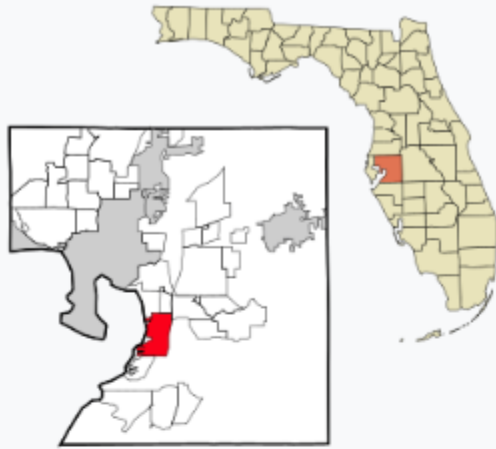





# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER – GIBSONTON, FLORIDA 2025



Location in [Hillsborough County](#) and the U.S. state of Florida

Coordinates:  [27°50'16"N 82°22'27"W](#)

<b>Country</b>	 United States
<b>State</b>	 Florida
<b>County</b>	 Hillsborough

<b>Area</b> <sup>[1]</sup>	
• Total	15.44 sq mi (40.00 km <sup>2</sup> )
• Land	12.81 sq mi (33.19 km <sup>2</sup> )
• Water	2.63 sq mi (6.81 km <sup>2</sup> )

<b>Elevation</b>	7 ft (2 m)
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<b>Population</b> (2020)	
• Total	18,566
• Density	1,448.88/sq mi (559.42/km <sup>2</sup> )

<b>Time zone</b>	UTC-5 (Eastern (EST))
• Summer (DST)	UTC-4 (EDT)

<b>ZIP code</b>	33534
<b>Area code</b>	813

## Storm Hazard Awareness

When warned by the Weather Forecast, the Project Safety Project Manager will designate an observer to monitor real time weather radar and warn the site when appropriate.

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) will be utilized for primary weather information.

### A.) THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are almost a daily occurrence in the summer but may occur anytime of the year. High winds and lightning are a certainty.

Project personnel will monitor the storm progress toward the vicinity of the site. Personnel will be informed by the Project Manager to abandon scaffolding, formwork, cranes, and other areas where lightning may likely strike when the storm is approximately 5 miles from the site. The Field Construction Manager will inform line managers when they may return to work.

Daily clean-up and proper bundling and stabilization of stored material must be maintained to minimize the possibility of debris and materials becoming airborne.

### B.) TORNADO

Take refuge in the designated sheltering structure on the site. Avoid window and door openings.

## DO NOT SEEK SHELTER IN VEHICLES, CONEXES OR TRAILERS

- Operations of mobile cranes are to be suspended. Booms should be laid down if time permits or the load line hooked to the structure at some low point. The equipment should be left, and refuge taken in a shelter.
- If the site is hit by a tornado, the Damage Survey Crew members listed in the Hurricane Plan will survey the site for damage before authorization to return to work is given. The area Superintendent will determine how and who will initiate repairs before the general workforce returns to their stations.
- When returning to workstations, all personnel should proceed with caution and inform their supervisors of downed power lines, washed out scaffold mudsills, and other storm damage they may encounter.

## C.) HURRICANE PREPARATION AND REACTION PLAN.

- The Project Manager is responsible for these preparations and implementations of these plans. All the line managers will assist the Superintendent as directed.
- The site will not be occupied during the storm if it is in the hurricane path.
- Preparations will be made in time for personnel to prepare for the storm at their homes.

