

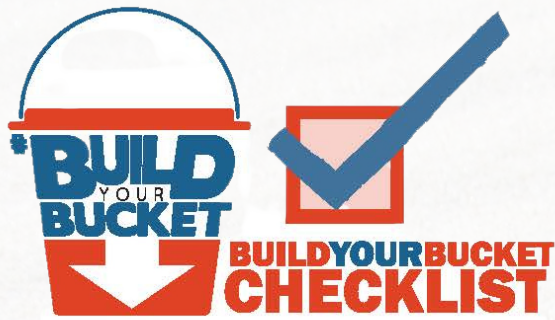


Disaster Survival Guide



Franklin County
FRANKLINCOUNTYFLORIDA.COM

Preparing for Disasters



Keep these essential items in your bucket in a safe and accessible location.

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BATTERIES | <input type="checkbox"/> PHOTOS OF FAMILY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BATTERY POWERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERS AND PETS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AM/FM RADIO | <input type="checkbox"/> POCKET KNIFE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLANKET | <input type="checkbox"/> PORTABLE PHONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAN OPENER | <input type="checkbox"/> CHARGER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CASH | <input type="checkbox"/> PONCHOS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF CLOTHING | <input type="checkbox"/> ROPE/PARACORD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DUCT TAPE | <input type="checkbox"/> SOAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DUST MASK | <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL FAMILY NEEDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST AID KIT | <input type="checkbox"/> (DIAPERS, FEMININE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLASHLIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> HYGIENE ITEMS, ETC.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GAMES AND TOYS | <input type="checkbox"/> TARP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GLOVES | <input type="checkbox"/> TOILET PAPER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAND SANITIZER | <input type="checkbox"/> TOOTHBRUSH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KEYS | <input type="checkbox"/> TOWEL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (HOME AND CAR) | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LARGE PLASTIC | <input type="checkbox"/> WATERPROOF BAG WITH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRASH BAGS | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY DOCUMENTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL MAP | <input type="checkbox"/> INCLUDING DRIVER'S |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> LICENSE, INSURANCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NON-PERISHABLE FOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PERMANENT MARKER | <input type="checkbox"/> OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PET SUPPLIES | <input type="checkbox"/> WHISTLE |

Franklin County encourages citizens to put disaster supplies in a waterproof and durable five-gallon bucket. Keep these essential items in a bucket near an exit door in your home or in your vehicle.

Watch vs Warning

Tropical Storm Watch:

Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.

Hurricane Watch:

Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Tornado Watch:

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Flood Watch:

A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Tropical Storm Warning:

Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within the specified area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning:

Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Tornado Warning:

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Proceed to a safe room immediately.

Flood Warning:

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flash Flood Warning:

A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take minutes or hours to develop.

Preparing for Disasters

Insurance

Not all insurance policies are created equal. Check your policy or talk to your agent to make sure you have sufficient coverage and to determine if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on premiums. Learn more about insurance policies from the Insurance Information Institute at iii.org.

5 Questions to Ask About Your Policy

- 1.) What is my standard deductible?
- 2.) What is my hurricane deductible?
- 3.) Do I need flood insurance?
- 4.) Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?
- 5.) Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

Questions Renters Need to Ask

- 1.) Do I know my rental property's risk of flood or storm surge?
- 2.) Do I know my evacuation zone?
- 3.) Do I need flood insurance and renter's insurance to cover damage to my personal property?
- 4.) Will my landlord protect the windows in a storm? If not, where would I go during a hurricane?



Flood Insurance

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from rising flood waters. If you own a home in a flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to carry a flood policy. Even if you don't live in a flood zone, consider the additional coverage. Anywhere it rains, it can flood. Don't wait until it is too late to buy a flood insurance policy. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period before your policy goes into effect.

