



Pre-Event Planning

Tune to radio station 102.5 FM for emergency broadcasts during a storm event.

Preparing for any emergency takes a lot of planning. Having a personal plan in place can reduce the risk of injury and or property loss. Being prepared will not only reduce anxiety, but will help give you the confidence that you are primarily in charge of your destiny. Here are a few key elements in creating that plan:

- Have a disaster supplies kit at home on hand at all times
- Develop a plan specific to your needs, access the Red Cross website:
<https://www.redcross.org/local/florida/central-florida/about-us/locations/southwest-florida.html>
- Teach family members how and when to turn off Gas, Electricity, and Water.
- Purchase an inexpensive analog phone in the event that the electricity is lost. If there is still phone service available, you will be able to use your house phone
- Bring in all loose articles and plants around your house, including garbage cans and any other potentially dangerous objects that can be made airborne
- Make arrangements for your pets should you be in an evacuation zone. In Sarasota County, there are 4 shelters that allow pets. Go to the link below for more information:
<https://www.scgov.net/government/emergency-services/emergency-management/evacuation-centers>
- Have an out of town friend or family member be a central contact for everyone in your immediate family that may be affected by a storm



Recovering from a Disaster

Recovering from a disaster is a gradual process. Safety is paramount, as well as mental and physical well-being. If assistance is available, knowing how to access it makes the process of recovery faster and less stressful. Your first concern after a disaster is the safety and health of your family. Here are some health tips and safety issues:

- Check for injuries, do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Maintain body temperature with blankets, making sure that they do not become overheated.
- Never try to feed liquids to unconscious victims.
- Be aware of heat exhaustion, set priorities and pace yourself.
- Drink plenty of water and eat well.
- Wash your hands often when working around debris.
- Be aware of newly created hazards from the disaster. Watch out for contamination, gas leaks, damaged electrical wiring, and broken glass.
- Inform local authorities about health and safety issues, including chemical spill, downed electrical lines and washed out roads.



Debris removal responsibilities (City of Sarasota)

Public Works Department plan for post disaster opening of roads and cleanup of storm debris:

- Immediately after a storm, crews work to open roads by clearing debris for emergency vehicles. They will also dispatch Utility Crews to restore water and sewer services that have been interrupted by uprooted trees and loss of facilities.
- Within 48 hrs., crews and contractors start to remove storm debris from the rights of ways and provide for garbage pickup
- Within 72 hrs., drop off sites will be set up for citizens to take storm related debris if they do not want to wait for contract operations to pick it up.

Debris Separation at the Right of Ways (Homeowner)

Homeowners should separate all storm related debris as listed below to avoid unnecessary delays in pickup by Contractors

- **Garbage-** place spoiled food in containers, or double bag it for pick-up
- **Household goods-** furniture, clothes, books, toys and carpet.
- **Vegetative-** tree limbs and trunks.
- **Construction materials-** drywall, roof shingles, aluminum.
- **Appliances-** refrigerators, water heaters, televisions and computers.

Tips

- Avoid stacking debris by utility poles, under power lines, on top of water meters or other water connections, by fire hydrants, by vehicles, next to mailboxes, fences or on storm drains.
- The City cannot enter private property to remove debris. Place all storm debris along the curb.
- Do not place storm debris in the street.

From the Florida Department of Health. . .

-- COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING BOIL WATER ADVISORIES --

1. What is the proper way to disinfect my water so that it is safe to drink?

The preferred method of treatment is boiling. Boiling water kills harmful bacteria and parasites (freezing will not disinfect water). Bring water to a full rolling boil for at least 1 minute to kill most infectious organisms (germs). For areas without power, disinfect the tap water by adding 8 drops, about 1/8 teaspoon, of plain unscented household bleach (4 to 6%) per gallon of water and allow the water to stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, repeat the procedure. Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water to be used for drinking. This will prevent contamination. If your well was flooded, boiling the water is the safest action, since disinfection does not kill certain parasites.

2. How should I wash my hands during a boil water advisory?

Based on the current conditions of the affected public water supplies, vigorous hand washing with soap and your tap water is safe for basic personal hygiene. If you are washing your hands to prepare food, if at all possible, you should use boiled (then cooled) water, disinfected or bottled water with hand washing soap.

3. Is potentially contaminated water (where *Cryptosporidium* is not the significant contaminant) safe for washing dishes or clothes?

Yes, if you rinse hand-washed dishes for a minute in a bleach solution (1 tablespoon bleach per gallon of water). Allow dishes to completely air dry. Most household dishwashers do not reach the proper temperature to sanitize dishes. It is safe to wash clothes in tap water.

4. Is potentially contaminated water safe for bathing and shaving?

The water may be used for showering, baths, shaving and washing, so long as care is taken not to swallow or allow water in eyes or nose or mouth. Children and disabled individuals should have their bath supervised to ensure water is not ingested. The time spent bathing should be minimized. Though the risk of illness is minimal, individuals who have recent surgical wounds, are immunosuppressed, or have a chronic illness may want to consider using bottled or boiled water for cleansing until the advisory is lifted.

5. How should I wash fruit and vegetables and make ice?

Fruits and vegetables should be washed with boiled (then cooled) water or bottled water or water disinfected with 8 drops (about 1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water. Ice should be made with boiled water, bottled water or disinfected water.

6. What if I have already consumed potentially contaminated water?

Even if someone has consumed potentially contaminated water from either a public water system or a private well before they were aware of the boil water advisory, the likelihood of becoming ill is low. Anyone experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, with or without fever, should seek medical attention.

7. What infectious organisms might be present in contaminated water?

Disease transmission from contaminated water occurs principally by ingesting water. The major organisms of concern are protozoa such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, and bacteria, such as *Shigella*, *E. coli* and viruses. These organisms primarily affect the gastrointestinal system, causing diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, and vomiting with or without fever. Most of these illnesses are not usually serious or life threatening except in the elderly, the very young or those who are immunocompromised.