

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

ICE / Freezer

- ✓ Keep ice packs or frozen water bottles to help keep food cold during outages
- ✓ Freeze gallon jugs of water in advance to store in refrigerators and coolers
- ✓ Fill a cooler with ice and sealed frozen goods first, then add perishable items
- ✓ Monitor freezer temperature, open sparingly to maintain safe temperatures



Water

- ✓ Store at least 1 gallon per person per day for 3–7 days
- ✓ Include extra water for pets and hygiene (brushing teeth, washing, & cooking)
- ✓ Keep water in food-grade, tightly sealed containers; rotate every 6 months
- ✓ Consider a water filter or purification tablets as backup

Food

- ✓ Store non-perishable items: canned goods, protein bars, dried fruit
- ✓ Keep a manual can opener in your kit
- ✓ Include easy-to-prepare items—e.g. peanut butter, crackers, ready meals
- ✓ Stock up on extra baby food and pet food

Health

- ✓ Maintain a two-week supply of prescription and over-the-counter meds
- ✓ First aid kit: bandages, antiseptic, tweezers, pain relievers
- ✓ Pack copies of medical info: prescriptions, health insurance cards
- ✓ Keep hand sanitizer, masks, wipes, and personal hygiene items

Home

- ✓ Secure outdoor items (patio furniture, trash bins, décor)
- ✓ Inspect and trim trees; clear gutters and drains
- ✓ Stock batteries, flashlights, lanterns
- ✓ Have tarps, plywood, and tools to board up windows if needed
- ✓ Charge batteries for phones and battery packs in advance
- ✓ Get a battery-powered radio
- ✓ Unplug electrical items that might get wet
- ✓ Store photos in plastic bins
- ✓ Fill propane tanks
- ✓ Have a fire extinguisher
- ✓ Have copies of insurance documents, passports, and other vital information in a waterproof sleeve for easy access after the storm
- ✓ Take photos or video of your home and belongings for the inventory before the storm
- ✓ Have an evacuation plan for yourself and your animals

Pets

- ✓ Prepare a pet kit: food, bottled water, bowls, leash, litter
- ✓ Pack medications, vet contact info, vaccination records
- ✓ Include a crate or secure carrier for evacuation
- ✓ Make your pet visible: ID tags, microchip, photos with you

Shelter and Evacuation Preparedness

Pack a “Go Bag” in advance with:

- ✓ ID and documents
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Emergency contact list
- ✓ Battery-powered radio or charger



Know Your Zone

Visit <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

Local Emergency Contacts

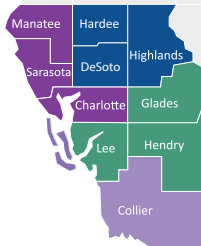
Reminder

Please contact your local Emergency Management office for areaspecific evacuation routes, shelter locations, and alerts. Stay informed—sign up for alerts like Alert Lee, CodeRED, or Alert Charlotte in your county.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOTLINES

(Check with your local Emergency Management for updates in your area)

- ✓ **Manatee:** (941) 749-3500
- ✓ **Sarasota:** (941) 861-5800
- ✓ **Charlotte:** (941) 833-4000
- ✓ **DeSoto:** (863) 993-4831
- ✓ **Hardee:** (863) 773-6373
- ✓ **Highlands:** (863) 402-6800
- ✓ **Lee:** (239) 533-0622
- ✓ **Glades:** (863) 946-6020
- ✓ **Hendry:** (863) 674-5400
- ✓ **Collier:** (239) 252-3600



Scan this code for more information about Disaster Recovery



Scan this code for more information about Catholic Charities or to donate or sign up to volunteer



You are not alone. Catholic Charities is here before, during, and after the storm.

A Prayer for Protection in Storm Season

God of mercy and strength, calm the storms around us and within us. Protect our homes, our families, and our neighbors. Grant peace to the fearful, strength to the responders, and wisdom to all who prepare and assist. Shelter us under Your wings, and guide us safely through. Amen.

CatholicCharitiesDOV.org will post information after the storm with points of distribution where you can get help.

Catholic Charities assists with:

- ✓ Emergency food and water distribution
- ✓ Temporary shelter referrals
- ✓ Financial relief and case management
- ✓ Counseling services and spiritual support
- ✓ Disaster Case Management