

City of Tamarac

# HURRICANE

P R E P A R E D N E S S G U I D E

Summer 2008

## GENERATOR SAFETY pg. 3

Improper usage could endanger your family

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES pg. 4

Important telephone numbers and websites to review

## CodeRED® pg. 2

Automated notification system – sign up today!

## Be prepared... be very prepared.

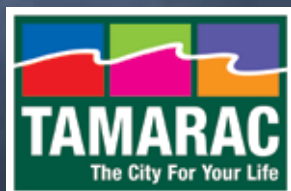
These words could save your life. South Florida has been fortunate to have two quiet hurricane seasons in a row; however, each year holds the potential for a catastrophic storm season. This Hurricane Preparedness Guide gives you basic information you and your family need to know in order to be prepared. However, keep in mind that everyone's needs are different... be sure to prepare in a way that best suits your needs.

Many lessons were learned from our collective experiences with Hurricane Wilma in 2005. That storm, along with the rest of the 2005 Hurricane Season, illustrated South Florida's vulnerabilities. Although the last two Hurricane Seasons have come and gone with barely a whimper, history has taught us that we will not always be so lucky. We must prepare for every season... the preparation you do now will be invaluable if we are hit by another storm.

Use this Guide as a basis for you and your family's preparedness. Several other valuable resources (websites and telephone numbers) are included to provide additional information.

HOW TO:

**PREPARE  
AND BE  
AWARE**



# HURRICANA

PAGE 2

Hurricane Season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. The following information is provided to you as a way to begin your preparations and also be a helpful resource if a storm does hit our area. Hurricanes are one of the most devastating and unpredictable storm systems on earth – packing ferocious winds, torrential rains, and vicious flooding. They can do unimaginable damage to your home, your property, and even take lives. Fortunately we know when a hurricane is coming and because of that, the steps we take now to prepare ourselves, our families and our homes can make all the difference. Here are a few of the essentials you should know...

## Additional Preparation:

### Sign-up for CodeRED®

CodeRED® is the City of Tamarac's emergency automated notification system that delivers recorded phone messages directly to individual households and businesses.

Through CodeRED®, you will receive a phone call from the automated system with important information that affects you and your surrounding area. The type of information may include: hurricane warnings, boil water advisories, possible flood zone notification, and more. The service is completely FREE – all Tamarac residents and businesses are encouraged to sign up.

To sign up for CodeRED® you will need to provide your telephone phone number and street address as well as an alternate telephone number (if desired). **Call (954) 597-3800 or visit [www.tamarac.org](http://www.tamarac.org)** to sign up.

### Listen to WIOD

610-WIOD AM, is Broward County's official emergency radio station.

During emergencies, WIOD will provide critical emergency announcements to Broward residents, such as declarations of emergency, flood watches and other life-saving alerts. They will broadcast inclusive and timely coverage of emergency information throughout the designated emergency, including coverage of Broward County press conferences and critical messages from the City of Tamarac. Be sure to tune in to this valuable resource during a storm, or any emergency.

## PREPARING FOR THE STORM

### Have a Plan

Being prepared starts with having a plan. You and your family need a plan that establishes the following: a designated emergency meeting place for your family to gather in case you become separated; and you should also establish an out-of-town contact person that everyone in your family knows how to contact in an emergency.

In addition to an emergency meeting place and contact you should also...

### Decide Where to Stay

Is the City of Tamarac in an evacuation zone? Fortunately the answer is NO.

The City of Tamarac is not in a mandatory evacuation zone. We should plan to stay in our own homes, or if you feel that your home may be unsafe, with family, friends, or neighbors, during severe storms and hurricanes.

If you do feel the need to evacuate, make

plans to stay with a friend or family member in a place where you feel safe. Also, plan to leave 48 hours before the storm is due to hit, if you decide to travel out of Broward County.

If you have a potentially severe medical need or dependency, special needs shelters may be an option, however, you **MUST** be registered in advance with Broward County. For detailed information **call (954) 537-2888**.

### Secure Your Property

Prior to each Hurricane Season you should do a walk-around inspection of your property and home. Make all necessary repairs to windows, doors, fencing and the roof.

Prior to a storm, do another inspection making sure to secure all items in your yard that could become flying debris.

Taking these steps before a storm will help protect your property as well as your neighbor's.

**Volunteers are vital in an emergency.**  
**Tamarac's Community**  
**Emergency Response Team**  
**(CERT) needs you! Contact**  
**Van Schoen at Tamarac Fire Rescue for**  
**more information: (954) 597-3805**

# WINTER SEASON

## Disaster Mitigation Funds

The City of Tamarac's Community Development Department has funds available for Disaster Mitigation (or "hardening"). This program can assist single-family property owners with hurricane resistant retrofitting improvements to reduce potential hurricane related damages. Eligible improvements may include:

- Storm shutters / impact resistant windows
- Upgrading exterior doors and windows
- Improving the strength of the roof deck attachment, roof-to-wall connections, etc.
- Creating a secondary water barrier

There is an application process and income eligibility requirements. Funds will be disbursed on a first-come, first-ready basis. For more information, come to City Hall, Room 206 and speak to a Housing Division staff member, or call (954) 597-3538 or (954) 597-3539.

