

Nassau County Preparedness Guide



www.OneNassau.com

ARE YOU READY?

You could be anywhere when a catastrophe hits – at work, in the car, at home, out shopping, or at school. The situation could confine you to where you are or force you to evacuate to a safer place for hours or days. You could be left without electricity, clean water, or telephone service for days or even weeks. Emergency responders and relief workers will come, but they won't be able to help everyone right away, so you'll need to be ready to be as self-reliant as possible.

Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is everyone's responsibility.

Take steps to prepare now — reduce your losses and recovery time later.



Know the Risks

Learn which hazards are most likely in our community. Severe heat and thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds, heavy rain, hail, and tornadoes are common to Florida. Flooding can occur in most areas, especially near the coast, rivers, or streams. Lightning, outdoor burning, and sparks from trains or other equipment can start wildfires that spread rapidly in wooded or dry grassy areas. Transportation incidents or gas line failures can release hazardous materials. Rip currents can pull beach swimmers out to sea. Insects can spread infectious diseases and contagious viruses can create epidemics. How would these hazards put your health and safety at risk?



Make a Plan

You should have multiple reliable ways to get time-sensitive alerts and warnings, whether you're at home or not. Plan where you will go if an evacuation is ordered, and where the safest places in your home will be if you have to shelter-in-place. Make sure to communicate those plans with loved-ones. What supplies, equipment, and medications will you need if you have to evacuate or shelter-in-place? Are there any special considerations you need to make for pets, children, or elderly family members? How will you stay in touch during a disaster? What will you need to do to stay safe afterward?



Build a Kit

Build a "shelter-in-place kit" for times you can't leave your home. It should have everything you and your family need to stay healthy and comfortable for a few days, without any help or outside resources, like plenty of bottled water, non-perishable food, and fresh batteries. Decide in advance what you'll need to take with you if you have to evacuate. Depending on where you plan to shelter, your "go-kit" may include supplies like prescription medications, extra clothes, copies of critical documents, comfort items, and pet supplies. What other things would you need if you had to evacuate in a disaster?

Use the information in this guide and on www.OneNassau.com to prepare the people you care about, your pets, your home, and your business to stay safe during and after an emergency/disaster.

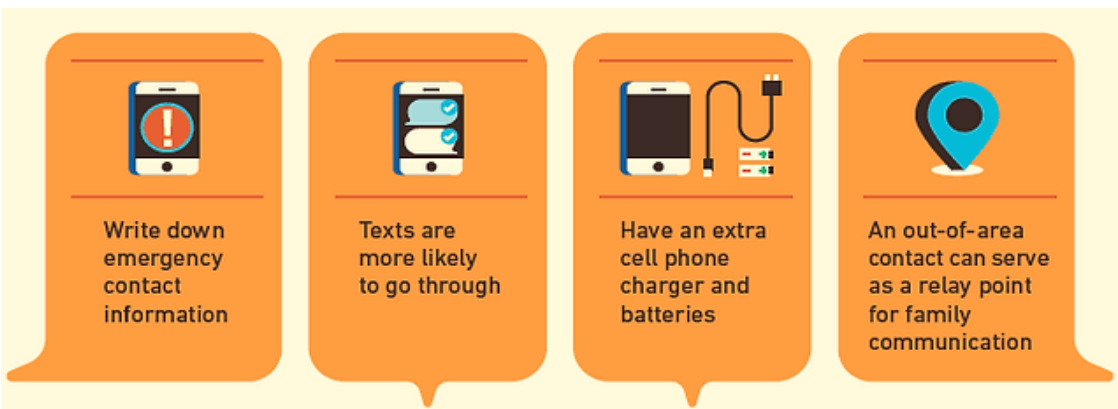
STAY INFORMED

It's important to be able to get timely, accurate information day and night, no matter where you are. Keep a NOAA Weather Alert Radio turned on in your home for sudden warnings about tornadoes, flash flooding, and other severe weather dangers. NOAA Weather Alerts are one mode used by the nation's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) which was established to support critical messaging in case of a national emergency.

IPAWS is also used by authorized public safety officials like emergency managers to push warnings about threats or AMBER alerts to residents and visitors through Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio and television stations and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) message broadcasts to mobile phones in the vicinity of specified cellular towers. Make sure that you can receive WEA messages on your cellphone.

