



## **SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS**

June 4, 2015

Dear Resident (Homeowner/Tenant):

With June and the start of the Hurricane season upon us it is time to consider preparation for severe weather. As a part of Grand Venezia's commitment to Safety and Security, GVCOA is asking that you please consider this letter and its contents as reminders that emergencies present situations that we don't normally face and your need to be prepared. Hurricane season is June through November – we ask that you be prepared. We are also including some general information that can be used for emergencies of other types.

Our first suggestion – get to know your neighbors. In the event of any emergency neighbors are often the best source of support first contact and help. Don't wait for your neighbor to knock on your door and introduce themselves – when you're done reading this letter, take a pen, walk next door, across the hall, knock and introduce yourself. Exchange names and mobile phone numbers – perhaps emergency contact information – anything that could be of help after an emergency strikes. (Having lived through Andrew I relied on my neighbors for help getting tree limbs off my car and I cooked food for many with my grill). Grand Venezia is in the process of determining which units are occupied regularly. We ask that if you are renting your unit, please call the office and let us know so we can help ensure that everyone at Grand Venezia is aware of emergencies preparedness.

Storm information can be found in many places. All local television stations report weather as it approaches. If you do not have TV connection or prefer using your computer - Internet weather can be found on [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com), [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com), or [www.hurricanehunter.com](http://www.hurricanehunter.com) – there are many other websites that offer weather information.

If you prefer radio stations:

WDAE 620 am

WFLA 970 am

or

WUSF 89.7 fm

WMTX 100.7 fm

NOAA Weather Radio

FREQ 162.40 MHz

FIPS code 012115

**Do NOT rely on the Grand Venezia team to notify you of the need to evacuate.** The Grand Venezia team will be “battening down the hatches” and evacuating the property. Keep aware of weather changes and follow the instructions given. If there is an electrical storm, do not use the telephone (electricity travels on telephone lines). Unplug appliances and computers. Outdoors watch for fallen power lines and stay out of damaged areas.

A Hurricane WATCH indicates hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the WATCH, usually with 36 hours. During hurricane watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a hurricane warning is issued.

A Hurricane WARNING indicates hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the WARNING, usually with 24 hours.

Grand Venezia at Baywatch is located in Zone "A." That means that a storm, even at the lowest severity, can be cause for potential threat to life and property to anyone in Zone A. Grand Venezia does not have any type of "shelter" available for those told to evacuate their homes. The clubhouse faces the same threats as your homes and would be an unsafe shelter. The Grand Venezia clubhouse and gate house will be closed and the entrance gates will be left in the open position for evacuation and in the case of electrical problems. Listed below is basic information on what to do in the case of severe weather.

- Prepare Ahead
  - Identify ahead of time where you will go when instructed to evacuate. Notify family/close friends where you are going – a friend's home in another town, a motel, or shelter. Specifics on shelters can be found on the Internet at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency> Those with special needs (elderly, disabled can get transportation if they register BEFORE an emergency occurs)
  - Assemble a disaster supplies kit – list is included at the end of this letter
  - Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, family and friends.
  
- If you are vacating the area, you may be forced to take alternative or unfamiliar routes, keep maps to where you are going – remember in a storm you cannot rely on "electronics" to get you there.
  
- Once a Watch is Issued
  - Listen to a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Weather Radio, a local radio or TV Station for up-to-date storm information. Often times after a severe storm a NOAA radio is the only means of getting up-to-date information. NOAA Radio's offer "tone alert" feature which allow you to receive warnings issued by your local National Weather Service Office while you are sleeping.
  - Bring in ANYTHING outside, inside - even in screened areas.
  - Fill your car's gas tank.
  - Get cash – ATM's and Banks may be closed for a period of time after an emergency so you'll need cash to buy water/supplies/food (and electricity may be out so you cannot use credit cards)
  - Refill prescriptions
  - Check your Disaster Supplies Kit and make sure you have everything and everything is in working order (nothing worse than discovering that your batteries are dead).
  - Turn your refrigerator/freezer to coldest settings.
  - Place any valuables in waterproof containers.
  - Water service could be disrupted after a severe storm. Freeze water in plastic jugs.
  