### Preparations

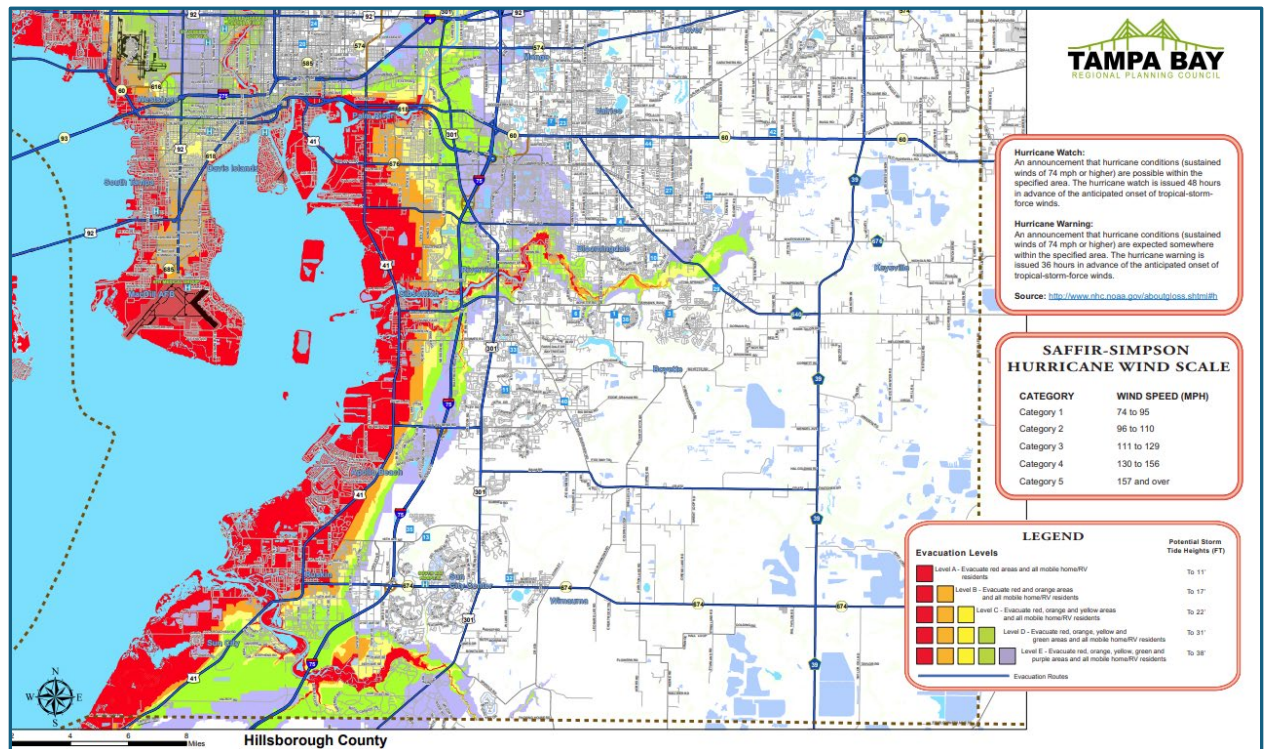
- Ensure that the project office is outfitted with a portable, battery operated weather band radio and extra batteries.
- Develop, maintain, and distribute a list of emergency telephone numbers and email addresses for employees and authorities.
- Organize a Damage Survey and Repair Team. This team will be the first on the site to assess damage after the storm and make the site safe enough for the return of the entire workforce.
- Prepare a system to inform employees of when to return to work. (A company website with a bulletin or discussion board, etc.)
- Identify and avoid long-term material storage in areas prone to flooding.
- Identify vulnerable work in progress and determine how to best protect it from damage whether by boarding up windows, sandbags, capping pipes, buried incomplete underground, etc.
- Develop a list, procure and store supplies necessary for preparing the site for a hurricane.
- Keep the project free from an accumulation of debris and scrap material that can become windblown hazards. This will reduce the amount of time necessary to complete preparations on the job site in the event of a hurricane emergency.
- Ensure that fuel supplies, de-watering pumps and generators are adequate for repairs after the storm.
- Be prepared to anchor or restrain everything that could blow away with netting for dumpsters, banding and banding tools for lumber, form work, scaffold planks, port-a-potties, etc. Look and see what will fly, then restrain it.
- Be alert to job conditions that require advance attention or special material to reduce emergency preparation time.

## When a Hurricane Approaches

- The Projection Manager and Safety Manager will decide when to prepare the project for a hurricane or tropical storm.
- Check the supplies against the inventory list stockpiled at the beginning of the hurricane season.

