



# County Connection INBOX

Hurricane & Safety News: E-Lert



## SURVIVING THE STORM

IT'S EVERYONE'S **RESPONSIBILITY**

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES:

Pinellas County Emergency Management: (727) 464-3800  
[www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)

Find your evacuation level: (727) 453-3150  
[pubgis.co.pinellas.fl.us/hurricane\\_txt](http://pubgis.co.pinellas.fl.us/hurricane_txt)

Sign up for the Community Notification Service to receive text emergency information on your cell phone: (888) 689-8905

Register for special needs transportation: (727) 464-3800  
[www.pinellascounty.org/forms/special-needs.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/special-needs.htm)

Set your SAME-equipped weather alert radio for Pinellas County - enter code 012103

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### ▶ **SEPTEMBER IS THE PEAK OF THE SEASON**

Ask any weather forecaster and you'll discover that September is the busiest month for the Atlantic hurricane season. Since 1851, more than one third of all tropical systems formed during this one month! What makes September so active? Tropical waters have had several months to absorb the sun's summer energy, with temperatures near their peak. Wind speeds in the upper atmosphere also tend to slow considerably, eliminating a lot of the wind shear that tears storms apart earlier in the season. This period of greater activity runs through mid-October, so pay extra close attention to the weather every day to ensure you don't get caught by surprise.



Are you ready for the height of hurricane season? Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) for the latest tips and advice to keep you, your family and your home safe.

## ▶ LOCALS WIN SURVIVAL ITEMS

Learning how to “Know Your Zone” paid off for some lucky winners. By stopping by the bucket truck on a recent appearance, Anne Meier, Danny Galuski, Mike Vermillion and Lisa Manners won either a generator or a hurricane supply kit from Wal-Mart. The last chance to win this year is coming up at the My Safe Home Hurricane Expo at Coachman Park on September 29, 2007. *(For event info, see story below.)*

## ▶ IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED

We still need to do all we can to encourage the elderly and disabled in Pinellas County to be prepared. Make sure their families and caregivers have made proper arrangements for them during hurricanes. If they need transportation to a public special-needs shelter, then they need to be preregistered by calling their local fire department (check phone book) or Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800. Remember that preparing for a hurricane can be confusing and difficult for the most vulnerable in our community. Extend a hand to help. You might just save a life.

Don't forget to encourage your faith organization, employer or community group to start a Host Home program to shelter fellow employees and members. Give someone peace of mind and a safe haven from the storm. For more information, go to the [Host Homes](#) webpage.

## ▶ KNOW YOUR HURRICANE DEDUCTIBLE

Hurricane deductibles are different than other deductibles. The deductible from hurricane damage depends on the value of the insured property and applies only to hurricane claims, that is damage resulting from a hurricane declared by the National Weather Service. The consumer can choose a deductible-based insured value.

Homeowner Hurricane Deductible Table		
Insured Value	Minimum Allowed	Maximum Allowed
\$0 - \$50,000	\$250	2% of insured value
\$50,001 - \$99,999	\$500	2% of insured value
\$100,000 - \$500,000	\$500	10% of insured value
\$500,001 and up	\$500	Unlimited

multiple deductible payments. There are now limits to the number of times a hurricane deductible is paid: once per calendar year, per insurance company. If a consumer changes companies two deductibles could be paid. Once the hurricane deductible has been met, subsequent hurricane losses are subject to the *other perils* deductible.

The hurricane deductible is applied when the first hurricane of the season strikes. If a second hurricane strikes in the same season, the deductible for that hurricane would be the remaining amount from the first hurricane deductible, or the *all-other-perils* deductible of the policy, whichever is greater.

If there is a third storm, the method of applying deductibles for subsequent hurricanes within the same calendar year would be the same process: either the remaining hurricane deductible, or the *all-other-perils* deductible, whichever is greater, would apply for each additional hurricane.

For more information on insurance issues, call the Florida Department of Financial Services at (800) 342-2762 or visit [www.fldfs.com](http://www.fldfs.com).

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## COME ON OUT TO THE MY SAFE FLORIDA HOME EXPO

Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Harborview Center and Coachman Park, Downtown Clearwater

Come out to this free event where you can see hurricane-resistant products, learn how to protect yourself and your family from the threats these storms pose and get answers to your disaster preparedness questions. City, county and state emergency management officials will be on hand to give you the latest information on how best to weather the storm.

For more information or to apply for an inspection, visit the My Safe Florida Home program's website at [www.MySafeFloridaHome.com](http://www.MySafeFloridaHome.com) or at the program's toll-free helpline, (866) 513-MSFH (6734).

