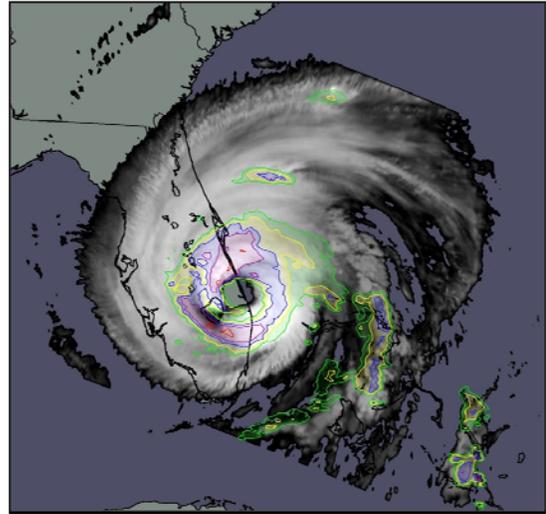


2014 Hurricane Season June 1st to November 30th

Every year as regular as tax season, hurricane season looms upon us. Please do not get caught off guard. The 2014 North Atlantic season has been reported as another active period for strong storms. It is inevitable that we will be affected by mother nature's fury so why not be prepared? We can, by following some easy steps:

- Be informed, pick up a free copy of **Surviving the Storm** at City Hall, the Library, or your neighborhood firehouse. Also register for FIRST CALL at <https://alertregistration.com/PinellasCoFLEMS/>
- Know your evacuation zone, as listed in **Surviving the Storm**.
- Listen to your radio, television, and media reports on a storm's progress.
- Prepare your home now! Clean your yard of loose items, even our afternoon thunderstorms create high winds that can blow items around causing damage to your home. Have your roof inspected if you suspect problems, weather-strip windows and doors, make sure your garage door can be secured. Consider getting storm shutters for your windows. Prune trees of overhanging or dead branches, clean your gutters.
- Prepare your vehicles, have a first aid kit, tool kit, tire inflation kit, flashlight, jumper cables, road flares, 12volt cell phone charger and a map with shelter locations.
- Review your homeowners insurance, once a storm is declared changing or opening new policies will not occur.
- Prepare your medications have an ample supply available, do not rely on 911 services to provide them.
- Stock your pantry, have bottled water and canned goods, non-perishable items that can be prepared easily with little to no heating. Stock up on batteries for your flashlights and radios. Have a supply of personal hygiene items such as toilet paper, diapers, sanitary napkins, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.
- Have a plan for your pets, where you can shelter and have provisions for them as well such as food and water.
- Have a plan for Seniors and individuals needing special medical attention. Register as a resident with Special Needs if the individual has medical conditions. Simply contact Pinellas County Emergency Management at 464-3800 <http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/evac-assist.htm>
- Create a go box of items that are important and can be grabbed quickly, such as food items, water, medicines, important papers, and personal identification with your address on it.
- Also create a go box for your children including toys, games, puzzles, do not plan to use your cell phone for entertainment, you will need the battery life for communication.
- Back up your computer and store the information on a portable hard drive in a strongbox along with other important documents.
- Have a plan for your boat, have extra lines in place, make sure the bilge pump works if it is to remain moored, or have it tied down to the ground if it is on a trailer.



A little preparation now can make a difference in limiting your losses during the catastrophe of a hurricane or tropical storm. For more information or if you wish to have a group presentation delivered, please contact Brad Dykens, Public Education Officer for Seminole Fire Rescue at 393-8711 ext 210.