Questions Renters Need to Ask

The Florida Department of Financial Services' toll-free Insurance Consumer Helpline is available year-around to assist Florida's insurance consumers. Insurance Specialists are available to answer questions or concerns regarding insurance coverage and advocate on a consumer's behalf to resolve a dispute with an insurance company. Consumers may contact an Insurance Specialist at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236) toll-free, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information on preparing for a natural disaster, visit the Department of Financial Services' website at MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers and click Disaster Preparedness.



Preparing for Disasters

County Programs

Special Needs Registry

The State Legislature, defines special needs as “persons who would need assistance during evacuations and sheltering because of physical, mental, cognitive impairment, or sensory disabilities.” The special needs registry is completely voluntary, secure, and confidential. The registry provides emergency responders with the information to assist you in evacuation and sheltering during a disaster or emergency. If you or a loved one needs this service, you can apply online or at the Emergency Management office.

Re-Entry Tags

Re-entry Tags help to streamline the process of re-entry after a disaster. All residents in Franklin County are encouraged to apply for them as soon as possible. This can be done online or at the Emergency Management office. These tags do not expire.

Franklin County Emergency Management Website



Alert Franklin

Alert Franklin is a mass notification system that allows Franklin County Emergency Management and National Weather Service to send you warning messages to your phone or email. You can sign-up online through the Franklin County Emergency Management website. Be sure to check your subscriptions if you wish to receive alerts.

Franklin County CERT

Are you interested in helping our community? If so, the Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team may be right for you. CERT members are volunteers that are trained to assist Franklin County Emergency Management during events and disasters. New members are taken through introductory training and are then offered additional training in their areas of interest and EOC operations. Members assist in a variety of way, such as unloading supplies, search and rescue, answering phones, and baking cookies to boost morale.

Evacuation Transportation

If you are resident of Franklin County and you currently do not have transportation, you may apply for transportation assistance in the event of a storm. During a hurricane that requires mandatory evacuation the county will provide transportation to transport residents to a shelter.

Preparing for Disasters

Evacuation Routes

It is important to know your evacuation routes and zone prior to a disaster. All of Franklin County is in a surge zone, meaning during a hurricane or tropical storm evacuations may be necessary. Scan the QR code for a map of your evacuation zone and routes.



Sandbags

Sandbags can redirect stormwater and debris flow away from homes and other structures if they are correctly filled, placed and maintained. However, sandbags will not seal out water and residents should not rely on sandbags to save their home from major flooding, especially fast moving hurricane storm surge flooding. Consider the severity of flood conditions before deciding whether sandbags would provide effective protection.



Filling

- Fill sandbags one-half full.
- Fold the top of sandbag down and rest the bag on its folded top.

Placing

- Take care in stacking sandbags.
- Limit placement to three layers unless you have a building or wall to use as a backing.
- Tamp each sandbag into place, completing each layer before starting the next layer.

Limitations

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed to continued wetting and drying.
- Sandbags are for small water flow protection -up to two feet. Protection from more significant water flow requires a more permanent flood prevention system.
- Wet sandbags are very heavy. Use caution when lifting to avoid injury.

Sandbags are made available by Franklin County for flood events. Franklin County sandbags are limited to 10 bags per household. County locations will be staffed. Sites will remain open until officials determine sandbags are no longer needed. Updates about sandbag availability will be provided during an emergency at franklinemergencymanagement.com and through Alert Franklin.

Making a Decision

When a hurricane is approaching, will you stay in Franklin County or go to another location? Will you shelter in place or evacuate? Staying in place is not always the best option, on the other hand, if you leave the area, the storm could shift and still put you in harm's way. The next section will guide you through the steps you should take as a storm is approaching and the choices you'll have to make.

