



family plan for disasters & emergencies

This is a pull-out section for your family's personal information. Take time to complete, and then make copies so each family member has easy access to this information at home, work, school, etc.

Some online sources of food and water safety information:

- Food Safety
www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/fsgadvic.html
- USDA Food Safety and Consumer Information
www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/consedu.htm
- FightBAC!®
www.fightbac.org/main.cfm
- FDA Bad Bug Book
vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/intro.html
- CDC Health Topics
www.cdc.gov

WATER & FOOD

Pack a three-day supply.

one gallon of water per person per day

ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables

staples (salt, sugar, pepper, spices, etc.)

powdered milk

canned juices

high-energy snacks

comfort/stress foods

food for infants

food for individuals with special needs

Pedialyte (to restore hydration if needed)

mess kits or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils

non-electric can opener, utility knife

TOOLS & EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

family preparedness guide

cash or traveler's checks, coins

map of the area for locating shelters

battery-operated radio, extra batteries

flashlight, extra batteries

fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type

pliers

compass

signal flare

whistle

shut-off wrench to turn off household water and/or gas

tube tent

plastic sheeting

plastic storage containers

plastic bucket with tight lid

plastic garbage bags and ties for sanitation

tape (duct, masking)

candles

matches in a waterproof container

paper, pencil

needles, thread

medicine dropper

aluminum foil

toilet paper, towelettes

towels

soap, liquid detergent

disinfectant

unscented household chlorine bleach

feminine supplies

personal hygiene items

infant supplies (diapers, bottles, pacifiers)

CLOTHING & BEDDING

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.

sturdy shoes, work boots, hats, gloves

rain gear

blankets or sleeping bags

extra prescription glasses, sunglasses

Consider making a personal workplace disaster supply kit. For more on creating this, visit the Red Cross online source at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/be-prepared/workkit.html

To dial into your local State Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222.

FIRST AID KIT

Assemble a first aid kit containing these items for your home and one for each car. Keep ready a three-day supply of each person's vital medications to include in the kit.

prescription drugs

sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes

2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)

4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)

2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)

3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)

triangular bandages (3)

latex gloves (at least 2 pairs)

cleansing agent, soap and moistened towelettes

antiseptic

petroleum jelly or other lubricant

assorted sizes of safety pins

scissors

tweezers

needle

thermometer

tongue depressors (2)

non-prescription drugs

- aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- anti-diarrhea medication
- antacid
- laxative
- antibiotic ointment

syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)

activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

sunscreen

mosquito repellent

IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS

Keep copies of records in a waterproof, portable container.

a completed copy of this yellow, pull-out section

wills

insurance policies

contracts and deeds

stocks and bonds

Social Security cards

passports

immunization records

bank account numbers

credit card account numbers and company names and telephone numbers

inventory of valuable household goods

family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

current photographs of family members

family emergency information

LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE EMERGENCY (911)

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

AMBULANCE

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

LOCAL RED CROSS

LOCAL SHELTERS

FAMILY MEMBERS

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
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See page 8 of this section for a list of county health departments and county emergency management phone numbers.

Be sure to keep on hand in a safe and secure place, Social Security numbers of friends and family who are part of your Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies.

FAMILY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NAME	WORK	HOME	CELL
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NAME	WORK	HOME	CELL
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NAME	WORK	HOME	CELL
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NAME	WORK	HOME	CELL
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NAME	WORK	HOME	CELL
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NAME	WORK	HOME	CELL
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CHILD ADULT CARE	PHONE
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CHILD ADULT CARE	PHONE
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CHILD'S SCHOOL	PHONE
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CHILD'S SCHOOL	PHONE
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FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS/NUMBERS

NAME	PHONE
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NAME	PHONE
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NAME	PHONE
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NAME	PHONE
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OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACTS/NUMBERS

1

NAME	PHONE
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2

NAME	PHONE
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3

NAME	PHONE
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4

NAME	PHONE
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RALLY POINTS

1

IN HOMETOWN	PHONE	OUT OF TOWN	PHONE
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2

