



## LOWofJ Hurricane Irma Information

Here is some additional information that has been sent to us from the City of Venice, Venice Fire Department, Englewood Chamber of Commerce, Sarasota County Emergency Management and Attorney Becker & Poliakoff that may be helpful. Again, we are not endorsing any company or product or verifying the accuracy of the information, but want to provide you with as much information as possible for review. Above all, be safe!

### **Venice Fire Department:**

1. Start running your ice makers now and bagging the ice in freezer bags. Fill as much space in between your freezer items as you can.
2. Freeze regular tap water for pets, cleaning or drinking in Tupperware-type containers. Remember to leave a small bit of space between the top of the water & the lids so the ice expands but doesn't crack the container.
3. Start using up your perishables to make more room for ice in the freezer.
4. Fill up (gas) all vehicles & check tires & oil.
5. Cash from ATM, at least enough to get you through tolls and gas out of town. Call your bank if you plan on leaving the state so they don't freeze your card for out-of-area "suspicious" transactions.
6. All important docs, screenshot & send to your email or mail to family out of state. Take originals in sealed bags or plastic bins.
7. Pet & livestock food & supplies. Vet records in case you need to shelter then at a storm-safe facility.

8. Evacuation plans --share with family members so they know where you're headed.
9. Consider putting heirlooms & photos in plastic bins in a high place, second floor, or safe room if you don't plan on taking them with you.
10. Secure all firearms and ammunition properly.
11. Place old rags & beach towels on your windowsills and at bottom of doors. Even with the best windows & shutters, water seeping from the wind pressure happens. A few damp towels is better than soaked drywall or floors.
12. Shutter windows and doors and bring everything outside into your garage or house now. Do not wait until the day before. Better to get done early and relax than wait until it's too late.
13. If you don't already have your hurricane supplies, get them now.
14. Charge all digital devices.
15. Place a cup of water in freezer. When frozen, place a coin on top and put in freezer. If power goes out you will know because the coin will float to bottom.
16. Be sure you have all necessary medications for at least a week.
17. Store important documents in an empty dishwasher and close the door. Water will not get in it.
18. If authorities advise evacuating, then evacuate.

[City of Venice Fire Department Preparing Tips](#)

## **BECKER & POLIAKOFF (LEGAL)**

# **Hurricane irma**

An important message from Becker & Poliakoff

Dear Clients and Friends,

In light of Hurricane Irma's impending landfall, we urge you to take all necessary measures to ensure your safety and the safety of your loved ones. It cannot be overstated that Hurricane Irma is potentially very dangerous and can impact not only residents of Florida but residents of the entire Southeast Corridor.

Please heed the warnings and instructions provided by state and local government officials to minimize your risk. We are thinking of you and wish you and your family safety in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Your friends and colleagues at Becker & Poliakoff

**Below are some helpful links. Consider printing this material.**

[Ready](#) (actions to take when under a hurricane watch - Department of Homeland Security)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (federal disaster response and recovery information)

[Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) (the latest emergency information)

[Filing and Settling Insurance Claims after a Disaster](#) (Insurance Information Institute)

[Red Cross Emergency App](#) (instant access to emergency alerts and life-saving information)

[Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Guide](#) (Becker & Poliakoff's complete preparedness and recovery resource for community associations)

**P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@BPHurricane](#) for the latest news and events from our Disaster Recovery Group.**

The Becker & Poliakoff Client CARE Center is available for client questions and requests at your convenience. Contact us toll free at 1-844-CAREBP1 (227-3271) or via email at [CARE@bplegal.com](mailto:CARE@bplegal.com). You can also visit our website at <http://www.becker-poliakoff.com/client-care-center>.  
[www.bplegal.com](http://www.bplegal.com)

## **Citizens Insurance:**

### **Hurricane Irma: Citizens Is Ready to Help**

September 6, 2017

Hurricane Irma may have the potential to cause damage to your property. We hope your family stays safe and that your property remains undamaged. One of the best ways to help prevent storm damage is to close your storm shutters if you have them and stay tuned to and obey all local and state advisories for your area.

