



The Town of Ocean Ridge Police Department

—Emergency 911 — Business (561) 732-8331 — Fax (561) 732-8676 —

6450 N. Ocean Blvd.
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435-5297

Christopher T. Yannuzzi
Chief of Police

HURRICANE SEASON 2010

Dear Residents:

Effective today, June 1st, the 2010 Hurricane Season officially begins. Collectively, we will prepare and remain vigilant until the season's end on November 30th. Like you, the members of the Police Department are hoping that no storm impacts our area. However, we are ready to perform our duty to protect and serve should the need arise. To that end, all Town employees have been instructed to have a plan in place to safeguard their families and secure their homes & possessions so they can devote their full attention to their duties. It is equally important that they practice that plan and have a backup – a "Plan B" – should the need arise. Likewise, we hope that you have done the same.

It is worthy of repeating that the experts are predicting that this season could produce several severe storms. In the interest of providing up-to-date information to our residents, allow me to advise you of the conditions that may be present in and around Ocean Ridge in the event of a hurricane. This year there have been several changes in the definition of the common terms used to describe certain storm conditions so it is especially important that you understand and respond to these situations if announced.

Due to the increased accuracy in predicting the direction and characteristics of an approaching storm, the advanced notice for a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning have been increased. Therefore, a HURRICANE WATCH will now be issued 48 hours in advance. A HURRICANE WARNING will be issued 36 hours in advance.

Since Ocean Ridge is situated on a barrier island, it is in one of the most vulnerable locations. There is always the possibility of a storm surge from the east forcing a wall of water over the dunes and/or the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway rising and causing flooding from the west. It is strongly recommended that you evacuate to the mainland when any HURRICANE WARNING is announced.

Arrangements should be made in advance of the storm to stay with friends or relatives on the mainland - west of I-95 - if you plan on staying in the area. As an alternate, you should consider lodging in a sturdy motel. If the latter is your choice, a reservation should be made immediately upon learning of the HURRICANE WATCH, even though it would be several hours before you would be ready to evacuate. There will be a large number of persons needing lodging and you may be unable to find accommodations if you wait until the time of evacuation. Likewise, advanced preparation and registration needs to be made for those persons with special care needs and for your pets.

Three potential public shelters, as designated by the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management and the Red Cross, are listed here. It is highly recommended that if you are going to use a shelter that you listen to local radio and television to determine which of the shelters are open. The conditions at a shelter will not be ideal and you are expected to bring your own supplies to make your stay as comfortable as possible. Preferably, you should make arrangements to stay with friends or a motel well outside the area and to only use these shelters as a last resort.

The 3 closest designated shelters are:

Park Vista High School
7900 Jog Road
Boynton Beach, FL

Boynton Beach High School
4975 Park Ridge Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL

Atlantic High School
2455 West Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, FL

A pet-friendly shelter is now available to Palm Beach County residents in an evacuation zone or in a mobile home. Pre-registration with Animal Care and Control is required: 561-233-1266 or www.pbcgov.com/pubsafety/animal.

Pet Friendly Shelter: West Boynton Recreation Center
6000 Hightree Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL. (561) 233-1266

There are two evacuation routes, one via the Woolbright Road bridge and the other over the Ocean Avenue bridge. You should use the one nearest your residence. Storm shutters should be in place and all loose objects secured well in advance of the evacuation. Residents should shut off propane gas tanks, main electrical breakers, and all sprinkler systems.

WHEN EVACUATING, take blankets, pillows, food, water, flashlights, rain gear, changes of clothing, medicine and prescription drugs, portable radio, photo ID/passport for all family members, photocopies of important documents (insurance policies, etc. in a waterproof container) and reading material to the shelter. You should plan to be away from home for 3 – 7 days.

MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS: Pets, alcohol, weapons and smoking are not allowed in the public hurricane shelters.

Residents requiring special medical needs should pre-register with the County Emergency Operations Center at 561-712-6400 and have physician authorization. This Special Needs Program is maintained by Palm Beach County and is limited and based on need and established criteria.

ATTENTION BOAT OWNERS: The bridges will be raised and lowered as required for the flow of boat traffic until the wind reaches 35 mph, and then they will be secured in a closed position and bridge tenders will not be in attendance during the storm. If you intend to relocate a boat, you should do so at the first Hurricane Watch notice of the storm while the bridges are still operable.

TOWN HALL CLOSED: Although the Town Hall/Police Department complex was built to withstand a Category 3 storm, it is not a shelter and, if the order is given to evacuate the island, no employees will remain in the building. All telephones will be forwarded to a remote location.

All Police Officers will be scheduled to remain on patrol in Town until wind conditions or flooding requires them to seek shelter. The officers shall return to patrol immediately following the storm and rigid surveillance will be implemented to prevent looting until the residents are able to return. Tight security will be maintained with checkpoints being established at bridges and Town limits by our officers. Make certain that you have identification with you, as no one will be permitted to return to the island following the storm unless they are residents.

While we are hopeful there will never be another hurricane, we felt it necessary that you be informed in order to protect yourselves as much as possible under the circumstances.

Additional hurricane information is also available on the Town's website at:

http://www.oceanridgeflorida.com/Hurricane/hurricane_information.htm

You may also check for a recorded message at the Town's "Citizen Information Line" at 561-738-ORFL (6735)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

Christopher T. Yannuzzi,
Chief of Police