Sign up for *AlertNassau*

AlertNassau is part of Florida's Statewide Notification System, a tool that helps public safety officials rapidly alert the public about imminent hazards. Residents can register their addresses with *AlertNassau* through www.OneNassau.com and "opt-in" to receive custom "smart weather alerts" from the National Weather Service via their choice of voice call, text message, e-mail, and/or smartphone app. Residents and visitors can also sign up for text-only messages from Emergency Management by texting ONENASSAU to 888777.



- Write down emergency contact information
- Texts are more likely to go through
- Have an extra cell phone charger and batteries
- An out-of-area contact can serve as a relay point for family communication

Tips

Keep cellphones charged. Have a back-up power pack, solar charger, or car adapter ready to use when the power is out.

Make sure your emergency phone numbers are all programmed into your phone and consider storing at least one as "ICE" - In Case of Emergency. Add a local news and weather app to your smartphone to keep track of approaching storms, changing conditions, and evacuation notices.

Follow NassauEM on Social Media

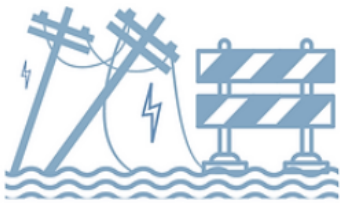
Emergency Management regularly posts preparedness information, hazard alerts, safety warnings, and suggested protective measures on *Facebook*, *Nextdoor*, and *X* social media platforms. You can trust the information you find on official NassauEM accounts before, during, and after an emergency.



When a local state of emergency is declared, be sure to have multiple ways to get alerts and warnings from the EOC's Joint Information Center, even during power outages.

BE PREPARED

To be ready for hazards in our area, you need to understand your risks, take action to safeguard people and pets, protect your property, and have what you need on hand to stay healthy, fed, clean, and comfortable until things get back to normal. How can hazards like severe weather impact you?



May disrupt communications, water, transportation



May close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services



Can cause food spoilage, water contamination



Can prevent use of medical devices

Before any hazard hits:

- Have enough food, water, cash, medicines, and pet supplies on hand to last at least 3-5 days.
- Communicate your disaster plans with loved ones.
- Check on the vulnerable people you care about to make sure they will be safe.
- Have a continuity of operations plan in place for your business.

“Shelter from wind and run from water.” If you live at the coast, on an island waterway, in a flood plain, or near a river, flooding is a common hazard, and most deaths during severe weather are due to floodwater. Even if you are in an area that doesn’t flood immediately, understand that Nassau County is the watershed area for south Georgia and rivers can continue to rise for a week or more after a significant storm or tropical cyclone.

Don’t plan to return to any evacuated area until public officials say it is safe to do so.



12 WAYS TO PREPARE



Sign up for Alerts and Warnings



Make a Plan



Save for a Rainy Day



Practice Emergency Drills



Test Family Communication Plan



Safeguard Documents



Plan with Neighbors



Make Your Home Safer



Know Evacuation Routes



Assemble or Update Supplies



Get Involved in Your Community



Document and Insure Property

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM WIND, WATER, AND WILDFIRE

1) Roof: Inspect your roof and overhang for signs of wear or damage. Make sure the shingles are well-connected to the roof sheathing.

2) Shutters: Preinstall shutter hardware or precut plywood to help protect windows and doors.

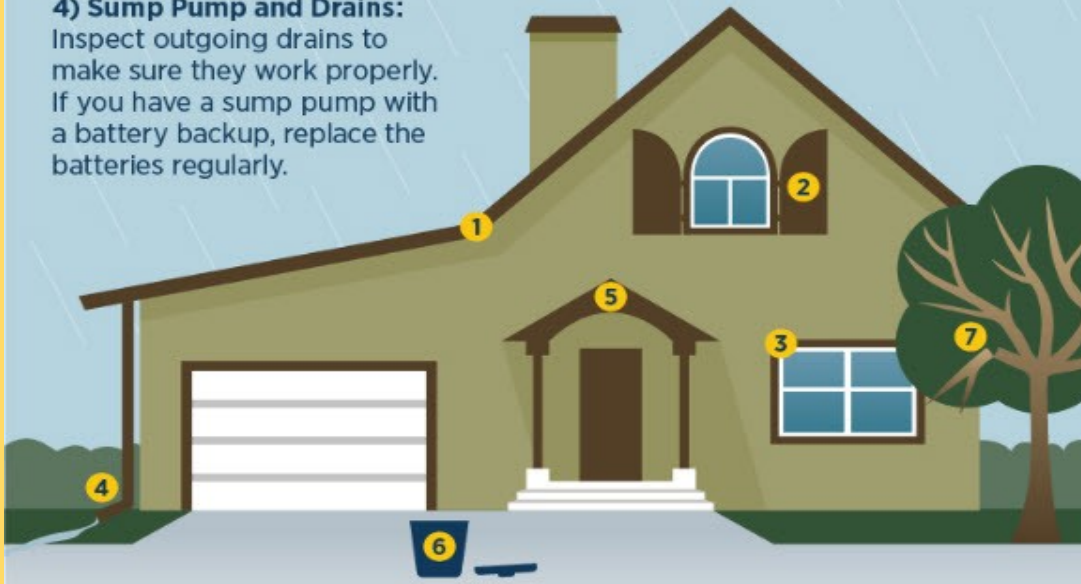
3) Seals: Repair any cracks in the caulking around windows and doors. Also, fill gaps around pipes and wires that enter your home.