5-day Cone Actions

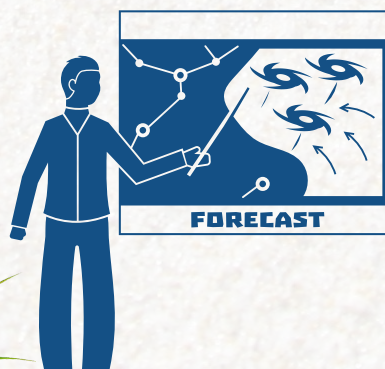
When the Big Bend area is in the 5-day cone, it's time to implement your plan and preparations. A hurricane is on a probable path to reach our area in five days.

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your disaster bucket and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you or a family member have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and they are registered for a special needs shelter.

3-day Cone Actions

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast will increase and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for children, seniors, and pets.
- Be sure you have all materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.



Hurricane Watch Actions

48 Hours Ahead

- Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if you are evacuating you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you plan to travel or be transported to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

Hurricane Watch Actions

36 Hours Ahead

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

When a Hurricane Strikes

Prepare for the storm before the arrival of tropical force winds. When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge and crashing waves can damage buildings, trees, cars, etc.

Making a Decision

Evacuations

Franklin County officials can issue an order directing the evacuation of specific areas of the county deemed to be in danger. Prepare to leave 24 hours prior to the storm landfall in order to give yourself enough time to evacuate.

Voluntary

If a tropical storm is approaching or a hurricane is expected to cross Florida and pass over Franklin County, the danger from storm surge may be high. Emergency managers may recommend residents in mobile homes or flood prone areas to evacuate to higher ground or a sturdier shelter.

Mandatory

The probability of storm surge is high and could be deadly for residents who don't leave. It is illegal to stay in a home under a mandatory evacuation order. All residents should plan to evacuate to a safer location during a mandatory order.

Prior to Evacuating

- Maintain a full tank of gas.
- Bring identification, insurance papers and other important documents for every family member.
- Bring adequate water, snacks, cash and medications.
- Obey all special traffic signs and law enforcement orders.

Keep in mind you may need to prepare for extremely heavy traffic. Residents in highly vulnerable areas should leave the area sooner rather than later. There may be limited access to gas stations, restaurants and restroom facilities.



Plan to Stay If

- No Evacuation order has been issued.
- You live in a structure that was built after 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- You do not live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- Your home is not vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You have reduced the threat of falling trees by trimming and/or removing dead, dying or diseased trees.
- You have mitigated the effects of severe winds on your home by installing hurricane shutters on windows and bracing your garage door.
- You have prepared a multi-hazard Disaster Response Plan for yourself, your family, and your pets.
- You have prepared a disaster bucket that includes cash, a supply of food, water and a 1-month supply of prescription medicines.
- You have identified a Safe Room within your home.

Plan to Go If

- An evacuation order has been issued.
- You live in a manufactured or mobile home.
- You live in a structure that was built prior to 1973 when Florida adopted a standard building code.
- Your home is vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You can leave early enough to meet an estimated regional clearance time of 24 hours. (It is very dangerous to be on the highway during a storm.)

Making a Decision

Shelters

Franklin County has no tropical weather shelters due to the entire county being in a surge zone. Shelters should only be an option as a last resort. If you decide to seek a shelter it will be in another county.

