

ACTION NEWS JAX

FIRST ALERT

» WEATHER

2026

HURRICANE PREPARATION GUIDE



CBS 47 FOX 30
ACTION NEWS JAX

LOCAL COVERAGE YOU CAN COUNT ON

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 **UNIVERSAL**
Roof & Contracting





**MIKE
BURESH**
Chief Meteorologist

Over the last several years, Jacksonville has been in the path of multiple hurricanes and tropical storms, causing heavy rains, damaging winds and flooding. Many families were left without power for days. As we showed you on Action News Jax after the storms, some even had to be rescued from their homes. I can't stress enough how unpredictable weather can be in North Florida and South Georgia. And while there's a science to forecasting a hurricane's path, you can't always forecast exactly what mother nature is going to do. A slight change in the steering currents can cause a hurricane to alter its projected path overnight, which is all the more reason why during hurricane season, you need to be prepared.

Take some time to go through our 2026 Hurricane Preparation Guide so you can be better informed and ready if a hurricane heads our way. Inside, you'll find the latest evacuation routes; preparing your home before and after a storm; emergency contacts and phone numbers; generator safety; and a hurricane map.

Remember, the best thing you can

do before, during and after the storm is to stay calm. We will be here to provide you the information you'll need to get you through the storm. Have your hurricane kit ready and stay connected to CBS47 and FOX30 Action News Jax, on TV, on your favorite streaming device, on-line and on our Action News Jax First Alert Weather app. We will keep you safe and informed with a forecast you can depend on.

Don't forget what's happened over the last few years. Now is not the time to be complacent about hurricane season. Please be prepared and stay safe and follow the First Alert Weather Team.

MIKE BURESH
AMS Chief Meteorologist



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

City of Jacksonville
904.630.CITY (2489)

JEA
904.665.6000

FPL
1-800-468-8243

Beaches Energy Services
904-247-6171

Jacksonville Transit Authority
904-630-3100

Traffic Information
511

United Way of Northeast Florida
211

Salvation Army
904-356-8641

**City of Jacksonville Emergency
Preparedness Division**
904-255-3110

Northeast Florida Red Cross
904-358-8091

**Baker County
Emergency Management**
904-259-6111

**Clay County Emergency
Management**
904-284-7703

**Nassau County Emergency
Management**
904-548-0900

**St Johns County Emergency
Management**
904-824-5550

**Florida Emergency
Information Hotline**
1-800-342-3557

Elder Services
800-963-5337

Police or Fire Emergency
911

Police Non-Emergency
904-630-0500

Disaster Assistance Insurance
800-621-3362

FEMA Assistance
800-621-3362

Beaches Debris on Roads
904-247-6219

**Florida Department of
Financial Services**
1-877-693-5236





**TENIKKA
HUGHES**
News Anchor

IMPORTANT SUPPLY LIST

Remember to plan ahead and prepare to have the following items as part of your hurricane kit.

- Water – one gallon per person, per day for at least seven days.
- Food – At least a seven-day supply of nonperishable food and a can opener for canned food.
- Radio – Battery powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio and extra batteries.
- ID, insurance policies, emergency plan, and a bank account records in a sealed container.
- Prescription medication (for seven days) and eyeglasses.
- Toilet paper
- Ice chest and ice
- Disposable plates, glasses and utensils.
- Pet food and medicine, if you have pets
- Cell phone, including charger and car charger
- Cash (ATM's may not work after the storm)
- Blanket
- Sleeping bag
- Extra clothes
- Soap and detergent
- Sturdy shoes
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- Sanitation and hygiene items
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Copies of important documents

ACTION NEWS JAX
**FIRST ALERT
STORM TRACKER**
Takes You Inside of a Storm
CBS 47 FOX 30
ACTION NEWS JAX





KNOW THE HAZARDS WATCH VS. WARNING

Watch vs. Warning

The National Weather Service issues weather watches and warnings for the protection of life and property. Here's what they all mean.

- A Watch means you must take caution and be alert. Conditions are favorable for bad weather. Stay connected to Action News Jax on TV, on your favorite streaming device, on-line and on our Action News Jax First Alert Weather app.
- A Warning means get to safety and get ready to take action. Bad Weather is imminent. Seek appropriate shelter from the hazard.

