SEVERE WEATHER TERMS -- WHAT THEY MEAN

Hurricane Season – June 1 through November 30 is officially designated as hurricane season.

Advisory – A message released by the hurricane center, usually at 6 hour intervals, updating information on storms and hurricanes, including watches and warnings whenever they are in effect. A special advisory is a message given any time there is a significant change in weather conditions or change in any previously released warnings. An intermediate advisory updates information at 2 to 3 hour intervals, whenever a watch or warning is in effect.

Small Craft Warnings – When a hurricane or tropical storm threatens a coastal area, small craft are advised to remain in port and not to venture into the open sea.

Tropical Disturbance – An area of thunderstorms moving through the tropics.

Tropical Depression – An area of low pressure with a rotary circulation of clouds and winds to 38 mph.

Tropical Storm – Counterclockwise circulation of clouds and winds 39 to 73 mph. The storm is assigned a name.

Tropical Wave – High heat concentration in the atmosphere.

Hurricane – A tropical storm that has reached winds of 74 mph or more.

Storm Surge – A rise in tides caused by a hurricane as it moves over or near the coastline. It can be much higher than the normal high tide, with breaking waves on top.

Gale Warning – Storm with non-cyclonic winds of 30 to 54 mph expected.

Storm Warning – Storm with non-cyclonic winds of 55 to 73 mph expected.

Hurricane Watch – The alert given when a hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours with sustained winds of 74 mph or more accompanied by heavy rain and high waves.

Tornado – A violent local storm that extends to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 mph.

Tornado Watch – The alert given that tornados and severe thunderstorms are possible in the area.

Tornado Warning – The alert given that a tornado has been detected in the area: **TAKE SHELTER.**

SAFFIR / SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

All hurricanes are dangerous, but some are more so than others. The way wind, storm surge, and other factors combine determine the hurricane's destructive power. To make comparisons easier and to make the predicted hazards of approaching hurricanes clearer to emergency forces, hurricane forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) use a disaster-potential scale which assigns storms to five categories. Category 1 is a minimum hurricane; category 5 is the worst case.

The criteria for each category are following. This scale can be used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast with a hurricane.

Category 1 - Winds 74 – 95 mph or storm surge 4 – 5 feet above normal*. No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.

Category 2 - Winds 96 – 110 mph or storm surge 6 – 8 feet above normal*. Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2 – 4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft break moorings.

Category 3 - Winds 111 – 130 mph or storm surge 9 – 12 feet above normal*. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures, with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet above sea level may be flooded inland as far as 6 miles.

Category 4 - Winds 131 – 155 mph or storm surge 13 – 18 feet above normal*. More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.

Category 5 - Winds greater than155 mph or storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal*. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failure with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 – 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

* *Actual storm surge values will vary considerably depending on coastal configurations and other factors.*

HURRICANE INFORMATION:

One cannot be certain whether this area (Port Orange / Daytona Beach) will receive or be affected by "hurricane activity"; therefore, we must be prepared.

It costs nothing and it is very important to be prepared and have a plan in advance ready for a hurricane and/or evacuation. It may cost our lives if we are not prepared.

The importance of evacuation, if necessary

1. Once the effects (wind, etc.) of the hurricane increases, the ability to cross the bridges to the mainland may be impossible.
2. Electricity may be off for an indeterminate time; therefore, there would be no energy source for stoves, air conditioners or elevator use.
3. Sewage may be affected.
4. Flooding could affect structural stability of the building.
5. **No one** may be allowed access to the peninsula for emergency services due to possible flooding and destruction.
6. Access to the mainland for food, money and medical services will be unattainable.
7. Watch the weather forecast and **do as directed**.

Preparation – No Evacuation

1. Battery operated radio with sufficient number of batteries for back up.
2. Bottled water or in advance save plastic containers which can be filled with water. Suggest ½ gallon of water per day per person.
3. Fill bath tub(s) with water to use to flush toilets and toiletry.
4. Non-electric can opener
5. Canned foods (i.e. ham, spam, baked beans, pasta, vegetables, juice, tuna, etc.)
6. Flashlights with extra batteries or candles with sufficient matches or lighters to light them. (Do not leave lit candles unattended or where they could be blown over and cause a fire.)
7. Kitty litter for waste disposal.
8. **Medication** and other medical needs for at least 3 – 5 days.

9. Get money in advance, as banks and ATM machines may not be accessible or functioning for days.

10. Remove all furniture, etc. from patio.

11. Tape windows to prevent shatter and close blinds. Place towels at the bottom of the front door to absorb water if it comes between the door and frame.

12. Stay away from windows and doors.

13. Turn refrigerator / freezer to highest degree and avoid opening their doors.

14. Fill car with gas.

Preparation – Evacuation

1. Inform the manager of where you are going. Public shelters should be considered if you do not have family, friends, or cannot go to a hotel in a safe area.

2. Prepare an evacuation kit (package) in advance. This should contain:
   a. copies of mortgage, deeds, Will, health and other insurance information
   b. medications and prescriptions for renewal
   c. sufficient clothing for three (3) to five (5) days
   d. toiletries (i.e. toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving necessities)
   e. cash (you determine the amount)
   f. books, cards, etc. for amusement and diversion

3. Bring inside all patio furniture, etc.

4. Consider placing tape (crisscross) on windows and tape around your exterior door to prevent water from coming in between the door and its frame.

5. Place lamps, etc. on the floor against a protective wall.

6. Remove paintings, etc. from walls.

7. Turn refrigerator to highest degree.

8. Cover furniture with plastic covers if available.

9. Close all windows, doors, and blinds.

10. Inform at least one primary member of your family or a responsible person of your intentions, address, and phone number.

11. Fill your car with gas. (During hurricane season, it is wise to keep at least ½ tank of gas in your car at all times.

12. If going to a shelter, take a blanket and pillow.

13. Call before returning to ensure the electricity is on and the elevator is working.

Shelter Locations

Atlantic High School (Special Needs)	1250 Reed Canal Road, Port Orange
Horizon Elementary	4751 Hidden Lakes Drive, Port Orange
Sweetwater Elementary	5800 Victoria Gardens Blvd., Port Orange
Creekside Middle School	6801 Airport Road, Port Orange

Special Needs register with
Volusia County Emergency Management
49 Keyton Drive, Daytona Beach, FL 32124
386-258-4088 386-736-5980 386-423-3395

Shelter Transportation
386-322-5100 386-943-7050 386-424-6810

Citizen's Information Center (CIC)
for emergency information operated during disaster only
866-345-0345 386-248-1792

Please inform the office if you need aid or direction.

WE CARE ABOUT YOU.