



Keep your Home Safe While You're Away

Whether you're a snowbird returning to roost up north or simply heading out to your favorite vacation spot for a little R&R, it pays to be smart about closing up your home. Following a few basic precautions can help assure that when you return you aren't dealing with unexpected problems.

- **Keep your home secure.** Thieves target homes that look as though they are unattended. One of the best ways to keep your home safe while you're away is to make it look as though you have never left.
- **Ask the post office to hold your mail** if no one will be at your home to collect it, the same can be said for newspaper delivery.
- **Consider putting certain lights on timers in the house.** Have someone open or close the drapes periodically, which also makes the house look occupied.
- **Make sure your property stays maintained as far as landscaping and general upkeep.** While you may be out having a great time elsewhere don't allow things to go wild back home. Unsightly or neglected properties are eyesores in the neighborhood (not to mention neglected properties can alert would-be thieves to the fact that no one is home). Keep your gardening and landscaping services current, even if you're not around to see the results, your neighbors will also thank you. Don't move potted plants together in one spot for ease of watering, they may not respond well to their new homes.
- **If you have a landline phone, consider turning down the volume on the ringer** so the phone won't ring continuously alerting others that no one is home.
- **Open your dishwasher door to allow excess moisture** to evaporate and prevent mold growth. Mold is more than unsightly, it can also be dangerous.
- **Even if you are away for an extended amount of time you do not need to unplug the refrigerator.** Unplugging it may be helpful in saving energy, but it creates a haven for mold and is not recommended. It may be wise not to leave any food in your refrigerator (depending on how long you're away) but otherwise allow it to run.
- **Turn off water to the hot water heater and washing machine.** Unplug, or flip the circuit breaker to these devices.
- **Remember to unplug computers or have them connected to a surge protector** in case there are any power surges while you are away.
- **It's a good idea to unplug non-essential appliances** to prevent fire hazards and possible damage from power surges.
- **If your home has a fireplace, close the flue to prevent collection of debris or pests.**
- **It's a good idea to leave a set of keys with a friend or neighbor who will be staying locally.** Be sure to leave your keys with someone you can trust with important information like your security alarm code. Leave all contact information for how to reach you while you are away, that way if there is any kind of emergency in your home someone will be able to attend to it in a timely manner. It's also a good idea to have someone stop by periodically to make sure the home is in good condition, that the air conditioning is functioning properly, and to flush the toilets.
- **Be sure to register with the Town when you leave.** The House Check Report sheet is available by contacting the Police Substation at the Strand (305) 935-0940 or through Town Hall (305) 932-0744. The information included on the list helps the Town and Police Department know when you'll be away, when you get back, and other information regarding important contacts and security.

By following these tips you can enjoy your time away from Golden Beach that much easier. Have a great trip and we'll see you when you get back!

Around TOWN

Play it Cool

Florida's seasons can be subtle; the year meanders with a blend of bright sun, ocean breezes and balmy temperatures. In Florida it's almost like having summer all year long. We all know what that means: barbeques, lounging under the chickee huts at the Beach Pavilion, taking in a good read by the pool, and lots of barefoot time. Only question is: are you ready? Before heading out it is important to remember to plan accordingly. Follow some simple precautions and your summer will be smooth sailing.

- **Stay hydrated.** Drink plenty of fluids, even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol. Have lots of water on hand and keep it coming. Eat small meals and eat more often.
- **Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing.** Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays. Dark colors can also attract mosquitos, another summertime buzz kill. It's commonly said that natural fibers breathe better than synthetic ones (did you really need another reason to throw on your favorite broken-in cotton tee?).
- **Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.** Postpone outdoor games and activities until temperatures drop and the sunlight is not as intense.
- **Take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors, and use a buddy system when working in excessive heat.** Sweltering temperatures can be dangerous, it's important to be able to have someone around in case you begin to feel overwhelmed by heat.
- **Wear sunscreen and reapply as necessary, especially when swimming or sweating.** Consider using higher SPF, as direct sunlight in Florida is notably intense. A higher SPF will increase your protection against sun damage and certain skin cancers. Sweat-proof or water-proof sunblock are often recommended to keep your sunscreen from dissolving. Remember, even on overcast days the sun's UV rays can be harmful. Whether the skies are cloudy or clear, if you are planning on spending time outdoors, be sure to bring along some sunscreen to keep from getting burned.
- **Never leave children or pets alone in enclosed vehicles, even for a quick stop.** Temperatures inside a closed vehicle can climb dangerously high in minutes. There is a common misconception that rolling down your window a bit will spare those left inside any discomfort; THIS IS NOT TRUE! Animals and children should NEVER be left in parked vehicles, even in the shade or with windows slightly open, as the negative effects from the heat can be felt within minutes. Certain furry friends are especially susceptible to heatstroke. Dogs use panting to cool themselves. The process involves inhaling air through their nose and allowing the air to run along the inside of their nasal passages as it removes excess body heat. They then exhale through their mouths releasing that heated air out, and cooling themselves in the process. Certain dogs have a more labored effort to keep themselves cool. Think of those cute scrunched-faced pugs and similar dogs. With their short snouts they have to work exponentially harder to stay cool, sucking in more air just to get similar results to their more nasally-endowed brethren. Older dogs and overweight dogs are also more likely to suffer the dangers of excessive heat. Don't put Fido at risk. Also, if your animals are outdoors, check on them frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat; be sure they have plenty of water and shelter from the sun. Talk with your veterinarian about "summer cuts" for your animals. Ridding them of extra fur can keep them comfier. During these hotter months of the year it's never a bad idea to keep the furriest members of the family indoors. Play it cool and have a great summer!



