



Hurricane

PREPAREDNESS GUIDE
2019

LeadingAge
Florida

www.leadingageflorida.org



2019 Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Season 2019: Are You Prepared? After Hurricane Michael ravaged a still-recovering Panhandle during the 2018 hurricane season, predictions of fewer storms in 2019 are welcome news. However, fewer storms does not necessarily mean the storms will be less dangerous. According to the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project, 14 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes are expected during the 2019 season.

That prediction closely tracks with the 30-year average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. The 2018 hurricane season saw 15 named storms, 8 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin.

Every hurricane season should be treated seriously, and taking simple precautions can help everyone stay safe in case of a natural disaster.

Throughout the 2019 hurricane season, LeadingAge Florida will work with our state partners and other associations to provide information and resources to our members. In addition to emergency contact information and other resources below, LeadingAge Florida and LeadingAge national staff stand ready to serve in any way that is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to communicate with the following LeadingAge contacts at any time with any requests for assistance or information:

- Steve Bahmer – (307) 287-4594
- Nancy Hooks – (518) 221-9817
- Susan Langston – (850) 545-6769
- Dawn Jiménez – (850) 321-3569

These individuals will be in touch with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Transportation (DOT). If a hurricane hits Florida, LeadingAge Florida team will help to **staff ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services** (emergency support function) at the state EOC throughout the storms to receive and communicate critical information as efficiently as possible.

Additionally, LeadingAge Florida will provide emergency communications via email alerts and social media posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), as necessary.

In case of emergency, your first point of contact should be your local EOC. [Click here](#) to find the link to all 67 County Emergency Management Offices. All emergency management offices maintain a list of people within the community with a disability or a special need so they can be assisted quickly during an emergency.

Your community **must** register for and report emergency status information through AHCA's Emergency Status System. [Click here](#) to login, or to request access to register for the ESS.

Emergency Power Rules for Nursing Homes and ALFs



In 2018, the Florida Legislature approved rules that require nursing homes and assisted living facilities to have backup power in the event of any power loss. The rules resulted from the widespread power outages that followed Hurricane Irma.

While many nursing homes and ALFs are fully compliant with the rules as of the start of the 2019 hurricane season, many others sought and received variances to allow for the time required to design, receive, and install custom generators. In either case, the rules include requirements for temporary backup power, as well as for monitoring that all providers should be aware of.

To review the nursing home rule, [click here](#). To review the assisted living rule, [click here](#).

And please contact LeadingAge Florida with any questions about either of these rules.

State Emergency Operations Center | 1-(800) 342-3557



The Florida Division of Emergency Management, which operated the State EOC, offers an interactive online tool to help you develop an emergency plan for yourself, your family or your business. For more information or to create your plan, visit www.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/.

If you are unable to get through to your local EOC, the following numbers are operational during emergency events:

- Florida Emergency Information Line, 1-(800) 342-3557; and
- ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services, State EOC, (850) 410-1823.

Agency for Health Care Administration | (850) 412-4303



Call the appropriate licensure unit at AHCA if your nursing home or assisted living community decides to evacuate, or if you have questions. Below are the numbers to call for call for assistance with logging in to EMResource:

- Long-Term Care Unit, (850) 412-4303; or
- Assisted Living Unit, (850) 412-4304.

Additionally, below are cell phone numbers for AHCA leadership. If you require emergency assistance and your needs have not been met by your local EOC, please call:

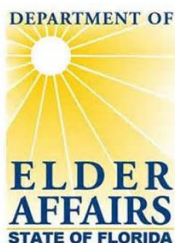
Please contact LeadingAge Florida if you need additional assistance in reaching AHCA or getting answers to your questions. LeadingAge Florida staff can quickly assist you in contacting resources and tracking down answers.

Florida Department of Health



The Florida DOH's website also has valuable information that can help you plan for emergency situations: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html.

Florida Department of Elder Affairs



The information provided in the "Disaster Preparedness Guide for Seniors" by the state Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) can help seniors take proper steps to be safe and secure during and after an emergency event:

<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/disaster.php>

Additional Assistance

Remember to stay tuned to traditional lines of communications, such as local television and radio stations. You also may want to check social media platforms, such as Facebook™ and Twitter™, for update regarding severe weather situations and available emergency assistance. Below are additional websites to which you can refer to get valuable information:

- Florida Department of Emergency Management - www.floridadisaster.org;
 - American Red Cross - www.redcross.org; and
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency - www.fema.org.
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