

# "SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?"



Decide now if you'll need to evacuate your home in the event of a hurricane. Residents in low-lying areas, barrier islands and mobile homes should seek shelter when conditions warrant. Many coastal roads could be underwater well in advance of a storm, restricting their use as evacuation routes. If you are going to leave the area, be prepared to evacuate early and head inland to avoid the high winds and heavy rains that precede the arrival of a storm. If an evacuation is called for, and you do not evacuate, you will be without fire rescue, law enforcement or emergency medical support until winds and waters subside.

If your home was built after 2002, and you are not in an evacuation zones, you may be more comfortable sheltering in place. A 2005 University of Florida study concluded that homes built under the 2002 Florida Building Code sustained less damage on average than homes built between 1994 and 2001 under the Standard Building Code. Homes built before 1994 also fared worse than those built after that year.

## IF YOU'VE DETERMINED THAT YOUR HOME IS NOT SAFE TO RIDE OUT A STORM

### Stay with a friend or leave the area

Emergency management agencies recommend you arrange to stay at a

"host home" outside the evacuation level. A host home is the home of a friend or family member who has agreed to provide temporary shelter for you and your family. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the family contact.

### Move to an evacuation center

In the event of a hurricane watch, Sarasota County will open all evacuation centers at the same time. Hurricane evacuation centers are not hotels and will not be able to provide any conveniences or luxuries. You will have no privacy and be limited to approximately 20 square feet of space per person in a public classroom or hallway, and meal service may be delayed. Evacuation centers cannot provide bedding, cots or blankets.

- ▶ Going to an evacuation center should always be considered a last resort measure.
- ▶ Never go to an evacuation center until local officials announce it is open.
- ▶ Evacuation center information will be updated on the county's website ([scgov.net](http://scgov.net)), on local radio and television stations, and on the county's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

HURRICANE EVACUATION CENTERS	ADDRESS
Booker Middle School	2250 Myrtle St., Sarasota
Brookside Middle School	3636 S. Shade Ave., Sarasota
Southside Elementary School	1901 Webber St., Sarasota
Riverview High School	1 Ram Way, Sarasota
Booker High School	3201 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota
Phillippi Shores Elementary	4747 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
Gulf Gate Elementary School	6500 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota
North Port High School	6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port
Heron Creek Middle School	6501 W. Price Blvd., North Port
Woodland Middle School	2700 Panacea Blvd., North Port
Atwater Elementary School	4701 Huntsville Ave., North Port

# A CHECKLIST FOR EVACUATING

## Before you go to an evacuation center:

- ☐ Locate the water shut-off valve for your residence. The valve is generally on the side of the house nearest the water meter/backflow prevention device, or may be inside the garage.
- ☐ Turn the valve to the off position. This will help minimize damage to the interior of your home should a pipe burst.
- ☐ Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for turning off your pool and/or water heater and unplug them, and switch off the circuit breaker.
- ☐ Place an ice cube or two in a sealed plastic bag or small container in the freezer. If the ice cube has melted down from its original shape by the time you return, you'll know the power was off for an extended period of time and that you should throw out any food.
- ☐ Turn off the power and shut off the water valve to your irrigation system.
- ☐ Remove loose items, decorative and otherwise, outside the house and in the yard, and place them inside.
- ☐ Alert friends or family members of your plans and how they can contact you.

## What to bring to an evacuation center:

- ☐ Flashlight (in case your center loses power).
- ☐ Your insurance, Medicare or Medicaid cards, driver license or photo I.D.
- ☐ Your children's immunization and other important health and insurance records.
- ☐ Each family member's medications, along with dosage information and physician's contact information.
- ☐ Drinking water.
- ☐ Snacks or special foods.
- ☐ Bedding and pillows.
- ☐ Book or electronic entertainment items with headphones and chargers.
- ☐ Change of clothing.
- ☐ Personal hygiene items (including toilet paper).
- ☐ Games/comfort items for children.

**NOTE:** You will be limited to approximately 20 square feet of space per person, and meal service may be delayed.

## HOW TO GET TO AN EVACUATION CENTER

- **Personal transportation.**
- **Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) service:** visit [scgov.net](http://scgov.net) for schedules.
- **Get to a transportation rally point**  
For those who cannot drive or otherwise be transported by family, friends or neighbors, Sarasota County will provide last-resort, free bus transportation for you and your pets (along with a limited amount of supplies) to and from a general population, evacuation center. Transportation will be offered at designated rally points throughout the county.

### If you cannot drive to a rally point:

- ▶ Visit [scgov.net](http://scgov.net) (keywords evacuation centers) NOW to complete the online registration form.
- ▶ The form will include guidance for those who cannot drive or walk to a designated rally point.



  
**Sarasota County**

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**[www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)**



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