# INSIGHT

MAY 2023

### PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

MAKE A PLAN

**BUILD A BUCKET** 

STAY INFORMED







As we have witnessed time and again during natural disasters, preparation is vital to a successful recovery. As we gear up for hurricane season, the City of Tallahassee urges residents to take the steps necessary to prepare and protect their families, property and pets.

Download the City's Step-by-Step Prep Guide at **Talgov.com/PREP** to learn what to do before, during and after storms. The guide also contains important information about City services.

While you are preparing, know that the City is doing the same. Front-line crews from every department train and plan year-round. They inspect infrastructure, check resources, review best practices from peer agencies and ensure we are prepared to respond should the need arise locally or as part of mutual aid for neighboring communities.

Additionally, the City has prioritized disaster response training to ensure that – should they be needed – all City employees could be called upon to assist in response and

recovery efforts – from internal logistics supporting field crews to opening community comfort stations for the public.

That said, during a disaster, there may be a period of time when responders are unable to reach you. You are your best first line of defense, which is why we urge neighborhoods to prepare together. To help, the City of Tallahassee offers the free Neighborhood PREP toolkit, which is available for download at **Talgov.com/PREP**.

The City and its employees take the task of preparing for hurricane season very seriously. We live in this community and depend on City services as well. Thanks to City employees, you have nearly 4,000 neighbors trained, ready and willing to help. From the first warning through the

final stages of recovery, the City will work to ensure core services are as functional as possible. We urge you to prepare, too.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWLOAD THE HURRICANE PREP GUIDE



## Sustainability Tip



In hot weather, set your AC thermostat to 78 degrees or your highest comfortable temperature. For the AC's fan setting, always choose AUTO; never choose ON.

#### **ENSURE YOU STAY INFORMED**

The City will send email and text alerts to City utility customers during natural disasters. Check your utility account contact information to ensure it is current. Log in to your utility account on **Talgov.com/YOU** or call Customer Service at 850-891-4968 to verify your contact information. In addition to direct customer contact, official City information will be posted online and on social media. Bookmark **Talgov.com**, follow **@CityofTLH** on Twitter and like City of Tallahassee, FL – Government on Facebook (**Facebook.com/CityofTLH**) now. Local info will also broadcast on 88.9 WFSU-FM.



City of Tallahassee
Your Own Utilities
Talgov.com/YOU

#### REPORTING POWER OUTAGES

If you haven't already downloaded DigiTally (the City's free trouble reporting mobile app), there is no better time than right now. If the power goes out during a storm, you can quickly and easily report it through the app via your smart phone or tablet. The app will ask for the address of the outage and your phone number. Once you submit the report, you'll receive a confirmation email. All reports submitted via DigiTally are sent directly to the Electric Utility and put into the system to be addressed.





#### **GENERATOR SAFETY**



The prevalence of emergency generators for use in the event of a power outage is growing. The City of Tallahassee's Electric Utility advises residents to use caution when operating these machines and follow the manufacturer's instructions to reduce your risk and any risk to crews working nearby.

If you are considering purchasing a permanently installed standby electric generator fueled by natural gas or propane, the City of Tallahassee offers a low-interest loan program for qualified homeowners. To be eligible, the loan applicant must be a City of Tallahassee Electric customer; and a transfer switch, a permit, and a passed Growth Management inspection are required. Loan approval is required prior to installation. Get details by calling 850-891-4968.

#### PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS

From a Fortune 500 company to local start-ups, every business should have a hurricane plan. Do you have a building evacuation plan that is regularly practiced? Have you gathered insurance forms, lease agreements and other important paperwork? How will employees get information about the status of operations? These are only a few of the many things employers need to consider when creating a business resiliency plan. Get more details and helpful information at ready.gov/business.



#### SPECIAL NEEDS? REGISTER NOW.



Citizens needing assistance during an emergency with evacuation and sheltering because of age, disability or other special needs, should register now. Information you provide is confidential and protected under the Florida Statutes. Special needs shelters are intended to provide, to the extent possible, an environment that can sustain an individual's level of health. If you or a loved one require a high level of medical care or depend on electricity for life-sustaining medical equipment, you should consider registering for the special needs shelter. Completing the Florida Special Needs Registry does not, however, automatically qualify the individual for a special needs shelter. Register online at snr.foridadisaster.org. For further assistance with registration, call the Leon County Division of Emergency Management at 850-606-3700.

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 850-891-4968 or visit **Talgov.com**.

#### TALGOV.com fyoin @cityofTLH

Insight is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the City's ADA/Title VI Coordinator at least two business days prior to the event at 850-661-3235 or **Kathleen.Wright@Talgov.com**. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance notice.



Visit Talgov.com for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops

Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at **Talgov.com**. Follow **@CityofTLH** on Twitter for City news.