5) Attached Structures: Inspect porches, carports, entryway canopies and storage sheds to make sure they're firmly attached and structurally sound.

4) Sump Pump and Drains: Inspect outgoing drains to make sure they work properly. If you have a sump pump with a battery backup, replace the batteries regularly.

6) Surroundings: Pick up debris and bring in loose items, such as trash cans, so they can't act as projectiles in high winds.

7) Trees: Cut weak branches that could break off in high winds.



Document your property with photographs and have an insurance check-up with your agent.

Create defensible space around the home to protect your property from wildfire.



EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

Although not all-inclusive, these are some of the items you might want in your “shelter-at-home” disaster supply kit or your “go-kit.” If you will be driving to a shelter, include any medical or mobility equipment you need; consider adding a folding chair or cot and comfort items, like your favorite food/snacks, pillow, and entertainment items to your go-kit.

Rotate the emergency food, water, batteries, and medicine supplies in your shelter-at-home kit during the year to ensure they are always fresh. Replace any unused expired items before hurricane season each year.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Sleeping bags/mats, blankets, pillows
- Folding chair
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush/paste, hairbrush, baby-wipes to clean up without water, powder, deodorant, hand sanitizer)
- OTC and Rx medications
- Spare eyeglasses
- Hearing aids and chargers
- Extra clothing
- Sturdy closed-toe shoes, work gloves
- Rain gear
- Bug repellent
- Entertainment (books, cards, puzzles, coloring/writing material, toys)
- Other “comfort” items, like a battery-powered fan