Thunderstorms can develop all months of the year in Jacksonville, and are most frequent in late spring through early fall. All thunderstorms have potentially deadly lightning. When you can hear thunder, it's time to go indoors.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when a thunderstorm is expected to produce large hail one inch in diameter or greater and/or is expected to produce dangerous wind gusts of 58 mph or greater.

Tropical Storm

- Sustained winds of 39-73 mph
- Watch: Conditions possible within 48 hours
- Warning: Conditions expected within 36 hours

Hurricane

- Sustained winds of 74 mph or greater
- Watch: Conditions possible within 48 hours
- Warning: Conditions expected within 36 hours

What to do when a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch is Issued

- Fill your vehicle's gas tank
- Get cash, secure papers and valuables, and refill all necessary medications.
- If you plan on evacuating, make final preparations to secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.



**BEN
BECKER**
News Anchor

PREPARING YOUR PLAN

When you learn of a storm approaching, it's important that you take the time to get ready. Below is a list of important reminders that will help you prepare well before a storm hits.

- Refill special medications.
- Get cash (ATMs may not work for days after). Don't charge credit cards to the limit; you might need extra cash after the storm.
- Get supplies.
- Don't fill gasoline cans until right before the storm; they're a fire hazard.
- Fill vehicle fuel tank. Gas stations could run out and some will not have power to run pumps.
- Check your car's battery, water and oil.
- Make sure you have a spare tire and buy aerosol kits that fix and inflate flats.
- Check fire extinguishers.
- If you own a boat, make necessary preparations.
- Prepare your pool. Don't drain it.
- If you own a plane, have it flown out or secured.
- Get shutters, storm panels or plywood in place on windows. If you haven't installed sockets, attach with wood screws; they're better than nails and do less damage.
- Don't tape windows; tape can create daggers of glass and in the heat can later bake onto panes.
- Remove swings and tarps from swing sets. Tie down anything you can't bring in. Check for loose rain gutters, moldings.
- Move grills, patio furniture and potted plants into your house or garage.
- If you do any last-minute pruning, take clippings inside so they don't become hazards in the wind.
- Disconnect and remove satellite dish or antenna from your roof.
- Check your mailbox. If it's loose, secure or remove it.
- Remove any dead or hanging trees, limbs or branches.
- Inspect your roof for loose tiles, shingles or debris. Consider replacing old or damaged shingles with new ones rated for hurricane force winds.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts and adjust downspouts so water drains away from the house.
- Reinforce garage doors and tracks or replace with a hurricane tested door.



DON'T MISS THE SIGNS



If recent storm activity in your area has you worried about your roof, Let the experts at Universal Roof & Contracting take a look!

Old windows and doors, flawed gutter systems, and debris are some other factors that can contribute to water intrusion and destruction to your home's exterior. Even newer roofs may have sustained hidden damage that you're unaware of. A storm damage inspection will uncover any existing issues and may prevent the development of other dangerous conditions



The difference is UNIVERSAL!

As a family-owned and operated local Florida roofing contractor, we have helped numerous homeowners over the years recover from all kinds of roof damage since 1993 with award-winning service. Florida licensed and insured. Lic. #CCC057165 & #CBC1258484

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Proud Installer of OWENS CORNING Roof Systems



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**PHIL
AMATO**
News Anchor

PREPARING INSIDE THE HOUSE

Getting the inside of your home ready can be just as important as getting the outside of your home prepared. Include these steps in your hurricane plan.

- Seal key documents — including passports, wills, contracts, insurance papers, car titles, deeds, leases and tax information — in zip plastic bags and get into a protected, dry place, such as a safe-deposit box or home safe.
 - Monitor the news
 - Set the refrigerator to its coldest setting in anticipation of the power failing.
 - Fill the bathtub. It may be your main supply of water.
 - Stock heavy-duty garbage bags for post-storm home and yard cleanup.
 - Check flashlight and radio batteries and have extras on hand.
 - Charge rechargeable cellphones, drills, power screwdrivers, flashlights, lanterns and batteries.
 - Make sure you have enough toilet paper to last until you can safely get to the store again.
- If you live in mobile home, you should evacuate if a hurricane of any strength is heading your way.
 - Move furniture away from windows or cover with plastic.
 - Move as many valuables as possible off the floor to limit flooding damage.
 - If possible, secure small, fragile and/or valuable items that could be thrown around if winds enter your home.
 - If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, you must evacuate if an order is given. Please see evacuation zone maps (if available) to find out which areas must evacuate for Category 1 or 2 hurricanes and which must leave for Category 3 or higher storms.
 - Your first choice should be to stay with a friend or family member who is living close by but is not in a flood-vulnerable area.
 - If you plan to leave, start packing. Don't wait until the storm is almost here to get on the road.





