



FLORIDA PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

In Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)



May 2021

Hurricane Season Preparedness Tips

It's that time of year again! Colorado State University has announced their predictions as "above average" for the 2021 Hurricane Season. Thankfully we have a much better hold on the coronavirus pandemic than we did a year ago. Still, we need to prepare for this season with our safety protocols in minds.

2021 Hurricane Season Forecast

	Average 1991-2020	Colorado State University
Total Named Storms	14	17
Hurricanes	7	8
Category 3 of Higher	3	4

Hurricane supplies: Restock your family [hurricane kit](#) and include the supplies you have needed during the COVID-19 outbreak. Hand sanitizer, wipes, bleach, face coverings... Stock up with some extras.

Special Needs Registry: If you or someone you know has needs such as oxygen, medical equipment or other special requirements, help them to register now with your county's [Special Needs Registry](#). This gives officials important information to use in planning for vulnerable populations as well as allows first responders to provide special assistance during a disaster.

Listen to your local authorities: All disasters are local and every county will have different plans and protocols best suited to their populations, communities and geography. Your local officials have updated hurricane plans with the pandemic in mind. Listen to your local weather, emergency management and city/county officials. Heed their advice. [Know Your Flood Zone!](#)



Churches: Check and update your disaster plan. Make sure contact numbers for staff and others are current. Know your presbytery's disaster protocol. Review your insurance policies. With increasing materials costs, do you have enough coverage? Assist the vulnerable people in your congregation and surrounding community by helping them gather hurricane supplies or putting up storm shutters and checking on them after a storm.

Churches are a vital part of a community's response and recovery! Can you offer your building or grounds as a secondary post-storm shelter space, a

point of distribution for supplies or a respite center for response workers? If so, please contact your local emergency management office and American Red Cross to let them know. They will work with you to determine if using your facility would be a possibility.

Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc.

Phone: 941-483-0675 Email: fla.pdan@pcusa.org

Mailing Address: 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609

www.flapdan.org



Volunteers: Due to continuing travel restrictions, volunteer teams will not be flocking in from other states to assist with debris removal, mucking and gutting. Many faith-based groups, including the PCUSA, still have a hold on all travel. All [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) volunteer hosting sites are still closed for the time being. Hopefully that will change soon, but we will need to rely on each other, forming local teams of commuter volunteers who can drive to nearby communities, work during the day and then drive back home for the night. These local teams will need to bring their own tools, food, water and PPE. Consider forming a small commuter volunteer team within your congregation or community. More information here: [Commuter Volunteers](#)

Disaster Preparedness Tips for Congregations

- ◆ Select a Congregational Disaster Response Coordinator.
- ◆ Update your disaster plan annually.
- ◆ Develop a communication system within the congregation (text, phone tree, etc.).
- ◆ Create a list of congregational members with special needs noted and updated annually.
- ◆ Update Congregational Directory at least quarterly.
- ◆ Share emergency supply kit information with your congregation. Kits can be assembled by groups with the church and distributed to elderly and special needs members of the community.
- ◆ Develop plans for each type of disaster scenario that might affect your area.
- ◆ Review insurance policies annually and save them in multiple locations.
- ◆ Back up financial and session records and store them in multiple locations.
- ◆ Update the inventory of the physical plant annually. Video recording is recommended.
- ◆ Determine if the physical plant can be used as an emergency shelter, point of distribution, etc.
- ◆ If so, consult with local Emergency Management office and let them know what you can offer.
- ◆ Coordinate with local VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) to get to know response partners within your community and the roles of each organization.
- ◆ Contact FLAPDAN with any questions.

Year round, but especially during a disaster, [FLAPDAN](#) stays in close contact with Florida presbyteries, PDA, Synod, state and local emergency management, FEMA and community and faith-based disaster response organizations to assure continued communication of the latest updates, notifications and best practices. Coordinated response is a key element in all disasters from the federal level right down to each local community. Please contact FLAPDAN with questions or if you need help creating or updating your disaster plan.

We are here for you. Thank you for your continued support for FLAPDAN!

Stay safe,

Kathy Broyard, Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist
Barbara Hassall, Hurricane Irma Recovery Liaison



Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc.

Phone: 941-483-0675 Email: fla.pdan@pcusa.org
Mailing Address: 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609
www.flapdan.org