TOOLS

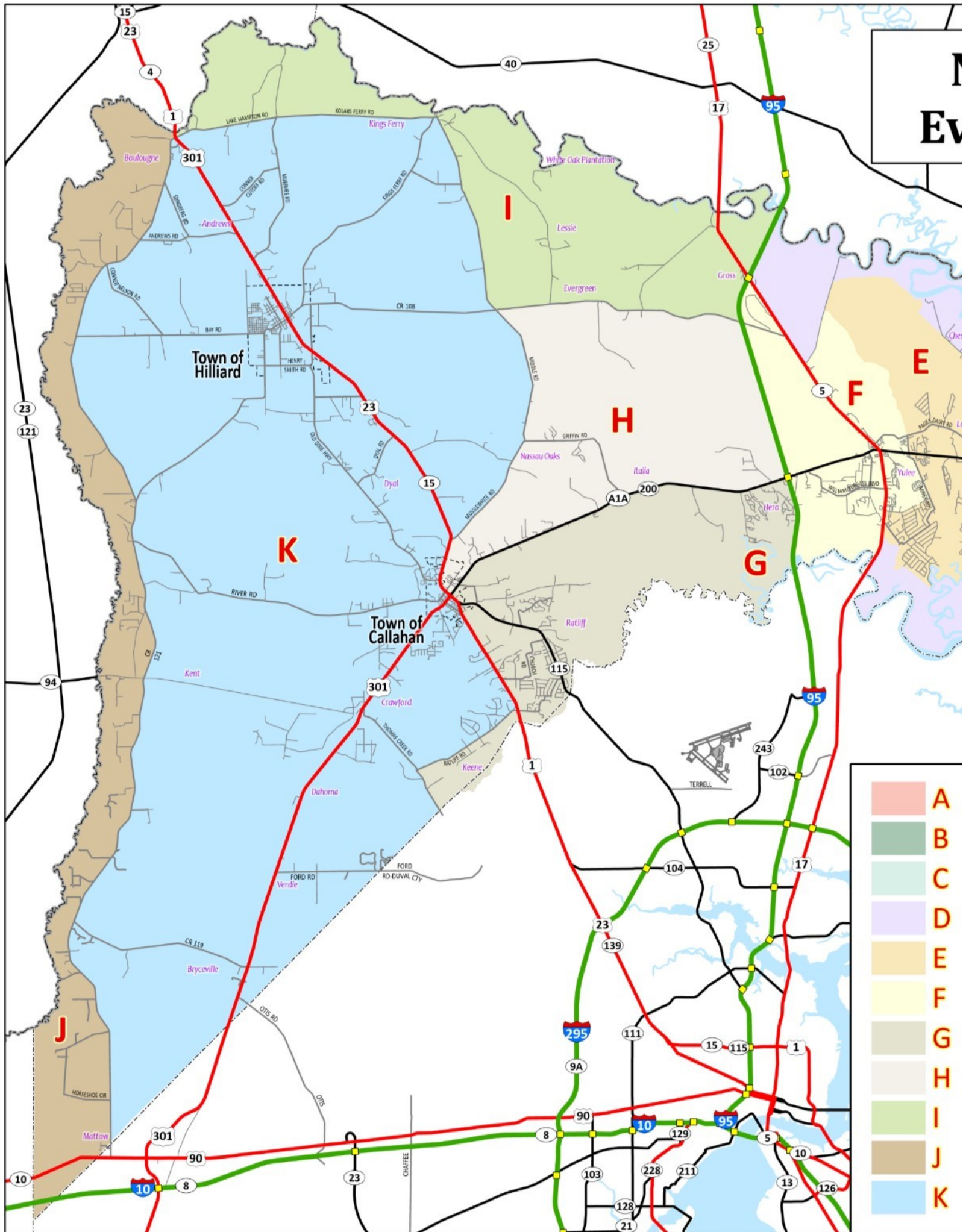
- Tool kit with hammer, screwdrivers, wrench, pliers
- Assorted screws and nails
- Plastic tarps or plastic sheeting
- Duct tape

