City of Destin, Florida

2012 HURRICANE INFORMATION GUIDE

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Hurricane Season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The time to prepare for hurricane season is now. The City of Destin's Hurricane Information Guide is designed to provide valuable information that you can use before, during and after a storm.

2012 SEASON

The 2012 Hurricane Season is predicted to be an mild one. Meteorologists and hurricane forecasters are expecting 2012 to bring 13 named tropical storms, five of which will attain hurricane status and two of which will attain major hurricane status (Category 3 or higher).

In order to project the number of storms and impacts, experts look at past years that have similar weather variables and patterns that closely resemble the most recent fall, winter and early spring months. (AccuWeather.com)

KNOW THE LINGO

Tropical Storm Watch - Tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours. Your preparations should be underway.

Tropical Storm Warning - Tropical storm conditions are expected within 24 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.

Hurricane Watch - Hurricane conditions are possible within 36 hours. Your preparations should be underway.

Hurricane Warning - Hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.

If you are using your cell phone or if you are calling from outside Okaloosa County use the 850 number. This number is active ONLY when the County Emergency Operations Center is opened.

Citizens Information Line

3-1-1

(850) 651-7583

Don't wait until the last minute. Prepare in advance for a hurricane.

www.cityofdestin.com

BEFORE THE STORM

City of Destin, Florida

Mayor
Sarah "Sam" Seevers

Council Members
Jim Bagby
Tuffy Dixon
Larry Hines
Cyron Marler
Sandy Trammell
Larry Williges
Jim Wood

City Manager
Maryann Ustick

www.cityofdestin.com
The City's website will be constantly updated with detailed information, as soon as new information becomes available. Before a storm, individuals can register for Hurricane Information Updates via an e-mail from the City of Destin's Public Information Manager. Go to www.cityofdestin.com. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page. On the right hand side you will see a block called E-mail Sign up. Simply type in your name and e-mail address. Submit. This will take you to a page where you will click on "choose a list" and then click on Hurricane Information Updates. Submit again and you are registered!

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City of Destin, Florida
4200 Indian Bayou Trail
Destin, FL 32541

850-837-4242

2012 STORM NAMES

Alberto	Debby	Gordon	Joyce	Michael	Patty	Tony
Beryl	Ernesto	Helene	Kirk	Nadine	Rafael	Valerie
Chris	Florence	Isaac	Leslie	Oscar	Sandy	William

CODERED

weather WARNING

Destin homeowners, businesses and residents alike are encouraged to sign up for 'Code Red', a voice messaging system used to alert residents about weather emergencies requiring immediate action.

The 'Code Red' weather warning system, which is operated by the Okaloosa County Emergency Management Department, will call only the residents in the area where severe weather is predicted, to let them know ahead of time if they will be impacted by weather such as tornados, flash floods, etc. Those who sign up can enter two phone numbers, including a cell phone and non-local numbers.

The 'Code Red' weather warning system also works on TDD/TTY phones for the hearing impaired.

When you register, you will receive a free packet with a step-by-step instruction booklet about how to prepare for an emergency. Call 850-651-7150 to register for 'Ready Okaloosa' and the 'Code Red' weather warning system, or you can register online at www.okaloosafl.com.

'Ready Okaloosa' is a combined effort of the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida, United Way, Northwest Florida State College, Americorp, Okaloosa County Public Safety and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE

Category 1 — 74-95 mph winds
Damage primarily to shrubbery and trees. Damage to mobile homes. No real damage to other structures. Low-lying coastal roads inundated. Minor pier damage. Some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.

Category 2 — 96-110 mph winds
Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage. Some trees blown down. Major damage to mobile homes. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings. Some window and door damage. Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water two to four hours before arrival of the hurricane's center. Considerable damage to piers. Marinas flooded and small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings.

Category 3 — 111-129 winds
Large trees blown down. Some damage to roofs. Some window and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed. Serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast are destroyed. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water three to five hours before the hurricane's center arrives.

Category 4 — 130-156 winds
All signs are down. Trees and shrubs blown down. Extensive damage to roofs, windows and doors. Complete failure to roofs on many small residences. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore due to flooding, battering waves and floating debris.

Category 5 — 157+ winds
Trees and shrubs are blown down. Considerable damage to roofs. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete roof failure on many homes and buildings. Extensive shattering of glass. Some complete building failures. Small buildings overturned or blown away. Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water three to five hours before the hurricane's center arrives.

