HURRICANE 2017 SEASON GUIDE
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30
The fight for affordable hurricane insurance continues. High storm insurance rates are driving people out of their homes and out of the Keys. We need your support to continue the fight.

Donate at FIRMKeys.org or mail your contribution to Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe, 422 Fleming St. #5 • Key West, FL 33040 305.294.3476

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATIONS (CH43051 & CH35195) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR BY VISITING WWW.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
On October 24, 2005 Hurricane Wilma, a category 3 hurricane, inundated the Florida Keys with the worst storm surge the island chain had seen in 40 years. The most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded in the Atlantic basin, Hurricane Wilma flooded nearly 60% of the island of Key West. It caused millions of dollars in property damage, including flooding to 35% of the city’s vehicles. Boats broke loose from moorings and grounded. Homes flooded. Furniture and appliances were rendered useless, lining roadways in the following weeks, as visible evidence of the hurricane’s devastating impact on the region.

Perhaps less visibly evident, however, was the impact Wilma had on the mental health of Keys residents, as locals struggled to clean up after the storm, and recover financially, emotionally and spiritually from the interruption to business and daily routine. After the storm surge receded, locals were left to clean floors, haul debris, repair damage and replace lost items. Those with property damage navigated insurance claims, and many lost income as businesses remained closed after the storm and tourists cancelled trips to the region.

AFTER THE STORM:
MANAGING STRESS AND TRAUMA
BY BETSY LANGAN, LCSW
Residents experienced multiple losses and wide ranging adverse consequences.

The impact caused by a natural disaster such as a hurricane can be much more significant than a temporary increase in stress level. In fact, studies in New Orleans investigating the impact of Hurricane Katrina have revealed that rates of mental illness more than doubled there after that storm. Issues such as depression, anxiety, addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder were all common. In several research studies on hurricane disasters, at least 25% of the survivors had symptoms of a diagnosable disorder.

Similar to the process of grief, those surviving a hurricane may go through cycles over time. People who survive a traumatic event such as a hurricane may initially experience the following:

- **SHOCK**
- **DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING**
- **HYPER-VIGILANCE**
- **IRRITABILITY**
- **ANGRY OUTBURSTS, CONFLICT**
- **MOOD SWINGS**
- **DIFFICULTY SLEEPING**
- **FEELINGS OF GUILT**

Replacing some of the intense emotions experienced initially, some may then experience:

- **APATHY**
- **FEELING NUMB OR DETACHED**
- **LACK OF INTEREST IN ACTIVITIES THAT FORMERLY BROUGHT PLEASURE**
- **MEMORY ISSUES**
- **SENSE OF HAVING NO FUTURE OR HOPE**
- **PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS SUCH AS HEADACHE, NAUSEA OR CHEST PAIN**

In order to increase resilience, it is important that Keys residents take care of their mental health before, during and after a storm. This can be accomplished through a few simple steps:

1. **AVOID HEAVY DRINKING AND DRUGS**

   While a few well-known watering holes in Key West overflow with revelers seeking pre-hurricane relief, drugs and alcohol actually only serve to heighten storm-related anxiety.

2. **TACKLE ONE ITEM AT A TIME**

   For people under stress, routine tasks can seem overwhelming. Create a list of tasks that need to be completed. Focus on the next thing in front of you.
3. SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES THAT YOU ENJOY

Your support network can help you through difficult times. Healthy activities such as reading a book or watching a movie can help to take your mind off the impending or recent disaster.

4. TAKE CARE OF YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH

Get plenty of sleep and exercise, and eat well. Limit your caffeine and nicotine intake, as both serve to increase anxiety.

5. GET OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF

Assist your neighbors. Donate items. Volunteer. Helping other people can give you a sense of purpose in a situation that feels powerless or hopeless.

6. ASK FOR HELP

Talk with a trusted friend, family member or spiritual advisor. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of depression, anxiety or PTSD outlined above, make an appointment with a doctor or a mental health professional. Join a support group. Don’t try to deal with the impact of a hurricane alone.

