



Public Services/Public Works Department Hurricane Preparedness and Your Water and Sewer System



Purpose of Water and Sewer System Hurricane Preparedness

Recent experience with hurricanes in the southeastern United States has shown us the overwhelming destructive power of hurricanes. One area that most of us don't think about is the potential for disruption and damage to our vital water and sewer infrastructure.

The City of Tarpon Springs Public Services and Public Works Departments have jointly developed a preparedness plan to better protect our water and sewer system from storm damage. This plan will provide:

- Better protection of public and private property from damage as a result of a failed water and sewer system.
- Faster recovery time following an actual hurricane event by protecting roadways from ruptured pipe damage and protecting our water system from contamination.
- Better environmental protection through minimized sewage flows until the system can be inspected and repaired following a major storm.

Water and Sewer System Hurricane Preparedness Plan Summary

Residents should be prepared for disruptions in utility service as part of any hurricane event.

Such reason may include power outages or disruptions in service from our water suppliers, or shutdowns of portions of the water system as a protective measure. Under Mandatory Evacuation conditions, specific areas within the water distribution system and certain portions of the sewer system within those areas will be shut down prior to a hurricane. These areas are selected based upon the relative risk to the water and sewer system from wave and water damage as a result of a hurricane.

This plan will NOT be implemented until AFTER a level B or higher Mandatory Evacuation Order has been issued by the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

It is very important that everyone understands **if you do not evacuate as mandated for a level B or higher evacuation, you must be prepared to have water or sewer services disrupted until the system is restored.**

If you choose to remain under a mandatory level B or higher evacuation order, you must have a bottled water supply or boil or otherwise disinfect any tap water prior to drinking as a precautionary measure. This also applies to those returning from shelter until such clearance that tap water is safe to drink is issued by the City. The Plan will be implemented in 3 stages: Level B Evacuation, Level C Evacuation, and Level E Evacuation (Level E being the most severe threat). An overall component of the plan is to avoid disrupting water or sewer service to areas that are not under mandatory evacuation. *However, residents should be prepared for disruptions in utility service as part of any hurricane event.* More information on such preparedness is presented below.

Points of Contact for More Information and Status

- Hurricane Season starts June 1st. Watch City Government Channel 15, visit the City website at <http://www.ctsfl.us/>,
- Listen to AM 1610 for Hurricane Information including emergency water/sewer shut downs and evacuation information.
- Know your evacuation zone: get this information online from Pinellas County at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/default.htm> or call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800 for assistance.

- Monitor your local news for the latest weather developments and any evacuation announcements.

Areas of Planned Disruptions of Water and Sewer Service

Areas of planned disruption to water and sewer service after a Level B mandatory evacuation are primarily coastal areas, areas of a Level A or B evacuation zone, mobile home parks throughout the City's water service area, and lower lying areas vulnerable to wave and water action. Under a Level C Mandatory evacuation, additional areas of utility shutdown would generally include those Level C evacuation zones. Under a Level E mandatory evacuation -the most severe condition-, the entire City will be subject to disruption in water and sewer service. Areas of evacuation will be mandated by the County EOC according to evacuation zone.

Areas Where Water and Sewer Service WILL Be Maintained

Critical Facilities such as evacuation shelters, hospitals, emergency operations centers (EOC), and the power plant will be provided water and sewer service as long as such service can be maintained.

Examples of such critical facilities include:

- Tarpon Middle School (evacuation shelter)
- Helen Ellis Hospital
- Anclote Power Plant
- EOC Building

What to Expect During Disruption to Water and Sewer Service

If **water service** has been disrupted, the following can be expected to occur:

- water pressure within your home will drop until no water will come from the tap and toilets will not refill after flushing.
- if the water distribution system loses all pressure, a precautionary boil water notice will be in effect until the water lines are cleared and water quality is tested and found safe to drink. **This may take several days or more following the storm event to restore service depending on the severity of the damage.**

If **sewer service** has been disrupted, the following can be expected to occur:

- toilets and drains will not function
- if the sewer system is damaged as a result of the storm, **it may take several days or more following the storm event to restore service depending on the severity of the damage.**

How to Prepare for Disruption to Water and Sewer Service

Water

Store at least 1 week supply of water for each member of your household (1 gallon per person per day.)

Store water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers.

You can also store water in your bathtub.

- Thoroughly clean, rinse and wipe with bleach.
- Fill the tub to the upper drain.

Your hot water heater is another source of usable water.

- Before the storm, turn off the water inlet valve and the power to the water heater.
- Open the drain valve at the bottom to allow sediment to drain out until the water runs clear.
- Close the drain valve at the bottom, and turn on the water inlet valve to refill the water heater.

Purifying Water

Boiling water is the safest way to purify water.

Bring the water to a rolling boil for 3 minutes. Let the water cool before drinking.

As an alternative, use liquid chlorine bleach (household bleach) to kill microorganisms.

The disinfection procedure is usually written on the label, but if it's not given, read the percentage of available chlorine and use the guidelines below:

Available Chlorine	Drops per Quart of Clear Water
1%	10
4-6%	2
7-10%	1

Do not use scented bleach, color safe bleach, or bleach with added cleaners. Mix the water thoroughly, and allow it to stand for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it does not, the disinfecting process should be repeated.

Another alternative: use water purification tablets as directed.



Sewer

Waste Collection and Disposal Procedures: Keep 5-gallon buckets, with tight fitting lids for use as emergency toilets

- Line each bucket with a thick plastic trash bag liner.
- Add a disinfectant and/or deodorizer to the bucket to prevent microorganism growth and odor.
- Do not allow the bucket to become more than ¼ full before removing and replacing with a new liner and deodorizer. An overfilled liner may break during removal. Seal the used liners and store in another lined 5-gallon bucket with a lid or a lined trash can with a lid. It is a good idea to place a liner in these storage containers in case of leakage.
- Keep the storage container in a cool, dark place until proper disposal service is available.
- After disposal of waste, clean and disinfect the bucket and storage container with a mixture of household bleach water (1 part bleach to 10 parts water).
- If indoor toilet facilities become available, they may be used in much the same way as the 5-gallon bucket. Turn off the water to the toilet, drain the water from the bowl, and use a trash bag as a liner.



BE PREPARED!

In the event of an approaching hurricane, plan for its arrival as well as the aftermath. Your water, sewer and solid waste services will most likely be disrupted for period of time. **You need to be prepared for this.** The information in this brochure can help you prepare for a water, sewer and/or solid waste service emergency.

Preparedness Checklist

- Sterilize bathtubs, jugs, bottles, and other containers for water storage.
- Freeze water in plastic jugs.
- Take unused household chemicals & electronics to the Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center.
- Remove large pieces of yard debris.
- Prune trees and limbs.

Things to buy and keep on hand:

- Bottled drinking water
- 5-gallon buckets with tight fitting lids
- Household chlorine bleach (pure, unscented, liquid)
- Heavy duty plastic trash bags
- Deodorizer (e.g. carpet deodorizer)
- Water purification tablets