DEVELOP A HURRICANE PLAN

HOLD A FAMILY MEETING

Discuss the hazards of hurricanes. Explain some of the things you will be doing to keep everyone safe. Start a written list of things you will need to take care of before hurricane season and encourage everyone in the family to contribute their ideas.

DISCUSS WHETHER YOU WILL NEED TO EVACUATE

This is the question that each family must answer. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to know which zone you are in. Shown on page 3 in this guide is Okaloosa County's Official Evacuation Map for Destin. Determine where you live. As you can see, Okaloosa County Emergency Management officials will issue their recommendation for residents and visitors to evacuate based on where they live and the storm conditions. Where will you go if an evacuation order is given? Going to a family or friend's house or hotel outside the evacuation area is your best choice. If you choose to go out of town, do so well in advance of the storm. Since shelters (see page 6) provide for only basic needs, this should be your choice of last resort.

ENSURE YOUR ASSETS ARE PROTECTED

Inventory your home possessions and videotape, record or photograph items of value. Review your insurance policies before hurricane seasons starts to ensure you have adequate coverage. Once a hurricane watch has been issued, insurers will not issue new or additional coverage.

ASSESS YOUR HOME FOR VULNERABLE AREAS

Do a walk-through of your home and property to evaluate your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions you will need to take to make your home safe.

SECURE YOUR HOME

Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and your property (shutters, generator, tree-trimming), and to keep as comfortable as possible during a recovery. Put up shutters, if you have them. Turn refrigerator to lowest setting and lower the air conditioner. Recharge batteries before the power goes out. Place flashlights and batteries throughout the house and keep one with you. Do not use candles.

VEHICLE STORAGE & PROTECTION

Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat or RV. Gas up your vehicles. Move vehicle(s) into a garage or next to a building; avoid parking near trees and utility poles. Check your vehicle insurance policy and keep it in the same safe place as your homeowner's policy.

DETERMINE WHETHER ANYONE IN YOUR HOME HAS SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS OR IS VULNERABLE IN AN EMERGENCY

Discuss whether anyone has special needs in an emergency because of a medical condition, or because they are elderly or disabled. Make arrangements in advance to accommodate those needs. Gather your emergency kit and keep it handy.

MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

Determine how you will address your pet's needs and make a plan in case you have to evacuate. Pets are not allowed at public shelters. Try to take your pet to a veterinary hospital, boarding kennel, family or friends who live outside the evacuation area. The American Humane Society, AKC Companion Animal Recovery, and Florida Emergency Management web sites have great tips for preparing your pet. If you are planning to evacuate your pet with you when you leave, check out this helpful website www.petswelcome.com. This site will let you know which hotels will accept traveling pets.

GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

Determine your family's food and water needs. Assemble your hurricane kit accordingly. The new rule of thumb is you should have about seven days of food and water per person. Fill water containers, bath tubs and sinks. Freeze water jugs and fill ice chests.

NOTIFY OTHERS OF YOUR PLAN

Let family or friends know what your hurricane plan is so they can check on you in the aftermath of a storm. Establish an out-of-town contact.

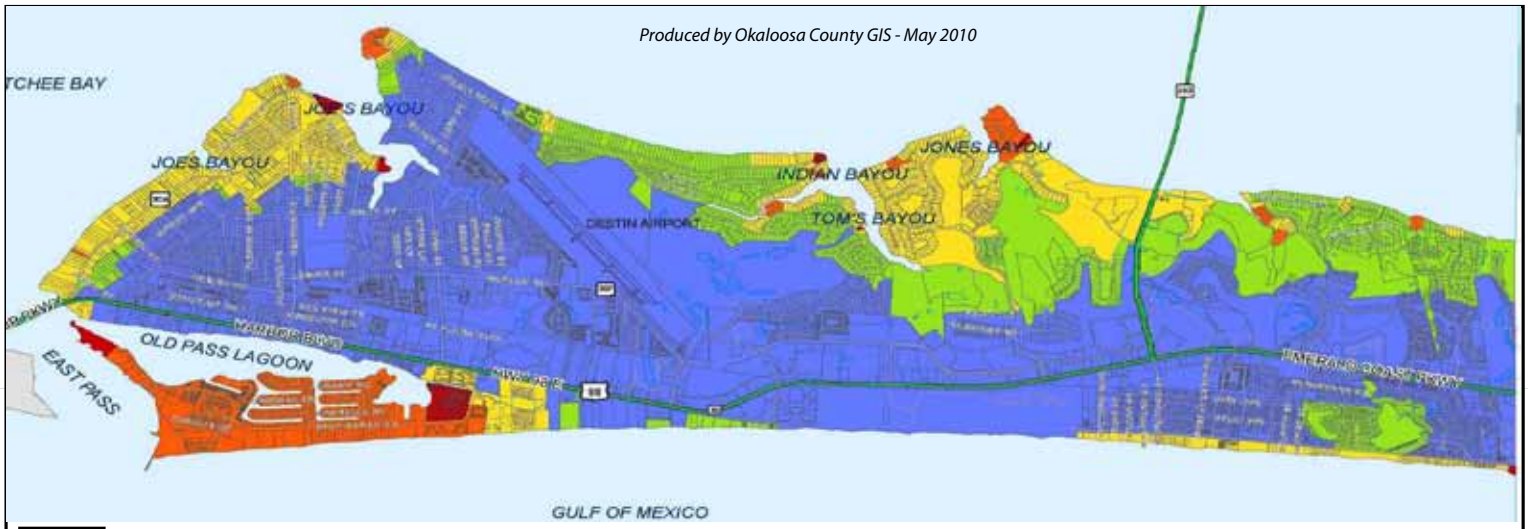
IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All area codes are 850 unless otherwise noted.