GOLDEN BEACH STORM PROTOCOL: WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE TOWN IN THE EVENT OF A HURRICANE OR MAJOR STORM EVENT IF A MAJOR HURRICANE SHOULD STRIKE:

If Miami-Dade County issues a mandatory evacuation order, the Golden Beach Police Department will go door-to-door alerting Residents.

The Town will also send out an emergency notification through our CodeRed automated phone messaging and eBlast email system.

Prepare your property whether you're evacuating or not. Items that may become airborne in a storm should be properly secured, this includes patio furniture, potted plants, and other objects. It is also a good idea to perform tree trimming in anticipation of storms, fallen branches can be hazardous and can also lead to an isolated power outage to your home, which in the event of a massive storm may take weeks to correct. If your property is currently under construction, reach out to the Town's Building Department to ensure your site is safely secured; unsecured construction debris can be deadly during a storm. DO NOT use an anticipated storm as an opportunity to clear your home of unwanted items; unnecessary trash collection slows the Town's ability to prepare for a storm. Residents found to be discarding unwanted furniture, hazardous items or other debris close to storm landfall may be cited with code violations and fines.

The Town may offer sandbags to Residents to help prevent flooding under doors. Residents may be required to fill their own bags. Contact Town Hall for distribution and availability details.

The Town encourages Residents to heed any evacuation notices issued by Miami-Dade County. Let Town Hall know whether you are evacuating or if you are staying, and if you are evacuating tell us how soon you expect to leave. Having

detailed information on Residents whereabouts will assist Town Hall during and after the storm; we can check on Residents who have stayed behind and also watch for any suspicious activity on the properties of Residents who have evacuated.

AFTER THE STORM:

Once conditions allow, Town Hall will go door-to-door and hand-deliver daily post-storm newsletters. With possible disruptions to power, internet and cellphone service, these physical notices are a critical way for us to keep in contact with you. Information will include details on clean-up, power restorations, water safety, and other pertinent notifications. When possible, we will make contact with Residents directly to see if we may be of any assistance, regardless we will be sure to leave behind a notice with details on how to contact a representative from Town Hall if you have questions. If you have evacuated, these same newsletters will be uploaded daily to the Town's website, we will also include information from the County on when evacuation orders have been lifted.

The Town will have staff on site during the storm, waiting to assist as soon as weather permits them to do so safely.

Checkpoints may be put in place by the Police Department to prevent reentry into Town, whether it be a safety concern (flooding, downed powerlines, debris in streets, etc.) or a security concern (to prevent crimes of opportunity on properties that have been evacuated or compromised by the storm). The Police Department will perform health and safety checks on the Residents who reported to the Town that they would not be evacuating.

Around TOWN

The Public Works Department will begin clearing debris as soon as possible, opening access to streets and removing potential hazards.

BE AWARE:

Power Restoration:

Like our Residents, the Town is also a customer of Florida Power & Light (FP&L). That said, the Town has no more influence or control over when power will be restored than any individual customer.

The Town will keep in constant communication with FP&L and will inform Residents of developments as they become available. Inform us if you are still without power when the Town begins reporting areas of Town have had their power restored, this will assist us in directing FP&L specifically to areas that remain offline.

While the Town of Golden Beach itself has undergrounded its utilities, we are still reliant on a greater power grid which flows through our neighboring municipalities Sunny Isles and Hallandale. Should they have a disruption in their power service we may experience power outages as a result. Undergrounded utilities help prevent power outages in smaller weather events and conditions, but during large storms or catastrophic events we may see outages.