BASIC SAFETY

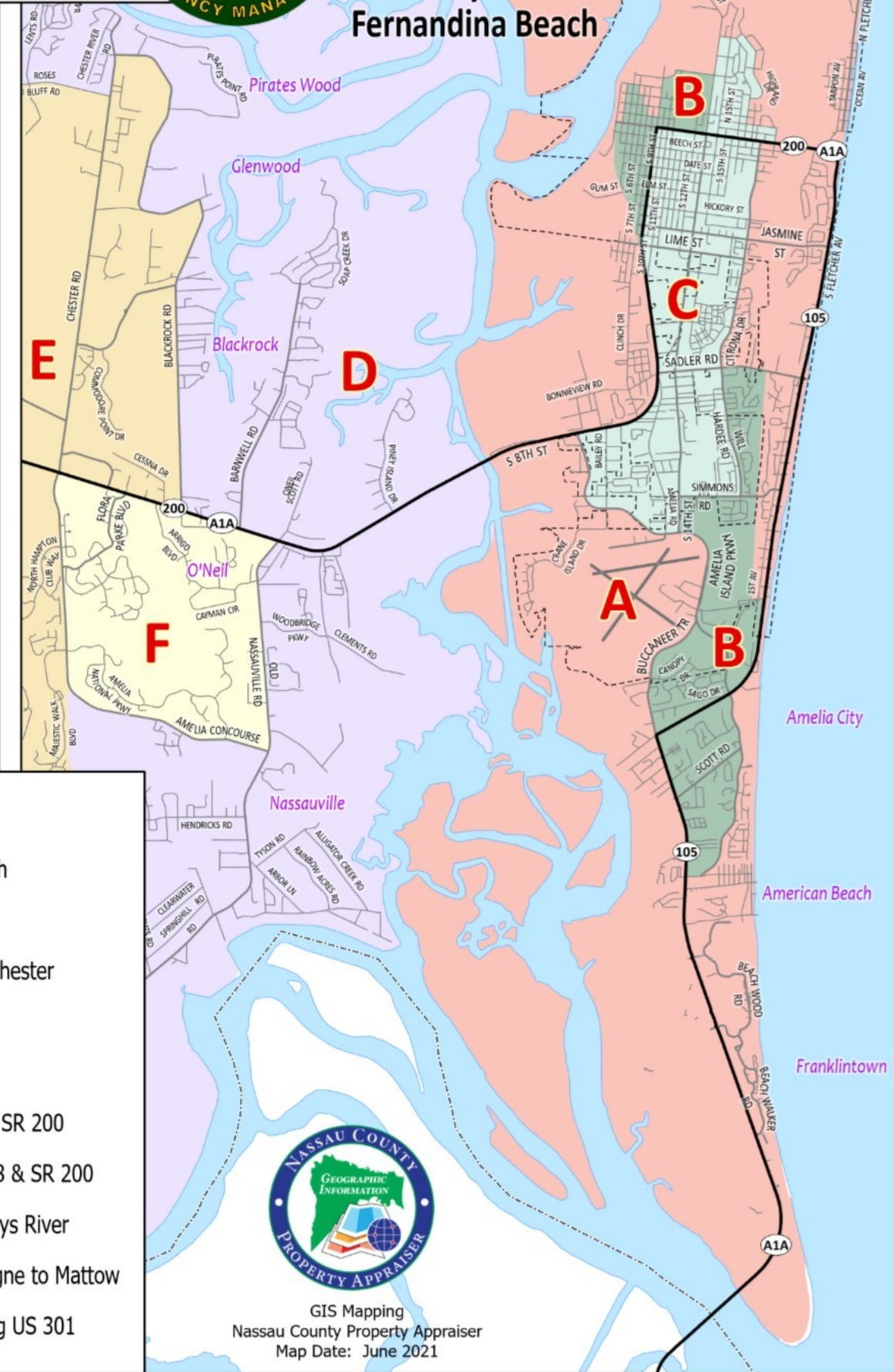
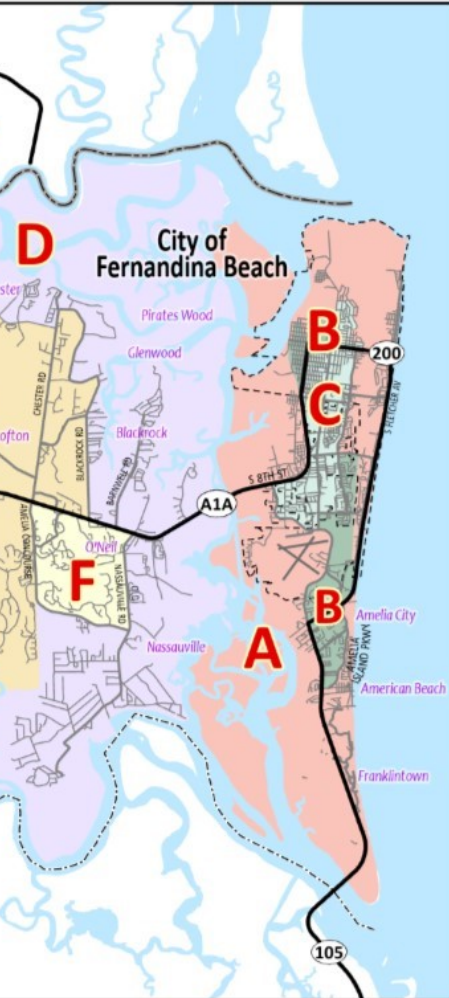
- NOAA weather radio
- First-Aid kit
- Flashlight and/or lantern
- Extra batteries
- Chargers and power banks
- Matches and/or lighter
- Fire extinguisher
- Whistle (to signal for help if needed)

FOOD AND FOOD SERVICE

- Bottled water for drinking and cooking (one gallon per person per day, enough for at least 3-5 days)
- Non-perishable foods (canned goods and bagged items, include some treats!)
- Manual can opener
- Paper towels
- Disposable cups, plates, and utensils (for when there is no running water)
- Disinfecting wipes for surfaces
- Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, food storage bags and containers
- Garbage bags



Nassau County Evacuation Zones



- D Amelia Island beaches and low areas
- B Downtown and South Fernandina Beach
- C Central Fernandina Beach
- E Nassauville, Blackrock, Pirates Wood, Chester
- F East Yulee, Lofton



GIS Mapping
Nassau County Property Appraiser
Map Date: June 2021

STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE

Prepare for Extended Power Outages.