Using the positive coping skills outlined above will help you to weather the storm, maximize your functioning and minimize the risk for developing a longer-term mental health issue.
COMPLETE INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
“SERVING ALL THE FLORIDA KEYS” SINCE 1984

Keys Insurance

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN YOUR POLICY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS!

DON’T WAIT FOR THE STORM

LET OUR EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL STAFF REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE NEEDS NOW!

Key West  Key Largo  Marathon
305-294-4494  305-453-1442  305-743-0494

For valuable hurricane information visit our website at www.keysinsurance.com
El Niño may be back in 2017, lessening the development of hurricanes in the Atlantic. However, forecasters with the National Weather Service in Key West say it may not have much effect on storms forming in the Gulf of Mexico and the Western Caribbean.

“Potentially it will cut down on that peak period activity, but the statement we always say is ‘It only takes one.’ Hurricane Andrew was during one of the quietest hurricane seasons on record,” cautioned Meteorologist-in-Charge Matt Moreland, recalling the August 1992 Category 5 storm that came ashore in Homestead devastating South Florida. “We (local meteorologists) have to be ready every year and we ask the same of people who live in the Keys,” he emphasized.

Forecasts predict a slightly below average year due to a weak to moderate El Niño expected to form in the latter part of hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30. During El Niño, the warming of the ocean surface in the tropical Pacific causes a shift in the atmospheric circulation, increasing vertical wind shear in the Atlantic.
Ocean and inhibiting hurricane formation and intensification. In plain terms, the swirling winds of a hurricane are torn apart by strong crosswinds.

“That’s an overall effect, but you can still have that storm that develops in the perfect environment and finds that window.” Moreland said.

Peak season for storms threatening the Florida Keys is mid-October when warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico and the Western Caribbean breed storms that can develop quickly and impact with less warning than those coming from the east.

“A lot of it has to do with the steering. You start to get westerly winds in the atmosphere and cold fronts that reach the Gulf Coast. That helps steer the storms toward Florida as you get later in the season. Also, that time of year, the Western Caribbean tends to be very favorable as a development zone and those storms like to lift north to northeastward,” Moreland added.

The last hurricane to cause significant damage to the Florida Keys was Wilma in October 2005. It spun up in the Caribbean southwest of Jamaica, struck Cozumel, Mexico, and then took a hard, right-hand turn creating serious storm surge as it passed north of Monroe County before making landfall as a Category 3 hurricane near Cape Romano, Fla.

The first named storm of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, Tropical Storm Arlene, remained far from land in the central Atlantic and was only the second April tropical storm of record in the satellite era.

2017 HURRICANE NAMES

**ARLENE**
(April- Did not make landfall)

BRET  GERT  LEE  RINA
CINDY  HARVEY  MARIA  SEAN
DON  IRMA  NATE  TAMMY
EMILY  JOSE  OPHELIA  VINCE
FRANKLIN  KATIA  PHILIPPE  WHITNEY
Hurricane forecasters plan to issue earlier advisories, watches and warnings in 2017, including the expected time of arrival of tropical-storm force winds and storm surge, with the biggest change being forecasts for systems that have not yet fully developed. Additionally, the cone with which Floridians are all too familiar, will be a cleaner, crisper graphic with the wind field as the most important element.

This year, the National Hurricane Center will have the option to issue alerts when a disturbance close to land has the potential to become a tropical storm or hurricane within 36-48 hours. For example, a tropical wave in the Bahamas that has an 80 percent chance of development could result in watches and warnings as a “heads up” for people along Florida’s east coast. Previously, the National Weather Service did not permit forecasters to issue such cautions until a tropical cyclone had formed. Now, advances in forecasting allow a more confident prediction of impacts while systems are still in development.