Storm Debris Clean-Up: Residents are responsible for post-storm clean-up on their own properties. Any debris placed for pick-up must be left curbside, but off of the roadway, in the following distinct categories*:



Keep in Mind:

Storm drains are connected directly to our waterways. Keep used oil and other pollutants out of our drains.

For information please visit www.miamidade.gov/environment/tips-oil-disposal

NPDES Golden BEACH

Vegetative: fallen branches, tree limbs (these do not need to be chopped into smaller pieces), palm fronds and leaves

Bulk: Oversized items that have been damaged in the storm

Household Garbage: Regular household waste from your kitchen, bathroom, office, etc.

*Please note: commingling these wastes WILL delay clean up.

Do not believe rumors. Misinformation can be dangerous. In the event of a storm if you have any questions, call the Golden Beach Police non-emergency phone number (305)935-0940 or Town Manager Alexander Diaz at (786)236-4211.

Hurricane Preparedness: What You Need to Know

Hurricane season is upon us. From June 1st to November 30th means South Florida braces for the possibilities of some unwelcomed visitors.

Thankfully we have seen little activity for the past few years. A smooth-sailing storm season is a luxury that we can't always depend upon. Living in South Florida we must prepare ourselves for all that the sub-tropics can dish out. It's not unusual for a sunny beach day to turn sour and soggy before you expect it. The same can be said for larger scale tropical storms and hurricanes. A storm can develop quickly so it is best to be prepared in advance. Don't be one of those ill-prepared folks lining up for supplies at Publix battling over that last case of bottled water just as a storm comes rolling in. Plan ahead and start now. Below you'll find an extensive list of things to consider as we enter storm season.

- Stock up on non-perishable food and water supplies in case of a power outage.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Make sure your trees and shrubbery are trimmed and dead limbs removed.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding materials such as plywood.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
- Bring lawn furniture and other loose, light-weight objects such as garbage cans and garden tools inside. They can become dangerous projectiles during high winds.
- If you have a boat, moor it securely or move it to a designated safe place.
- Golden Beach is an identified surge zone or area prone to flooding so you may want to move furniture to a higher floor.
- If you have to leave your home, remember to unplug your appliances, turn off the electricity and close the main water valve.
- When you leave your home make sure to lock it and take small valuables with you.
- Do not lower the water level in your swimming pool excessively, or it may pop out of the ground if there is flooding with the storm (softened ground can literally "float" a pool). If flooding is expected, you can lower the water level by up to a few feet, depending on the depth of the pool.
- Add extra chlorine to your pool to fight off contamination. (3 gallons of chlorine per 5,000 gallons of water). Some

pool companies recommend that you give your pool a "shock treatment" before the storm hits. (Don't let anyone use the pool after adding the additional chlorine.)

- Turn off electricity to all of the pool equipment at the breaker.
- Remove pumps from underground pits after all valves have been closed and the electricity has been shut off. Wrap any exposed pool equipment that you can't remove in plastic and secure it tightly with tape/rope.
- Don't throw patio furniture in the pool unless you are willing to have it damaged/bleached by chlorine.
- Secure anything that might tear loose or blow away, including garbage cans, grills, potted plants, garden tools, toys, signs, porch furniture, awnings.
- Check trees and shrubbery, and remove limbs that could damage your house or utility lines.
- Construction/ Work Sites
- In the event a hurricane watch or greater advisory is issued, it is the responsibility of the property owner and associated contractor of any on-going construction work to secure all areas of the site. This is mandatory per the Florida Building Code.
- Fasten down or remove all hazardous objects which include: construction shacks, temporary toilets, roofing tiles, building materials, trash, forms, unsecured structures, temporary electric poles, etc.

City Building Officials and Code Enforcement Officers will contact each site to ensure compliance with these regulations. However, it is still your responsibility to ensure all items are secure, etc.

Those failing to follow this procedure will be cited, fined and held legally responsible for any damage caused by failing to secure the above items.

BOATS

Damage caused by your boat during a hurricane is your responsibility, so have a plan in place to protect your boat. Bridges are locked down BEFORE an evacuation is ordered -- generally 24 hours before a storm hits, so you need to secure your boat and move it to a safe harbor long before the warning and evacuation.

- Keep fuel and water tanks filled.
- Be sure batteries are charged and bilge pumps are operational.
- If you plan to trailer your boat to the mainland, you must do so before an evacuation order is issued.
- Owners of large crafts that must remain in the water must secure their vessels in a predetermined anchorage or mooring area.

- Keep sufficient tie lines and chafing gear, anchors and anchor line, and any other equipment necessary to secure your boat in the water.
- Never stay aboard your boat in a hurricane.

Pets: Before the Storm

If a local shelter will not accept your pets, you must make your own arrangements to keep your pet safe during a storm.

