



# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

**for Businesses**

Resources to help local businesses  
and their staff prepare for disasters.

[www.esterochamber.org](http://www.esterochamber.org)

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# PREPARATION IS THE KEY

## **PURPOSE**

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This collection of links and resources is meant to supplement the already excellent guides available, not replace them. We focus on resources specifically for businesses and on the emotional health of business owners and their staff.

The Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce thanks the local contributors to this guide including State Insurance USA, NCF South Florida, United Way, Red Cross, The Village of Estero, FGCU, Lee Health, and the Florida Governor's Office.

While the Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce has attempted to verify the information and links herein as of March 2025, please verify information with your insurance carrier, attorneys, and government agencies before taking action. We do not claim to give any official, medical or legal advice by way of sharing this information.

# BEFORE THE STORM

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“ — 40% — ”

**Did you know that 40 percent of businesses never re-open their doors post-disaster? Don't become a statistic. Protect your business by developing a business disaster plan.**

**Florida Department of  
Emergency Management**

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## Always Be Prepared



Businesses need disaster supply kits year round, because hurricanes are not the only emergency we may encounter. Prepare enough supplies to survive without outside assistance long enough for emergency rescue workers to reach your area (up to 5 days). You should also have supplies for safe clean up, quick travel, and items you will need if surrounding areas have no power, fuel or communication. Don't depend on having internet or phone service after a storm. Don't forget to plan for pets, livestock, or live supplies. You'll need to accommodate feeding, security and waste.

# WHAT YOU NEED

These preparation guides are aimed primarily at residents and are the official publications of the agencies in charge of handling emergencies in our area.



## All Hazards Guide

Lee County Emergency Management's Official Guide.



## Fl Hurricane Guide

The State of Florida official list of supplies and preparations.

**Businesses** have additional things to consider when preparing for disasters, such as asset protection, data backup, and employee contact information. These guides address those issues.



## Ready.gov Toolkit

A federal preparation guide with helpful checklists to help businesses prepare.



## FPL Guide

A guide specific to FPL business customers on how to prepare and respond in a storm.



## Flood Zone Maps

Know your flood zone to appropriately prepare and plan for evacuation.



## Sales Tax Holidays

Florida holds sales tax holidays on disaster supplies. Know when to stock up.

# HAVE ON HAND

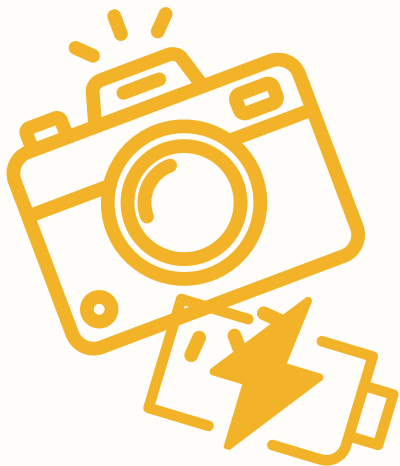
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## Paperwork

- **Insurance Policies** & Phone Number
- **Contact Information** for Staff (including emergency contacts, evacuation location)
- **Important Phone Numbers** for utilities, vendors, property managers



## Equipment



- An antennae based **tv or radio** for emergency broadcasts with batteries
- Back-up of **business data** in a secure format or location: include recent financials, tax documents, bank statements, inventory list, vehicle VINS and insurance info
- A **camera** to document before/after condition and damage (take photos/video of your property before locking up)

# EMERGENCY INFO

While we have multiple agencies that respond in an emergency, there are a few official sources.

## Emergency Orders

Lee County Emergency Operations Center declares evacuations, shelter openings, and road closures. 9-1-1

## FloridaDisaster.org

The State can declare a state of emergency, deploy SERT, issue executive orders, and provides links to official resources.

## FEMA

Provides emergency response, financial assistance, and recovery loans to businesses.

## AlertLee

## AlertCollier

Be notified by phone or email of official emergency alerts.

## Village of Estero

### Bookmark these pages

## Florida Traffic

511 - FDOT traffic conditions, construction, delays, closures.

## Hurricane Center

NOAA official source of forecast cones.

## Local Weather

NBC-2 live radar and local weather maps.

# AFTER THE STORM

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Before, during, and after the storm

**Emergencies:**

**9-1-1**

**Information:**

**2-1-1**

## State Insurance USA Tips

Take photos of all damage, keep all receipts, contact your insurance carrier, beware of unlicensed contractors.

“

Recovering from a disaster is usually a gradual process. Safety is a primary issue, as are mental and physical well-being...Your first concern after a disaster is your family's health and safety. You need to consider possible safety issues and monitor family health and well-being.

FEMA

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## Immediate Help

**Red Cross:** (305) 644-1200

Our region is under the South Florida office.

**NCF S. FL:** (239) 240-8171

Referrals to churches providing assistance.

## Recovery Aid

**DisasterAssistance.gov**

Federal Aid programs

**FloridaDisaster.biz** State

emergency contacts and relief for businesses.