Also, new this year, the National Weather Service will issue watches and warnings along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts when there is a significant risk of life-threatening storm surge. Storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property, but it does not always occur at the same time or location as a storm’s hazardous winds. Watches and warnings may be issued earlier when other conditions, such as the onset of tropical storm-force winds, are expected to limit the time available to take protective actions. Such notice is particularly important in the low-lying Florida Keys where evacuations require more time and planning.
NEW TOOLS FROM NWS
Advances in forecasting tools will allow for more specific predictions of a storm’s likely path, wind speeds and time of arrival. New technology and improved graphics will also include warnings about potentially devastating storm surge levels in addition to the usual wind-speed warnings.

STORM SURGE WATCH:
The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water generally within 48 hours.

STORM SURGE WARNING:
The danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water generally within 36 hours.
Volunteer Today!
Upcoming Meeting at Hawks Cay on June 3, 8:00-12:00

Medical and public health backgrounds are needed
Physicians • Nurses • Pharmacists • Veterinarians
Dentists • Epidemiologist • Emergency Medical Technician
Infectious Disease Specialist • Health Educators
Mental Health Professionals

Community members needed too
Interpreters • Chaplains • Amateur Radio Operators
Office Workers • Lawyers • Logistics Experts

Help protect the health of your community during emergencies & in times of need.

To volunteer, contact Mirine Dye, MPH, coordinator of Florida Keys MRC at 743-1111 x-203.
For more information on the Florida Keys MRC, go to www.fkahec.org or medicalreservecorps.gov

Don’t wait until the last minute to ask “How can I help?”

CALL NEARSHORE ELECTRIC TODAY!

ELECTRICIAN ON CALL 24/7
5680 1st Ave, Suite 5 / Key West
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Email: nearshore@bellsouth.net

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• Licensed-Insured-Bonded

Island Hammock Pet Hospital’s
Checklist for Hurricane Pet Safety

Pet items your evacuation kit should contain:
☐ Picture of your pet. Collar with ID tag and rabies tag
☐ Two weeks of food (in sealed containers) and water
☐ Kitty litter and litter trays, plastic poop bags for dogs
☐ Proof of vaccination and medical records
☐ Pet carrier and leashes
☐ 30-day supply of medication including heartworm, flea and tick meds
☐ Familiar bedding or towels
☐ Muzzle for aggressive pets
☐ Treats and familiar toys to help relieve stress and fear

Preparing for the storm:
☐ Microchip your pet
☐ If evacuating to motel/hotel, check out www.petswelcome.com and http://www.bringfido.com
☐ Call 511 (FDOT) to get current evacuation information

When the storm approaches/passes:
☐ Create a safe haven: small spaces, crate, closet, etc., when pets are threatened
☐ Comfort your pet when showing fear: hiding, trembling, sudden urination or defecation, pacing, chewing, digging, barking, clining
☐ Keep your pet indoors until you know it is safe

Visit www.IHPH.net for more detailed hurricane preparation information.

Island Hammock Pet Hospital* and Boarding Villa
Upper Keys Favorite Pet Hospital – for Good Reason

www.IHPH.net (305) 852-5252
MM 98 Oceanside
Water Preparation

- **Store at Least** 1 gallon of water per person, per day in sterilized, sealable containers for drinking & cooking (prep 3-7 days)
- **Fill Bathtub** with water for non-drinking purposes
- **Report Waterline Breaks** to FKAA (often distinguished by low pressure, discoloration, and/or water bubbling in street/yard)
- **Sign Up for “priority call”** at fkaa.com to receive latest news about issues specific to your neighborhood.

In the event a boil water notice is issued, disinfect by using one of the following methods:

- Bring to a rolling boil for one full minute, or
- Disinfect by adding 8 drops (1/8 tspn) of chlorine bleach to one gallon of tap water, shake, then let stand for 30 minutes before drinking, or
- Disinfect using purification tablets.

Stay up to date by following us on Facebook and Twitter, or by monitoring fkaa.com and local radio stations.

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
www.fkaa.com  305.296.2454
The Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map, which became operational in 2016, will continue to be used to depict inundation levels that have a 10-percent chance of being exceeded, which can be thought of as a reasonable worst-case scenario. However, forecasters in the Florida Keys stress that storm surge maps are not definitive enough to adequately show people in the narrow island chain what to expect. Therefore, the assumption must be made that much of each island will experience damaging flooding.

