

Garden Homes at Grove Isle Homeowners
Association

RESIDENT'S HURRICANE HANDBOOK

Hurricane Readiness & Recovery Ad-hoc Committee

Official Grove Isle Hurricane Handbook

This handbook together with publications provided by Indian River County will assist you in making your pre-hurricane decisions and preparations as well as defining emergency measures that will be undertaken following a hurricane or other catastrophe.

It should be clearly understood that authority for hurricane preparation and evacuation is under jurisdiction of Indian River County officials. Nothing the Association undertakes is contrary to County directions or recommendations.

This handbook outlines measures that you should take and gives information on what Garden Homeowners Association will do to provide maximum storm protection for Association property.

Garden Homes fully supports County evacuation alerts and mandates. All Grove Isle management and maintenance staff will fully comply with evacuation directives.

Residents are encouraged to proceed to assigned shelters (for those with special needs), or to general shelter areas identified by the County. Further, residents seeking safe havens outside of our community are urged to leave allowing sufficient time to avoid traffic delays. Residents with special needs must register with the agency responsible for their transportation.

Carefully review these procedures and retain this handbook for future reference.

Two actions you can take immediately are:

- 1. Be certain that all of your vehicles have up-to-date Grove Isle decals. Entry and exit checkpoints will require that vehicles display this identification affixed to the lower left corner of windshields. Decals can be obtained at the Association office.**
- 2. Assure a duplicate of your unit's key is held by the Association office. This will save time and unnecessary damage if emergency access to your unit proves essential.**

Communication

It is very important that residents get accurate and timely information whether they are on site or off. We will use all relevant available methods to achieve this and our website and email will play a major role, especially for owners who are off site and residents' family and friends.

Website

Please assure you, your family and your friends know how to access our web site. The website name is www.groveisle.org

Email

Let the office know your email address or if you have changed it please advise them of your new one. The addresses are confidential to our community and will not be published. You can also email the office using nskarlis@bellsouth.net

Grove Isle Preparations

While none of us want to go through a hurricane it is important that we are as prepared as possible. A little time spent planning now can save a lot of problems if the worst does happen.

What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical weather system with winds that have reached a sustained speed of 74 mph or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center, known as the "eye." The eye is generally 20-30 miles wide, and the storm may extend outward from it for 400 miles.

As a hurricane approaches, the sky darkens and winds strengthen. As it nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds and storm surges. A hurricane can stretch the entire length of the eastern seaboard. The 74-160 mph winds can extend inland for hundreds of miles.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories according to wind velocity. Category 1 is the mildest; with winds from 74-95 mph. Category 5 is the strongest, with winds above 155 mph.

August and September are peak months of hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 to November 30.

Weather terms used for hurricane season.

Part of staying informed about weather conditions is understanding the different terms used by weather forecasters.

Following are some of the most common terms:

- **Advisory: Hurricane and storm information is disseminated to the public every six hours.**
- **Special Advisory: Information is disseminated when there is significant change in storm-related weather conditions.**
- **Gale Warning: Sustained winds of 35-54 mph and strong wave action are expected.**
- **Storm Warning: Sustained winds of 55-73 mph are expected.**
- **Hurricane Watch: There is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.**
- **Hurricane Warning: A hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours or less, with sustained winds of 74 mph or more and dangerously high water.**
- **Tropical Disturbance: A moving area of thunderstorms is in the tropics.**
- **Tropical Depression: An area of low pressure, rotary circulation of clouds and winds up to 38 mph is identified.**
- **Tropical Storm: A storm characterized by counterclockwise circulation of clouds and winds 39-73 is brewing.**

Prepare now

A well-thought-out plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering and keep family and friends out of state informed rather than concerned. A big concern voiced, in particular by out-of-town residents and their relatives was ‘Not knowing what was happening’. With hurricane season upon us, preparing your family hurricane plan is the first step.

Before a Hurricane Strikes

Plan a safe evacuation route that will take you to a shelter or 20-50 miles inland. Now is the time to ensure you know the routes!

Have disaster supplies on hand, including:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes and a change of clothing
- Copies of important papers, including bank accounts, insurance and household inventory records

Develop an emergency communication plan. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the family's contact. Make sure everyone knows the telephone number of this contact. Ensure you, your family and friends are familiar with the Grove Isle website as this will a very important way in which information is given out.

Note: Individual gas generators are not allowed in Grove Isle! They present a safety hazard to all our residents.

When a Hurricane Watch or Warning Is Issued

- Listen to radio or television for hurricane progress reports. Follow instructions if ordered to evacuate.
- Lock all windows and activate storm shutters.