- **Keep food at safe temperatures.** Ensure freezers are kept at or below **0° F**, and refrigerators are at or below **40° F**.
- **Keep the doors closed.** Food in a closed, completely full freezer will stay safe for **48 hours**; a refrigerator that remains closed will keep food safe for **4 hours**.
- **Full freezers maintain temperature twice as long as half-full freezers.** Freeze bottles of water, gel packs, bags of ice, milk, meat, poultry, and leftovers that you won't need immediately to fill extra space. If your normal water supply is contaminated or unavailable, the frozen water bottles can be used for drinking water; bags of ice and gel packs can be used in coolers if the power remains out longer.
- Have **high-low thermometers** in your refrigerator *and* freezer. If you don't have one and you have to evacuate, freeze a small cup of water, place a coin on its surface, and leave it in the freezer when you go. If the coin isn't still on top of the ice in the cup when you return, the frozen food defrosted and is no longer considered safe.
- Check out local sources to know where **dry ice** and **block ice** can be purchased in case it is needed for portable coolers during extended outages.
- **Before using a portable generator**, read and follow manufacturer instructions.
- **Never run a generator indoors**, in any enclosed space, or within 20 ft of any open window; direct the generator's exhaust away from the home.
- Make sure **extension cords** are the proper size to carry the electrical load to avoid overheating.
- **Before refueling**, always turn the generator off and allow it to cool.

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

UNDERSTAND WEATHER ALERTS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Watch | <p>A watch means that the risk for a hazardous weather or flood event is possible or the likelihood of it occurring has increased significantly.</p> <p>A watch is intended to provide enough lead time for those in the area to set their plans in motion before impact.</p> |
| Advisory | <p>An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather or flood event is occurring or likely. Advisories are for conditions less serious than warnings, but that cause significant inconvenience and could lead to situations that may threaten life or property if caution is not exercised. For instance, an extreme heat advisory issued for the week.</p> |
| Warning | <p>A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or flood event is imminent or actively occurring in the area. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the area need to take protective actions immediately.</p> |

Watch vs Warning

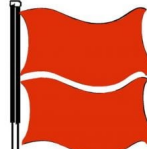
Let's Taco 'Bout It



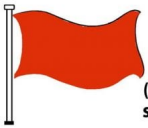
TACO WATCH
We have the ingredients.
Tacos are possible.




TACO WARNING
We've got tacos.
NOW.




Double Red
Water Closed to Public Use




Red
High Hazard
(rough conditions, such as strong surf and or currents)



Yellow
Medium Hazard
(light surf and or currents)



Green
Low Hazard
(calm conditions)



Purple
Marine Pest
(jellyfish, stingrays & dangerous fish)

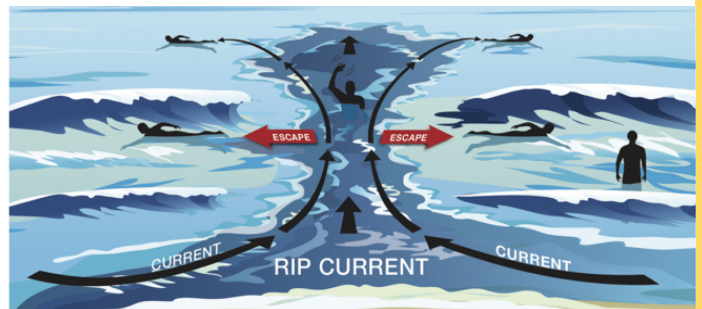
Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

| Category | Wind (mph) | Damage |
|----------|------------|--------------|
| 5 | ≥ 157 | Catastrophic |
| 4 | 130-156 | Catastrophic |
| 3 | 111-129 | Devastating |
| 2 | 96-110 | Extensive |
| 1 | 74-95 | Some |

Non-Hurricane Classifications

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|----|
| Tropical Storm | 39-73 | -- |
| Tropical Depression | ≤ 38 | -- |

These categories **only** refer to max sustained wind speeds; they do **not** cover the storm's size, speed, or duration; storm surge; rainfall potential; river or flash flooding; high wind gusts or tornado threats.



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Relax, rip currents don't pull you under.
- ◆ Don't swim against the current.
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore.
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- ◆ If you need help, yell or wave for assistance.