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## KEEP YOUR BOAT SHIPSHAPE

Hey, boat owners, don't let hurricane season take the wind out of your boating fun. Even the most rigorous protective measures will not guarantee that your boat will survive a storm, but these actions will certainly help lessen damages to your vessel and lead the way to smooth sailing through the upcoming hurricane season:

- Always keep your watercraft in good condition. Be sure that all systems are functioning.
- Review your insurance policies and keep them up to date.
- Keep batteries fully charged and make certain bilge pumps are fully operational.
- Create a hurricane plan for your boat. Be sure to file a copy of the plan with your marina operator.
- Take photographs of your boat, write a description along with an inventory and put them with your important papers.
- Write up a checklist of actions to take if a hurricane or tropical storm develops. Begin implementing your hurricane checklist when a Hurricane Watch is issued by the National Hurricane Center. Don't wait for a Hurricane Warning or evacuation order to act.
- Purchase and stow mooring line to use in the event of a hurricane. As a general rule, line should be twice the diameter of your normal line.
- Talk with your marina about their hurricane plans and how to protect your boat.

- Remove all loose items on deck including bimini tops, plastic side enclosures, sails and dinghies. Store large items on land. Store small, loose items, including antennas, below deck.
- Shut off fuel lines at the tank and close through hull fittings.

For more information about how to prepare your boat, call the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office at (813) 228-2189, or visit [www.boatsafe.com](http://www.boatsafe.com) for hurricane boating safety tips.

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## ▶ WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Hurricanes can form just about anywhere in the North Atlantic in the heart of the hurricane season, but some storms have become legendary because of their size and the distance they traveled. Those storms are often referred to as Cape Verde-type hurricanes.



A Cape Verde-type hurricane develops near the Cape Verde islands, off the west coast of Africa. The average hurricane season has about two Cape Verde-type hurricanes, which are usually the most intense storms of the season because they often have plenty of warm open ocean over which to develop before encountering land.

Remember, it doesn't matter exactly where a storm forms - all hurricanes can be extremely dangerous. Stay tuned to local weather and obey all evacuation orders.

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## ▶ WE TAKE OUR SHOW ON THE ROAD

Want to get even more informed about hurricane preparedness? Give Pinellas County's Speakers Bureau a call at (727) 464-3000. An emergency preparedness expert can present at your meeting or event, providing valuable information that may save your life. Pinellas County Extension also offers a list of classes on home and yard improvements that can help you be more hurricane ready. Go to [www.pinellascounty.org/events](http://www.pinellascounty.org/events) or call (727) 582-2100.

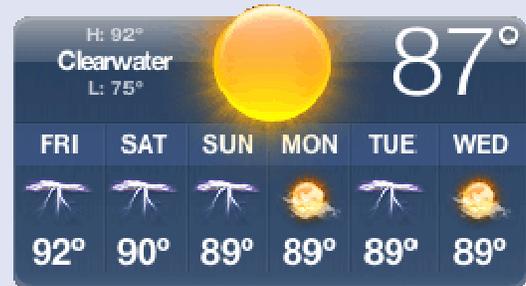
## ▶ WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Stop Disasters Game [www.stopdisastersgame.org](http://www.stopdisastersgame.org)

Think you have the skills to prevent a hurricane catastrophe on a small Caribbean island? How about a wildfire disaster in Western Australia? This simulation, created by the United Nation's International Strategies for Disaster Reduction agency, challenges participants to build safer buildings and make other key infrastructure improvements to protect the vulnerable population. Give it a try - it's not as easy as you think!

## ✓ SEPTEMBER'S CHECKLIST

- Carefully monitor weather forecasts daily to stay up to date on the latest conditions.



- We are now in the heart of the hurricane season. Check your supplies of food, batteries, etc., and ensure you have enough on hand should a storm approach.
- If you haven't yet, learn how to program and operate your weather alert radio. Find the Pinellas County programming code for your weather alert radio at the beginning of this monthly E-lert.

What is Pinellas County's hurricane preparation specialist Tom Iovino reading this month?

### *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History*

by Erik Larson

ISBN-13: 978-0375708275

The captivating true story of Isaac M. Cline, the meteorologist in charge of forecasts for Galveston, Texas, teaches us lessons that still have value today. Cline's confidence in his city's invulnerability to hurricanes set the stage for the nation's deadliest national disaster. The story is taken from Cline's memoirs and survivors' harrowing firsthand accounts of this lethal storm that claimed between 8,000 and 12,000 lives.

## ▶ WEATHER FACTS OF THE MONTH

- The leaves will be turning... there will be a chill in the air... a lot further north! But, that doesn't mean we won't be entering autumn on Sunday, Sept. 23 – the day of the autumnal equinox. After that, we will be having more hours of night than day. Eventually, the decreased sunlight will lead to cooler temperatures here....
- If you trace your finger around a globe at the same latitude as Florida, you'll find some of the most arid land in the world – the Sahara, Arabian, Cholistan, Sonoran and the Chihuahuan deserts. Check out approximately 30 degrees south of the Equator – you'll find the Kalahari, Namib, Australian, and Patagonian deserts there. Why is Florida not a desert even though we are at the same latitude as these arid areas? Our geography, which allows for frequent thunderstorms, keeps us wetter than other areas at the same latitude.

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