**GARRETT
BEDENBAUGH**
Meteorologist

HURRICANE SHUTTERS: WHAT'S BEST FOR YOUR HOME

You have a number of choices to protect your windows during a storm. One thing you should never do is tape your windows. Below is a list of the different types of hurricane shutters.

Removable Panels

These are made of steel, aluminum or clear polycarbonate. They attach to the house with anchors or tracks. Using tracks makes the assembly much quicker. After plywood, these are the least expensive window covering to install at about \$7 to \$20 per square foot, plus the cost of hardware.

Colonial shutters, Bahama Awnings

These are two and one-piece louvered shutters that remain attached to the house when not in use. These are convenient because they stay mounted all year long and you only need to fold them in to the window before a storm. Costs run about \$20 to \$75 per square foot.

Accordion Shutters

These one or two-piece shutters are housed beside the window or door when not in use. These are the strongest and permanent as well as the most convenient

regarding the speed of installation. Made of aluminum, they are also good for sliding glass doors and large patio openings. Costs are approximately \$15 to \$30 per square foot.

Roll-up shutters

These attach above the window. They roll up and down and store in an enclosed box when not in use. These are the easiest and quickest window covering. Some even have motion sensors that automatically close when winds reach a certain speed. For these reasons, these are quite costly at \$25 to \$60 per square foot.

Plywood coverings

Most homes built since 1997 came with storm panels or other coverings. If your home is older and storm panels or shutters are out of your price range, consider plywood. There's prep time in that you have to cut the plywood to fit and it can be bulky and time consuming to install. Cost is about \$20 to \$40 per 4-by-8 foot sheet of 5/8 inch thick CDX plywood.





PACKING UP THE KITCHEN

Some items to consider when you're planning to ride the storm out at home.

- **Heavy-duty plastic bags:** “Contractor bags” are the strongest ones out there, and are available at home warehouse stores and Publix. These hold sticks and bricks without tearing; good for packing boxes of food, countertop appliances, and things with sharp corners. They come in 30- and 50-gallon sizes. (They can be split apart and used as thick plastic tarps for countertops or protecting big items.)
- **Permanent markers:** Use them to label jars and cans that might lose their labels in high humidity or floods. Write contents of cans on their bottoms or tops and date them; label plastic bags or bins to identify items packed within.
- **Food-sized storage bags or containers:** Empty all open packages of foods into these airtight bags or bins to keep them fresh.
- **Extra water jugs:** Preferably 2.5 gallons or larger. Buy the biggest size your freezer will hold.
- **Heavy-duty plastic garbage cans with lids:** Can be used for water storage, packing foods, packing valuables—or storing trash.
- **Extra coolers:** Buy metal ones with foam/plastic inserts for maximum cooling (see ship's stores or online sources). Buy large Igloo-type coolers that can stack and are on wheels. Buy foam ones to have on hand, but note these are not meant for long-term ice storage. Consider investing in a small cooler that plugs into the cigarette lighter of the car, or a mini-fridge to plug into a generator.
- **Waterproof storage bins:** Flooding during a storm can be more of a problem than winds. Packing everything in plastic, waterproof bins can save the items. For already opened foods, use bins with airtight seals. Use large, clean garbage cans for additional storage.





IF YOU DECIDE TO EVACUATE

Depending on where you live, evacuation may be required. If you decide to evacuate your home, here's what you need to know.

When an evacuation is ordered, I-95 and I-10 will be used to take you away from the storm. Beach residents and visitors can use Wonderwood Expressway, Atlantic Blvd., Beach Blvd., and J. Turner Butler Blvd., toward I-95 and I-10. Evacuation routes will be crowded as individuals from neighboring counties will be traveling through the area. Prepare to leave early.

Knowing your evacuation zone and route is critical to your safety. It allows you to evacuate when the time comes. Be sure to understand the risks associated with hurricanes and follow the instructions from local emergency preparedness officials.

Plan your evacuation route ahead of time and leave early. The primary evacuation routes may be crowded. Have cash and a full tank of gas before leaving. Don't forget to bring your emergency supply kit with you when evacuating.

