SARASOTA COUNTY HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

May 3, 2024

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Sponsored by: Community Partners

**Salient Points**

* Since 1953 there have been forty-two federally declared disasters affecting Sarasota County
  + Twenty tropical storms
  + Seven severe storms
* Forecast from Colorado State University hurricane experts predicted the following:
  + Predictions
    - Named storms avg.14 2023: 20 2024 Predicted: 23
    - Hurricanes avg: 7 2023: 4 2024: Predicted: 11
    - Major Hurricanes avg: 3 2023: 3 2024: Predicted: 5
* NOAA will announce its predictions May 23
* Since every storm is different, relying on experience is a bad idea. Treat each storm as new and adhere to the predictions and recommendations for that storm. Don’t’ take chances.
* The cone shape and size will be reported differently starting in August, it will be color coded for risk level.
* #1 reason for evacuation is storm surge, then wind for manufactured homes, RV’s, mobile homes, and medical devices.
* The hurricane scale is a wind scale, not related to storm surge.
* First responders are pulled off the roads when sustained winds get to 45-55 MPH.
* The storm surge from Hurricane Ian was fifteen feet high in Fort Meyers and was 6-7 miles wide. Take it seriously.
* After a storm evacuation, re-entry is based on a color-coded risk level system:
  + Red: not safe-limited to owners
  + Yellow: power is still out
  + Green: no limiting factors
* To re-enter after a storm, you must prove you belong: Driver’s license, property tax bill, utility bill, rental/lease agreement.
* 311 application will have updated info: download, and reference it during and after the storm.
* Alert Sarasota County is the website to get updated info, subscribe to get them.
* Go to scgov.net/beprepared for an electronic version of their All Hazards Disaster Planning Guideline.

**Recommendations**

* Do not go outside in the wind, falling debris can get you.
* Remember, if the bridge goes out, you cannot get off the island.
* Create your evacuation plan now, before the storm and let your family know what it is and how to contact you.
* Place an ice cube on top of your frozen food in the freezer. If it is melted when you get back, throw the food away.
* Take all important papers with you when evacuating.
* Turn everything off when you leave: water, circuit breakers, etc.
* Keep your car at least ½ full of fuel/charged during hurricane season.
* Video/picture of all your belongings for reference in case you have damage.
* Avoid stacking debris too close to utility structures, hydrants, etc. as it interferes with first responders and with clean up.
* Have at least of week of food and water for your family and pets. Remember you may not have electricity so have food you can eat without cooking unless you can safely use a grill or have a generator.
* Read and adbide by the Sarasota All-Hazards Disaster Planning Guide, scgov.net/beprepared.