IN HOMETOWN	PHONE	OUT OF TOWN	PHONE
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3

IN HOMETOWN	PHONE	OUT OF TOWN	PHONE
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4

IN HOMETOWN	PHONE	OUT OF TOWN	PHONE
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MEDICAL INFORMATION

DOCTOR	NUMBER
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DOCTOR	NUMBER
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DOCTOR	NUMBER
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DENTIST	NUMBER
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DENTIST	NUMBER
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PHARMACY	NUMBER
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VETERINARIAN	NUMBER
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NAME	MEDICATION
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NAME	MEDICATION
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NAME	MEDICATION
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NAME	ALLERGIES	SPECIAL CONDITIONS
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NAME	ALLERGIES	SPECIAL CONDITIONS
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NAME	ALLERGIES	SPECIAL CONDITIONS
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INSURANCE RECORDS

COMPANY NAME	COVERAGE	POLICY NUMBER
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DATE ISSUED	EXPIRATION DATE
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AGENT NAME	PHONE
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COMPANY NAME	COVERAGE	POLICY NUMBER
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DATE ISSUED	EXPIRATION DATE
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AGENT NAME	PHONE
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COMPANY NAME	COVERAGE	POLICY NUMBER
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COMPANY NAME	COVERAGE	POLICY NUMBER
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COMPANY NAME	COVERAGE	POLICY NUMBER
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DATE ISSUED	EXPIRATION DATE
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AGENT NAME	PHONE
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For more information contact your County Health Department listed below. Your local county emergency management office (phone numbers in bold) can help you prepare a family plan by identifying shelters and preregistering for a special needs shelter.