FIRE-MEDICAL-SHERIFF EMERGENCIES ONLY	**9-1-1**
Sheriff's Dept. Non-Emergency	**651-7400**
Cox Communications (Cable)	**796-1269**
Destin Building Dept.	**654-1119**
Destin City Hall	**837-4242**
Destin Community Center	**654-5184**
Destin Fire Control District	**837-8413**
Destin Library	**837-8572**
Destin Morgan Sports Center	**650-1241**
Destin Public Services	**837-6869**
Destin Water Users (water & sewer)	**837-6146 or 699-3647**
FL Dept. of Emergency Management	**1-850-413-9900**
FL Highway Patrol	**1-800-459-6553**
FEMA	**1-800-525-0321**
Gulf Power (electric)	**1-800-225-5797**
County Health Department	**689-7855**
County Mosquito Control	**651-7394**
National Poison Control	**1-800-222-1222**
Okaloosa Co. Dept. of Emergency Management Citizen's Hotline	**3-1-1 651-7583**
Okaloosa Gas	**729-4700**
PAWS-Animal Welfare	**243-8402**
Price Gouging Hotline	**1-866-966-7226**
Red Cross - Fort Walton Beach	**314-0316**

KNOW YOUR ZONE

Each storm, whether a tropical storm or a hurricane, has particular features that may affect different areas within Destin. For instance, some area evacuations may be necessary to escape an impending storm surge, so it is important to know your zone before a storm hits.



- ZONE A (CAT 1) Hurricane Category 1, tropical storms, plus all mobile homes, campsites, and other high-risk surge areas should be evacuated.
- ZONE B (CAT 2) Hurricane Category 2, plus areas included in Zone A should be evacuated.
- ZONE C (CAT 3) Hurricane Category 3, plus areas included in Zone A & B should be evacuated.
- ZONE D (CAT 4) Hurricane Category 4, plus areas included in Zones A, B & C should be evacuated.
- ZONE E (CAT 5) Hurricane Category 5, plus areas included in Zones A, B, C & D should be evacuated.

Never stay on your boat during a storm!

Boating is a way of life here in Destin. So take action early to protect your vessel. Here are a few helpful hints:

- For a boat stored on a trailer, lash the boat and trailer down in a protected area. Let the air out of the tires before tying the trailer down. Place blocks between the frame and the axle inside each wheel. Secure with heavy lines to fixed objects from four directions, if possible.
- For boats in the water, hurricane moorings should be located "in advance of a storm." Permission should be obtained from the appropriate people.
- A practice run should help you identify any obstacles you could face when it is time to act.
- If you choose to relocate your boat, leave early for safe harbor.
- Record and keep your vessel registration number, description and location where it is secured. If you lease a marina slot for your boat, check your lease or ownership contract. Know your responsibilities.
- If you are out of town, arrange for someone locally who is knowledgeable of the procedures to care for your boat.
- When you are securing your boat include removing boat documents, radios and other valuables from the vessel.

KNOW THE HAZARDS

Storm Surge - Storm surge is the most dangerous element of a hurricane. This is a wave of ocean water that can be 20 feet high at its peak and 50 to 100 miles wide. Nine out of ten hurricane fatalities are attributable to storm surge.