Citizens is here for you if your property does experience damage and you would like to file a claim. The important information below will assist you with Citizens' claims process.

#### ***Call Citizens First to Report A Loss***

Call Citizens' toll-free claims hotline at **866.411.2742** as soon as you become aware of or suspect any damage from the storm. Trained professionals are available 24/7 to take your claim information and start you on the road to recovery.

Have the following information available when you call:

- Your policy number
- Your contact information, including any temporary addresses or phone numbers
- Description of damage (Example: tree fell on roof; lightning struck house)
- Mortgage company information (if applicable)

Call even if you don't have all of this information. Citizens will be able to assist you. To learn more about reporting a claim:

- Go to the [Report a Claim](#) page of Citizens' website to learn more about the process.
- Review Citizens' guide to [Reporting a Claim in 4 Easy Steps](#).

### **Don't Sign Away Your Rights**

Be careful signing over your insurance benefits to anyone. Some contractors may ask you to sign an assignment of benefits (AOB) contract before starting emergency repairs. Signing over your benefits can cause increased costs for which you could be held responsible. You are urged to exercise caution before signing any documents that give your insurance benefits to someone else.

Please call Citizens first and see our [Assignment of Benefits: What You Need to Know](#) brochure to learn about the risks.

### **Stay Informed**

Visit our [Hurricane Irma Storm Tracker](#) webpage for more information.

Call Citizens toll-free at **866.411.2742** if you have any questions or need additional information about a claim.

## **All Faiths Food Bank:**

### **All Faiths Food Bank is Preparing for Hurricane Irma**

All Faiths Food Bank is preparing for the potential impact of Hurricane Irma as it continues to track towards Florida. As one of the lead emergency response organizations in Sarasota and the State of Florida, All Faiths is taking the steps necessary for immediate activation.

Should the hurricane affect our region, we will provide emergency support for individuals impacted by Hurricane Irma.

*As of now, all operations and distributions are continuing as normal. Please continue to*

*check our website, [www.allfaithsfoodbank.org](http://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org), and [Facebook](#) page for updates.*

The impending storm is serious. We ask you to please heed the warnings and protect yourself and loved ones. Thank you for all you do to help others in our community.

Please be safe.

Sandra Frank  
CEO, All Faiths Food Bank

Check [www.allfaithsfoodbank.org](http://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org) or [All Faiths Food Bank's FaceBook](#) page for updates.

[All Faiths Food Bank](#)

## **Sarasota County:**

[View the Sarasota County Emergency Management Press Conference - Sept. 6, 2017](#)

### **Emergency Management Message**

Sarasota County has declared a local state of emergency, which will allow us to request and utilize additional resources and take actions in preparation for Hurricane Irma's effects.

We are closely working with area agencies including the sheriff's office and the school district to share this message and ensure we are all on the same page.

At this time, Sarasota County officials are urging the community to stay calm, and prepare ahead of Hurricane Irma's arrival in Florida.

Remember, the FIRST 72 are on you, so it's important to prepare now, while there's still time.

Water, food and medicine should be well-stocked. Fill up your vehicles now. Protect important documents.

It's also important to remember not to panic, as county government operations will continue to operate normally through Friday.

Listen to the information we share through, our social media channels, our website and our media partners.

Doing so will help to ensure you are prepared, well-informed and ready to protect your family and your property.

Please visit [scgov.net](http://scgov.net) or call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000 for more information.

[Visit the County's IRMA Stay Informed Webpage](#)

### **Sandbags Update**

Sand or other fill material are available at Twin Lakes Park, Newtown Estates Park, and South County Fleet Facility. You should bring your own bags. A limited supply of bags may become available. You may use garbage bags and mulch bags in place of traditional bags.