- **Check your emergency supplies. Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking utensils.**
- **Bring in outdoor objects such as furniture, cycles etc. checking on your neighbors as well. Full details regarding Management's actions are detailed in the next section.**
- **Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings if not instructed by officials to turn off utilities.**
- **Fuel your car. Review evacuation routes and gather your disaster supply kit in case you are instructed to evacuate.**
- **Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.**
- **Keep family and friends informed as to what is happening and what you are doing.**

If Evacuation Is Necessary

- **If officials order evacuation, leave as soon as possible.**
- **Keep family and friends informed as to what is happening and what you are doing.**
- **Secure your home. Unplug appliances and turn off electricity and the main water valve.**
- **Take your pre-assembled emergency supplies and warm, protective clothing.**

After a Hurricane

- **Return home only after authorities say it is safe to do so. Keep tuned to your local radio or TV station for recovery information.**
- **Enter your home with caution. Open windows and doors to ventilate or dry your home. Do not use candles or open flames in doors. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.**
- **Take pictures of the damage for insurance claims and contact your service agent.**

- **Grove Isle Management and volunteers with Garden Home volunteers will be setting up and staffing a command center. This team will manage all post hurricane activities and will continually communicate with residents including the posting of information bulletins at the main clubhouse.**

Make plans for your pets

In planning for the hurricane season, do not forget your pets. If you evacuate your home, do not leave pets behind.

The Humane Society of the United States urges pet owners to make arrangements to evacuate their animals and to ensure all necessary shots are up to date.

Be sure you have up-to-date identification tags, a pet carrier and a leash for them. Assemble a disaster kit that you can provide to whoever assumes care of your pet during a disaster.

Most emergency shelters will not accept pets. In the event of evacuation, make alternative arrangements for pets, such as with family friends, veterinarians or kennels in safe locations. Send medicine, food and feeding information and other supplies with them.

If you have concerns visit or call the Humane Society who are situated at 6230 77th Street (off 58th Avenue) phone number 772 388 4592 or 772 388-3331.

Grove Isle Management Procedures

Storm Procedures – Tasks to Complete

The following information is being provided to ensure residents are aware of the procedures the Association will take. This should help residents' coordinate their own plans.

June 1st is the official beginning of Hurricane Season. Insure that Association generators have tanks filled in preparation of power outages.

Listed below are the steps that staff will take if and when severe weather is expected to affect our area. (Note: Tornado warnings are often shorter than 24 hours, however, where possible preparedness procedures are the same as for hurricanes)

Identifiers

Storm Watch An area is put under Hurricane Watch by the National Weather Service when hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours. During a Watch, there is no immediate danger; however, the majority of preparations will be started at this time to ensure ample time to secure the property.

Storm Warning A hurricane or other disaster is EXPECTED to strike the area of Warning within 24 hours. Winds of 74 miles per hour or greater as well as possible storm surges are to be expected. Once a Hurricane Warning is issued for our area, the on-site staff will complete hurricane preparations and leave the property to complete their own preparations. **STAFF WILL NOT REMAIN ON SITE DURING A HURRICANE.**

When Hurricane Watch is Issued:

1. Roof, Courtyard and back patio Areas - Secure all equipment and clear visible debris. Close and secure all utility doors and hatches.
2. Irrigation Systems - Turn off all irrigation clocks and timers.
3. Hoses - Remove and store any garden or car wash hoses.
4. Secure any trash and recycling containers.
5. Store patio furniture, umbrellas, flower pots, plants and BBQ grill in a pre-designated area.
6. Remove flags and any small poles.

When Hurricane Warning is Issued:

1. Turn off your water
2. Make an inspection of areas for any loose items that can be safely removed and secured. **Homeowners items not removed from courtyard and back patio will be removed to dumpsters.**

3. Residents will be encouraged to leave the property at this time. However, residents are expected to have complied with civil authorities concerning evacuation directives.
4. Designated HOA members will inspect property to assure that all tasks have been completed. A designated HOA member will secure the key box and will take responsibility for its safe keeping.

When Evacuation Order is Issued:

Property Manager will monitor lake levels and adjust as appropriate. Members of staff, including access control personnel, are not expected to remain on sight during the storm.

After the Storm: In the event of a severe storm, it is likely that phone service, including cell phones, will be limited, therefore, all staff is expected to report to the Grove Isle Command Center as soon as possible after the storm has passed and the Office of Emergency Management has given the go ahead for the public to be on the roads.

Designated HOA members will undertake the following:

1. Assume authority for managing recovery activities as previously delegated by the Board.
2. Follow detailed Emergency procedures outlined in the Grove Isle Emergency Manual.