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim.
- ◆ Never swim alone.
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out.
- ◆ Swim near a lifeguard.

More information about rip currents can be found at the following websites:

weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent/
usla.org



PUBLIC EMERGENCY SHELTERS

When an evacuation is ordered, emergency shelters will be open to anyone who needs a safe place to stay until the order is lifted. The mass care shelters will provide a safe space and basic hygiene facilities, but they may be crowded and uncomfortable.

If you can travel out of the area and stay with a friend/loved one or in a hotel until officials say that it is safe to return, a local shelter should be your last choice during an evacuation or local disaster. Public shelters have no privacy and no guarantee of uninterrupted electricity (kind of like camping indoors with a lot of people you don't know, but without the campfire or scenery, and with schedules and rules to follow.) Plan ahead for evacuations -



some food and water will be available in the shelter but the only way to be sure you'll have what you need and want is to take those things with you. For a list of suggested supplies to pack in your "go kit," visit www.OneNassau.com

While trained service dogs or mini-horses are always kept with their handlers, pets and "emotional support" animals are housed in separate areas of public shelters. All animals admitted to emergency shelters must have proof of a current rabies vaccination and their owners must be prepared to care for them with their own food, bowls, and other supplies.

SPECIAL NEEDS DURING EVACUATIONS

Residents whose only option when a evacuation is ordered is to go to a public shelter should register in advance if they:

1. do not have personal transportation and will need a ride to get to the shelter, OR
2. use medical equipment that requires uninterrupted electricity (e.g., oxygen concentrator, nebulizer), or are medically stable but need healthcare oversight or help with the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

Information in the Special Needs Registry provides local emergency management planners with valuable information to prepare for evacuations and mass care operations. Registrants must update their information annually through the link on www.OneNassau.com; ideally, before the start of hurricane season (June 1st) so that they can be included in local emergency operations plans.

Special Needs Shelters (SpNS) are intended to provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain a medically vulnerable individual's level of health.

The SpNS facilities have backup generators to keep life-sustaining medical equipment running and healthcare staff, but each SpNS client must still have their own caregiver stay with them. SpNS staff can only offer basic medical assistance and health monitoring; complex medical care is not available.

AFTER A DISASTER

SAFETY: Be aware of where you place your debris. Do not obstruct views, block trails or sidewalks

Determine who maintains your road and is responsible for debris collection

WWW.ONENASSAU.COM

DEBRIS REMOVAL GUIDELINES

NO DEBRIS FROM SIDEWALK TOWARDS HOUSE

DO NOT MIX

DO NOT

- Stack debris against trees, poles, hydrants or storm drains
- Place debris in the roadway
- Place vegetative debris in plastic yard bags
- Place electronics or household hazardous waste out

White Goods
Refrigerators
Dryers
Water Heaters

Household garbage should be kept separate from storm debris

Construction Debris
Wooden Fences
Drywall
Lumber
Carpet
Furniture
Mattresses
Plumbing

Vegetative Debris
Tree Branches
Leaves
Logs

SEPARATE TYPES OF DEBRIS
MIXED DEBRIS PILES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED

PLACE DEBRIS FROM THE EDGE OF ROAD TO THE SIDEWALK OR UTILITY POLE

EM
NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Do not wade in or drive through flood water. It can contain sewage, chemicals, dead animals, broken glass, and other debris; it can hide holes or live power lines. The mud it leaves behind is also contaminated. Clean and disinfect anything that got wet from flood water.

Avoid drinking tap water until you know it is safe. Water from flooded wells or damaged water lines must be disinfected before it is safe to use. Vigorous boiling will kill most disease-causing organisms. Bring water to a rapid boil for at least one full minute and allow to cool before using or storing it in a clean covered container.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS AFTER A FLOOD:

- DO NOT EAT any food that may have touched flood water.
- DISCARD FOOD not in waterproof containers; screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops, and crimped tops are not waterproof.
- DISCARD cardboard juice/milk/baby formula boxes and home canned foods
- DISCARD any damaged cans that have swelling, leakage, punctures, holes, fractures, extensive deep rusting, or crushing/denting severe enough to prevent normal stacking or opening.

