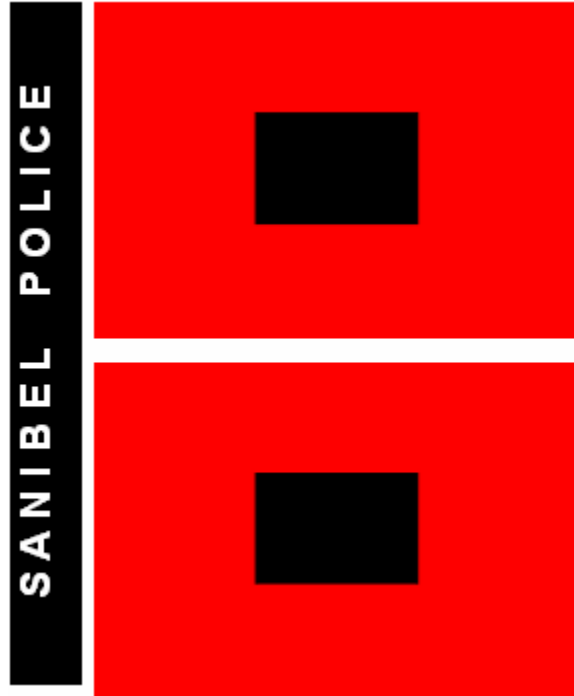


City of Sanibel
Hurricane Season
It's a Matter of Life or Death



The City of Sanibel is dedicated to ensuring we are as prepared as possible in the event of a hurricane.

- **Is your family disaster plan ready?**
- **Have all family members reviewed the plan?**
- **If requested, are you ready to evacuate?**
- Make sure your disaster supply kit is ready to go. Then, in the event Sanibel is under a hurricane watch, you will be ready to leave when an evacuation order is issued.
- When Sanibel is under a hurricane watch, you should begin implementing your family disaster plan. If any adjustments are needed to this plan, now is the time to do so.
- Before you evacuate, double-check the interior and exterior of your home for security and safety measures already taken.
- Because of Sanibel's low land elevation and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, the flood threat/storm surge potential is significant. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) lists the entire City as a Special Flood Hazard Area.

Category	Wind Speed	Storm Surge Potential
1	74 - 95 mph	4 to 5 feet
2	96 - 110 mph	6 to 8 feet
3	111 - 130 mph	9 to 12 feet
4	131 - 155	13 to 18 feet
5	156 plus	19 feet plus

Before the Storm

- Plan your evacuation in advance. Know when, where, and how you are going to evacuate prior to a storm. Sanibel has posted all primary evacuation routes with blue and white signs. Total evacuation time for Sanibel could be as long as 18 hours. Because some of the Island's evacuation routes are prone to flooding early in a storm, the time required to evacuate may be longer.
- Your evacuation plan should provide for your pets, your personal hurricane supplies (food, medicine, etc.) and insurance considerations. When evacuating, take proper identification and important personal papers and documents along with you. Sanibel residents need only a Florida driver's license with their Sanibel address to return to the Island after evacuating; however, by obtaining a Sanibel Resident Hurricane Hangtag, you may be able to access the Island faster. Other non-resident homeowners will need a Hurricane Hangtag to return to Sanibel or Captiva after a disaster. Commercial Hurricane Hangtags are also available for businesses. These Hangtags can be obtained at the Sanibel Police Department.

Watch and Warning - Know the Difference

- A Hurricane Watch issued for our part of the coast indicates the possibility that we could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat and leaving the barrier islands.
- A Hurricane Warning issued for our part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once that warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions for family and property. At this time, the decision should be made to evacuate the barrier islands.

Family Preparedness Tips

- Stay alert to storm advisories.
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Photograph/videotape valuables.
- Fuel vehicles.
- Have cash available.
- Empty your refrigerator and freezer.
- Discard all your trash before the storm.

Disaster Supply Kit

- Water – at least one gallon per person for three days.
- Food – enough for one week.
- Clothing – seasonal/rain gear, sturdy shoes.
- First aid kit/medicines.
- Special items for babies/elderly.
- Toiletries.
- Flashlight/batteries.
- Radio – battery operated and NOAA Weather Radio.
- Keys – extra set for home and vehicles.
- Toys/books/entertainment items.
- Tools.
- Pet care items.

