

# Storm Preparedness And Information Guidelines

Brought to you by the ORO Safety Advisory Committee

and

ORO CERT

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## INTRODUCTION

The ORO Safety Advisory Committee is a volunteer group of ORO residents that provide safety related recommendations to the ORO Board of Directors; sponsor safety related training and programs for ORO residents; and provides assistance and emergency preparedness information to the ORO community through the ORO Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area; and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

ORO CERT was started in the summer of 2013. ORO CERT consists of volunteers throughout ORO including full and part-time residents and some employees. We hold monthly meetings, and we belong to the Polk County CERT Association. Many of the ORO CERT members attend advanced training offered at the county level. In the event of a disaster, we are part of a county-wide network of 27 CERT teams (as of 2021). If there is an emergency event in or near ORO, the county emergency operations center may activate the ORO CERT and other nearby teams to support emergency responders with immediate emergency response activities. We may also be called upon to help in other communities. We are issued protective equipment, some medical supplies, tools, and other items in a backpack and we each have a photo ID badge as well.

Any disaster may delay the arrival of fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or law enforcement personnel for hours or days, depending on how widespread the disaster. These events may include tornados which may have little to no warning; or hurricanes, severe weather, or flooding conditions, which may have just a few days warning.

Depending on the conditions brought on by a disaster, some resident response options may be to: stay in ORO, go to an approved shelter, go to a hotel, or stay with a friend or relative outside of the disaster area.

The information in this booklet was prepared by the ORO Safety Advisory Committee and ORO CERT. This document has been reviewed and revised several times since being originally released in 2016. It contains suggested guidelines for ORO residents in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

# OUTDOOR RESORTS ORLANDO

## HURRICANE/STORM PREPAREDNESS

### WHAT - TO PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME:

- Put together a "storm" kit of supplies — Medications, water, flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, extra clothes, rain gear, important papers in a Zip-lock bag, ID, money, cell phone and chargers (both car and home chargers), portable radio, and Vial of Life if you have one.
- Ensure you have enough non-perishable foods on hand to last for at least 4 days. Have a manual can opener since you may not have electricity.
- Keep your supply of medications up to date. Check to see if you can get an early supply of medications if getting low, or you expect to be away for a while.
- Determine where your safe place is — an interior space with no windows is best. If you will need assistance, decide who will provide the assistance and discuss it with them.
- Decide if you will stay or go in the event of an emergency. Let friends, neighbors and/or family members know your plans.

### WHAT TO DO AS A STORM APPROACHES - ABOUT 2 DAYS OUT:

- Keep informed on the latest storm news! A website you may use is [weather.com](http://weather.com). Check the ORO Channel 997 for local information if available and your cellphone app.
- You may wish to get a weather radio and extra batteries.
- Fully charge cell phones and golf carts.
- If you have storm shutters you may wish to use them.
- Bring outdoor objects subjected to "flying" inside.
- Top off your gas tank; have cash. If power goes out, you will not be able to get these things. Electric vehicles should be fully charged.
- Check your "Storm Kit". The stores may be out of these items.
- If you are leaving the area, please tell someone so you will not be searched for. Leave EARLY to avoid traffic. If you have a pet, take it with you. If you leave, take the items in your "Storm Kit" with you.
- Store extra water. Use containers and fill a bathtub. Make and bag extra ice.
- If you are riding out the storm, have your safe place ready by placing your "Storm Kit" there. Please always keep your ID with you. If you have a cell phone (with charger) and/or a portable radio, keep it with you.
- If you have a generator and are planning to use it if the electricity goes out, please make sure you also have a carbon monoxide detector in use. **DO NOT USE THE GENERATOR INSIDE OF THE HOUSE OR NEAR OPEN WINDOWS AND DOORS.**
- Manufactured Mobile Homes are extremely susceptible to high winds. There is shelter information available to you on page 6 of this document.

