



September 05, 2017

Dear Owners:

As you undoubtedly know by now, Southwest Florida is likely going to be affected by Hurricane Irma currently in the Atlantic Ocean. Since the exact path of hurricanes is not an exact science, and tropical storms can and often do change direction, it is always best to be prepared.

Please note Sandcastle is monitoring the storm, and will be assisting your association with preparations before and after the storm.

We suggest the following steps to ensure your safety and that of your family.

- 1) Make sure you stock up on water, food, and any medicines for at least several days. It is likely that you may lose power for several days, sometimes weeks, so make sure you have either batteries and generator available. If you have life-saving medical devices, you must plan ahead and make sure you have adequate backups for an extended period of time. Have plenty of fresh water available, as well as non-perishable food items for you, your entire family, and your pets.
- 2) It is a good idea to have bags prepared with medicines, clothing, important documents (such as identification documents, insurance, deeds and bank statements), and food and drinks in case an evacuation is required. It is never a good idea to have to search for these items in the chaos of a storm, especially if you do not have power.
- 3) Have candles and flashlights ready, with fresh batteries.
- 4) If you have a generator, be extremely careful where the generator is stored, and **DO NOT OPERATE** the generator in an enclosed area. The fumes can easily overwhelm you without warning. Even operating the generator in the garage poses serious risk for fire, in addition to the dangerous fumes.
- 5) Remove any outdoor items that may turn into missiles in a high wind situation. This includes patio and lanai furniture, barbecues, pots and plants, pool toys, and even water hoses and sprinklers. Hurricane winds are very powerful and even heavy objects can easily turn into dangerous missiles. It is best to store all these items inside, or in a garage if available.
- 6) Make sure all doors and windows are locked, with the storm locks latched. If your house has shutters, it is important that you attach the shutters to your windows and doors before the storm arrives.
- 7) Make sure your important computer files, such as photographs and important files are backed up on a thumb drive or mobile storage device.

- 8) It is best to completely unplug your sensitive electronics and appliances from wall outlets prior to the storm arriving.
- 9) Have a backup plan in place, and make sure everyone in your family knows what to do in an emergency, and how to contact one another.
- 10) **DO NOT DRIVE** until it is safe to do so. If water is covering the roadways, it is extremely dangerous as you never know how deep the water is, or if any sinkholes have developed or bridges are out. Stay in place until it is safe to move.
- 11) If you do evacuate, make sure all your precautions are in place. Secure your house. Lock all the doors and windows with the storm latches, make sure all shutters are in place and any sandbags set, unplug all sensitive electronics, and if you are comfortable, you can even flip the circuits of non-essential appliances to save them from potential harm during thunderstorms and power surges, before you leave.
- 12) Do not under any circumstances leave the house during the storm. Even opening the door risks you getting hit by debris. Do not open windows for any reason.
- 13) Be extremely careful walking around after the storm has passed, and be wary of standing water. Downed power lines touching water can easily electrocute you.
- 14) Above all, be safe, be prepared. This is an extremely powerful storm, and with any luck, the main storm will stay out to sea. But it is important to respect the storm. Do not panic, but do not leave things until the last minute. Be prepared to listen to the authorities for any evacuation orders and instructions during and after the storm. And if you have any friends or neighbors that may need your help and it is safe to do so, please help them.

Thank you all and be safe.

For the Board of Directors

*Shelly B. Mandell*

Shelly B. Mandell, CAM  
Association Manager