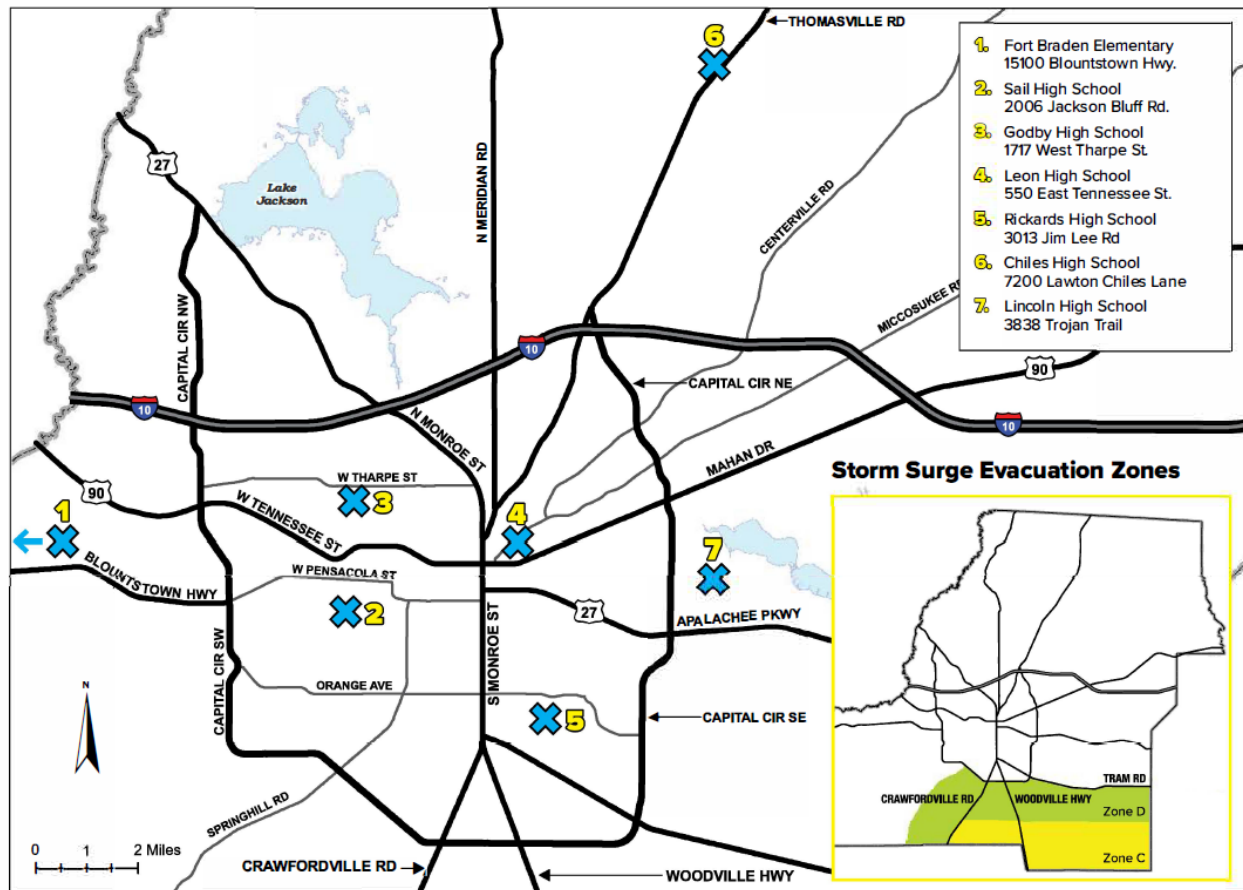
If You Plan to Stay at a Shelter

Risk shelters may only have water, snacks, and a secure area for you to stay safe during a major storm. Shelters may be crowded and are not designed for comfort. If you evacuate to a risk shelter during a disaster, please bring any items you may need including, but not limited to:

- Toiletries and diapers if you are sheltering with young children.
- Prescription medications, identification and any important documents you deem necessary.
- Additional snacks, specifically if you have a special diet.
- Blankets, pillows, and/or sleeping bags. Accommodations at the shelter will be limited.
- Books, puzzles or other entertainment that do not require electricity.

Keep in mind that if you want to stay at a shelter with pets not all shelters are pet friendly and you will need to bring supplies to care for them and a kennel/crate for them to be in.

Below are possible shelters that may be open in Leon County in the event of a storm.



Please note: Not every shelter will open for every disaster. Please check LeonCountyFL.gov/ei or call (850) 606-3700 to learn about shelter openings.

Aftermath & Recovery



Power Outages

During a hurricane or a tropical storm, strong wind, rain, and debris can cause damage to powerlines and substations causing power outages. Report your outage to Duke Energy by texting OUT to 57801, report online or call (800) 228-8485. Do not touch downed power lines. Assume all downed power lines are energized. Contact your utility provider to report downed power lines.