## BASIC GUIDELINES -TO FOLLOW AT ALL TIMES:

- Evacuate when ordered to do so by the authorities.
- Turn off your utilities at the main switch if you have time.
- Do NOT leave animals behind, even if you are not sure where to take them.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN A STORM HITS AND YOU CHOOSE TO STAY:

- Remain indoors. Use your "Safe Place". If you have a cell phone and/or radio, keep it handy.
- Keep track of the storm; TV if you have power, battery operated radio if not.
- Do NOT count on cell phones working!
- If power goes out, AVOID flushing toilets. Lift stations may not be pumping.
- Eat perishable foods first.

## WHAT TO DO AFTER THE STORM:

- Once the storm subsides, continue to monitor the storm just in case it is not finished.
- Carefully inspect your home and property. Take pictures of damage and contact your insurance company.
- Help your neighbors, especially elderly and handicapped.
- Use your saved water for flushing toilets assuming the lift stations are operational.
- When power returns, turn breakers back on.
- Watch out for wild animals; the storm may make them confused and unpredictable.

## **FLOOD PREPARATION AND SAFETY TIPS**

### **Before the Flood:**

- Keep your automobile fueled; after a flood, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps for several days. Electric vehicles should be fully charged.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs and in various containers.
- Keep a Stock of food that requires little cooking and no refrigeration.
- Keep first aid supplies on hand.
- Keep a NOAA Weather Radio, flashlights, and emergency cooking equipment in working order.
- The CERT Team has empty sandbags, that you can fill with “BEACH SAND” by the clubhouse.

### **During the Flood:**

- Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, streams, rivers, etc.
- Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is ankle deep or more, STOP! Turn around and go another way.
- If driving, be aware that the roadbed may not be intact under flood waters. Turn around and go another way. NEVER drive through flooded roadways!
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

### **After the Flood:**

- If food comes in contact with flood waters, throw it out.
- Boil drinking water before using.
- Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking.
- Seek necessary medical care at the nearest hospital.
- Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.
- Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.
- Use flashlights, not lanterns, torches or matches, to examine buildings.
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Look before you step and watch for animals, especially snakes.

## Getting Updated Information:

For up-to-date information on severe weather, including flooding, please tune to local media stations.

Warning times for these events may be as long as five days for hurricanes, or as little as a one-to-two-hour notice for flash floods and urban advisories. The key is to keep aware of these notices when watching, listening to, or reading the various media sources.

### **\*Special Needs:**

**The Polk County** special needs shelters are designed for "... residents with mental or physical conditions and/or dependent on medical electrical equipment who require assistance during an emergency". For more information (including registering for transportation) see the 2021 Polk County Public Shelters flyer.

This document should be available on the ORO website if you Log-In and search for "Storm".

## EMERGENCY SHELTERS

**The ORO Clubhouse and bathhouses are NOT APPROVED shelters.**

**POLK County:** For Shelter status: call **863-401-2234** or **866-661-0228**

**Do Not proceed to any shelter until you have confirmed that it is open.**

### **Shelters located South on Route 27**

- |   |                                     |                |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Citrus Ridge Academy.<br>1775 Sand Mine Rd,          | Approx. 5 miles<br>Davenport, FL    |                |
| 2. Ridgeview Global Studies Academy.<br>1000 Dunson Rd, | Approx. 10 miles<br>Davenport, FL   |                |
| 3. Davenport School of Art.<br>4751 County Rd 547N,     | Approx. 14 miles<br>Davenport, FL   |                |
| 4. *Ridge Community High School.<br>500 Orchid Drive,   | Approx. 20 miles<br>Davenport, FL . | *Special Needs |

**LAKE County:** For Shelter status: call **352-997-3525**

**Do Not proceed to any shelter until you have confirmed that it is open.**

### **Shelters located North on Route 27**

- |  |                                  |                |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. *Lost Lake Elementary School<br>1901 Johns Lake Road, | Approx. 15 miles<br>Clermont, FL | *Special Needs |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|

**OSCEOLA County:** For Shelter status: call **407-742-0000** Ask about Pet Friendly shelters.

PETS: Osceola County Animal Control Officers will take care of taking pets to a facility.  
Please call 407-373-7101.