### 1. Know Your Evacuation Zone

- Use the Hillsborough County Hurricane Evacuation Assessment Tool (HEAT) or Florida's Know Your Zone portal to determine whether your address falls in Zone A, B, C, D, or E
  - Zones are graduated:
    - Zone A (Red – highest risk, storm surge) → evacuate first
    - Zone B (Orange), Zone C (Yellow), Zone D (Green), and Zone E (Blue) follow accordingly
- [policyadvocate.com/exozjwkjm.blob.core.windows.net+4floridadisaster.org+4apnews.com+4hcfl.gov](http://policyadvocate.com/exozjwkjm.blob.core.windows.net+4floridadisaster.org+4apnews.com+4hcfl.gov)



## Hurricane Strengths:

Category	Wind Speed	Damage Level
1	74-95 mph	Minimal damage to buildings
2	96 - 110 mph	Moderate damage to buildings
3	111 - 130 mph	Extensive damage to small buildings
4	131 - 155 mph	Extreme structural damage
5	> than 155 mph	Catastrophic building failures

### Housekeeping

- Ensure that all loose scrap material is gathered up and disposed of in the dumpsters.
- Ensure that the dumpsters are emptied. If the dumpster service is unable to pull the dumpsters, they shall be securely covered with nets to prevent the debris in them from becoming windblown hazards.

### The Site-Work Superintendent shall:

- Ensure that all loose forming materials are neatly stacked and banded.
- Ensure that all materials, tools, sheds, gang boxes, and small equipment that can be damaged by rising water are removed from excavations and low areas prone to flooding.
- Ensure that continuous berms are installed at excavations.
- Remove any non- essential barricades.
- Anchor essential barricades.
- Ensure that incomplete underground piping and storm drain systems are protected against the infiltration of sand and silt.
- Ensure that all equipment is relocated out of excavations.
- Lower mobile crane booms.
- Raise the hook, trolley in, and allow tower cranes to weathervane.
- Top off the fuel tanks of all equipment and ensure fill caps are properly secured.
- Ensure dewatering, standby, and diesel-powered equipment is ready to operate.

### The Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Superintendent shall:

- Identify vulnerable material and work in progress and determine how to best protect it from the effects of flooding.
- Ensure that all meter pits are outfitted with pumps to prevent damage to electronic equipment from rising water.
- Ensure that all electronic equipment in storage is protected from rising water.
- Ensure backup electrical generator power as required.
- Turn off the power and water to the office trailers.

## Site Office Personnel shall:

- Ensure that critical project documents are protected from damage. Move them to a permanent structure if necessary.
- Backup computer files. Disconnect all computers and office equipment from the electrical outlets.
- Be prepared to board up windows or put storm shutters in place. Have strongbracing for outside doors. Stock sandbags for doors etc.
- Stock non-perishable foods that can be eaten without cooking or with little preparation if the site is to be occupied.
- Be prepared to supply fuel tanks for de-watering pumps, portable generators and vehicles during the storm and remobilization after the storm.
- Be prepared to anchor or restrain or dismantle and band anything that might blow away.
  - Loose tools and lumber should be tied down or placed in storage containers.
  - Tie erected formwork together to make it more resistive to high winds.
  - Scaffold planking is to be dismantled, bundled, and banded.
  - Ensure that all office and storage trailers are tied down securely.
  - Anchor portable toilets or have them picked up.
  - Procure netting adequate to cover dumpsters that could not be emptied.
- Review the system to inform employees of when they are to return to work.
- Prepare the Damage Survey Team. This team should include infrastructure, electrical and mechanical contractors, and any others whose work is in the critical path for site remobilization.

## Prepare Your Household

- Emergency Kit (7 days supply): Water (1 gal/person/day), non-perishable food, meds, pet essentials, flashlights, batteries, power banks, cash, and docs [apnews.com](http://apnews.com).
- Home Safety: Learn how to shut off utilities (gas, water, electrical) [apnews.com](http://apnews.com).
- Vehicle Prep: Keep fuel topped off. EV owners should park away from potential flood zones

## Know Evacuation Routes & Transportation

- Primary roads:
  - US 41: North to Tampa, South to Bradenton
  - I-75: Access via Exits 246 or 250 to Brandon/Tampa or Bradenton
- HART Evacuation Bus: Free county-run bus service to shelters – plan your pick-up stop in advance [en.wikipedia.org+3hcfl.gov+3gohart.org+3](http://en.wikipedia.org+3hcfl.gov+3gohart.org+3).
- Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU): During evacuation, shoulders on I-75 may open northbound to ease traffic

## 8. Stay Informed

- Follow [HCFL.gov](http://HCFL.gov), local TV/radio, and NOAA weather alerts.
  - Monitor road conditions and shelter availability via HCFL's tools.
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## After the Storm Is Over