Wind - A hurricane is a tropical storm with constant winds greater than 74 miles per hour. These winds can extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes can also spawn tornadoes, which add to their potential for destruction.

Rain - Because of the tropical nature of hurricanes, they contain rain which can be torrential and cause floods & flash floods.

EVACUATION

All of the City of Destin is on a barrier island. Barrier islands are "extreme risk areas" which should be totally evacuated prior to Category 4 or 5 hurricanes.

The City of Destin partners with the Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in getting the word out before, during and after storms. Contact the Citizens Information Line at 3-1-1 (or 850-651-7583) for any information regarding evacuations. The City will send all information about conditions in Destin to the EOC, the local media and all of our e-mail subscribers, as it becomes available.

If you decide to leave, leave early! If you leave from Destin, it is suggested that you go north by using the Mid-Bay Bridge to Hwy. 20. From there you should turn west to Hwy. 85 or Hwy. 285 in Niceville. From Hwy. 85 or Hwy. 285, you should travel north to I-10.

It is important to note that east on Hwy. 20 to Freeport may be an unsafe route if storm conditions are already in the area due to low-lying areas. West on Hwy. 98 to Fort Walton Beach may also be an unsafe route if storm conditions are already in the area. Of course, this is **PRIOR** to sustained winds in excess of 35 miles per hour because once the wind speeds reach that level **ALL** bridges will be closed.

Always map out several alternative routes using back roads. This could help alleviate heavy traffic congestion on the main roads leaving Destin.

When traffic signals are not working, intersections should be treated as four-way stops. To prevent accidents, please wait your turn and always be **PATIENT**!

EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM

Listen to one of these local emergency broadcast stations during an emergency alert for important information from the City of Destin.

Local Radio Stations:

AM 1260

AM 1050

FM 99.5

FM 104.7

FM 105.5

Receive Okaloosa County's "Daily Situation Report" with this QR Code

IF YOU STAY

If you stay, please be aware that there may become a time during a storm event when no emergency services are available. Typically, EMS will not respond once winds reach 40 mph and the Fire Department will not respond once winds reach 50 mph. If you don't live in an evacuation zone or a mobile or manufactured home, you should probably stay home if your house is secure, shuttered and can withstand a hurricane. Make sure a neighbor or family members know that you will be there. Determine a "safe room" in your residence where you can ride out the storm. Rooms without windows such as bathrooms, pantries, laundry rooms, stairwells, hallways or large interior closets are good choices. Gather all supplies you will need early. Stock the safe room with: food, water, flashlights, battery-operated radio or TV, extra batteries, medication, clothing, mattress, blankets and pillows, cell phone, games or books, and important papers.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

■ **Do not walk through flowing or standing water.**

■ **Do not drive through flowing or standing water. Unseen obstructions or hazards may cause damage to you or your vehicle.**

■ **Avoid downed power lines and electrical wires. Report downed power lines to the power company.**

■ **Be alert for small animals that are flushed out by flooding conditions.**

■ **Turn on the electricity one breaker at a time and watch for smoke or sparks.**

■ **Carefully check for structural damage before entering a building.**

■ **Thoroughly check your house for gas leaks. Do not smoke, use candles or open flames until you are sure no leaks exist; ventilate enclosed areas if you think gas is present.**

PUBLIC SHELTERS

There are NO shelters in Destin. Currently, Okaloosa County has six main shelters located north of Destin in or near Crestview. They are:

- **Antioch Elementary School** - 4700 Whitehurst Ln., Crestview, FL. *pet-friendly
- **Baker School** - 1369 14th St., Baker, FL.
- **Davidson Middle School** - 6261 Old Bethel Rd., Crestview, FL. *pet-friendly
- **Kenwood Elementary School** - 15 NE Eagle St., Fort Walton Beach, FL.
- **Northwest Florida State College** - Raider Arena, Niceville, FL. *pet-friendly
- **Riverside Elementary School** - 3400 Redstone Ave., Crestview, FL.
- **Shoal River Middle School** - 3200 Redstone Ave., Crestview, FL.

**Pets are not kept with the populace. They are kept separately.*

Please note that "shelter" is just a convenient name for Evacuation Center. Okaloosa County cannot guarantee any particular level of safety at a shelter. The facilities are selected because they are outside of hurricane surge zones and are of generally sturdy construction.