**Do Not proceed to any shelter until you have confirmed that it is open.**

### **Shelters located East on Route 192:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Westside K-8 School<br>2551 Westside Blvd.       | Approx. 4 miles<br>Kissimmee, FL (Alternative shelter)    |  |
| 2. Celebration High School<br>1809 Celebration Ave. | Approx. 10 miles<br>Celebration, FL                       |  |
| 3. Celebration School<br>510 Campus Street          | Approx. 10 miles (Alternative shelter)<br>Celebration, FL |  |

## **DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

**Do Not proceed to any shelter until you have confirmed that it is open.**

### **POLK COUNTY**

#### **Citrus Ridge Academy**

**Approx. 5 miles. (# 8 on Polk Co Emergency Shelter map)**

- Turn right onto Rt 192 E,
- Make an immediate U-turn onto Rt 192 West
- Stay Left to merge onto 27 South
- Turn Left (East) onto Sand Mine Rd
- School is ¼ mile on the right side

#### **Ridgeview Global Studies Academy**

**Approx. 10 miles. (#13 on Polk Co Emergency Shelter map)**

- Turn right onto Rt 192 E,
- Make an immediate U-turn onto Rt 192 West
- Stay Left to merge onto 27 South
- Turn Left onto Dunson Rd
- School is ½ mile on the Left

#### **Ridge Community High School**

**Approx. 20 miles (#12 on Polk Co Emergency Shelter map)**

- Right on Route 192 (East)
- Make immediate U-turn onto Route 192 (West).
- Stay left to merge onto Route 27 (South)
- Left on Davenport Blvd (547)
- Right onto Orchid Dr, School is on LEFT

### **LAKE COUNTY**

#### **Lost Lake Elementary School**

**Approx. 20 miles (\*Special Needs Shelter)**

- Right on Route 192(East)Make immediate U-turn onto Route 192 (West)
- Right on Route 27 (North)
- Right on Johns Lake Road, School is on right.

You may wish to take a test drive to these shelters prior to a disaster event occurring to acquaint yourselves with each shelter location.

### **OSCEOLA COUNTY**

#### **Westside K-8 School**

**Approx. 4 miles.**

- Right on Route 192 (East) then Right on Westside Blvd.
- Make a U-turn at Florence Villa Grove Road. School is on the right.

**Celebration High School Approx. 10 miles**

- Right on Route 192 (East)
- Right on Toll Road 429
- Exit 1 to 1-4 East
- Exit 62 to Route 417 (North) • Merge onto World Drive
- Turn right on Celebration Blvd.
- Make a U-turn
- School is on right

**Celebration School Approx. 10 miles**

- Right on Route 192 (East)
- Right on Celebration Place
- Turn right to stay on Celebration Place
- Continue straight on Campus Street
- School is on the right.

Westside K-8 is an alternative emergency shelter/evacuation center. However, this does **NOT** guarantee it will open during any specific incident (hurricane). Specific schools are opened according to the potential impact and need. Currently, Westside K-8 is one of the backup shelters and will open if other shelters start reaching capacity.

The shelters listed herein are being provided as a planning tool to assist citizens should the need to evacuate arise. Please be advised that the fact that a shelter has been included on this list does **NOT** mean that the shelter will be activated in the event of an emergency. It is the responsibility of the citizens to check with local television and radio stations, as well as your weather radio and other resources for accurate, up-to-the-minute, open shelter location information when needed.

Personal Location Information:

Lot Number in ORO: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation/Shelter Information:

Have a transportation plan!

Do you have transportation if ORO must evacuate? \_\_\_\_\_

What type: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you get yourself and other occupants to a shelter? \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency

Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor/Friend: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Medical/Physical Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY PROTECTION:

If there is a problem while you are away, who shall we call?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLANATION OF THIS FORM:

This form is for your personal use. You can use it when preparing for a potential event or disaster. You may choose to share it with family/friend/neighbor, have the office put it on file, or keep it private. It is designed to help you stay prepared.