If you are required to evacuate and are going to spend time in a shelter, it is important that you make plans for your pet well in advance. Some hotels will accept pets during an evacuation. If you must evacuate to a shelter and leave pets behind, realize that pets may not survive or may be lost. There is no way to know how long it will be before you are permitted back to your home after a hurricane.

Frightened animals quickly slip out of open doors, broken windows, or other damaged areas of your home.

Emergency Management recommends that you make arrangements to evacuate yourself and your pet to a safe location. Friends and relatives in a safe location are your best choice, however, if they are unable to house both you and your pets, arrange shelter for your pets with a veterinarian or kennel near your evacuation location. It is important to do this so that you will be able to have as much contact with them as possible.

Pets: After the Storm

Walk your pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home. Be careful of downed power lines and other debris. Do not allow pets to consume food or water which may have become contaminated. Be extremely careful using candles or oil lamps around pets. Never leave them unattended.

Supplies: Have a two week supply of each item for every person in your home.

WATER

- 2 1/2 gallons of water per person a day (1/2 gallon for drinking, 2 gallons for bathing)
- Store water in clean plastic containers

FOOD

- Purchase foods that require no refrigeration and little preparation, such as:
- Ready-to-eat canned food
- Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- Snacks: cookies, cereals, etc.
- Soft drinks, instant coffee, tea
- Lots of ice (you can freeze your water supply)

FOR BABY

- Formula, bottles, powdered milk, jarred baby foods
- Diapers, moist towelettes and special medications
- Pets
- Newspapers or cat litter
- Moist canned foods (to preserve water)
- Plastic sheets to cover floor of pet's room

MEDICINE

- First aid kit
- Rubbing alcohol
- Aspirin, non-aspirin pain reliever, antacid
- Extra prescription medication (especially for heart problems and diabetes)
- Ask your physician how to store prescription medication

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Toilet paper, towels, soap, shampoo
- Personal and feminine hygiene products
- Denture needs, contact lenses and an extra pair of eyeglasses
- Sun protection, insect repellent

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Battery-operated radio, flashlights, non-electric can opener, extra batteries
- Charcoal, waterproof matches, extra propane gas for grills (Use grills outside only!)
- ABC-rated fire extinguisher in a small canister.
- Portable cooler
- Plenty of absorbent towels, plastic trash bags
- Wind-up or battery-operated clock
- Tarp or sheet plastic, duct tape, hammer and nails for temporary roof repairs
- Cleaning supplies such as chlorine bleach
- Aluminum foil, paper napkins and plates, plastic cups
- Can of spray paint (can be used to identify your home by insurance adjusters in case it's damaged.)
- At least one change of clothing per person, sturdy shoes, hat and work gloves

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. The most important thing that you can do is to be informed and prepared.

Stay Smart and Stay Safe this Hurricane Season!



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Golden **BEACH** IMPORTANT NUMBERS

POLICE-FIRE-EMERGENCY: **911**

REPORT CRIME – SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY: **305.935.0940**

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY): **786.331.5000**

TOWN HALL: **305.932.0744**

MAYOR GLENN SINGER: **305.932.0744** **GSINGER@GOLDENBEACH.US**

TOWN MANAGER ALEXANDER DIAZ: **305.932.0744** ext. 224 **ALEXDIAZ@GOLDENBEACH.US**

TOWN CLERK LISSETTE PEREZ: **305.932.0744** ext. 238 **LPEREZ@GOLDENBEACH.US**

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARIA CAMACHO: **305.932.0744** ext. 228 **MCAMACHO@GOLDENBEACH.US**

POLICE CHIEF RUDY HERBELLO: **305.932.0744** ext. 233 **RHERBELLO@GOLDENBEACH.US**

BUILDING & ZONING DIRECTOR LINDA EPPERSON: **305.932.0744** ext. 222 **LEPPERSON@GOLDENBEACH.US**

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KIRK McKOY **305.932.0744** ext. 235 **KMCKOY@GOLDENBEACH.US**

RESIDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR MICHAEL GLIDDEN **305.932.0744** ext. 245 **MGLIDDEN@GOLDENBEACH.US**

GATE HOUSE: **305.935.0940**

POLICE ADMINISTRATION: **305.936.2444**

NORTH MIAMI BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT
(WATER SERVICES PROVIDER FOR GOLDEN BEACH): **305.948.2960**

NORTH MIAMI BEACH AFTER HOURS/
EMERGENCY WATER SERVICE: **305.652.6460**

MIAMI-DADE WATER & SEWER (EMERGENCY): **305.274.9272**

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT (FPL): **305.442.8770**

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TECO GAS: **305.940.0139**



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