

# SCGOVNEWS

Sarasota County Communications [scgov.net](http://scgov.net) | 941.861.5000 | TV

**June 5, 2009**

**Media Contact:** Crystal Pruitt, 941-861-5900; cell 941-650-0695; [cp Pruitt@scgov.net](mailto:cp Pruitt@scgov.net)

**Project Contact:** Edward McCrane, 941-861-5495; cell 941-232-8366;  
[emccrane@scgov.net](mailto:emccrane@scgov.net)

## Hurricane season arrives – get prepared now!

The 2009 Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and will run through November 30. Residents are urged to prepare for their personal safety and survival in case of a hurricane threat. Make your hurricane plan now.

**Should you stay?** If your home is not located in a mandatory evacuation zone and you know that it can withstand the anticipated winds, is shuttered, and located away from the coast line or flood prone areas, you can consider staying at home.

If decide to stay, do the following:

- Assemble your disaster supply kit, first aid kit, and make sure you have adequate supplies for your pet
- Stock up on extra supplies, fill your car with gasoline and secure your home
- Check on your neighbors or invite them into your home during the storm
- Use your battery-operated radio and monitor the weather, staying alert for any weather changes or instructions

**Should you go?** If you are in a mandatory evacuation zone, or you feel that evacuation is the best plan for you and your family, make sure you have a place to go. You do not have to go far, however; get out of the mandatory evacuation zone and get to a safe home or building that is protected from the hurricane-force winds. Before you leave, do the following:

- Be sure to notify your family or friends of your plans
- Secure your home and assemble a shelter disaster supply kit and a first aid kit
- Make a plan for your pets and map out a route and alternate route to take to arrive safely at your desired destination

**Not sure what hurricane evacuation zone your home is located in?** Find out today by picking up a 2009 Hurricane Guide at your local library or post office. If you have access to the Internet, go to [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net) and do the following:

- Select the “**All Hazards**” button on the left side of the scgov home page
- On the All Hazard page, select **evacuation shelters & maps**. Enter your address and select your zip code from the drop down menu

- Select **find my evacuation zone**
- You will then see what evacuation zone your home is located in

If you plan to go to an evacuation shelter, you can scroll down the page and get driving directions to all of the shelters in Sarasota County. Make sure you listen to your local news to determine which shelters are open before you go. Do not go to a shelter until you are advised that the shelter is open.

Being prepared for hurricane season can save your life!

For additional information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. Residents can also follow the EOC at [www.twitter.com/scgoveoc](https://www.twitter.com/scgoveoc) for emergency updates.