ALACHUA 224 SE 24th St Gainesville 32641 (352) 334-7900 (352) 264-6500	DUVAL 515 W Sixth St. Jacksonville 32206 (904) 630-3300 (904) 630-2472	HOLMES 603 Scenic Circle Bonifay 32425 (850) 547-8500 (850) 547-1112	MIAMI-DADE 1350 NW 14th St Miami 33125 (305) 324-2400 (305) 468-5400	SEMINOLE 400 W Airport Blvd. Sanford 32773 (407) 665-3200 (407) 665-5102
BAKER 480 W Lowder St. Macclenny 32063 (904) 259-6291 (904) 259-6111	ESCAMBIA 1295 W Fairfield Dr Pensacola 32501 (850) 595-6500 (850) 595-3311	INDIAN RIVER 1900 27th St. Vero Beach 32960 (772) 794-7400 (772) 567-2154	MONROE 1100 Simonton St Key West 33040 (305) 293-7500 (305) 289-6018	ST. JOHNS 1955 US Hwy 1 S, Ste. 100 St Augustine 32086 (904) 825-5055 (904) 824-5550
RAY 597 W Eleventh St. Panama City 32401 (850) 872-4720 (850) 784-4030	FLAGLER 301 S Lemon St. Bunnell 32110 (386) 437-7350 (386) 437-7381/7382	JACKSON 3045 Fourth St Marianna 32446 (850) 482-9862 (850) 482-9678	NASSAU 30 S 4th St. Fernandina Beach 32036 (904) 277-7287 (904) 491-7550	ST. LUCIE 714 Avenue C Ft Pierce 34950 (772) 462-3800 (772) 461-5201
BRADFORD 1801 N Temple Ave. Starke 32091 (904) 964-7732 (904) 966-6336	FRANKLIN 139 12th St Apalachicola 32320 (850) 653-2111 (850) 653-8977	JEFFERSON 1255 W Washington St Monticello 32344 (850) 342-0170 (850) 342-0211	OKALOOSA 221 Hospital Dr, NE Ft. Walton Beach 32548 (850) 833-9240 (850) 651-7150	SUMTER 415 E Noble Ave. Bushnell 33513 (352) 793-6979 (352) 569-6000
BREVARD 2575 N Courtenay Parkway Merritt Island 32953 (321) 454-7111 (321) 637-6670	GADSDEN 278 LaSalle Leffall Dr. Quincy 32351 (850) 875-7200 (850) 627-9233/875-8642	LAFAYETTE 140 SW Virginia Cir. Mayo 32066 (386) 294-1321 (386) 294-1950	OSCEOLA 1728 NW 9th Ave. Okeechobee 34972 (863) 462-5760 (863) 763-3212	SUWANNEE 915 Nobles Ferry Rd. Live Oak 32064 (386) 362-2708 (386) 364-3405
BROWARD 780 SW 24th St. Ft. Lauderdale 33315 (954) 467-4700 (954) 831-3905	GILCHRIST 119 NE First St Trenton 32693 (352) 463-3120 (352) 463-3198	LAKE 16140 US Hwy 441 Eustis 32726 (352) 589-6424 (352) 343-9420	ORANGE 604 Courtland St., Suite 200 Orlando 32804 (407) 623-1180 (407) 836-9151	TAYLOR 1215 N Peacock Ave. Perry 32347 (850) 584-5087 (850) 838-3575/838-3576
CALHOUN 19611 SR 20 W Blountstown 32424 (850) 674-6645 (850) 674-8075	GLADES 956 Hwy 27 SW Moore Haven 33471 (863) 946-0707 (863) 946-6020	LEE 3920 Michigan Ave. Ft. Myers 33916 (239) 332-9511 (239) 477-3600/335-1600	OSCEOLA 1875 Boggy Creek Rd. Kissimmee 34744 (407) 343-2016 (407) 343-7000	UNION 495 E Main St. Lake Butler 32054 (386) 496-3211 (386) 496-4330
CHARLOTTE 514 E Grace St. Punta Gorda 33950 (941) 639-1181 (941) 505-4620	GULF 2475 Garrison Ave Port St Joe 32456 (850) 227-1276 (850) 229-9110	LEON 2965 Municipal Way Tallahassee 32304 (850) 487-3146 (850) 488-5921	PALM BEACH 826 Evernia St. West Palm Beach 33402 (561) 840-4500 (561) 712-6400	VOLUSIA 1845 Holsonback Dr Daytona Beach 32117 (386) 274-0500 (386) 254-1500
CITRUS 3700 W Sovereign Path Lecanto 34461 (352) 527-1288 (352) 746-6555	HAMILTON 209 SE Central Ave Jasper 32052 (386) 792-1414 (386) 792-6647	LEVY 66 W Main St Bronson 32621 (352) 486-5300 (352) 486-5213	PASCO 10841 Little Rd New Port Richey 34654 (727) 869-3900 (727) 847-8137	WAKULLA 48 Oak St Crawfordville 32327 (850) 926-3591 (850) 926-0861
CLAY 1305 Idlewild Ave. Green Cove Springs 32043 (904) 284-6340 (904) 269-0381	HARDEE 115 K D Revell Rd Wauchula 33873 (863) 773-4161 (863) 773-6373	LIBERTY 12832 NW Central Ave. Bristol 32321 (850) 643-2415 (850) 643-2339	PINELLAS 205 Dr. ML King St. N St. Petersburg 33701 (727) 824-6900 (727) 464-3800	WALTON 493 N 9th St. De Funiak Springs 32433 (850) 892-8015 (850) 892-8065
COLLIER 3301 Tamiami Trail Naples 34106 (239) 774-8200 (239) 774-8444	HENDRY 1140 Pratt Blvd LaBelle 33975 (863) 674-4056 (863) 612-4700/983-1594	MADISON 800 Third Street Madison 32340 (850) 973-5000 (850) 973-3698	POIK 1290 Golfview Ave., 4th floor Bartow 33830 (863) 519-7900 (863) 534-0350	WASHINGTON 1338 S Blvd. Chipley 32428 (850) 638-6240 (850) 638-6203
COLUMBIA 217 NE Franklin St. Lake City 32055 (386) 758-1066 (386) 752-8787	HERNANDO 300 S Main St Brooksville 34601 (352) 754-4067 (352) 754-4083	MANATEE 410 Sixth Ave. E Bradenton 34208 (941) 748-0747 (941) 749-3022	PUTNAM 2801 Kennedy St. Palatka 32177 (386) 326-3200 (386) 329-0379	
DE SOTO 34 S Baldwin Ave Arcadia 34266 (863) 993-4601 (863) 993-4831	HIGHLANDS 7205 S George Blvd Sebring 33875 (863) 386-6040 (863) 385-1112	MARION 1801 SE 32nd Ave. Ocala 34471 (352) 629-0137 (352) 622-3205	SANTA ROSA 5527 Stuart St. Milton 32571 (850) 983-5200 (850) 983-5360	
DIXIE 1530 SE 12th Ave. Cross City 32628 (352) 498-1360 (352) 498-1240	HILLSBOROUGH 1105 E Kennedy Blvd. Tampa 33602 (813) 307-8008 (813) 276-2385	MARTIN 620 S Dixie Highway Stuart 34994 (772) 221-4000 (772) 288-5694	SARASOTA 2200 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota 34237 (941) 861-2900 (941) 861-5300	

