

THINGS TO DO WHEN A STORM IS PREDICTED

Create a Personal/Family Preparedness Kit - In most cases, the emergencies we might face can be best met by each household's individual preparedness, and the intervention of official county personnel will not be required. However, in the event of a community disaster, local public emergency responders such as the Sheriff, fire, and Emergency Medical Teams, may not be able to immediately respond to residents' needs. In fact, Sarasota County emergency personnel do not respond to an emergency until winds fall below 45 miles per hour. (Do not let that prevent you from calling 911 if needed.) In this case your individual preparedness will be even more essential. Each resident should be prepared for the emergency by taking the steps to assemble a Personal/Family Preparedness Kit. The contents of the kit should be able to sustain the individuals for a minimum of five days.

Prepare an Evacuation Plan – Ahead of the storm, know your evacuation zone. Category 4 and above hurricanes require a mandatory evacuation primarily because of the flood risk. Decide where you will evacuate to and when. Make hotel reservations or secure living arrangements with friends or family in safe areas. Identify shelters that are appropriate for your situation (e.g., pets) Prepare an evacuation kit. Know your evacuation level by checking the [Sarasota County website](#).

In the case of a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning - As soon as Sarasota County issues a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning, residents must remove all outside objects from lanais, loggias, and lawns. These must be moved inside to limit flying debris serving as projectiles.

Talk to your Neighbors - If you live alone and/or think you will need assistance before, during, or after the emergency, talk to your neighbors and make sure they know your plan for staying or evacuating.

Have a family plan - If your family is not together at the time of the emergency, or if you become separated during the emergency, pick two places to meet. The first should be just outside your house, for example, in the neighbor's adjacent or across the street driveway. The other should be outside of Turtle Rock in case someone cannot get home. Make sure everyone has everyone else's contact information. It's a good idea to have the Turtle Rock community center contact information and address in everyone's phones as well.