Generators

A generator can keep your appliances going after a disaster, but it comes with several dangers:

- **Carbon Monoxide:** Use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors to avoid exposure to this deadly, colorless, odorless gas. Never operate a generator indoors. Consider installing a CO2 detector in your home.
- **Fire:** Make sure the generator is cool when refilling the fuel tank and store flammable fuel away from fuel-burning appliances.
- **Electrical Shock:** An electrical shock from your generator can kill you.

Calculate the total wattage of all the appliances and light fixtures you want to connect to the generator. The total should be less than the generator's stated maximum power output.

Food Safety

- **Two days:** The approximate time frozen items can be stored safely if you keep the freezer door shut.
- **Four hours:** If your refrigerator's power is out for longer than this time, move perishable foods into an ice-filled cooler.

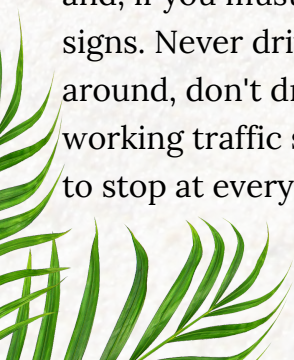
Water Impacts

If the drinking water supply is compromised by a disaster, a boil water notice will be issued, which means there's a possibility of contamination.

- **Boil:** Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

Roads

After a storm, roads may be littered with debris and many routes may be flooded. Avoid unnecessary travel and, if you must venture out, always obey Road Closed signs. Never drive through standing water. Turn around, don't drown! Treat any intersection with non-working traffic signals as an "all way" stop. Be prepared to stop at every intersection.



Sewer Outages

If a sewer outage is announced, **DO NOT** flush your toilet. Powered sewer lift stations may be down, which could cause a sewage back-up in your home.

Emergency Toilets

Use a chemical toilet or create an emergency toilet by one of the following methods:

5-Gal bucket: Line with heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as disinfectant. Make sure it has a tight lid.

Toilet bowl: Turn off your outside water supply first and flush once to empty before lining with a trash bag.

Aftermath & Recovery

Help Those in Need

Once you and your family are safe, help friends who are especially vulnerable and need help recovering. A disproportionate number of fatalities in recent hurricanes have occurred among senior citizens. When possible, help the senior citizens you know and friends with financial limitations.

Repairs

If repairs to your home or property are needed, hire reputable and licensed people and avoid any contractor or appraiser who says they can adjust your insurance claim. You can verify a contractor's license and check to see if there are any complaints against them by calling the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at (850) 487-1395.

Keep in mind, in a declared state of emergency, it is illegal to sell necessary goods or services at increased prices. If you believe a business or individual is price gouging, call the Attorney General's Office at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226).



Debris Removal



During the recovery phase, eligible disaster related debris will be collected from residential neighborhoods. Debris should be placed curbside and separated in the following categories: household trash, vegetative, construction, appliances/white goods, electronics, and household hazardous waste. During this process, DO NOT bag debris or put debris in containers. Depending on the severity of the event, it may take multiple passes before all debris is collected.

All Hazards

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can form quickly during thunderstorms any time of year, creating high velocity wind and blowing dangerous debris. In Florida, the average warning time before a tornado hits is only 12 minutes. You may only have moments to make a life or death decision.

Designate a safe room where you can stay during a tornado in your home, office, or other places you go frequently. Good safe room options include: bathrooms, interior hallways, the center of a building, and spaces on the ground floor away from windows.

If you cannot reach your prepared safe room, follow these basic guidelines:

- Get as far inside a strong building as you can, away from doors and windows.
- Get to the lowest floor.
- Use whatever you can to protect yourself from flying or falling debris.

Keep in mind, mobile homes are not safe from the violent winds of a tornado. When tornadoes are possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building to protect yourself from flying debris. Do not try to run or outmaneuver a tornado in your vehicle.