- Once a Warning is Issued

- Have your “to-go” bag ready and by the front door – emergency personnel may knock on your door and order you to evacuate NOW. Don’t count on the luxury of time.
  - If Zone A is not instructed to leave, remain indoors, in the center of your home – somewhere where there are no windows – a closet or interior bathroom.
  - Bring pets and pet supplies with you into center of your home.
  - Move frozen plastic jugs of water to your refrigerator – the extra cold will help insulate and keep cooler longer.
  - Continue to listen to NOAA radio for further instructions.
  - Listen and if told to evacuate – **DO SO** - should you decide to stay please provide the office a written physical description (height, weight, eye color, etc.) so that it can be used for later for identification purposes.
  - Take all valuables, turn off all utilities (water, electricity, gas) at the main switch
  - Advise friends/relatives of where you are going (cell phone lines are usually jammed after an emergency so it may be impossible to get/receive calls).
- **Pets**
    - Make arrangements for your pet AHEAD OF TIME. Pets are not permitted in shelters.
    - Bring medications (heartworm, flea prevention) and medical records (rabies/vaccination records) with your pet.
    - Identification or microchip information for your pet.
    - Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carrier big enough for your pet to stand up and turn around.
    - Pet toys/beds if easily transportable or they fit into your pet carrier.
    - Current photo of your pet
    - Food and drinkable water for your pet for three days, bowls for the food/water and a non-electric can opener.
    - Information about feeding schedule, medical conditions, behavior problems, name and contact information for your pets veterinarian in case you have to board your pet.

The most important part of planning for what you and your family will do in an emergency starts with “A Plan.” Questions that you need to answer NOW include

- If you are ordered to evacuate, where will you go?
- If you have a pet, what will happen to your pet? (Know that most shelters do NOT accept pets)
- What will you do if you lose water and/or power to your home for hours or days?
- Do you have a basic disaster emergency kit prepared?
- What would you do if you could not return to your home or days/weeks?
- Do you have enough water and food to sustain your family for up to 7 days?
- Do you have enough prescription medication for at least 14 days (for everyone taking medications)?

Use the information included here as a starting point – continue to ask questions and read more information on preparing for an emergency so that you and your family are not caught facing a disaster without being prepared.

## Survival Kit

This is part of your “to-go” bag

- Drinking water – one gallon per person per day with a 7 day minimum.
- Non-perishable (canned or packaged) food and beverages that do not need to be heated to be edible – enough for one-week (e.g. graham crackers, snack crackers, jelly, energy bars, tuna, raisins, peanut butter, beef jerky, nuts, trail mix, fruit, etc.)
- Non-electric can opener
- Cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Two weeks of all prescription medications, including clearly marking dosage and when taken. If you are leaving the area obtain copies of all prescriptions
- Toiletries
  - Toothbrush, toothpaste, hair brush, soap, shampoo, latex gloves, scissors, tweezers, toilet paper, moist towelettes, feminine supplies
- Hand sanitizing soap/anti-bacterial hand gel
- Tools
  - NOAA radio
  - Camera (w/extra batteries)
  - Flashlights and/or lanterns (candles/oil lamps can be a fire hazard)
  - Batteries for radio flashlights – 7-10 extra sets
  - Matches and/or lighter in waterproof container
  - Local maps (often main roads are shut-down)
  - Paper and Pencil/Pens
  - Elastic cords or rope and Duct tape
  - Tarps, plastic sheeting and plastic trash bags
  - A can of tire inflator
- Complete change of clothes and shoes – one per person (shoes should be sturdy work boot type)
- Rain gear (umbrellas are useless they blow inside out and need to be held – you’ll need to stay as dry as possible with rain gear)
- Eyeglasses and sunglasses (spare pair if you have them)
- Chargers for laptop and cell phone(s)
- First-aid kit (Band-Aids, antiseptic, gauge pads, tape, anti-diarrhea medicine/laxatives, anti-itch cream, antacids)
- Wear a medic alert tag – if you are a caregiver make sure the information is attached to your medic alert tag – if something happens to you medical personnel would know you have someone with special needs that is dependent on your help
- Whistle and/or distress flag
- Insect repellent
- Two Portable coolers (one to keep food, one to go get ice – and not having to open refrigerator as often)
- If you’re heading to a shelter
  - Folding chairs, cots, pillows and blankets (bedding for a small space), towels for bathing, special dietary needs, books, puzzles, other quiet games, NOAA radio (and batteries), flashlight with extra batteries
- Important Papers/legal documents (SEE Documents below)
- At Grand Venezia, our outside grills allow for cooking of food when the electricity is out, but you’ll need charcoal, charcoal starter and matches (aluminum foil works for foods that cannot take direct flame)