## GENERATOR SAFETY: What you need to know.

During a power outage, a generator can make life easier. But if used improperly, a generator can endanger your health and safety.

Before a disaster strikes, take the time to familiarize yourself with the proper operation of your generator by reviewing and following the manufacturer's instructions.

In addition to the manufacturer's detailed instructions, keep the following facts and tips in mind when operating your generator.

### Key facts and tips to remember:

- Always place portable generators outside in well-ventilated areas. NEVER use a generator inside your home, garage or enclosed porches.
- You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak while using

a generator, get fresh air immediately.

- As a precaution, install battery-operated or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery back-up in your home.
- Never refuel a generator while it is running.
- Never store fuel indoors.
- Never connect a portable generator directly to your house – the power you generate may flow back into power lines and cause damage or injure power workers. Connect appliances directly to the generator.
- Never touch a generator with wet hands.
- When installing a permanent generator, be sure to obtain the necessary permits and have a licensed electrician do the installation.

If you have any questions or concerns about safe operations of your generator, please call **Tamarac Fire Rescue at (954) 597-3800.**

## YOUR HURRICANE SUPPLY KIT

Now is the time to begin preparing your Hurricane Supply Kit. Below is a list of the basic items that should be included. In addition, Broward County has issued a comprehensive Hurricane Kit Shopping Guide that organizes the purchasing of

necessary emergency kit items over an 8-week period to minimize the impact on your budget. This shopping guide is available at most City facilities and from the Broward County Hurricane website at: [www.broward.org/hurricane](http://www.broward.org/hurricane).

### The following items should be included in your Hurricane Supply Kit:

- At least a five – seven day supply of **canned or dehydrated food** (include meat, vegetable, milk and fruit group items)
- At least three **flashlights**
- A car **cell phone charger**
- A **portable am/fm radio** – battery or hand crank operated
- At least four gallons of **drinking water** (per person) – include extra water for preparing dehydrated food
- A **first aid kit**
- Emergency **contact numbers** for out of town family and friends
- A list of the nearest **shelter locations**
- Extra **gasoline** – stored in the proper type of container ONLY
- Additional supplies of **prescription drugs**
- Additional **batteries** for your radio, flashlights, etc.
- Basic **tools**, including: a roll of duct tape, a hammer, utility knife, a hatchet or ax, heavy-duty work gloves, etc.



# IMPORTANT RESOURCES

## PREPARE AND

**BE AWARE:** Be sure to check out these websites for additional useful information on how to prepare for the upcoming Hurricane Season. In addition, keep the telephone numbers listed here within easy reach to access information both before and after a storm.

PAGE 4

## WEBSITES:

### City of Tamarac:

[www.tamarac.org](http://www.tamarac.org)

### Broward County Hurricane Preparedness:

[www.broward.org/hurricane](http://www.broward.org/hurricane)

### American Red Cross – Broward County Chapter:

[www.arbcc.org](http://www.arbcc.org)

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

[www.fema.org](http://www.fema.org)

### Florida Power and Light (FPL)

#### Trees and Power Lines Guidance:

<http://www.fpl.com/residential/trees/index.shtml>

### National Hurricane Center:

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

### State of Florida Emergency Management:

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

### EMERGENCY: 911

The following City of Tamarac numbers are activated during and after an emergency only:

**Tamarac Hurricane Hotline:** ..... (954) 597-3800

**Recorded Updates:** ..... (954) 718-1800

**Tamarac Volunteer Desk:** ..... (954) 597-3620

**Tamarac Building Services:** ..... (954) 597-3420

**Tamarac Code Compliance:** ..... (954) 597-3425

**Tamarac Public Works:** ..... (954) 597-3700

**American Red Cross:** ..... (954) 797-3800

**Broward County Hurricane Hotline:** .. (954) 831-4000

### Broward Sheriffs Office:

**Non-Emergency:** ..... (954) 765-4321

**Tamarac District Main Number:** ..... (954) 720-2225

**CodeRED® Sign-up:** ..... (954) 597-3800

**FEMA:** ..... 1 (800) 621-FEMA

### Trash and Recycling:

**All Service Refuse Company:** ..... (954) 583-1830

(Recycling and single family home trash pick-up)

**Waste Management:** ..... (954) 974-7500

(Multi-family home trash pick-up)

## IMPORTANT TIP:

After a hurricane passes, roadways are likely to be obstructed by tree limbs, debris and possible downed power lines. Do not venture out after a storm until it is safe to do so – listen for announcements on the radio, television, or through the automated updates on the City of Tamarac’s Hurricane Hotline. During this dangerous time, your hurricane supply kit will be essential in helping you to have the necessary supplies to sustain you while the clean-up process takes place. Keep in mind, even after the roadways are cleared, driving will be extremely hazardous if there are widespread power outages. When traffic signals are not working, reduce your speed and treat intersections as four-way stops. Courtesy to others will help everyone stay safe. And most importantly, remember to be patient.



**City of Tamarac**  
7525 N.W. 88th Avenue  
Tamarac, Florida 33321-2401

Presorted  
Standard  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
So. Florida, FL  
Permit #1401