

# Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District Newsletter

941-751-7675 [www.SMFR.com](http://www.SMFR.com)

## Be Prepared Series: Hurricane Season Outside the Home

Hurricane season is fast approaching. It lasts about six months out of the year. Due to climate change, hurricanes seem to start earlier so now is the time to prepare.

- Pay attention to local news forecasts. The hurricane cone of uncertainty changes quickly. Know where it is and the timeframe of arrival of the storm.
- Prepare your evacuation plan, including pets, transportation and destinations.
- If you know you are in an evacuation zone, listen to local news for the opening of shelters.

### Outside the Home:

- Trim trees and shrubs back away from the home. Clean out gutters.
- Bring in any patio furniture or store it by placing it inside your pool.
- Check your hurricane shutters and make sure you have required hardware to install. Taping windows will NOT secure or prevent windows from breaking.
- Remember, storm shutters should only be up when a hurricane is approaching and taken down after the storm.
- Plan to store your grill in a safe location. You may need it for cooking your meals.
- Make sure you have propane or charcoal for the grill.
- Bring in any objects that can be picked up and carried by the winds.
- If you are in a flood prone area, have sandbags ready and be prepared to evacuate.
- Locate shut offs for utilities. Know how to turn them off.
- Fill your vehicle with fuel prior to any storm arriving.
- During the storm, stay inside the home.
- After the storm has passed, be aware of downed power lines that may be hiding under pooling water or downed brush.
- Do not travel unnecessarily around the area as emergency personnel and utility workers will be out to help those in need.
- Be aware that roads may be flooded so turn around, don't drown.