Residents: Please feel free to review the completed Grove Isle Emergency Manual available in the Association office and in the possession of Board members, management staff and members of the Hurricane Readiness and Recovery Committee.

Gatehouse Security

Emergency Services Public Information Line 772 567 2157

Hospitals

Indian River Memorial 772 567 4311

Sebastian River Medical Center 772 589 3186

Indian River Dept. of Emergency Services 772 226-3852

Close- by Accommodations

The list below identifies hotels/motels in our area that might accept guests during and after a storm. Residents are urged to check in advance to determine whether the facility will be open once an evacuation is ordered.

**Holiday Inn Express 567-2500
Best Western 567-8321**

**Country Inn & Suites 257-0252
Howard Johnson 567-5171**

American Red Cross Primary Shelters

Fellsmere Elementary School, 50 North Cypress Street, Fellsmere 32948

Sebastian Elementary School, 400 County Road 512, Sebastian 32958

Sebastian River Middle Jr. High School, 9400 County Road 512, Sebastian 32958

J. A. Thompson Lifelong Learning Center, 1110 18th Avenue, S.W., Vero Beach 32962

V.B.H.S. Freshman Learning Center, 1507 19th Street, Vero Beach 32960

Gifford Middle Seven School, 2726 45th Street, Gifford 32967

Highland Elementary School, 500 20th Street S.W., Vero Beach 32962

Pelican Island Elementary School, 1355 Schumann Drive, Sebastian 32958

Vero Beach Senior High School, 1707 16th Street, Vero Beach 32960

Oslo Middle School, 480 20th Avenue S.W., Vero Beach 32962

Special Medical Needs Shelter Information

The goal of the Special Needs Shelter Program is to provide a safe place for persons requiring medical assistance to temporarily shelter during an evacuation from either a man-made or natural disaster, rather than inundating local hospitals with a large number of people that a specially equipped and staffed shelter could adequately handle.

Regular Public Shelters

Regular public shelters available under emergency conditions will accept anyone who is self-sufficient and needs no outside professional assistance in performing activities of daily living. Individuals not meeting the above criteria will either be referred to the Public Needs Shelter or to an appropriate health care facility. The regular public shelters will have nursing personnel and volunteers to assist evacuees from the time of arrival at the shelter. Individuals with decreased mobility but no additional medical problems will be provided for in a regular shelter.

Transportation Registration

Individuals needing transportation to a Regular Shelter or the Special Needs Shelter, must register with the Special Needs program prior to hurricane season. There are no guaranteed pick-ups for last minute transportation requests once an evacuation order has been issued.

Special Needs Shelter

The focus of the Special Needs Shelter is the medical support and care of persons who require special care during an evacuation at a shelter, such as but not limited to: Dialysis, Oxygen dependent, Nebulizer and Hospice patients.