ABOVE: Meteorologist-in-charge, Matt Moreland displays the new cone graphic the National Weather Service in Key West will utilize to communicate danger during the 2017 hurricane season.
HURRICANE FINANCIAL CHECKLIST

✅ Hurricane Loans
A Mortgage, Home Equity Line of Credit, or Personal Loan can provide peace of mind knowing that money is on hand to prepare and, if necessary, recover quickly from a hurricane. A First State Bank loan can help you to secure your home before a storm, purchase generators, or make repairs after a storm. Apply for a mortgage or personal loan online @KeysBank.com.

✅ Digital Banking
Online, Mobile, and Text Banking, Mobile Deposit, Direct Deposit, and BillPay ensure that payroll and other important banking transactions can happen automatically or on the go. Log in today at KeysBank.com or with the KeysBank Mobile App to access to your accounts 24/7, even if you have to evacuate.

✅ Debit Cards
First State Bank Debit cards are essential for quick cash access when banks are closed or if you have to evacuate. Remember, FSB debit cards work at over 1,100 Publix Presto! ATMs with NO fees and you can get cash back with your debit card purchase at many businesses. Instant issue cards are available at our 11 Keyswide locations. Get yours before it’s time to evacuate!

✅ Credit Cards
When evacuations become necessary, a credit card is critical for emergency funds, travel expenses, and supplies. First State Bank offers personal and business credit cards to meet both your everyday and emergency needs.

✅ Emergency Cash & Checkbook
In the event of a power failure, electronic means of payment like credit and debit cards may not be available. Be sure to have cash and your checkbook on hand for purchases.

✅ Secure Important Documents
Make copies of your insurance papers, Social Security cards, birth certificates, mortgages, and other important documents to keep on hand. Originals can be stored in a First State Bank Safe Deposit Box.

305-296-8535 • KeysBank.com
As with any other storm, meteorologists spend countless hours researching hurricanes’ paths and warning residents. You have an advantage when it comes to planning for hurricanes due to the length of time they spend building strength before they make landfall.

A great way to stay up to date on hurricane activity is by using a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio. These devices allow you to stay on top of National Weather Service broadcasts covering watches, warnings or other alerts. The NWS recommends devices that are certified to Public Alert standards.

Hurricane Watch
A tropical storm featuring sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater mean the storm can be labeled a hurricane. Experts will declare a hurricane watch when these conditions are expected to be possible in a specified area. Watches are declared 48 hours in advance of the anticipated arrival time of these intense winds in an area.

A hurricane watch gives you the opportunity to review your evacuation plan and make sure you have ample supplies in case you decide to stay home during the storm.

Hurricane Warning
Since evacuations and other maneuvers can be difficult to execute in windy conditions, hurricane warnings are issued with 36 hours of anticipated arrival time. Officials may then choose to order an evacuation. You should have a plan for shelter and know the safest route to get there, and have enough food and other supplies to last while you are away.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reported on the criteria experts use to determine whether a hurricane watch or warning is necessary.
Hurricane Season is HERE!

Make sure your car is up to date on all of its needs!

After All, Your Car is what’s going to get you out of the Hurricane!

(305) 451-3500
101500 Overseas Highway
Key Largo • MM101.5
After a decade of calm in the Florida Keys, complacency concerns Monroe County Emergency Management officials going into the 2017 hurricane season. With improved forecasting capabilities, Keys residents may be even more reluctant to leave their homes.

“I would remind them of Hurricane Charley (2004), a storm that was a category two hurricane when passing the Keys and turned into a category four hurricane in a matter of few hours,” remarked a former Monroe County Emergency Management Director. “While the weather predictions did get better, Mother Nature is unpredictable and we must be vigilant and ready to leave or shelter in county when directed. Evacuation would not be called unless it is felt that the residents' safety is in jeopardy.”

