

Protect Your Home

Every homeowner in Seminole County should take the proper steps to protect your home and property against disasters. Listed below are a few options to start in the journey of protecting your home.

- Regularly inspect all window and door seals and be sure they are in good condition.
- Be prepared with sandbags and know how to place them properly.
- Raise or flood proof any HVAC equipment.
- Make sure all gutters and downspouts are operational and free of debris.
- If flood waters are present turn off all electricity.
- If you must evacuate be sure all utilities are turned off.
- Talk to a plumber about installing a back flow valve to prevent sewage backup.
- Have trees on your property inspected/ trimmed.
- Secure lawn or pool furniture, potted plants and other potential flying objects.
- Take pictures or video of your home in the event it is damaged.

For further information on how to better protect your home against specific threats, please visit Flash.org.



For more information about disaster preparedness visit Seminole County's Prepare Seminole website at:
www.seminolecountyfl.gov/prepare



Winter Springs Police Department
300 North Moss Road
Winter Springs, FL 32708
Emergency: 911
407-327-1000
www.winterspringsfl.org

Disaster Preparedness

Winter Springs
Police Department

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www.winterspringsfl.org

Creating a Plan

One of the most important steps you can take in preparing for emergencies is to develop a household disaster plan.

1. Learn the types of disasters most likely to occur in your community. Consider purchasing a weather radio to alert you of severe weather conditions.
2. Have enough supplies for a minimum of three days (preferably one week).
3. Know how, when and where to shut off water, gas and electric at the main sources to your home. Post emergency and utility provider numbers by the phone.
4. Check your insurance coverage. Flood damage, for example, is not covered by homeowners' insurance.
5. Contact your child's school or daycare to determine the facility's emergency notification and evacuation plans.
6. Plan your evacuation route.
7. Make arrangements for pets or livestock in advance. Make sure your pet has a license tag and a collar, and use a break away collar for cats.
8. Identify the safest area to take shelter during a disaster event.
9. Plan how your family will stay in touch if you become separated. Select an out-of-state contact for your family.
10. Include your children in the planning process and discuss any fears they may have.
11. Share Information with your family. Practice your plan of evacuation route.

Special Needs Plan

If you are an individual with special needs, be sure to visit Seminole County's Prepare Seminole's website and register for their Special Needs Program. Other precautions may include:

- Hearing impaired may need to make special arrangements to receive warnings.
- Mobility impaired people may need assistance in getting to a shelter.
- Households with a single working parent may need help from others both in planning for disasters and during an emergency.
- Non-English speaking people may need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep these populations informed.
- People without vehicles may need to make arrangements for transportation.
- People with special dietary needs should have an adequate emergency food supply.

Shelter In Place

Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building. If you are told to shelter-in-place, follow these instructions:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- Turn off all heating and air conditioning systems.

- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your family disaster kit and make sure the radio is working.
- Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level.
- Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- Have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

Evacuation

Always evacuate your home when ordered to do so by the proper authorities. The Office of Emergency Management coordinates evacuation and sheltering issues for the County when a State of Emergency has been declared. When evacuating:

- Listen to a battery operated radio for the location of open public shelters and evacuation routes.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your disaster supply kit.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes which have been specified by local officials.
- Shut off all utilities: water, gas and electric.
- Make arrangements for your pets or livestock.