- Leave with adequate time to get there—roadways likely will be crowded.

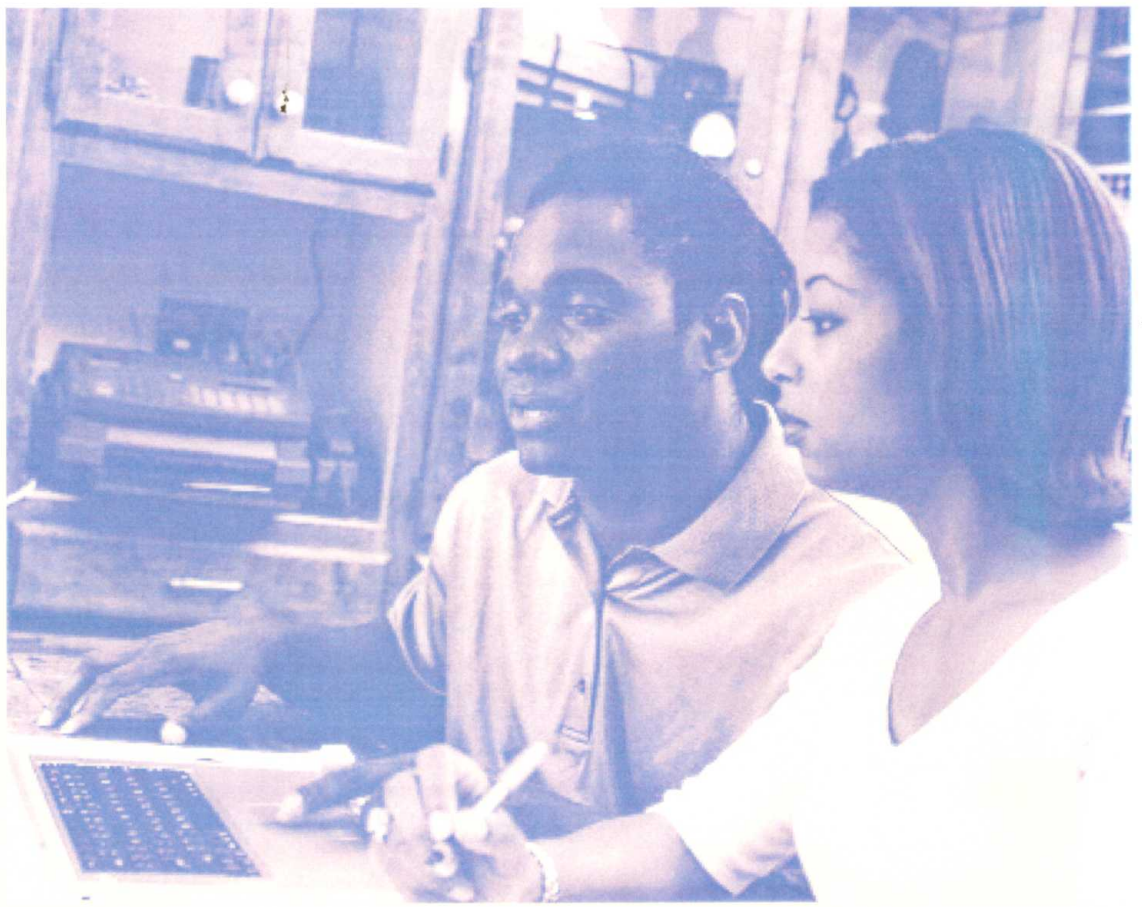
Best steps for evacuating during a hurricane:

- Stay alert to storm advisories. Know the difference between a watch and a warning.
- Evacuate if told to do so and evacuate early. Use your plan. Do not get on the road without a place to go.
- Secure your home before leaving. Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside, and lock your doors.
- Get cash before a hurricane. Banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed after the storm.
- If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county. Next, try a motel or hotel in a non-vulnerable area, and as a last resort go to a public shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort.
- People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with their local county emergency management office (see page 8 in the yellow, center pull-out section).

WILDFIRES

Do you live in an area where flammable vegetation is abundant and susceptible to lightning or accidents?

- Make your property more fire resistant by keeping lawns trimmed, leaves raked, and roofs and rain gutters free of debris. Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home. Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet from structures and wooden fences.
- Create defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet around your home. Make sure water sources, such as hydrants, ponds, swimming pools and wells, are accessible to emergency responders.
- Protect your home by using fire resistant, protective roofing and materials like stone, brick or metal.



For the most up-to-date information on Florida's preparedness, along with links to valuable resources, simply visit www.myflorida.com and click on **Keeping Florida Prepared**. A few minutes now can make all the difference later.

Governor Jeb Bush

man-made threats—what you need to know

Man-made threats against the United States have gained much attention in our government and media, and have become much more real since the devastation of September 11, 2001. The nation's awareness and security since then have been heightened; our response efforts enhanced.

The following information about man-made threats is general information gathered from sources including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health. You should know that these large-scale man-made threats are extremely difficult to carry out and threatening agents extremely difficult to manufacture.

TERRORISM

Terrorism can take many shapes and forms. Individuals should always be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activities to local authorities. When traveling, be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave luggage unattended in airports or public buildings.

While developing your Family Plan for Disaster and Emergencies, here are some additional steps to consider:

- **Know the school's emergency plan for any school-aged children.**
- **Shelter children from repetitive media terrorism reports about the event. Young children cannot tell the difference between past news stories and may believe terrorist attacks are ongoing.**
- **In a disaster event, secure your home by turning off all fans and heating and air conditioning systems and closing the fireplace damper**

RADIOLOGICAL THREATS

The threat of release of radioactive materials from a nuclear power plant accident or a terrorist act is very unlikely. However, everyone should be aware of radiological threats and how to deal with them.

A "dirty bomb," or radiological dispersal device (RDD), combines conventional explosives such as dynamite with radioactive material, such as spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors or commercial applications.

- **Dirty bombs are not nuclear weapons and would not create a nuclear explosion.**
- **Any type of radioactive material could be used in a dirty bomb, but in general, such devices would be unlikely to cause serious health effects beyond those caused by the detonating explosives. A dirty bomb's radioactivity would be dispersed into the air and reduced to relatively low concentrations, minimizing the doses to anyone outside the immediate vicinity. People living or working downwind from the explosion may be asked to evacuate as a precaution.**

The Department of
Health's Bureau of
Radiation Control
has a mobile
radiation laboratory
that can support
emergency response
operations, and it
operates a 24-hour
radiological
emergency
notification number,
(407) 297-2095

- A low-level exposure to radioactive contamination could slightly increase the long-term risk of cancer. However, exposure to ionizing radiation at higher levels could result in radiation sickness or radiation poisoning. Health effects will depend on the amount of radioactive material in the bomb, the type of radioactive substance, and how far it was dispersed.