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

If you or your family member has special needs and will need assistance during an evacuation, here's what you need to know. People are generally registered through their home health provider, hospice or their medical equipment provider. However, people can call Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center at 651-7583 to ask that a special needs registration form be sent to them. Once the forms are received, they are sent to the Okaloosa County Health Department for evaluation. The Health Department makes the decision as to who is eligible to go to the Special Needs Shelter. This decision is based on established criteria. The Health Department also operates the shelter when it is activated. The special needs shelter is located at Davidson Middle School in Crestview and can house only 65 special needs residents. For more information, please contact the Health Dept. at (850) 833-9240 x 2304.

OKALOOSA COUNTY TRANSIT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RIDES TO SHELTERS

Whenever the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning or watch for Okaloosa County, Destin residents with no other means of transportation to evacuate are encouraged to call Okaloosa County Transit (OCT) to arrange transportation to emergency shelters. If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, mobile home, are electricity dependent, or otherwise cannot stay in your home during a severe weather event, you should call 833-9168 for transportation to one of the county's designated shelters. All rides to shelters are free during a declared emergency. Once sustained winds reach 35 mph, vehicles are called off the road; therefore, it is imperative that citizens seeking shelter comply with the follow requirements:

• Provide a complete address including apartment or lot number of your pick up location, and a phone number where you can be reached with pick up information in advance.

• Once the shelters are open, citizens who have requested transportation will be called and informed of estimated pick up time.

• Be ready to travel when the vehicle arrives. (Depending on the severity and speed of the storm and number of citizens requiring transportation, drivers will not be able to wait or make additional trips.) For more information on Okaloosa County Transit please visit their website at www.rideoct.org.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you are a Destin resident and require special transportation assistance when evacuation orders are given, the City of Destin wants to know. Officials are assessing how many people in our City do not have the means of getting to **an Okaloosa County designated shelter** if a mandatory evacuation order is issued. If you need transportation assistance, please call City Hall at 837-4242 to let us know your name, address, telephone number, why you can't evacuate, where you live and how many people in the household would require transportation. Again, a transportation assistance program transports you ONLY to a designated shelter in Okaloosa County.

AFTER A STORM

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR CITY

In the event a major hurricane strikes Destin, please allow the City time to reopen any heavily damaged areas **PRIOR** to your return.

■ After a storm, City staff will be inspecting structures for habitability. They will inspect each structure and place a bright green inspection placard for those buildings that are habitable or that are habitable and need repairs. They will also place a red inspection placard on buildings deemed **UNSAFE** for human occupancy. These inspection cards will be placed on a visible location on the outside of a structure. **Do not remove the inspection notices until authorized to do so by City staff.** Red placards on homes means the buildings have been determined to be structurally **UNSAFE** and owners must contact the City of Destin Building Department to determine corrective steps.

■ Checkpoints may be set up and manned by Okaloosa County Sheriff deputies, or the National Guard, to cordon off severely damaged areas. **NO ONE** will be allowed access into those areas until it is safe. Usually, the Holiday Isle and Crystal Beach neighborhoods are the most affected because of the storm surge, and may be inaccessible.

■ The City will call in phone, gas, water and electric utility crews to assess and repair damages done to infrastructure.

■ City officials will work with local utility companies and law enforcement agencies to let homeowners or their designees into the affected area(s) to view their property, **as soon as it is safe to do so**.

■ Increased law enforcement will patrol both land and water.

■ Possible mandatory curfews could exist immediately after the hurricane.

■ Fire and emergency medical response will operate once winds have decreased below 35 mph sustained.

■ Debris cleaning teams will begin clearing major roadways for emergency response once the storm is passed.

■ Public Services will be inspecting and cleaning debris from drainage systems citywide.

■ Debris clearing contractors will begin assisting with cleanup of debris 24 hours post storm.

■ During the times when sections of the City may be closed, the City **MAY** implement a windshield tour of the damaged area for the affected property owners. Please check the city's website after a storm for more about this.

If you stay through a storm, but leave the affected area that has been evacuated after a storm, you will be denied access back until the area has been declared safe. The above re-entry protocol will apply.

DEBRIS PICKUP TIPS

Before a storm, do not cut down trees or do any major yard work. Your yard waste may not be picked up prior to the storm and therefore, could become flying debris.

After the storm please do not delay in cleaning your property and getting the debris to the right-of-way. The City of Destin will work as quickly as possible to clear and pick up the debris.

Remember to separate your debris into piles . . . One for household garbage . . . One for recycling . . . One for yard waste . . . One for any construction debris.

City of Destin
4200 Indian Bayou Trail
Destin, FL 32541