



Resident Owned Community

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DISASTER PLAN 2021

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BLACKBOARD EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM

The Emergency Broadcast System (**BLACKBOARD**) has been established to communicate emergency messages and other pertinent information to residents and staff. Emergency situations are, but not limited to: hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and severe weather. Non-emergency information is, but not limited to: prescribed burns, road work, water issues and/or planned power outages which may have an impact on residents and staff. It is **IMPERATIVE** that all residents and staff maintain current phone numbers (landlines/cell) and email addresses with the La Casa Office. In case of an emergency, you will receive a message via this system.

A word of caution:

The Sarasota County Emergency Management Agency continuously updates its information. Therefore, some of the information in this guide may have changed. In the case of an emergency, listen to your local radio and/or television station for the latest advisories and instructions. **BE PREPARED.**

1. PURPOSE

This **La Casa Disaster Plan** is a step-by-step plan to follow in the event of a community disaster, severe weather, fire, hazardous spill, etc., to keep our residents safe and secure. The Plan details the necessary supplies each homeowner should have on hand, provides a time line for tasks to be carried out in the hours and days before, during, and after a known disaster like a hurricane.

A complete copy of the plan will be retained by the Park Manager and the President of the Board of Directors of the Homeowners Association. Following a disaster, the La Casa Front Office, if it be functional (otherwise the Activity Building), will be the command center. Any residents returning to La Casa should check in to the command center for information as soon as they have assessed their own home. The La Casa Website (lacasaroc.com) and the La Casa Residents Facebook page will also have updates and current information to serve our residents.

This Plan will be reviewed annually by the La Casa Security Committee and any changes shall be approved by the HOA Board. Each review date shall be noted on the first and last pages to facilitate understanding for all residents. A copy of the Plan in its most current form will be available on the La Casa Website and at the Front Office.

2. PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a coming disaster for which there is time to prepare, each resident should prepare a **PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS KIT**. Immediately following a disaster there may not be emergency workers available; we need to be self-sufficient for 7 days or more.

The **PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS KIT** could be a backpack or tote which you always keep available. Residents should keep in your kit pictures of your home and its contents for insurance purposes, as well as such things as

your proprietary lease agreement, your share certificate and any titles to your home, as well as other important papers and proofs of identification all secured in a water-tight case.

The following items are recommended to have to sustain you after the disaster:

Potable drinking water - 3 gallons per person per day.

Green ribbons for use to designate that you and your home are OK.

Batteries for flashlights, cameras, radios, cell phones, etc.

Fuel for your car, generators, chainsaws, etc.

CASH - if there is no power, ATMs don't work, and credit cards can't be used to charge purchases.

Medications - enough for at least 7 days.

Non-perishable nutritious foods and a hand can opener.

First aid kit.

Cleaning supplies, including disinfectant(s).

Basic hand tools including saws, hammers, screw drivers and pliers.

A cooler for ice and foods.

Pet food and pet supplies - and all immunization records for pets.

Phone numbers of emergency services as well as family and neighbors.

Toiletries including toilet paper.

Trash bags for trash and to line toilets in case there is no water to flush.

Camera(s).

Road maps and maps showing local area shelters.

Charcoal, propane or other fuel for outdoor cooking only.

3. PRE-EVENT PLANNING

Homeowners should:

Plan their evacuation if the order to evacuate is given.

Ensure that their property is secure.

Utilize the Pre-event timelines outlined in the green-bordered Hurricane Preparedness pamphlet entitled: "Disaster Planning Guide" (attached). If you have special needs, see the information in the special needs section #6 on page 5.

4. DURING THE EVENT

All residents should ensure that they and their families are safe and secure during the disaster. [Sarasota County Emergency Personnel will not respond when winds exceed 45 miles per hour. However, if there is an emergency (fire/injury), call 911.]

5. AFTER THE EVENT

Homeowners should:

- Care for sick or injured.

- Assess themselves and their property for damage.

- Place a green ribbon on a substantial tree or structure to signal they are OK.

- Check in to the command center for information and to register their return.

6. SPECIAL NEEDS

For those with special needs, contact the Special Needs Administrator:
Jan Wasson at 614-519-8161.

7. SHELTER INFORMATION

See the most current shelter information available from Sarasota County in its official Hurricane Disaster Planning Guide (attached) and confirm the status by contacting Sarasota County's Emergency Planning telephone line 941-861-5000.

8. PET FRIENDLY SHELTER INFORMATION

See the pet information section on page 7 of this document. Also see the Sarasota Hurricane Disaster Planning Guide (attached) for further information.

9. SARASOTA COUNTY INFORMATION

See the Sarasota Hurricane Disaster Planning Guide (attached).

PET INFORMATION SHEET

PETS SHOULD NOT BE LEFT BEHIND — PREPARE A PET DISASTER PLAN —

Disaster preparedness should include our pets.

Develop a Pet Disaster Plan for your pets, whether you decide to "stay or go."
You will need a plan for your pet.

Before the Disaster

Obtain County registration of your animal. This is the most effective method of identification.