Nuclear explosions occur when masses of highly processed radioactive material are thrust together suddenly, triggering a violent chain reaction and release of energy.

- The likelihood of a nuclear explosion from a terrorist event is extremely small.
- Special, highly-guarded materials and expertise are required to construct and detonate a nuclear weapon.

Florida has five commercial nuclear reactors located at three sites—Crystal River (one reactor), located about 60 miles north of Tampa; St. Lucie (two reactors), located just south of Ft. Pierce; and Turkey Point (two reactors), located near Homestead.

- Another nuclear plant with two reactors, Farley (located near Dothan, Alabama), also could impact Florida residents if an emergency were to occur. All are privately owned and operated facilities that are regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC's strict guidelines and routine inspections ensure the highest level of safety and security at nuclear power plants.
- State and local officials hold regular drills to test response capabilities.

ACTION & TREATMENT FOR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

- In a radiological emergency, the public should listen to the local emergency broadcast messages, which will give recommendations about evacuation, sheltering, and other protective actions.
- Evacuation is the most effective protective measure in the event of a radiological emergency because distancing yourself from the source of radiation is the best way to minimize exposure. When evacuation is not possible, in-place sheltering also is effective.
- People exposed to airborne radioactive contaminants should be washed to remove external contamination.
- An accident involving a nuclear reactor or nuclear weapon could release potentially harmful amounts of radioactive iodine into the environment. One method of treatment for exposure to radioiodine is to administer potassium iodide (KI), which blocks the thyroid's absorption of radioiodine. If an appropriate dose of KI is taken before or immediately after exposure, the risk of thyroid effects will be reduced.
- Florida, in cooperation with county and local officials, has stockpiled KI pills for distribution in an emergency to members of the public located near nuclear power plants. Distribution of KI would occur at selected reception centers that are currently part of local plans for nuclear power plant emergencies.

For more information
on national domestic
security:

- U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

For more information
on domestic security
in Florida:

- www.myflorida.com
click on "Keeping
Florida Prepared"
- [www.fde.state.fl.us/
osd/domesticsecurity](http://www.fde.state.fl.us/osd/domesticsecurity)
- www.floridadisaster.org

For more information
about Potassium
Iodide:

- [www.cdc.gov/orch/
radiation/ki.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/orch/radiation/ki.htm)

Some of the information for this section was obtained from the CDC. Because information can change, visit the CDC website for information about biological or chemical agents. www.bt.cdc.gov

Visit the Florida Department of Health website at www.doh.state.fl.us

The National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) is maintained by the CDC. It consists of the necessary drugs and supplies for treatment of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). These supplies can be sent anywhere in the U.S. within 12 hours.

BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Biological agents are bacteria, viruses or toxins that can cause deadly diseases in people, livestock and crops. It is important that people realize that only a small number of the hundreds of bacteria and viruses are viable as terrorist weapons. Most biological agents cannot survive outside narrow temperature ranges or are too rare and difficult to grow.

If government officials become aware of a biological attack, they would instruct residents on the best course of action based on the circumstances of the attack.

Anthrax is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis*.

Anthrax most commonly occurs in wild and domestic animals, but it can occur in humans. This can happen when people are exposed to the infected animals, their tissue, or spores of the bacteria that have been released, possibly intentionally.

Symptoms of the disease vary depending on how the disease was contracted, but symptoms usually occur within seven days.

- **Anthrax is recognized as a bioterrorist agent because people can be exposed if anthrax spores are intentionally released into the environment. It is extremely difficult to weaponize anthrax.**
- **Anthrax infection can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), inhalation (through the respiratory system), and gastrointestinal (through the digestive system).**
- **Direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely and has only been reported with cutaneous anthrax.**

Smallpox is an acute, contagious, and sometimes fatal disease caused by the variola virus (an orthopoxvirus) and marked by fever and a distinctive progressive skin rash. The last case of smallpox in the U.S. was in 1949. In 1980, the disease was declared eradicated following worldwide vaccination programs. However, in the aftermath of the terrorist events in our country, the federal government has been taking precautions to deal with smallpox should it be used as a bioweapon.

