

TYPES OF DISASTERS

Sarasota County provides information for preparing for, managing and cleaning up after several different types of disasters. They provide helpful information on the [county website](#). The Tampa Bay Regional Council also provides [disaster preparedness information](#) for the overall region with links to county specific and Spanish language resources.

The most common anticipated emergency our community faces is that of threats and damages caused by storms. Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30.

We are all familiar with storm tracking models. The most damaging side of a hurricane is the right front quadrant of the storm. This is sometimes called “the dirty side” of the storm because forward speed adds to the winds and storm surge will range out from the eye up to 60+ miles.

Despite legends to the contrary, many hurricanes have impacted the Sarasota area. Some notable ones include:

- **SEPTEMBER 1848** - Tampa Bay was hit by a Category 4 hurricane in September of 1848. This was the hurricane that created Casey’s Pass at Venice and New Pass that separates Longboat from Lido Key.
- **OCTOBER 1848** - That same year, a separate hurricane struck Tampa in October.
- **OCTOBER 1921** - On October 6 of 1921, a category 3 hurricane hit Tampa.
- **SEPTEMBER 1935** - There was the Great Labor Day Hurricane, which tracked along the Gulf Coast wiping bare most of Longboat Key.
- **SEPTEMBER 1960** – Hurricane Donna hit Naples as a category 4 hurricane, bringing with it storm tides 4+ feet above sea level and winds over 100MPH as far north as Sarasota.
- **AUGUST 2004** - Hurricane Charlie was tracking to hit Tampa, but six hours before landfall on August 13, winds jumped from 110 MPH to 150 MPH and the hurricane veered to the right into Port Charlotte, putting Sarasota on the benign side of the hurricane.
- **SEPTEMBER 2017** – Hurricane Irma, which peaked as a category 5 hurricane, hit Sarasota and left downed trees, vegetation, and flooding in her wake.
- **SEPTEMBER 2022** - Hurricane Ian, one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the U.S., made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast on September 28. Ian's 150 mph winds and heavy rains knocked out power for 2.6 million residents and caused \$12.6 billion in insured losses.

The probability of a hurricane striking the Tampa/Sarasota area in any specific year is about 4- 5% or every 20-25 years. The probability of a category 3+ hurricane probably drops to about 1-2% or every 50-100 years. But it only takes one.