Important papers to take

- Driver's license or personal identification.
- Social Security card.
- Proof of residence (deed or lease).
- Insurance policies.
- Birth and marriage certificates.
- Stocks, bonds, and other negotiable certificates.
- Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns.

Protect Your Home

- Bring in lawn furniture, trash cans, toys, garden equipment, hanging plants, and other objects that may fly around and damage property during high winds.
- Turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker and turn off water at the main valve.
- If high winds are expected, cover the outside of all windows of your home. Use shutters that are rated to provide significant protection for windblown debris, or fit plywood coverings (at least 3/4 inch in thickness) over all windows.
- Look for potential hazards such as coconuts, fruit, and other objects in trees that could break off and fly around during high winds. Cut them off and store them indoors until the storm is over.

Remember These Points

- Tape does not prevent windows from breaking. All tape does is prevent windows from shattering. Using tape on windows is not recommended. Cover the outside of windows with shutters.

What is the Special Needs Program? Do YOU need to register?

- **Special Needs Definition:** The special needs population is defined as: Individuals in the community with physical, mental, or medical needs who may require assistance before, during and/or after a disaster or emergency, after exhausting their usual resources and support network.
- **Special Needs Examples:** Sensory disabilities, such as reduction or loss in sight or hearing.
 - Mobility disabilities, such as use of cane or wheelchair.
 - Mental disabilities, such as persons who are mentally ill or developmentally disabled, and those with traumatic brain injury or learning disability.
 - Other medical conditions, such as renal dialysis, diabetes, or lung diseases requiring oxygen.

What to Expect After the Registration Process is Completed

- **Evacuation/Transportation Notification:** As the storm approaches, listen to the radio and television for evacuation declaration. Once any evacuation declaration is announced, please call 477-3600 or 344-5401 to verify if the evacuation order is in effect for your location. If you advise that you can provide your own transportation, you will not receive a telephone call to evacuate. However, if you advise that you need transportation, you will be called. Once notified, you must be ready to evacuate when your transportation arrives.
- **Public Shelters:** Shelters are made available to evacuating residents through the County. Shelters are located in public buildings that have been strengthened to

withstand hurricane force winds. Security is also provided at the shelters. There are also shelters designated for special needs persons. Be sure to bring your hurricane kit and your bedding.

- Special Care Centers: They are available for those individuals who require assistance with activities of daily living. Only basic medical assistance and monitoring will be available. They are not equipped with advanced medical equipment, medications or staffed to provide advanced medical care. If you need 24-hour skilled nursing care, dialysis three or more times a week, or are dependent on a ventilator for life support, you are not a good candidate for a Special Care Center. Due to limited space, there is a waiting list for Special Care Centers. Sunshine Elementary School and Fort Myers Edison Learning Center will be used for pre-assigned special care patients only.
- If you are pre-assigned to a Special Care Center, a caregiver must accompany you. The volunteer medical staff will be unfamiliar with your medical condition and treatment. In the event that the volunteers are not able to report to the shelter, there will be no hands-on care other than your caregiver and a Public Health Unit Manager (R.N.) to assist should an emergency arise. If you are not pre-assigned to a Special Care Center, you will be sent to a Public Shelter.
- Hospitals. If your physician has decided that you need to be cared for in a skilled nursing facility, such as a hospital, during an emergency, they need to arrange pre-admittance prior to evacuation. You will need a letter from your doctors office stating that you are to be taken to a specific (in-County) hospital. This letter must accompany you when you are evacuated. **A hospital will not accept anyone who does not have a caregiver accompany them and no sleeping arrangements will be made for the caregiver.** They must bring medications, food, money, and sleeping accommodations.

Important Phone Numbers and Website Information

SANIBEL

Sanibel Hurricane Hotline	800-933-6093
City of Sanibel Website	www.mysanibel.com
Sanibel Police Department	239-472-3111
Sanibel Fire Department	239-472-5525
State Hurricane HOTLINE	800-342-3557
National Weather Service	813-645-2323

LEE COUNTY

Lee County Emergency Management Office	239-477-3600
Lee County Sheriff's Office	239-477-1200 / 239-332-3456
Florida Highway Patrol	239-278-7100
American Red Cross	239-278-3401
United States Coast Guard Fort Myers Beach	239-463-5754