



Immediate Release

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Contact for Media Only

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Pinellas County continues preparation for severe weather

Officials urge residents to have plans in place

Pinellas County continues monitoring the developing weather in the Gulf of Mexico with partners at the National Weather Service. County departments are taking action to prepare residents and infrastructure for the effects of severe weather, including clearing out ditches to handle additional water runoff.

As part of the county's preparedness efforts, the Emergency Operations Center will be partially activated on Monday, June 6, at 6 a.m. This will allow county and partner agencies to better coordinate resources.

Residents are encouraged to limit road travel on Monday, June 6, as road conditions and visibility may be poor as a result of severe weather.

Pinellas County Emergency Management continues to urge residents to follow some basic preparedness tips, including:

- Paying close attention to weather forecasts as they could change rapidly in the next couple of days.
- Knowing whether a home or business is in a flood zone, which can be found online at www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm.
- Signing up for free emergency notifications through Alert Pinellas by visiting www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas. Those without computer access can call (866) 484-3264.
- Preparing for flooding if in a traditionally flood prone area.
- Reviewing additional tips in the 2016 All Hazards Guide, available in English and Spanish at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency.

Pinellas County will continue to offer sandbags to county residents tomorrow, Sunday, June 5, from 7 a.m. to sunset, at the following county parks:

- John Chesnut Park, 2200 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor.
- John Taylor Park, 1100 8th Ave. S.W., Largo.
- Lealman Community Park, 3890 55th Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/sandbags.htm.

Residents will need to fill and transport their own bags. Pinellas County will provide shovels, sand and bags. There will be a limit of 20 bags per vehicle.

For more information on sandbags, residents can call Pinellas County Public Works at (727) 464-8900.

The following should also be kept in mind:

Types of flood advisories:

- Flood Advisory: Be Aware – Weather conditions may become a nuisance, but flooding is not expected.
- Flood Watch: Be Prepared – Conditions are favorable for flooding, but this does not mean flooding will occur.
- Flood Warning: Take Action – Flooding is imminent or occurring.
- Flash Flood Warning: Take Action – A flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area, move immediately to high ground.

Flood safety tips:

- Turn Around, Don't Drown! It only takes 6 inches of moving water to sweep you off your feet or 12 inches to float a small car.
- For more flood preparation tips, visit www.pinellascounty.org/flooding.

Pinellas County will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as they become available.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency. Residents can look up evacuation zones with the Pinellas County "Doing Things for You" app. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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