



FLORIDA PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

In Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)



May 2020

Hurricane Preparedness During a Pandemic

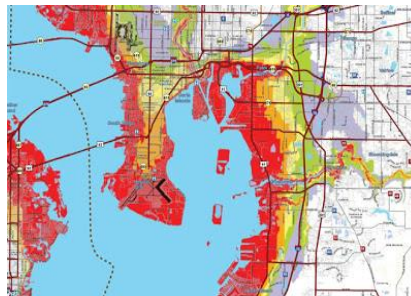
Preparing for a hurricane can be a stressful time in any year. But add to that the pandemic environment we are currently in and stress can go through the roof! As we try to keep our roofs intact (both literally and figuratively) let's look at some of ways the pandemic will make this hurricane season more challenging and what we can do now to prepare.

Hurricane supplies: In addition to the normal things you need in your [hurricane kit](#), think about the supplies you have needed during the COVID-19 outbreak. Hand sanitizer, wipes, bleach, face coverings... Stock up with some extras if you can.

Special Needs Registry: If you or someone you know has needs such as oxygen, medical equipment or other special requirements, 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.

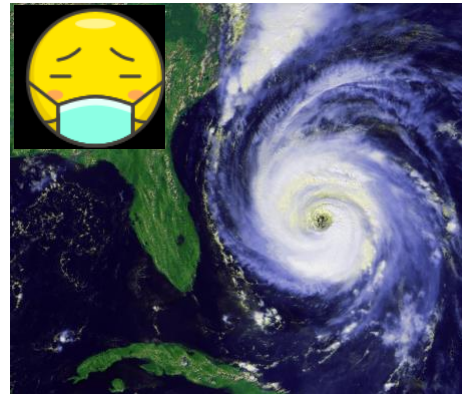
Listen to your local authorities: All disasters are local and every county will have different protocols best suited to their populations, communities and geography. Your local officials have been updating hurricane plans with the pandemic in mind. Listen to your local weather, emergency management and city/county officials. Heed their advice.

Evacuations: [Know Your Flood Zone!](#) Evacuations and sheltering will be much different this year.



Sheltering must take into consideration all the guidelines from the [Center for Disease Control](#) regarding social distancing, sanitizing areas, COVID-19 testing, etc. Standard congregate sheltering in a school gym, for instance, allows for 20 sq. ft. per shelter guest. Due to COVID-19, that space must now be increased to 110 sq. ft. per person. Hotels and college dorms might be used in some areas to shelter evacuees. Sheltering in place may be encouraged by your authorities if your home is built to withstand oncoming storms, so know your building codes and home structure type. But above all, listen to your local officials!

Mass feeding and supply distribution: Feeding people and distributing supplies in disaster affected communities will be much different this year. We may not have the large tent operations serving thousands of meals each day, but perhaps several smaller food and supply distribution centers.



Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc.

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Volunteers: Due to travel restrictions, volunteer teams will not be flocking in from other states to assist with debris removal, mucking and gutting this year. Many faith-based groups, including the PCUSA, have placed a hold on all travel. All [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) volunteer hosting sites are closed for the time being. We will need to rely on each other, perhaps forming local teams of commuter volunteers who can drive to nearby communities, work 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. You would look great in a PDA t-shirt!



Churches: Check and update your disaster plan. Know your presbytery's disaster protocol. Make sure contact numbers for staff and others are current. Review your insurance policies. Assist the vulnerable



people in your congregation and community by helping them gather hurricane supplies or putting up storm shutters, but please always remember social distancing. Churches are a vital part of a community's response and recovery. Because more shelter, feeding and distribution locations will be needed due to

social distancing and other complications caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, consider offering the use of your church. If you can offer your building or grounds as a secondary post-storm shelter space, a supply distribution center or a respite center for response workers, 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.

Year round, but especially during a disaster, [FLAPDAN](#) stays in close contact with Florida presbyteries, PDA, 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

The Value of Partnerships

FLAPDAN works with Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) throughout Florida, helping to provide guidance, volunteers and other resources, including presbytery support and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance recovery grants. [Volunteer Florida](#) recently announced the Florida Disaster Fund Hurricanes Irma and Michael grant award recipients and several of our LTRG partners received sizable grants. One of our partners in the Daytona area, [Volusia Interfaiths / Agencies Networking in Disaster \(VIND\)](#) received the news that they were awarded \$954,625! With this funding, VIND will be able to continue their mission of repairing and rebuilding homes that were damaged during Hurricane Irma. Upon hearing the news, VIND's Program Director Terry Foley immediately called Kathy Broyard. Terry said that if it weren't for the support of FLAPDAN, Central Florida Presbytery and previous grants from PDA to fund the Program Director position, the Volunteer Florida grant would not have been possible. She thanked the presbytery and PDA for putting faith in the work of VIND through Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. This PDA grant funding was made possible through [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) and your disaster donations. On behalf of the many LTRGs continuing to serve disaster survivors, many thanks to you for your support!



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