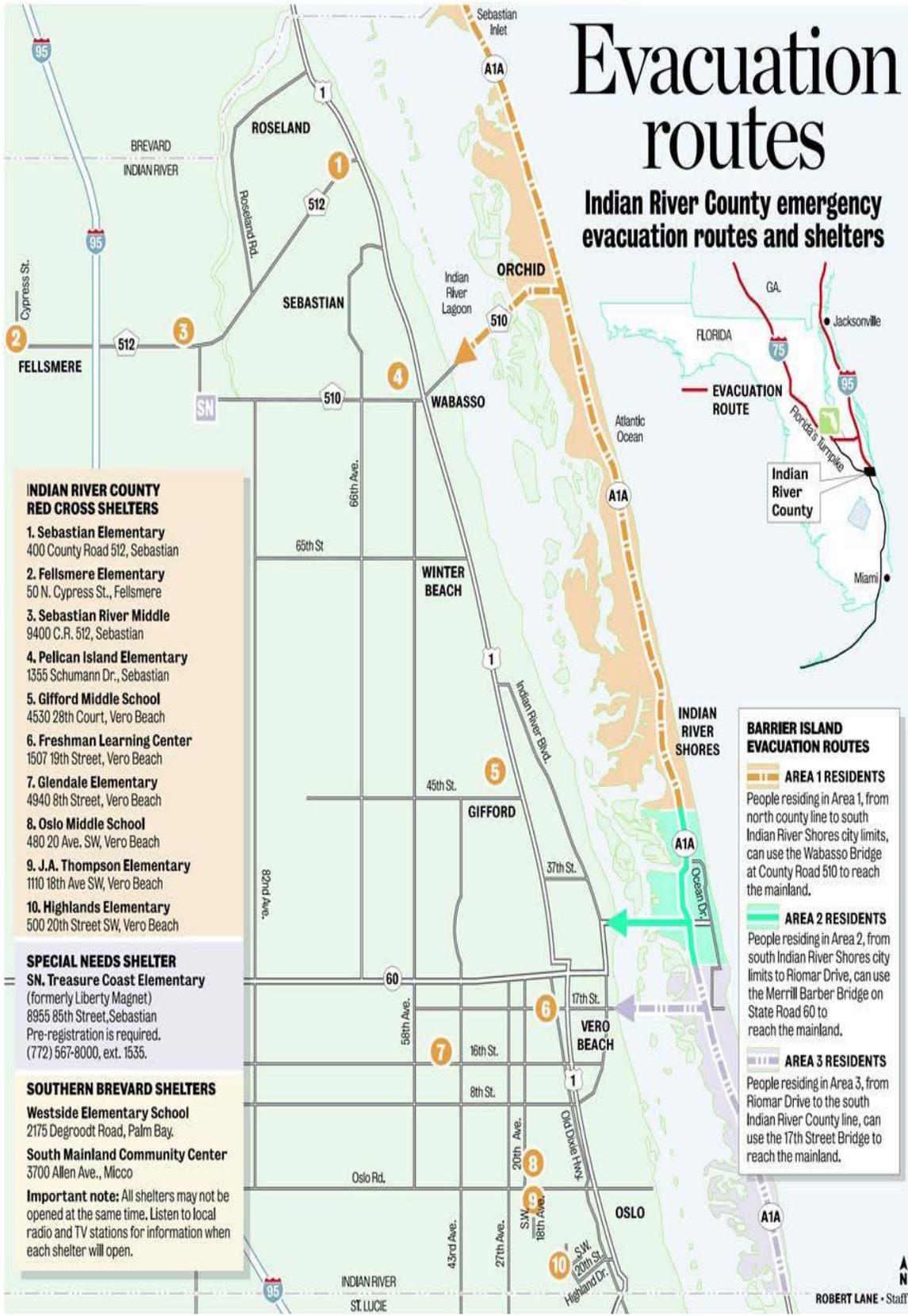
Registration is not required, but recommended to allow entrance to the Special Needs Shelter. There are some limitations, specifically those patients with unstable medical conditions, citizens living in adult living facilities or nursing homes. These facilities are required to have emergency evacuation plans for their residents.

This facility, is designed for the handicapped, and has an adequate space capacity for the Special Needs citizens of our county.

The Special Needs Shelter is located at the Treasure Coast Elementary, which is located on Highway 510 – Just east of the Sebastian River High School. The address is 8955 85th Street.

Evacuation routes

Indian River County emergency evacuation routes and shelters



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY RED CROSS SHELTERS

- 1. Sebastian Elementary**
400 County Road 512, Sebastian
- 2. Fellsmere Elementary**
50 N. Cypress St., Fellsmere
- 3. Sebastian River Middle**
9400 C.R. 512, Sebastian
- 4. Pelican Island Elementary**
1355 Schumann Dr., Sebastian
- 5. Gifford Middle School**
4530 28th Court, Vero Beach
- 6. Freshman Learning Center**
1507 19th Street, Vero Beach
- 7. Glendale Elementary**
4940 8th Street, Vero Beach
- 8. Oslo Middle School**
480 20 Ave. SW, Vero Beach
- 9. J.A. Thompson Elementary**
1110 18th Ave SW, Vero Beach
- 10. Highlands Elementary**
500 20th Street SW, Vero Beach

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

SN. Treasure Coast Elementary
(formerly Liberty Magnet)
8955 85th Street, Sebastian
Pre-registration is required.
(772) 567-8000, ext. 1535.

SOUTHERN BREVARD SHELTERS

- Westside Elementary School**
2175 Degroodt Road, Palm Bay.
- South Mainland Community Center**
3700 Allen Ave., Micco

Important note: All shelters may not be opened at the same time. Listen to local radio and TV stations for information when each shelter will open.

BARRIER ISLAND EVACUATION ROUTES

- AREA 1 RESIDENTS**
People residing in Area 1, from north county line to south Indian River Shores city limits, can use the Wabasso Bridge at County Road 510 to reach the mainland.
- AREA 2 RESIDENTS**
People residing in Area 2, from south Indian River Shores city limits to Riomar Drive, can use the Merrill Barber Bridge on State Road 60 to reach the mainland.
- AREA 3 RESIDENTS**
People residing in Area 3, from Riomar Drive to the south Indian River County line, can use the 17th Street Bridge to reach the mainland.

ROBERT LANE • Staff