you have assessed all damage.
- **KEEP YOUR DOCUMENTS AND INSURANCE PAPER WORK SAFE.** You will want to maintain records of all of these dealings for future reference.

Emergency (Fire, Police, Medical): Dial 911

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Federal Emergency Management Agency
(800) 621-3362

Tampa Electric
(877) 588-1010 (to report outage)

Florida Emergency Information Hotline
(800) 342-3557 (24 hours)

Southwest Florida Water Management
(800) 836-0797

Emergency Housing Programs
(800) 414-1226

Florida Hurricane Helpline
(800) 227-8676

Public Housing Programs
(800) 955-2232

Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline
(866) 966-7226

Mail Services
(800) 275-8777

Banking Issues
(877) 275-3342

Social Security Administration
(800) 772-1213

Agricultural and Consumer Services
(800) 435-7352

Medicare and Medicaid Issues
(888) 419-3456

State Volunteer Hotline
(800) 354-3571

Progress Energy
(800) 228-8485 (to report outage)

PROTECT YOUR PETS

United States Humane Society
(202) 452-1100

Pinellas County
www.pinellascounty.org

Hillsborough County
www.hahf.org

Pasco County
must make private arrangements

CONTACT CONGRESSMAN GUS BILIRAKIS

Palm Harbor Office
(727) 773-2871

Washington, DC Office
(202) 225-5755

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*This mailing was prepared, published and
mailed at taxpayer expense.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gus M. Bilirakis".

M.C.

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