SANITIZE
1 tbsp. bleach +
1 gallon water

Pots, pans, dishes and utensils

Undamaged all-metal cans after removing labels

TRAINING & OUTREACH

Community engagement and public education are important to Emergency Management. If you would like to learn about personal and family preparedness or how to respond to local emergencies, NCEM offers annual courses for adults and teens, a spring SkyWarn storm spotter class, monthly Community Preparedness classes and bi-monthly Hands-Only CPR and AED classes in the Emergency Operations Center. We will also provide hurricane preparedness presentations, Opioid Awareness and Narcan administration, *Stop-the-Bleed*, *Hands-Only CPR/AED*, *Be-the-Help-until-Help-Arrives*, and basic first aid classes at your location, on your schedule, at no cost. Specialized classes like Ham Radio skills are also hosted periodically, so check our www.OneNassau.com site frequently.



Training, Education, Activities, and Mentorship for Girls Interested in Response, Leadership, and Safety

TEAM for GIRLS is designed to inspire our next generation of female public safety leaders through interactive workshops, real-world simulations, and personal mentorship with professional women who have excelled in their law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, and emergency management fields. Held every summer, the program offers an immersive day-camp experience. Contact us for exact dates.

Any CPR is better than no CPR! An adult who suddenly collapses due to cardiac arrest has enough air in their lungs and blood to keep the brain alive without mouth-to-mouth breathing.

1. If you see someone collapse, **call 9-1-1**, then position the unresponsive person flat on their back.
2. Place your hands on the center of their chest, straighten your arms, and push down hard (compress about **2 inches**) and fast (**100 times per minute**) lifting your hands slightly between compressions to allow the chest to fully recoil.

Take turns with a bystander until Emergency Medical Services help arrives.



Hands-Only CPR



STEP 1



STEP 2



...until help arrives

Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be effective for cardiac arrest. It can double, or even triple, a victim's chance of survival.

YOUR EMERGENCY INFORMATION

No matter where you are, you could be ordered to evacuate to stay safe from a natural hazard like a tropical cyclone, flood, or wildfire, or even a man-made hazard like a gas-leak. Find your zone on the map in the center of this booklet and record it here.

Your Evacuation Zone: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G** **H** **I** **J** **K**

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

Just like you learned with fire drills in school, families /loved-ones should have a designated “muster point” to make sure everyone is safe when an emergency evacuation is ordered. You might not all be together, so pre-determine a muster location (and alternates, in case the first site or the whole area is impacted.)

First choice: _____

Back-up location: _____

Out-of-town/county: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

Local phone lines and cell towers are often jammed by people trying to make calls during a local disaster. Long-distance lines, however, are less busy and the cell towers further away are less likely to be impacted. Decide on a contact person who lives at least 100 miles away. (Text messages are more likely to go through than voice calls after disasters.)

Name: _____

Phone # (voice and text): _____

E-mail address: _____

IMPORTANT NAMES & NUMBERS

Primary Care Doctor: _____

Specialist: _____

Veterinarian: _____

Pharmacy: _____

Insurance Agent: _____

Other: _____

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



9-1-1 is for Life-Safety Emergencies Only

During a local emergency/disaster, **904-548-0900** is routed to the EOC Joint Information Center's phone-bank staffed with dedicated call-takers to answer your incident-related questions.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Nassau County Emergency Management | 904-548-0900 |
| Nassau County Sheriff's Administrative Office | 904-225-0331 |
| Nassau County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Line | 904-225-5174 |
| Fernandina Beach Police Department | 904-277-7342 |
| Nassau County Fire Rescue Headquarters | 904-530-6600 |
| Fernandina Beach Fire Department | 904-277-7331 |
| Florida Department of Health in Nassau | 904-875-6100 |
| Baptist Medical Center Nassau | 904-321-3500 |
| Nassau County Board of Commissioners | 904-530-6010 |
| City of Fernandina Beach | 904-310-3100 |
| Town of Hilliard | 904-845-3555 |
| Town of Callahan | 904-879-3801 |
| Nassau County Animal Services | 904-530-6150 |
| Nassau County School District | 904-491-9900 |
| Poison Control | 800-222-1222 |
| Florida Forest Service | 904-266-5001 |
| Council on Aging - Fernandina Beach | 904-261-0701 |
| Council on Aging - Hilliard | 904-845-3331 |
| Nassau Transit | 904-261-0700 |
| National Flood Insurance Program | 877-336-2627 |

Nassau County Emergency Operations Center
77150 Citizens Circle Yulee, FL 32097
904-548-0900 or toll-free 844-340-9163
www.OneNassau.com