The four shelters in the Florida Keys – Key West High School, Sugarloaf School, Stanley Switlik Elementary in Marathon and Coral Shores High School in Tavernier – can hold approximately 1,200 residents, but are only equipped for Category 1 and 2 storms.

For Category 3 and above, residents are expected to evacuate to the mainland where Monroe County has a shelter at the E. Darwin Fuchs Pavilion, Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition. Residents with special needs will be transported to a shelter located at Florida International University.

Evacuation and shelter information will be disseminated in the local media, TV Channel 76 and Monroe County and Emergency Management websites.

“They need to leave when directed. We have a phased evacuation out of the county, beginning with the Lower Keys first thing in the morning, midday for Middle Keys and afternoon for the Upper Keys,” advised the Director.

The evacuation plan, with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office and the Florida Highway Patrol providing traffic control, takes into account population and visitors.

“If they leave as directed, they should not get caught in any major traffic jam. While the traffic would be moving slowly, it would be moving and everyone would get out on time,” the Director said.

Toner recommends making lodging arrangements on the mainland before leaving home because hotels in the Miami area fill quickly. Those who choose not to evacuate could face days without utilities and emergency services.

“If people stay, and we are hit badly, they will be on their own. Without power, our sewer system is not functional, which would pose a health hazard.

Their homes may be flooded. They may run out of food, water and medication. If the bridges are damaged, it will take a while for the FDOT to inspect them and determine whether they are safe to drive on or not. If not, remaining residents will find themselves isolated for a period of time. That is why we are adamant for our residents to leave,” the former Director stressed.

Shelters in Monroe County are available for short-term stays and residents should bring supplies including drinking water, non-perishable foods, medicines, clothing, bedding, toiletries, flashlights, and important papers including identification and contact information for doctors and relatives.

Residents are required to register before entering the shelter. No weapons,
alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed. There is no smoking allowed in the shelter and a lights-out time will be enforced. Children must be attended at all times.

Pets are allowed at the Monroe County shelters, including the shelter on the mainland. They must be in crates or cages, and will be kept separate from the general population. In Marathon, pets should be taken to the high school before residents go to the Stanley Switlik shelter.

Owners should fill out a pre-registration form agreeing to supply bowls, food and water. Pets must remain in carriers and are required to be confined with a leash, harness or muzzle during scheduled relief times.

Pet owners should provide proof of residency within the evacuation zone, and provide medical and current vaccination records for each pet. Annual rabies vaccination and visible Monroe County license tags are required on dogs and cats.

The owner must also permit qualified animal shelter personnel and veterinarians to administer medical care. Any damage done by the pet is the owners’ responsibility and pets that are unruly, aggressive, stressed, ill or infested with parasites may be removed.
NO POWER, NO PROBLEM

BY MARY MARTIN
ARE YOU READY FOR A POST HURRICANE POWER OUTAGE?

Good work. Your home is secure. The boards are up, vegetation is cut back from power lines and potential flying objects are put away, picked up or tied down. Your home can now ride out the storm. But can you survive comfortably in a post hurricane power outage? Can you make it five to seven days without electricity? You can, if you think ahead and make some additional preparations.

KEEP IT COOL

Ice is essential for a multitude of reasons: cold water, food storage, and personal comfort. Prepare two coolers, one for your long-term food storage, and the other is the one you’ll be accessing during the day. The storage cooler will be your alternative refrigerator. The daily cooler will cool and feed you on a day-to-day basis.

Prep a combination of solid ice and cubed ice for the storage cooler. Blocks of ice last longer than cubed ice. Put gallons of water into the freezer now. Fill your Tupperware and recyclable plastic milk jugs with drinking water and put them in the freezer to create solid ice. Also, pre-freeze any non-carbonated drinks. It will help keep things cool and give you a cold drink when you need it most.