Put together a support kit to accompany your pet:

- I.D. tag/rabies tag on the animal

- I.D. on all belongings (including emergency contact information)

- Proof of current license

- Vaccination paperwork (all shots within the past 12 months)

- Carrier or cage (large enough for your pet to move around)

- Leash

- Ample food supply (at least two weeks)

- Water (minimum of 7-day supply)

- Water/food bowls

- Any necessary medications

- Written feeding and medication instructions

- Photo of you with your pet

- A comfort item such as a favorite toy or blanket

- Non-electric can opener for canned food

- Microchipping your pet is strongly recommended

**You are responsible for the care of your pet while in the shelter –
you must provide all items required for your pet.**

IMPORTANT LA CASA CONTACT INFORMATION:

La Casa Front Office..... 941-426-0663
La Casa Security Gate 941-423-6463
La Casa Fax..... 941-426-9484
La Casa Office Email..... hoa@lacasaswfl.com
La Casa Website www.lacasaroc.com

HOSPITALS:

Venice Regional Bayfront Health (Venice)..... 941-485-7711
Bayfront Health (Port Charlotte) 941-766-4122
Fawcett Memorial Hospital (Port Charlotte) 941-629-1181
Englewood Community Hospital (Englewood) 941-475-6571
Sarasota Memorial Health Care Center (North Port) 941-257-2800
Sarasota Memorial Hospital (Sarasota) 941-917-9000

Sarasota County Emergency..... 941-861-5000
(Evacuation Information)

Waste Management..... 941-493-4100

North Port Utilities..... 941-426-9500

Florida Power and Light 1-800-226-3545
(To report an outage) 1-800-468-8243

Comcast..... 1-800-219-5541
or 1-800-934-6489

American Red Cross 1-800-733-2767

Salvation Army 941-240-5108

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Once the hurricane watch is declared (usually 72 hours in advance), what happens to you will be determined by what you did to prepare. Sarasota County will require you to evacuate your La Casa home because we are in Flood Zone "A". This booklet has been prepared by your La Casa Security Committee. Read it carefully and it will help you to

PLAN — PREPARE — RECOVER

from any hurricane heading our way. **If you choose NOT to evacuate, you are on your own.** The County has advised us that NO ambulance, police or fire department responders will be allowed on the roadways once hurricane winds reach 45 miles per hour.

Read the Sarasota County Disaster Planning Guide (attached) and save it for future reference.

PLAN

Sarasota County recommends that you have an evacuation shelter in your plan, when needed. Trying to find a place at the last minute will be difficult, if not impossible.

Tell your family and/or special contacts, where you plan to go.

Be sure your HUD form at the La Casa office is up to date because your emergency contact information is on that form.

If you have a disability or need special assistance to go to a shelter, contact Jan Wasson at 614-519-8161.

The nearest shelters are:

North Port High School W. Price Blvd.

Heron Creek Elementary School 6501 W. Price Blvd.

Woodland Middle School 2700 Panacea Blvd.

Atwater Elementary School 4701 Huntsville Ave.

Glenallen Elementary School 7050 Glenallen Blvd.

PREPARE

Anticipate that you will need to EVACUATE from La Casa:

1. **Survey your yard** - is there anything that can FLY in the wind? If so, take it inside your house. This also should be done when leaving La Casa for vacations or if you go somewhere for the summer. (You never know when high winds or hurricanes will hit.) Don't expect your caretaker to bring your stuff in for you.
2. **Plot out the route** you will take, the destination you will be trying to reach, and the method of transportation. If you plan to drive and have a GPS, change your settings to avoid the main highways. You know that routes I-75, US-41 (Tamiami Trail), and I-4 may be slow and backed up for miles.
3. Make sure you **fill your gas tank** at least 2 days before anticipated storm. A word of safety: **DO NOT CARRY GAS CANS INSIDE YOUR VEHICLE.**
4. On the day you leave, **turn off the water at the backflow valve. Set your refrigerator to the coldest temperature** possible. In preparation, fill plastic milk bottles 3/4 full of water and freeze them. Place 1 in the freezer and 1 or 2 in the refrigerator area. If power goes out, this may help to keep food for a few days.

5. Leave your **air conditioner system ON** and/or use your humidistat if you have one. This will help prevent mold in your house.
6. **Take at least 3 gallons of water per person per day** plus enough non-perishable food for 2 days of travel.
7. **Plan to use your cell phone or laptop computer for e-mail contacts and voice communication. Keep them charged at all times.** Don't forget to have a cell-phone charger with you especially the car plug-in type. A good investment is a solar power-pack charger to charge your cell phone without electricity – it charges by the sun. You can purchase one through Amazon.
8. **Have food and water for your pets.** If going to a public shelter have an approved pet carrier or crate.
9. **Bring with you any insurance policies as well as registrations for your vehicles and your home.**
10. **Bring your medical prescriptions.**
11. **Bring any family photos or other memorabilia items** near and dear to you which can't be replaced if lost.
12. **Take photos of valuables in your home to prove to the insurance company** that you had them. Take them with you, send them to someone to keep them safe for you, and/or put them in a safe deposit box or use a USB Flash Drive (stick) for safe keeping.
13. **Have flashlights and batteries** ready for use.

RECOVER

Remember that the whole park will likely be closed for a few days after the storm to enable local government officials and your Park Management to have time to set up a security system to guarantee that only you and your authorized designee will be able to check out your property.

The park will likely be closed for the maintenance personnel to clear the roadways of debris and to assess damage to properties.

When you get back into the park, be aware of contractor fraud; hire only licensed contractors or people whom you know to make repairs.

COMMUNICATIONS

Phone lines will probably be down or busy, so you will not be able to reach the La Casa office.

If you have Internet service on your cell phone, try www.lacasaroc.com for park information.

Also, I-Heart Radio 107.9 FM(WSRZ), 1320 AM (WDDV) maintain post-hurricane news.

Initial Plan approved February 26, 2018

by La Casa HOA Board of Directors – Ruth Meikle, President