# INSIGHT



**MAY 2019** 



Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. This community and many around us have experienced firsthand a hurricane's brutal impact. Downed trees, power outages, blocked roads and more disrupt and threaten lives.

Forecasting services are currently predicting a slightly below-average season in 2019, but that doesn't mean you should let your guard down. It is important for Tallahasseeans to be prepared. As we've seen, it only takes one storm to devastate a community and change lives forever.

Having a hurricane plan for your home and family is essential. Visit Ready.gov or FloridaDisaster.org to develop your personal plan, get helpful information and ensure you're prepared. Leon County also offers resources for building a personal plan, as well as the local disaster survival guide, at HaveAHurricanePlan.com.

Once you've created your plan, discuss it with your entire family to ensure everyone knows key details, like contact numbers and evacuation routes.

To help residents prepare for hurricane season, the City of Tallahassee and partners will host the annual Build Your Bucket expo event on Saturday, June 1, at Florida A&M University in the Alfred Lawson Jr. Multipurpose Center, 1800 Wahnish Way, from 9 a.m. to noon. Check *Talgov.com* for additional details.

The first 800 families / households at the event will receive a free disaster preparedness bucket. Disaster survival guides, preparedness supplies checklists and more will also be distributed at the event. Many area agencies will be on site to connect residents with critical resources and information that will aid in recovery following a disaster. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how to prepare and protect your property, your family and your community.

Citizens can access additional info about local resources, like shelters, relief agencies and training videos, at *Talgov.com* or LeonCountyFL.gov/El.



### **PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS**

From Fortune 500 companies to local start-ups, every business needs a hurricane plan. Do employees regularly

practice how to evacuate your building? Have you gathered insurance forms, lease agreements and other important paperwork? How will employees get information about the status of operations? These are a few of the many things employers need to consider when creating a business resiliency plan. Get more details and helpful information at Ready.gov/business.

#### **MEETINGS IN JUNE**

**June 5** City Commission workshop at 1 pm

**June 5** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm

June 17 Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency meeting at 1:30 pm

**June 19** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm. Check *Talgov.com* for location.

June 27 Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency meeting at 3 pm

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live and rebroadcast on WCOT, the City's government access channel (Comcast Cable and CenturyLink channel 13). City Commission meetings are also streamed live online and are indexed and posted for viewing on Talgov.com. Call the Department Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow @COTNews on Twitter for City news.



For more information on the City of Tallahassee's neighborhood preparedness workshops and materials, call 891.8795 or visit

TALGOV.COM/PREP



#### SPECIAL NEEDS? REGISTER NOW.

Citizens who will need assistance with evacuation and sheltering because of age, disability or other special needs should register NOW. All information you provide is confidential and protected under Florida Statutes. Special needs shelters are intended to provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain an individual's level of health. If you or a loved one require a high level of medical care or depend on electricity for life-sustaining medical equipment, you should consider registering for the special needs shelter. Completing the Florida Special Needs Registry does not, however, automatically qualify the individual for a special needs shelter. Register online at SNR.FloridaDisaster.org. For further assistance with registration, call Leon County Division of Emergency Management at (850) 606-3700.



#### PLAN FOR YOUR PET

When crafting your family's preparedness plan, be sure to include your pets. Pets will need food, water, medication and other items, too. If you live in an evacuation zone, identify shelters or nearby hotels/motels that take pets. Put a current photo of your pet in your kit for identification purposes. Get more pet preparedness tips at Ready.gov/Animals.



For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 891-4968 or visit *Talgov.com*.

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**INSIGHT** is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least seven hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.

#### **ENSURE YOU STAY INFORMED**

The City will send email and text alerts to City utility customers during emergencies. Check your utility account contact information to ensure it is up-to-date. Log in to your utility account on *Talgov.com* or call Customer Service at 891-4968 to verify your contact information. You can also update it at *Talgov.com/Update*.



In addition to direct customer contact, official City information will be posted online and on social media during emergencies. Bookmark *Talgov.com*, follow @COTNews on Twitter and like City of Tallahassee, FL – Government on Facebook (Facebook.com/COTNews). Local information will also broadcast on 88.9 WFSU-FM.



In hot weather, set your AC thermostat to 78 degrees or your highest comfortable temperature. For the AC's fan setting, always choose AUTO; never choose ON.



## **REPORTING POWER OUTAGES**

If you haven't already downloaded DigiTally, the City's free trouble reporting mobile app, there is no better time than right now. If the power goes out during a storm, you can quickly and easily report it through the app via your smart phone or tablet. The app will ask for the address of the outage and your phone number. Once you submit the report, you'll receive a confirmation email. All reports submitted via DigiTally are sent directly to the Electric Utility and put into the system to be addressed.

If you don't have a mobile phone, there is a similar functionality for reporting outages on *Talgov.com*. You can also call Customer Service at 891-4968. Call wait times will be longer during major events.