



Delivering Excellence Every Day

HURRICANE INFORMATION

A Guide for Visitors

What is the danger?

A hurricane may cause storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. Storm surge is a dome of water pushed ashore by the hurricane that may be almost 20 feet high. Flooding may be caused by surge, torrential rains, or overflowing rivers and canals. It may occur on the coast or far inland. Winds will be at least 74 mph and gusts can reach over 175 mph! Tornadoes can be formed far from the center of the eye of the hurricane. Loose items can become flying missiles, debris can make roads impassable, and flooding can cut off roads entirely.

Hurricanes can isolate beach communities for an unknown period of time, limiting or eliminating services such as emergency medical assistance, fire-fighting, law enforcement, utility repair, and food delivery.

How will I know if a hurricane is coming?

In southern Florida, hurricane season is officially June 1 through November 30. During this time, monitor local media or use the internet:

- National Weather Service: www.nws.noaa.gov
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management: www.miamidade.gov/oem

What do I do during an EVACUATION?

Your hotel management cares about your safety and your comfort. Ask them what arrangements they have made for alternate lodging during the evacuation period. You may want to consider altering your travel plans. If you have friends or family in the area that live outside of evacuation zones, stay with them during the evacuation period. Remember, if you do not leave, you are in violation of a mandatory evacuation order. Additionally, you may be cut off from police, medical and other major services for an extended period of time due to damaged or flooded roads.

The American Red Cross, in cooperation with the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management, will open hurricane evacuation centers throughout the county. These serve as a last resort for residents with no other options. The purpose is to provide safety from extreme weather. There are no comfort items, no food, no blankets, and no privacy. Only consider this as your last

resort measure if you have absolutely no place else to go.

What supplies do I need when I evacuate?

Pack your supplies in easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks or suitcases. Plan on a 3-5 day supply of the following:

- Water, one gallon per person per day
- Non-perishable food, a manual can opener, and eating utensils
- Battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- First aid kit, prescription medications, and glasses or contact lenses
- Important documents in water-proof cases
- Cash
- Personal hygiene products
- Extra clothes and shoes
- Baby items
- Pet supplies, if traveling with a pet

When can I return?

The Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management determines when the evacuation order is lifted and the local media outlets will inform the public. Exercise caution and remember some post-storm safety tips such as: stay far away from downed electrical power lines, avoid flood waters and debris piles, throw away any food, water, or personal products that come into contact with flood waters, and monitor your physical and mental health.

Miami-Dade County hopes that all of our visitors have a wonderful stay here in beautiful southern Florida. While there are risks, following these basic recommendations should make even a hurricane a manageable event. We look forward to your future visits and will continue to work hard to make your stay safe and comfortable.

For additional information, please contact:
Miami-Dade Call Center at 305-468-5900,
TDD/TTY 305-468-5402 or visit
www.miamidade.gov/oem.