*Twin Lakes:* 6700 Clark Rd, Sarasota, FL 34241

*Newtown Estates Park:* 2800 Newtown Estates Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34234

*South County Fleet Facility:* 4551 Englewood Road, Venice, FL 34293

### **School District Update**

Sarasota County schools will be closed on Friday as a precaution, and because some will be used as shelters for Sarasota County residents and evacuees from other Florida counties.

Communications will be handled directly with parents and staff through recorded phone messages and emails. Everyone is urged to keep an eye on [SarasotaCountySchools.net](http://SarasotaCountySchools.net), as well as the Sarasota County Schools' Facebook, Twitter, and mobile app.

These channels will be updated as the situation develops, but the main message is to be prepared, stay calm and stay tuned.

### **Sheriff's Office Update**

As of right now, the sheriff's office administrative offices will be open for business on Friday as will other county government offices.

In terms of shelters, the slight eastern movement of the storm has moved shelter and evacuation decisions back 24 hours. However, IF shelters are opened and announced, we will help push that information out through our social media channels.

Citizens should know that our personnel are trained and prepared to respond to both natural and manmade disasters. Citizens should also be reminded that our Public Safety Communications Center is a 24/7 operation and will continue to push out important safety information and public advisories by relying the traditional media partners as well as by way of the sheriff's office social media accounts.

Please keep in mind the roads will be busy as citizens continue to evacuate and individuals head north through the state from south Florida.

Use patience, good judgment, and stay safe.

### **Important Links**

[Know Your Evacuation Zone](#) - No evacuations have been called for Sarasota County, as of 10 am on Thursday, Sept. 7. This map shows in which zone your home is located and shelters. If you need to go to a shelter, please check the webpage or local media for a list of which ones are open. None are currently open and not all will be opened.

[Shelter Kit Checklist](#) - Every home should have a Disaster Survival Kit. If you go to a shelter, these are the kinds of items you should take with you.

[Emergency Services webpage](#)

**For non-emergency information, call the County Contact Center at (941) 861-5000.**

For those monitoring the storm from out of town, please follow on media channels and social media in order to leave the Contact Center's lines available for addressing important storm related issues.

Until we Connect Again,

**Your Neighborhood Services Team**

Jane Grogg  
Miranda Lansdale  
Megan Lui  
Katie White

## City of Venice: 2 Items

This is the City of Venice Hurricane Irma Update. On Friday September 8th the City will be declaring a local state of emergency starting at 12:01 a.m. Currently Irma has taken a slight turn to the east but it is still early in projections and we are still in the cone of uncertainty. City of Venice offices will be closed on Friday and there will be a code red notification for the re-opening of City offices. Trash pickups are to remain normal until further notice.

Please follow [www dot S C G o v dot net](http://www.scgov.net) for information on possible shelter openings or you can call the 941-861-5000 information number. At this time there is no mandatory evacuation but if you are in low lying areas you may be vulnerable to flooding. Please check with your neighbor to see if they received this notification and if they didn't please encourage them to sign for Code red notifications at [venicegov.com](http://venicegov.com) or contact the City at 941-486-2626. Thank you

### **Sand Bags**

Sand is currently available for bagging at two locations in the City of Venice: at Avenue Des Parques and West Venice Ave. behind City Hall, and at the Wellfield police range off Pinebrook Road (same locations as Wednesday). **At this time the city is offering sand, but no bags are available and citizens must bring their own bags.** Shovels will be provided.

**More bags are expected to arrive mid-afternoon today (Thursday).** Another notice will go out when these are available.

The city distributed 5,000 bags yesterday before running out.

Also, White Cement Specialties, 202 S. Seaboard Ave., has bags and sand available for sale.



Lorraine Anderson

City of Venice Public Information Officer

401 West Venice Avenue

Venice, FL 34285

Via City Hall Switchboard: (941) 486-2626 ext. 7401

Direct: (941) 882-7401

[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

Like us on Facebook: Venice, Florida Municipal Government

Twitter: @CityofVeniceFL

Instagram: CityofVeniceFlorida



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Also visit [lowofj.com](http://lowofj.com)

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