The second cooler should contain the first day or two of cool drinks and meals. Keep this one in the house with a towel over the top to increase insulation. Top loading washing machines can serve as drink storage. Put a bag of ice in, add your favorite liquids. When the water melts you can drain it and use the water around the house. ✦
EAT HOT AND HEALTHY WITH CHILLED DRINKS

Use the time pre-storm to prepare meals that can be stored in freezer bags and frozen in the main freezer. Remember, when preparing food to freeze, let the food cool and get to room temperature first. When you’re bagging food for the freezer, squeeze as much air as possible out of the freezer bags. This will reduce freezer burn. Place individual meals in spare bags and place in freezer.

When the storm knocks out power, have your daily cooler packed and ready to access. Keep the storage ice, water, and food in the refrigerator and resist the temptation to open the doors. It will stay colder there for now. As the storm nears, move the frozen ice and prepared meals into the storage cooler. Then duct tape the cooler closed and put a thick towel over it. Store in a shady, secure location. This will prolong the cooling life of your ice and food.

If you have a grill, make sure your propane tank is full and, if possible, have a back-up tank. If you do not have a grill, small camp stoves can serve the same purpose for heating meals. Have thick tin foil on hand to heat your prepared foods on the grill or stove. Think of the tin foil as the cookie sheet you place in the oven. Never use grills or camp stoves inside.

ABOVE: Lasagna cooked and prepped ahead of time can be heated on the grill in thick tin foil proving a wholesome meal.

RIGHT: A full propane tank for the grill, tin foil for the meals and a battery powered lamp to see with will make cooking a breeze.
Let There Be Light

Check your battery supply. Fresh batteries can be stored in freezer bags. Push out as much air as possible and place the batteries in the freezer at the beginning of hurricane season. If they are needed, make sure to bring them up to room temperature in the bag to reduce “sweating” prior to installing.

Although open flames, such as candles, require more attention, tea candles pose the least fire risk if positioned properly. Place the candle on a sturdy, heat-resistant surface. Always keep a candle out of wind, at least 4-inches away from nonflammable items and at least 8-inches away from flammable things.

You can position one tea candle in the bottom of the bathroom sink. The white bowl of the sink will help illuminate the bathroom. Another tea candle or two can go in your kitchen sink.

If you are fortunate enough to possess a generator, make sure it is tuned up and tested prior to hurricane season. We all fill up our cars prior to any storm. Purchase a siphon you could use in an emergency to drain gasoline from your car and supply fuel for your generator if the power outage lasts longer than anticipated.
STAY CLEAN

Daily hygiene routines such as showering, brushing teeth and flushing toilets become problematic in a power outage. Do you know what to do? Prior to the storm, fill the bathtub and sinks with tap water. This water can be used for cleaning up, brushing teeth, and giving yourself a sponge bath.

Bleach is essential. Like ice, it will serve as another multipurpose supply on your checklist. Once applied, bleach will help kill mold from the aftermath of the torrential downpours. Excess can be used as non-drinking, non-mosquito breeding water.

Once you have secured the waste and recycle bins before the storm, pop the tops open. Let them fill with storm water then add bleach. The treated storm water can be used to clean mold and flush the toilet. To flush the toilet, remove the back lid from the toilet, fill with bleached storm water up to the water line and flush. It does not rely on power, just gravity.

Once the heat of the day has passed, give yourself a sponge bath. This can be done in a couple of ways. Get wet, wipe with soap and rinse with your stored water. Another way is to have a supply of baby wipes on hand to clean the body. A good trick is to put the wipes in the day cooler before using them. You will not only be clean, but cooled.

CELEBRATE HOW PREPARED YOU WERE

If the power comes back on, no problem. You will have food and cold drinks for a week. Move cooler foods back into the fridge and freezer, turn off the lights, and enjoy.