- Assemble the Damage Survey Team. The Damage Survey Team will inspect the jobsite, identify, and document the damage, prioritize repairs, complete Job Hazard Analysis and Safe Plans of Action, and then initiate repairs with a skeleton remobilization crew of skilled tradespersons.
- Class A hazards will have priority and must be abated before calling in the whole workforce to resume construction.
- Do not touch loose or dangling wires. Report such damages to the electrical Contractor, the utility company, or police officers.
- Stay clear of disaster areas where we may hamper first aid or rescue work. Be prepared to help with equipment.
- Stay alert as to prevent any fires. (Water pressure will be low).
- Complete preparations for the return of the full workforce.
- Implement the system to inform employees to return to work.
- Be aware that we may need to care for some of our employees. Call the local hospital and report persons needing assistance.

Hurricane Watch Issued:

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Conduct safety meetings and issue orders for preparedness.	SAFETY MANAGER
Initiate contact of all subcontractors and communicate procedures.	PROJECT MANAGER
Broom clean entire project, inside and out, and remove trash from the job site.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Move loose materials to dried-in floors if possible.	FIELD PERSONNEL
If dried in floors are unavailable or loose materials cannot be moved from exposed floors, use post shores to secure materials to the floor.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Secure or remove chemicals or fuel to prevent releases.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Close and secure all building doors and windows.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Arrange pickup of all dumpsters and portable toilets or secure together.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Move all portable equipment into designated area.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Fuel all vehicles and gas all powered emergency equipment.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Make sure all office trailers and barricades are secured to the ground using 1/2" cable located in at least three (3) places along the trailer. Anchor cables in a 55-gallon drum filled with concrete if available.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Remove, band, and secure all boards from scaffolds and tie all rolling scaffolds to a column.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Pour all forms ready for concrete.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Remove formwork that has not been poured with concrete.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Remove all outriggers from the building.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Lower and secure all suspended scaffolds.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Document conditions of the project and the surrounding area by videotaping or taking pictures of adjacent properties and any construction projects in the vicinity.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Fully charge all job radios and spare batteries.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Backup files to your project folder on the T drive. Contact the IT Helpdesk with questions.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Secure all accounting documents. Send to an alternate location if necessary.	FIELD PERSONNEL

Hurricane Warning Issued:

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Photograph all the precautions put in place to protect from storm damage.	PROJECT MANAGER
Lower all crawler or truck crane booms to the ground.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Check the security of crane counterweight(s), wedges, and clamps.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Let tower cranes weathervane (contact crane company for their requirements).	FIELD PERSONNEL
Fill all water kegs the day before the storm. Potable water may not be available for several days after the storm.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Load all unpoured decks with banded rebar, steel and/or beams and secure where possible.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Lower all earthmoving machinery buckets and blades to the ground.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Shut off power and water supply to the building.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Check roof drains and overflow scuppers for obstructions.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Place skidpans on ground and fill with water or dirt.	FIELD PERSONNEL
Release all non-essential personnel from the site until further notice.	SAFETY MANAGER
ADDITIONAL SITE-SPECIFIC MEASURES	RESPONSIBILITY
Contact appropriate vendors for assistance with equipment, generators, etc.	PROJECT MANAGER

After the Storm:

<b>RECOVERY TEAM</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Cell Phone #</b>	<b>Home Phone #</b>

**The Recovery Team’s responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Evaluate the site and determine if it is safe for the rest of the staff to return.	Project Manager
Implement Crisis Management program if appropriate	SAFETY MANAGER
Contact all Subcontractor emergency contacts and advise them of the worksite status.	PROJECT MANAGER
Contact owner and architect and request their presence to assess the damage.	PROJECT MANAGER
Make a list of all potential safety hazards the workforce may face when they return to the site; communicate the finding to the appropriate subcontractors.	PROJECT MANAGER
Inspect all scaffolds, formwork, tables, platforms, etc.	PROJECT MANAGER
Domestic water supply tested.	PROJECT MANAGER
Solicit list of subcontractor losses.	PROJECT MANAGER

<b>ADDITIONAL SITE-SPECIFIC MEASURES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Videotape all conditions of the site and surrounding areas/adjacent property.	PROJECT MANAGER
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