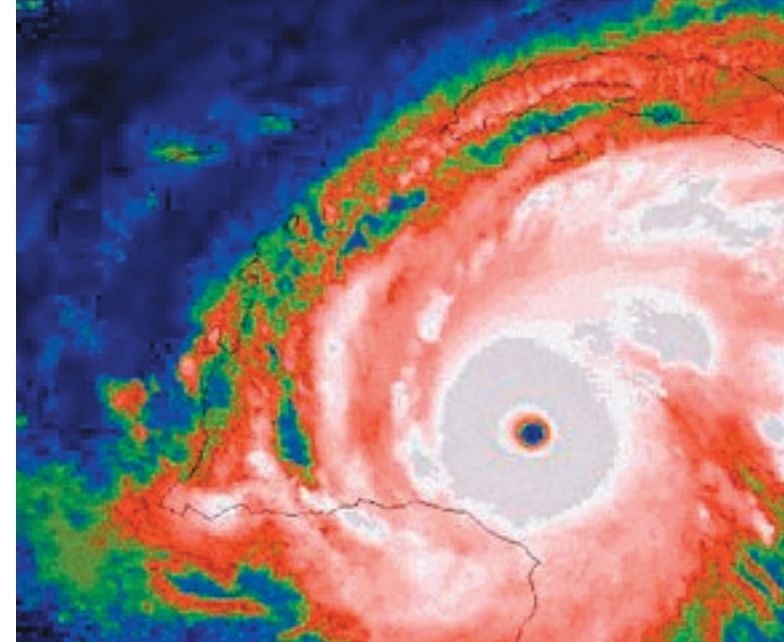


Especially for seniors.

- Stock up on food, water and supplies before the hurricane season starts.
- Have at least a two-week supply of your medications.
- Stay aware of weather conditions.
- Make plans in advance, whether you need to evacuate or if you decide to stay.
- If you need to evacuate, team up with a partner, neighbor or relative and plan your evacuation together.
- Make plans in advance to stay with friends or relatives living on higher ground.

4 Hospitals tied together for better care.



If you plan to evacuate, do not wait until it is too late.

Emergency vehicles are not allowed to operate when winds reach 45 miles per hour and will not be able to get to you in case of an emergency. If you need assistance with evacuating, register now with Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services at (954) 537-2888. **You must be pre-registered to receive assistance.**

For a free physician referral, or if you have a health related question, please call 1-866-4HCA-DOCS (442-2362)



Important Contact Information.

Hurricane Hotline(954) 831-4000
 TTY(954) 831-3940
 Special Needs Shelter Program(954) 537-2888
 American Red Cross(954) 763-9900

Broward Emergency Management
www.broward.org/disaster

State of Florida Emergency Management
www.floridadisaster.org

Broward County Chapter – American Red Cross
www.arbcc.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov



2801 North State Road 7, Margate, FL 33063
 954-974-0400 | www.northwestmed.com



401 N.W. 42nd Avenue, Plantation, FL 33317
 954-587-5010 | www.plantationgeneral.com



7201 North University Drive, Tamarac, FL 33321
 954-721-2200 | www.umchealth.com



8201 W. Broward Boulevard, Plantation, FL 33324
 954-473-6600 | www.westsideregional.com



Are you ready? Do you have special medical needs?



Each year Florida residents and visitors need to be ready for the effects of a hurricane or other severe weather. As your community hospitals, we cannot stress enough the importance of being prepared and developing a plan of action before the need for one arises. This guide is designed for people – and their families – who have special needs, are homebound, or are expecting a baby. Being prepared for emergencies, such as a hurricane, can reduce the anxiety, fear and major inconvenience brought on by such a situation.

Developing a plan.

- Identify where you will go if you need to evacuate – i.e., relative, friend, public shelter, etc.
- Prepare your hurricane supplies- refer to the list provided for guidance on supplies.
- Stay informed of the latest updates and evacuation orders.
- Prepare a detailed list of information about the specifics of your medication regime.
- Consult your physician and medical supply vendors to make sure you are adequately prepared for a hurricane.
- Contact your local emergency information management office if you have any concern.
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to identify your disability and/or medical condition.

If you're homebound, receiving home healthcare.

- If you are a homebound patient and/or are dependent on any medical device that requires electricity, contact your physician for his or her recommendation.
- If you are receiving home healthcare services, you must be sure that your home healthcare service provider has developed a special hurricane plan for you.
- If you require oxygen, check with your supplier about emergency plans.
- If you evacuate, remember to take your medications, written instructions regarding your care, your walker, wheel chair or cane and special equipment, such as bedding.

Hospitals are not shelters!

Please remember, first and foremost, your local hospital is an acute care facility providing healthcare for patients. As such, the hospital's resources are already committed to those who need them most, and the hospital is not equipped to act as a shelter.



It is very important to develop your Personal Evacuation Plan BEFORE the hurricane season.

Contact the Broward County Special Needs Shelter Program at (954) 537-2888 to see if you qualify for a Special Needs Shelter space during a major disaster or for evacuation assistance.



Ribbon of Care
Hospital Network



What you'll need.



- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Medications (two week supply)
- ✓ Portable radio/flashlight
- ✓ Extra batteries

- ✓ Water (one gallon per person/day)
- ✓ Personal Hygiene items
- ✓ Vitamins
- ✓ Ready-to-eat canned, non-perishable and high energy foods
- ✓ Manual can opener
- ✓ Paper plates and disposable utensils
- ✓ Plastic bags
- ✓ Pet food
- ✓ Change of clothes

If you are expecting.

Any pregnant woman who is registered at Northwest Medical Center or Plantation General Hospital and is two weeks from her due date (36 week gestation) or is considered high-risk may belong in the hospital in the event of a hurricane. If your physician determines that it is necessary for you to be in the hospital, arrive no later than four hours before hurricane landfall. Only the patient can be accommodated. The hospital cannot accommodate patient's family or friends.

These pre-registered mothers-to-be should come to the open entrance of the hospital and bring: Bedding (air mattress, sleeping bag, pillow, blankets); Water and food (for approximately four days); Clothing; Flashlight; Medications and personal hygiene items. For more information, maternity patients may call:

Northwest Medical Center (954) 974-0400
Plantation General Hospital (954) 321-4000

If you have special medical needs.

Broward County has Special Needs Shelters for those who need assistance in administering their own injectable medications, with ostomy and/or catheter management, and/or require minimal monitoring of a medical condition.

- If you are dependent on life support systems, or on any medical device which requires electricity, be aware that the power may be off for some time during and after a hurricane. You **MUST** therefore plan to **RELOCATE EARLY** for any hurricane.
- All persons with a potentially severe medical need or dependency should contact their service provider or Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services at (954)537-2888 for detailed preparedness information.