

STAY INFORMED

Important Phone Numbers

Florida Emergency Info. Line: (800) 342-3557
Florida Division of Emergency Management: (850) 413-9969
County Emergency Management: _____
City Emergency Management: _____
Power Company: _____
Water Company: _____
Cable Company: _____
Insurance Agent/ Claims Hotline: _____
Medical Insurance: _____
Family Physician: _____
Doctor (other): _____
Dentist: _____
Veterinarian: _____
Other _____

National Weather Radio Frequencies in FL

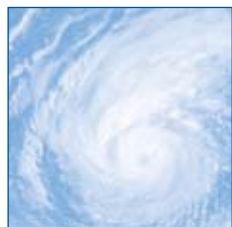
162.400 • 162.425 • 162.450 • 162.475 • 162.500 • 162.525 • 162.550



6767 N. Wickham Rd., Ste. 500
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Home Matters

An Informative Newsletter for You,
Our Valued Homeowner.



*Special Edition...
Preparing for Stormy Weather*

Websites



www.nhc.noaa.gov

Maintains current weather data, storm warnings, watches and forecasts, as well as satellite imagery and detailed historical data from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida.

www.fema.gov

One of the most complete disaster-preparedness libraries on the Web.

www.flash.org

Provides the most current, accurate and reliable home safety information on the Web.

www.floridadisaster.org

Offers statewide emergency management information.

www.petswelcome.com

Dedicated to helping pet owners find suitable accommodations away from home.

Home Matters

Protecting and Maintaining Your Home Mercedes Homes • Summer 2005

Preparing for Stormy Weather

To Our Valued Homeowners...

The 2004 hurricane season was an unprecedented natural event that impacted families throughout Florida. In the aftermath of four strong storms, federal, state and local governments, civic organizations, churches and individuals rallied together to repair and rebuild. But blue tarps on rooftops can still be spotted during a drive along almost every roadway in the state. Clearly, Florida residents need to do more to prepare as we enter the 2005 hurricane season.



One positive outcome from last year's season has been a heightened awareness of the threats posed by hurricanes. Mercedes Homes has prepared this newsletter to help you prepare your home, your family and yourself for what forecasters predict will be an active storm season. In just four pages, you will find hurricane resource tips for securing your home, creating your own disaster kit and ensuring the safety of your family pets. Keep this newsletter handy for a list of National Weather Radio frequencies and important websites.

We hope you'll take the time to discuss emergency procedures and evacuation plans with your family and review important phone numbers you may need in the event of a storm.

Together, we can weather this season safely.



Hurricane Supply Checklist

Having the right items in a hurricane supply kit can save the day. Gather the following in case of evacuation:

- Food** – Enough for three to seven days, including non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices
- Tools** – Cordless drill, Hammer, Screwdriver, etc
- Foods** for infants and elderly family members
- Hygiene** – Toiletries, hygiene items
- Water** 18.5 gallons of water per person
- Cash from an ATM**
- Snack Foods**
- CARE** – Any special items babies and elderly family members may need
- Manual Can Opener**
- Keys** – House & car
- Paper Plates and Plastic Utensils**
- Toys** – Books & games
- Radio** – Battery-operated and NOAA weather radio
- Documents** – Important documents in waterproof containers
- Clothes** – Clothing, including rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Insurance Policies & contact information**
- First Aid** – First Aid Kit, including medications and regular prescriptions
- Medical Insurance Cards**
- Gas** – Vehicle with full tank of gas
- Social Security Card**
- Light** – Flashlight and batteries
- Linens** – Blankets and pillows
- Pet** – Pet care items
- Vitamins**

Source: FLASH, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

How to Prepare Your Home for Storms

Lessons Learned

Last year, we learned that hurricanes are not just about high winds. Water intrusion, from hours of wind-driven rain, can also pose a significant problem for the Florida homeowner. But that too, can be minimized with appropriate preparation. We've compiled some *Top Tips* that will aid in protection of your home from wind-borne debris – and reduce the risk of water intrusion.

After the Storm

If water intrusion has occurred, prompt action is required to prevent further damage.

- Extract water from carpets and furniture to prevent mold growth. Lift carpet at corners to remove wet pad.
- Keep air conditioning on and dry carpet backing with fans.
- Replace wet insulation in attic, call for professional help to assess wet walls or other damage.

Don't Forget Your PETS

Pet supply list:

- Portable Carrier (large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around in)
- Water – One gallon per day. Two week supply.
- Up-to-Date Health and Vaccination Records*
- Medications – Flea and tick preventative, two-month supply of heartworm preventative and any regular medications
- Extra Leash and Collar
- Extra ID Tags*
- Pet Food
- Litter and Newspapers
- Toys and Treats
- Recent Photo of you with your pet*

*Required at all pet boarding facilities

Source: FLASH, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes



TOP TIPS

Exterior Walls

- Caulk any cracks in the exterior walls and repaint your home with quality exterior paint if it hasn't been painted within the last two years.

Ridge/Roof

- Cover off-ridge vent (see illustration) with plastic adhesive wrap, available at most home supply stores.

Caulk

Very Important!

- Caulking is one of the simplest and most important things you can do to prevent water intrusion. Fill exterior wall cracks with caulk before repainting. Inspect and replace caulk as needed around windows and doors.

Trees

- Give all trees a hurricane trim, cutting branches that hang over roof and eaves and all dead limbs.
- Cut down all dead trees.

Windows & Glass Openings

Very Important!

- Protect with approved storm shutters or 5/8-inch minimum exterior plywood. (after the storm, fill any holes you drilled)
- Caulk around all windows and test seals with garden hose to expose vulnerable areas.

Garage Door

- Brace the center with 2 x 4's floor to ceiling if your door is extra wide or several years old.
- If a vehicle is to stay in the garage, position it carefully against the garage door. Then separate it with Styrofoam to prevent scratching the vehicle as the door vibrates in the wind.

Doors

- Bolt french-type double doors with included foot and head bolts. Deadbolts on exterior doors should have a minimum throw of one-inch in length.
- Inspect and replace, as needed, weather strips on bottom of all exterior doors.

Yard

- Bring inside anything that could become wind-borne. Ask neighbors to do the same. Examples: garden hose, patio furniture, bird feeder, yard ornaments, gazing balls.
- Remove all detachable items from children's play equipment.
- Detach rural mailbox from post.

Mercedes Homes Develops Prototype Homes of the Future

Designed to Increase Strength and Reduce the Chance of Water Intrusion.

Mercedes Homes, in conjunction with HUD's Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has developed two new prototype hurricane-resistant homes. Located in the Huntington Lakes community in Rockledge, Florida, these homes feature poured concrete walls, self-adhesive roofing and other safety features that can be applied to new home construction throughout Florida to minimize the impact of devastating natural disasters.

Highlights:

- Walls that can withstand 200-mile per hour winds/flying debris
- Self-adhesive roofing to seal the roof from leaks
- Front doors that swing out instead of into the house
- Extended fascia design to keep water out of eaves
- Natural gas-powered generator to provide energy for your home
- Storm shutters to protect glass openings from wind-borne debris
- Paperless drywall that resists mold formation
- New off-ridge vent, designed to reduce the chance of water intrusion



Aluminum forms are part of the solid poured concrete homes construction process.



Hurricane-resistant prototype home located in Huntington Lakes in Rockledge, Florida