

# PREPARING YOUR FAMILY FOR DISASTERS

WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER  
NATURAL OR SUDDEN DISASTERS.

[www.collicares.org](http://www.collicares.org)



## BEFORE DISASTERS

Disasters can strike anytime. Be alert and be prepared.

- ✓ Download the [Collier CARES mobile app](#) to access community resources. You can "favorite" important resources for offline access. Review the [Hurricane](#) & [Emergency Resources](#) pages.
- ✓ Sign Up for [Alert Collier](#), Collier County's emergency notification system to receive life-saving evacuation messages. Download the [Collier County 311 app](#) for quick access to current disaster information or call the county emergency hotline at 311 or 239-252-4311.
- ✓ Know [Your Evacuation Zone](#) and Make an Emergency Plan:
  - Visit the [Collier County emergency information page](#) for evacuation zones and shelter information, including pet-friendly shelters.
  - [Make a disaster plan](#) for your family and share your plan with someone outside of the area. Are you or a loved one oxygen or electricity dependent? [Pre-register](#) for the special needs shelter.
- ✓ Put Together an [Emergency Supplies Kit for 7 Days](#) including cash, food, water, medication (a two-week supply is best), emergency equipment, and pet supplies.
- ✓ Prevent Legal Disaster Issues: Gather Important Documents
  - Review your homeowner's insurance or renter's insurance policy to ensure you have adequate coverage for your home and belongings.
  - Move all of your important papers/documents to a safe place. (i.e. wills, insurance policies, titles, lease agreements, deeds (in your name), etc.). Store them in a waterproof container. Scan and save documents in secure online location, as you will need these for recovery.
  - Take photos and make a list of your home and major household items for future reference.
  - For legal assistance, contact [Legal Aid Service of Collier County](#).



## CCPS FAMILIES



- Update your contact information in the [CCPS Portal](#).
- Download the CCPS Mobile App.
- Follow @collierschools on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

## Download the Collier CARES App



App Store



Google Play



## DURING DISASTERS


Safety first. Follow evacuation notices.

- ✓ **Follow Evacuation Notices:** if you are told to evacuate, leave your home immediately. Turn off utilities and bring your emergency supplies and important documents. If you are able to evacuate out of the warned area, do so. Only use local shelters if you have no other option.
- ✓ **If Sheltering in Place,** unplug small appliances, turn off propane tanks, and bring in items that can be destroyed or cause destruction. Cover all windows and doors with shutters and fuel up your vehicle(s). Take refuge in a small interior room with doors closed. *DO NOT shelter in a mobile or manufactured home.*
- ✓ **Monitor Radio, TV, or Call 311 for Critical Information**  
Remember to save your phone battery for essential use in case of loss of power.
- ✓ **Follow Safety Tips** for disasters shared by the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) including [generator usage guidelines](#).



## AFTER DISASTERS

Repair and rebuild to be more resilient.

- ✓ **Call 311 and Search for Resources on the Collier CARES app**  
Find out if your neighborhood is safe to access or exit, and where food distribution sites and information centers are being established.
- ✓ **CCPS Families**  
Check your email and social media to find out about when schools are re-opening. 
- ✓ **Document Damages and Avoid Repair Scams**
  - Take photographs to document all damages to your property.
  - File claims with insurance and/or FEMA as applicable.
  - When repairing your home, check for business licenses to avoid scams. Keep all receipts.
  - Do not sign a contract without reviewing it.
  - Seek legal advice and reach out to agencies providing disaster services.
- ✓ **Local Organizations are Here to Help**  
After a disaster, many local nonprofit organizations will provide relief and support services to you and your family, such as:
  - ▶ [The American Red Cross](#)  
\*Call the National Hotline: 1-800-733-2767
  - ▶ [The Salvation Army of Collier County](#)
  - ▶ [The United Way of Collier & the Keys](#)
  - ▶ [Collier Resource Center](#)
  - ▶ [Legal Aid Service of Collier County](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Participate in the [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training Program](#).

Donate to the Collier Comes Together Fund.

Visit the [Collier Community Foundation website](#).