## **Florida Small Business Rebuild Loan Programs**

**Florida Division of Consumer**

**Services** for issues with insurance, price-gouging, fraudulent contractors, etc. 1-877-693-5236

**IRS**

Business Casualty, Disaster, and Theft Loss Workbook

**IRS Relief in Federally Declared Disaster Area** 866-562-5227



# Taking Care of your EMOTIONAL HEALTH



## Help Ease Anxiety

Develop a checklist and evacuation plan

- AAA's annual hurricane season survey shows 19% of Floridians do not prepare ahead of time
- 24% would not evacuate

## Don't Overexpose

yourself, staff and especially children, to the news.

## Take Care of Your Body

Avoid alcohol and drugs.

## Get the Facts

Reliable information is crucial to determining your risk

- [Lee County Emergency Operations Center](#)
- [Florida Department of Health in Lee County](#)

## Make Connections

Healthy relationships and strong support systems with family and friends is vital.

## Practice Self-Care

Meditation is a great way to help reduce symptoms and improve your overall well-being.

# COUNSELING SERVICES

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- Contact NCF South Florida for a list of churches and ministries that provide Christian counseling services  
(239) 240-8171
- Lee Health Behavioral Health (239) 343-9180
- Park Royal Hospital (888) 593-1321
- Saluscare (239) 275-3222
- Bonita Senior Center (239) 399-4881
- David Lawrence Centers For Behavioral Health  
(239) 455-8500
- Kids Minds Matter (239) 214-0921
- FGCU Community Counseling Center (239) 745-4777



# HELP THE COMMUNITY

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The Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce is a firm believer that a charitable and connected business community is one of the pillars that makes our Village strong and resilient. Businesses play an essential role in an area's recovery after a disaster. Here are a few ways your business can participate.

## **Distribute Hurricane Guides**

Businesses, organizations and public facilities can distribute official All Hazards Guides. Contact Lee County EMS at (239) 533-3911.

## **Provide Non-Emergency Relief**

Provide a location for those without power to cool down, obtain water, and recharge their phones.

## **Focus on Re-Opening**

The Fl. Dept. of Business & Professional Regulation ranks the reopening of local businesses as one of the most important parts of a community's recovery after a disaster—not only to rebuild the local economy, but also to provide community services to impacted residents.

## **Offer your Resources**

If your location has storage space or a commercial kitchen, let emergency management know ahead of time that they can utilize your facility to store supplies or feed emergency responders if needed.

## **Volunteer**

United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties coordinates with local governments to match volunteers to needs. Please contact them rather than self-deploying to make sure resources go to areas of greatest need, and where volunteering is safe.



United Way

# LINKS

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All Hazards Guide

<https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan/ahg>

Florida Disaster.org

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/florida-hurricane-guide/>

Ready.gov Business Guide

<https://www.ready.gov/business>

Florida Power & Light Business Guide

<https://www.fpl.com/storm/business/guide.html>

Lee County Flood Maps

<https://leegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=f1e5ab7d08514f93b1f04f252d42f389>

FEMA <https://fema.gov>

AlertLee Emergency Notification

<https://alertlee.com>

AlertCollier Emergency Notification

<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085614923/login>

Village of Estero

<https://estero-fl.gov/hurricane-season-june-1-november-30/>

FL 511 Traffic Maps <https://fl511.com>

National Hurricane Center

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

NBC2 Local Weather Radar

<https://www.nbc-2.com/article/florida-hurricane-guide-live-radar-hurricane-tropical-storm-tracking/60650783>

DisasterAssistance.gov

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov>

FloridaDisaster.biz State Emergency Contacts

<https://floridajobs.org/floridadisaster.biz/contact-us-2/state-emergency-contacts-2>

Florida Small Business Rebuild Loan Programs

<https://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource>

Florida Department of Consumer Services

<https://myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/storm/resources/lists/ConsumerServicesDataProvider/hurricane-ian/e36e167d-2212-4e1f-96dc-b18bf6323812>

IRS Business Casualty, Disaster, and Theft Loss Workbook

<https://www.irs.gov/publications/p584b>

IRS Preparedness for Businesses

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/emergency-preparedness-plans-for-businesses-should-include-financial-records>

IRS Relief in a Federally Declared Disaster Area

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3067esp.pdf>

Emergency Operations Center

<https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan/eoc>

Florida Department of Health | Lee County

<https://lee.floridahealth.gov>

United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades | Volunteer

<https://volunteer.unitedwaylee.org>



The Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to:

To **serve** its membership through charitable, educational and/or business activities.

To **promote** responsible economic, business and cultural growth and development in and around the Estero community.

To **preserve and enhance** quality of life through its beautification projects and other community based activities.

To **provide** an inclusive community for equality-minded business owners and professionals to connect and collaborate.

## Contact Us



239-390-1137



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[www.esterochamber.org](http://www.esterochamber.org)



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