CBS 47 FOX 30
ACTION NEWS JAX
THIS MORNING

WEEKDAYS
4:30-9:00AM

KAJEZA HAWKINS **PHIL AMATO** **CHANDLER MORGAN** **SHAY SIMON** **GARRETT BEDENBAUGH**





TREVOR GIBBS
Meteorologist

SHELTER INFORMATION

The City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division will announce the opening of shelters through television, radio, and social media. Shelters are intended to be last resorts for residents living in an evacuation zone, mobile home, or unsafe structure. Residents are expected to bring their emergency supply kit to the shelter, including sleeping bags and pillows. If you decide to go to a shelter, secure your home, and if time permits, eat something before leaving. There is very little privacy in a shelter, and the conditions can be crowded. Prepare to stay at the shelter until the storm passes.

Shelters are generally open to everyone and filled on a first come, first served basis. Residents are expected to bring their own supplies. Shelters provide a refuge of last resort for those individuals who need to evacuate and are unable to make their own arrangements, such as staying with family, friends, or in a hotel outside the evacuation zone.

Pet friendly shelters provide shelter to people and their pets. Only household pets are allowed. Reptiles will not be accepted at shelters. Pets will be secured in a separate area within the shelter. Owners are required to care for their pets.





EVACUATING PETS

Do not leave pets at home, especially if you live in an evacuation area. Even if they survive the storm, they might flee a damaged home and be lost in the chaos.

It might be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead.

Keep a list of “pet-friendly” places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information. For an impending storm, call ahead for reservations. The web site petswelcome.com maintains a list of hotels that accept pets.

Take clear, color photos (frontal, left and right sides) of you with your pet, and store these with your pet’s license, medical records and ownership papers in a waterproof carrier to take with you.

Include pictures of the pet with you to help with any challenge to your ownership. Take photos with your cellphone so they’re stored there as well.

Pet Disaster Kit:

- Medications and medical records (in a waterproof container)
- Leash
- Collar or harness for each pet
- Non-spill food and water dishes
- 14-day supply of food, water in nonbreakable containers
- Manual can opener
- Grooming supplies
- Pet’s blanket and favorite toy
- Cleanser and disinfectant to handle waste
- Newspapers or litter, paper towels and plastic bags



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DEPENDABLE.
EXPERIENCED.**

CBS 47 FOX 30 ACTION NEWS JAX 5p & 6p





GENERATOR SAFETY

During and after a hurricane, it's very common that many of us will be without power due to widespread power outages. If you're going to use a generator, please read the operating instructions carefully. The risk is high for carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution, fire and explosion.

- Operate the generator outside in a well-ventilated area. Place on a firm, dry and level surface.
- Connect a heavy duty, outdoor rated power cord to the generator, or connect appliances directly to the generator.
- Turn the generator circuit breaker off.
- Turn the power switch to the on position then pull the cord.
- Let the generator warm up before turning the circuit breaker back on.
- You will also need multiple, vented gas containers for storing gasoline. Five gallons of gas will power a 5,600-watt generator for about eight hours.
- Never overfill with gas.
- Never use the generator with wet hands.
- Never let water come in contact with the generator.
- Never run your generator in the garage or inside your home. The carbon monoxide exhaust is toxic.
- Never feed the power from your generator into a wall outlet. This can kill lineman working to restore power. It can also damage your generator.





MIKE BURESH
Chief Meteorologist

What to do when a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is Issued

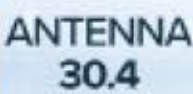
- Make final actions if leaving.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Empty the refrigerator and freezer.
- Turn off all the circuit breakers on the main electric panel in your house if advised to do so.
- Turn off your home's main water valve at the street.
- Secure all doors on your property. Garage doors are most vulnerable.
- Notify your relatives of your plans to leave and where you will be going.
- Leave an outside light on so utility workers and emergency responders can tell if the power is on.

Final Actions if Staying

- Bring all patio furniture and loose items inside.
- Close storm shutters, board up remaining doors and windows, and brace garage doors. Do not use tape on windows.
- Lower water level of pool by one foot.
- Turn refrigerator or freezer to coldest setting and open only if necessary.
- Be prepared to turn off utilities.
- Identify a safe room such as an interior bathroom with no windows or a closet.
- Clean your bathtub and fill it with water in case water services are cut off.

NOTICIAS JACKSONVILLE

MONDAY-FRIDAY | 5P, 6P, AND 11PM



RITA SIBAJA

KAREN TAFFANELLI

FREDDY MACHADO



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