



License # NR 30211219 & NR 30211929

GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane Season, which lasts from June 1 through November 30, is upon us yet again. The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which was one of the most active seasons since records began, reminded us of the destruction that these powerful storms can cause. While most of us in our service area endured minor damage and less than a week of power outages from Hurricane Irma, many of our friends in other parts of the United States and The Caribbean are still recovering from Harvey, Irma and Maria. Hopefully all of us will apply lessons learned from Irma while planning for the upcoming Season, which needs to begin now.

If you or a loved one lives in Palm Beach County, we recommend that you visit www.pbcgov.com for emergency management information. You will find locations of various stores and gas stations with generators along with tons of other helpful tips on hurricane preparedness under the “Residents/Emergency Services” heading. We also urge you to check out the Hurricane Guide which covers a plethora of information including evacuation maps, tips on protecting your home, boat and pets as well as post-storm safety.



Broward County residents can go to www.broward.org and type “Emergency Management” in the search bar to find similar resources. Martin County residents should visit www.martin.fl.us and enter “Disaster Preparedness” in the search bar for more information.

One of the most important aspects of hurricane planning is to determine whether or not you will have to evacuate. If you reside in a high-risk area or cannot safely remain in your home due to medical issues, you must have a plan in place now. Each county has Special Needs Shelters for those people who are not suitable for regular shelter placement due to certain medical conditions, but these locations should be used as a last resort since space is very limited. If you think that you may be qualified for one of these shelters, we can provide you with a registration form, which must be completed in advance.

If you are not sure about where to go in the event of an evacuation, Potter Nursing Service can assist you with finding a safe place to stay. Providing that you are willing to accept care from a personal aide referred by us for at least 48 hours, we can arrange for you to be placed in an appropriate healthcare facility for the duration of an evacuation. While each facility has different fees and conditions for accepting guests during an emergency, most require that you are accompanied by a caregiver.

All facilities and shelters ask that evacuees arrive prepared with personal needs such as toiletries, a radio, batteries, flashlights, bottled water, clothing, non-perishable foods and medications for at least one week. You should also have a list of your medications as well as a record of your emergency contact numbers, including your doctor’s name and phone number.

With a little thought and preparation now, we can help to make the upcoming hurricane season safer and less worrisome for everyone. Please call us today for more information.

Finding Shelter in a Hotel

As mentioned on the previous page, now is the time to devise your evacuation plan. Many local residents did not feel safe staying in their homes during Irma, even those who were not residing in a mandatory evacuation zone. Staying in a hotel during a storm can be a good option for our more independent clients who do not want to go to a healthcare facility or a shelter.

If you are considering relocating to a hotel in the event of a pending hurricane, you must do your research now and make your reservation as far in advance as possible. Some former clients did not make a decision regarding their evacuation plans until a day or two before Irma's predicted landfall and were not able to secure a hotel reservation. A few of our friends and family who did not plan ahead had to drive as far north as Georgia and Alabama to find hotels with vacancies.

Yvonne Potter-Krueger, President of Potter Nursing Service, her husband and few of their friends were able to reserve rooms at a nearby hotel. They had a positive experience overall. The hotel lost power during the storm and there was no air conditioning in their rooms, but a generator supplied electricity to the lobby, restaurant and one of the elevators. They also enjoyed the company of neighbors and friends all hunkered down together in a comfortable setting.

While most hotels offer more amenities than shelters, please remember to pack all necessary personal items and enough medications to last for your expected stay. We also recommend that you keep a flashlight in your luggage since many hotels do not have generators that can power the entire building. Yvonne suggested that clients reserve rooms only at hotels that have the capability of serving meals after the primary power supply is lost.

Please try to reach out to us for assistance well in advance of any approaching hurricanes since options and resources become more limited with every mile a storm moves closer to our area. We want to see that all of our clients, employees and contracted caregivers stay safe throughout the upcoming Hurricane Season.



Please note that our office will be closed on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. As always, you can reach us by calling our main office number below. Our answering service will forward any messages to our on-call coordinator. One of our staffing coordinators will be contacting clients before each holiday to confirm scheduling.

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”
William Arthur Ward