## DOCUMENTS

These are part of your “to-go” bag

- Driver’s license, medical information, property inventory (video if possible)
- Property Insurer:
  - Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Claim Reporting Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Claim Reporting Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Flood Insurance Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Claim Reporting Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Claim Reporting Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Additional Insurers (wind, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Policy Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Claim Reporting Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_
- Insurance policies and any legal documents that would be difficult to replace – seal in waterproof container with insurance company contact information.
- Credit cards and list of creditors
- Medical records and blood type
- Doctor’s contact information
- Bank account numbers
- List of savings, investments, retirement including CD’s, stocks, bonds and mutual funds
- Birth, death, divorce, adoption certificates, passports, wills and living wills
- List of professional advisors (accountant, lawyer, clergy) with contact information
- Education and military records
- Any documents that would be difficult or impossible to replace if lost

All documents should be sealed in waterproof containers. Because the information is valuable and you will not have a location to keep in under “lock and key” be cautious with the waterproof container containing this information. Should your area be hit by a tornado locating the information if left in your home finding it might not be possible – take it with you and guard the information.

After the emergency has passed, photograph of all damages. If you have any repairs completed take before and after (e.g. tarps placed on roof) photo’s that can be submitted with your claims.

BEWARE of individuals canvassing for repair work. Ask for AND CHECK OUT references. Insist on start and completion dates in the contract, with penalty clauses for not meeting the dates. Do NOT pay the final balance until all work is completed to your satisfaction.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

### In Case of EMERGENCY dial 911

**Do NOT use telephone except to call for help or report emergencies.  
Jammed telephone lines interfere with emergency services.**

Pinellas County Emergency Management	727-464-3800	<a href="http://www.pinellascountyorg/emergency">www.pinellascountyorg/emergency</a>
Pinellas County Animal Services	727-582-2600	<a href="http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices">www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices</a>
Pinellas County Health Department	727-824-6900	<a href="http://www.pinellashealth.com">www.pinellashealth.com</a>
Pinellas County Sheriff	727-582-6200	<a href="http://www.pcsoweb.com">www.pcsoweb.com</a>
National Hurricane Center		<a href="http://www.nhc.noaa.gov">www.nhc.noaa.gov</a>
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	800-621-3362	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>
County Emergency Management (shelters)	727-464-3800	
American Red Cross – Tampa	727-446-2358	<a href="http://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a>
Police Department – non emergency	727-562-4242	
Fire Department – non emergency	727-562-4334	
Duke Energy – outage areas	800-228-8485	<a href="http://www.duke-energy.com">www.duke-energy.com</a>
Clearwater Gas	727-462-6633	<p><b><u>FIRST – LEAVE THE PREMISES</u></b></p> <p>Even something as simple as turning on a light or the ringing of a cell phone can cause an explosion if there is a gas leak.</p> <p>Natural and propane gases are colorless and odorless. Clearwater Gas System adds a distinctive odor resembling rotten eggs, so that you can smell the gas immediately should a leak occur.</p> <p>A faint odor of gas maybe attributed to a pilot light that has gone out and should be re-lit.</p> <p>A strong gas odor indicates that you should leave your home at once.</p> <p>To report a gas leak, call Clearwater Gas System, using an outside phone, at our emergency number: 727-462-6633.</p>