The best hurricane party is for the one that didn’t hit us.
MONROE COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & FIRE RESCUE
Protecting Paradise

MONROE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION HOTLINE: 1-800-955-5504

Visit our Emergency Services website www.monroecountyem.com
MAKE A PLAN - GET A KIT - BE INFORMED

CATEGORY 1 & 2 STORMS,
shelters available are:

Key West High School
2100 Flagler Ave, Key West
Sugarloaf Elementary
US1 & Crane Blvd, MM19
Coral Shores High School
US1, MM 90, Tavernier
Marathon High School
350 Sombrero Rd, Marathon

*Pet Sheltering available for each shelter*

CATEGORY 3, 4 OR 5 STORMS,
there are NO shelters in Monroe County that would be safe.
Evacuation becomes MANDATORY for everyone and you will then be directed to the appropriate shelter on the mainland. Sheltering options may include, Florida International University, the E. Darwin Fuchs Pavilion at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, 10901 SW 24th St., Miami, FL 33165 (which will allow residents to shelter with their pets), and other facilities within Miami Dade County, based on their availability on a per storm basis.

SHELTERING PETS
Monroe County Emergency Management in conjunction with Monroe County School Board have identified areas to shelter pets in the Keys for Category 1 & 2. Pets must be properly caged along with up-to-date shot records.

For more information on Pet Sheltering refer to our website www.monroecountyem.com or call 305-289-6012.

REGISTRY OF PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Monroe County Social Services has a “Special Needs Registry Program” that will offer assistance to persons with special needs living in the Keys during evacuation and sheltering. To be part of this program you must pre-register. Call 305-292-4591, or visit our website

MONROE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION HOTLINE: 1-800-955-5504

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For many years, owners of historic homes in Old Town Key West who wanted to upgrade aging windows and doors were caught between conflicting Key West organizations; HARC, who wants to maintain the historic architecture of properties, and FIRM, who wants to lower windstorm insurance rates for Key West residents.
In essence - architecturally correct, storm rated windows and doors made of other than wood, favored by FIRM, did not pass muster with HARC. While FIRM remains flexible to non-wood windows, HARC now accepts several wood framed windows and doors that have been certified to meet or exceed Miami/Dade hurricane standards.

WHO ARE HARC AND FIRM?
HARC is a board appointed by the Commission and overseen by the Planning Department of the City of Key West. The seven members of HARC review proposed projects to buildings, structures and sites located in the historic zoning districts of Old Town Key West (including those buildings or structures outside the “Historic District” but are deemed to have historic significance). Often, building permits for improving property can be approved by HARC’s staff and then sent to the Building Department without HARC’s members formal approval. When there is extensive new or improvement construction involved, or minor work that does not comply with HARC guidelines, the permit approval process will incorporate a review and approval or denial by the HARC Commission.

FIRM is a non-government citizen’s group founded in Key West in February 2006 that is dedicated to ensuring that windstorm insurance rates for Monroe County are neither excessive, discriminatory, nor unaffordable. Regarding replacement windows, FIRM continues to believe non-wood options should be made available.

WHO ARE HARC AND FIRM?

Make sure FKEC has your current phone numbers
When you call FKEC the phone system automatically matches your phone number to your electrical equipment. For faster restoration, make sure the number(s) you are most likely to call from to report an outage are registered to your account. Update at www.fkec.com/Forms/update-contact-info.cfm or call 305-852-2431

Make sure FKEC can access your meter equipment
To make repairs FKEC must have 24 hour access to your meter.

If your power goes out, check your breakers first
Approximately 33% of all power outages are caused by breaker issues, which are the responsibility of the member to resolve.

Report the outage by calling or texting
Call 305-852-2431 or Text 451-83 to report your outage. Note, your mobile number must be pre-registered with FKEC to report via text. Learn more at www.fkec.com/Cooperative/report-outage.cfm

Track the status of a power outage online
Visit www.FKEC.com and click the Live Outage Viewer to check the restoration status of an outage.

305-852-2431 • 800-858-8845 • www.FKEC.com
HURRICANE SEASON STORAGE
(Up to 75 tons)

Hurricane Tip:
According to BoatUS, your boat is safest when out of the water.

Established in 1978, our professional team is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service & the highest quality work. Whether you want to buy, sell, repair, store, retrofit or repower, we can help!

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IF THE POWER GOES OUT WILL YOU BE READY?