Floods

Flooding is a year-round threat. Sometimes floods develop slowly and forecasters can anticipate where a flood will happen days or weeks before it occurs. Oftentimes flash floods can occur within minutes and sometimes without any sign of rain.

Safety Tips:

- Do not drive through standing water and make sure to obey "road closed" signs. It only takes a foot of water to make vehicles float. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Do not walk through flood waters. It only takes six inches of water to knock you down.
- Don't go into any room if water has submerged electrical outlets or cords
- After a flood, stay out of standing water or structures until authorities advise it's safe. Standing water could contain toxins, chemicals, dangerous debris and wildlife.



Wildfires

Low humidity and high winds during times of droughts and freezes create an ideal situation for wildfires. With so many trees in Franklin County, the threat of wildfires is always present. Escaped yard waste from burn piles is one of the leading causes of wildfires. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take if there is a fire in your neighborhood or your home.

- Identify at least two escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Practice fire drills so everyone knows what to do.
- If advised, evacuate immediately.



All Hazards

Severe Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Florida. The Sunshine State sees about 1.4 million lightning strikes in an average year, and we lead the nation in lightning-related deaths. About 10 percent of thunderstorms are severe, with winds of 58 mph or stronger and 1-inch hail. Every thunderstorm produces lightning. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike. Go inside or find shelter immediately. Wait 30 minutes after hearing the last crash of thunder before going back outdoors. When thunder roars, go indoors! If you're indoors during a thunderstorm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.

If stuck outdoors:

- Get off any elevated areas
- Do not shelter under an isolated tree or other tall objects.
- Get as far away from water and metal objects as possible.



Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are part of daily life. Should a chemical spill or other hazardous material release occur, there are a few basic steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Shelter-in-place if local authorities ask you to do so.
- Turn off the air conditioning/ventilation system and seal windows and doors to prevent outside air from coming in. Plastic sheeting can help seal cracks around doors and windows.
- Remain indoors and wait for further instructions through the local media and emergency notification systems.

Active Shooters

There may be no warning for an active shooter. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see something report it to law enforcement. Report spurious activities to the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement at 1-855-FLA-SAFE. If dangerous behavior occurs, whether a shooting or another act of violence, move away as quickly as possible. Be on the lookout for secondary or additional threats as you escape. When you reach a safe location, call 9-1-1 and report the emergency.

Pandemic

In our global society, infectious diseases can spread quickly by human contact, animals, insects or food. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is the agency responsible for warning the public about pandemic health hazards. The Florida Department of Health may also issue warnings and advice. For more information, visit the website of the CDC at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or the Florida Dept. of Health at [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov). Vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight viruses. It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, you should stay home as much as possible and contact your healthcare provider.

Useful Contacts



**Franklin County
Emergency Management**
28 Airport Rd, Apalachicola
(850) 653-8977
FranklinEmergencyManagment.com


**Franklin County Sheriff's
Department**
270 HWY 65, Eastpoint
(850) 670-8500
FranklinSheriff.com

**Franklin County
Department of Health**
19 12th St, Apalachicola
(850) 653-2111
Franklin.FloridaHealth.gov

City of Apalachicola
192 Coach Wagoner Blvd,
Apalachicola
(850) 653-9319
Cityofapalachicola.com

City of Carrabelle
1206 HWY 98 E, Carrabelle
(850) 697-2727
Mycarrabelle.com

**George E. Weems
Memorial Hospital**
135 Ave G, Apalachicola
(850) 653-8853
WeemsMemorial.com



**2-1-1 Big Bend
Crisis Center**
Dial 211
(850) 617-6333
211BigBend.org

**Capital Area Chapter of
the American Red Cross**
(850) 878-6080
RedCross.org/NorthFlorida

**5-1-1 Real Time
Traffic Update**
Dial 511
FL511.com