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review the specific window unit that is proposed to make sure the size of applied wood grill, wood sashes and wood frames are compatible with traditional historic wood windows found in the Key West Historic District:

LINCOLN WOOD PRODUCTS
The Lincoln windows suitable for use in the historic homes of Key West are any of the Standard, Lifestyle or Quantum, double hung windows with a natural all wood exterior finished.

These windows offer the architectural style that is appealing to the eye and the structural and glass integrity that appeals to your windstorm insurance provider.

JELD-WEN
The Jeld-Wen windows suitable for use are the Custom Wood, Single or Double Hung Windows. These series are built from Auralast® Wood (Pine) with a proprietary water - based protection process for a guaranteed 20 - year protection against wood rot and termites. Options include multiple clad colors, 10 interior factory finishes, decorative grilles and ENERGY STAR®.

Note: Jeld-Wen wood impact windows have not yet received Florida or Miami-Dade County NOA or FL Building Product Approval for use within the Miami-Dade/ Broward High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ). However, they DO have a FL Building Product Approval for use outside the HVHZ. Presently, Key West is outside the HVHZ.

Being outside the HVHZ means a secondary source of protection is not presently required by the Building Department, but could eventually be as the code is always changing. Examples of secondary protection are; removable storm panels, abatement hurricane screens and approved wood shutters. These protections are also considered for non-approved and non-impact resistant windows and doors.

KOLBE®
Kolbe® is a family owned and operated business located in Wausau, WI. Kolbe has an extensive line of K-Force impact resistant windows and doors that are as beautiful as they are resilient. Kolbe is a member of the Wood and Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA) and an active participant in the WDMA sponsored Hallmark Certification quality assurance program.

The Kolbe windows suitable for use are the all wood Heritage Series. Heritage Series feature FSC-COC certified wood with glass of either double or triple pane or LoE + argon.

MQ is home based in Quebec, Canada with US showroom locations in Dania, FL and Johns Island, SC. MQ was founded in 1975 and exports the majority of its production to the United States, the Caribbean Islands, South America and Europe. When you go to the homepage and select “Certifications” you will see a seal of approval from Miami-Dade County.

In particular, the Mistral Series-200 and T-200, double hung, wood, traditional style windows are specifically engineered to meet the stringent “high-impact” requirements of the Miami-Dade County code regulations.

Each of these windows, and comparable doors, can be ordered online, through most home improvement centers, via your favorite contractor or through Island Doors and Windows on N. Roosevelt Blvd.

The windows arrive as part of a wood box frame. The entire window and frame is installed so make accommodations for the thickness of the frame in your measurements. Make sure to do all your work under permit, even if you are doing the installation yourself.

If you need assistance from the City of Key West, the person to talk to is Preservation Planner Enid Torregrossa. Enid is very helpful and, along with your architect or contractor, will help you steer clear of any permitting miscues. Also, many thanks to Bryan Green, Chairman of HARC, Steve Russ, Vice President of FIRM and Layne Thrasher, Owner of Island Doors and Windows for your help in writing this report. As always, DO NOT ORDER ANY MATERIAL until the permitting process is complete.
HURRICANE SEASON
Here’s what WE are doing to prepare...

- Upgrading electric poles throughout KEYS’ service area to concrete poles capable of withstanding category 5 hurricane-force winds;
- Conducting helicopter and infrared surveys of equipment to identify and repair issues before storms;
- Upgrading lightning protections at electric substations and on electric poles;
- Testing and replacing electrical transformers to ensure they do not fail during storms; and
- Maintaining a FREE tree trimming program all year round to avoid preventable power outages.

...and here’s how YOU can help PREVENT outages:

- Keep your trees trimmed to at least 10 feet away from all electric lines.

If limbs are intruding on electrical lines, do not attempt to trim them yourself.

Instead call KEYS so a trained tree trimmer can safely trim the limbs away from the lines at no cost.

Call KEYS at (305) 295-1010, visit KeysEnergy.com to submit your tree trimming request today, or scan this QR code to link up effortlessly!