- **The smallpox virus is fragile. In laboratory experiments, 90 percent of aerosolized smallpox virus dies within 24 hours; in the presence of ultraviolet (UV) light (including sunlight), this percentage would be even greater.**

Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by a bacterium named *Yersinia pestis*. Plague has three forms or stages: bubonic (concentrated in the lymph nodes), septicemic (in the bloodstream), and pneumonic (in the respiratory system). It can result in high fatalities. All types of plague are readily controlled by standard public health response measures. An average of 5 to 15 cases of plague occur each year in the western United States. These cases are usually scattered and occur in rural to semi-rural areas.

- **The bacterium that causes plague could be used in a bioterrorist aerosol attack. *Yersinia pestis* is easily destroyed by sunlight and drying. Even so, when released into air, the bacterium will survive for up to one hour. It is believed to be highly unlikely that an aerosol attack could cause an outbreak six days after exposure.**

- **Manufacturing an effective weapon using *Yersinia pestis* would require advanced knowledge and technology.**

Tularemia is a naturally occurring bacteria that in nature affects wild rabbits and hares. Humans could contract the disease naturally from infected tick or insect bites, and through contact with blood and tissue of infected animals.

- **Tularemia could be made into an airborne bacteria for intentional inhalation exposure.**

Botulism is a rare but serious muscle paralyzing disease caused by a toxin made by a bacterium called *Clostridium botulinum*. *Clostridium botulinum* is found in the soil worldwide.

- **The bacteria poses a bioweapon threat because of its extreme potency, and the potential need for prolonged intensive care in affected persons.**
- **Botulinum toxin could be disseminated as an aerosol or used to contaminate food products. Botulism is not spread from person to person.**
- **Food-borne botulism occurs when a person ingests pre-formed toxin. The most common source of food-borne botulism in the United States over the course of time has been home-canned foods.**
- **Other forms of botulism are infant and wound botulism. Infant botulism occurs in a small number of susceptible infants each year who harbor *Clostridium botulinum* in their intestinal tract. Wound botulism occurs when wounds are infected with *Clostridium botulinum* that secretes the toxin.**

Ricin is a toxin that can be made from the waste left over from processing castor beans. It can be in the form of powder, mist, pellet, or it can be dissolved in water or weak acid. It is not affected much by extreme conditions such as very hot or very cold temperatures.

- **The mist or powder form of ricin could be inhaled**
- **Ricin can also get into water or food and then be swallowed. Pellets of ricin, or ricin dissolved in a liquid, can be injected into people's bodies.**
- **Ricin works by preventing the body's cells from making the proteins they need. Without the proteins, cells die. Eventually the whole body can shut down.**
- **Ricin poisoning is not contagious.**

Viral hemorrhagic fevers, such as those caused by Marburg and Ebola viruses, are severe diseases in humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys and chimpanzees).

- **These viruses have been weaponized by the former Soviet Union, but this process is very difficult and requires sophisticated technology. They are not likely to be used as a terrorist weapon; however, they have been identified by the federal government as a potential bioweapon.**

The National
Pharmaceutical
Stockpile (NPS) is
maintained by the
CDC. It consists of
the necessary drugs
and supplies for
treatment of
Weapons of Mass
Destruction (WMD).
These supplies can
be sent anywhere in
the U.S. within 12
hours.

CHEMICAL AGENTS

Chemicals are an important part of life. They are a natural and important part of our environment, and even though we don't often think about it, we use chemicals every day. They help keep our food fresh and our bodies clean. They help our plants grow and fuel our cars. Many people think of chemicals as only those substances used in manufacturing processes. But chemicals can be found everywhere—in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements and garages.

Under certain conditions, chemicals can be poisonous or have a harmful effect on your health. Some chemicals considered safe and even helpful in small amounts, can be harmful in larger quantities or under certain conditions.

Chemical accidents can happen at home and in our communities, and now our nation must be aware of the potential for intentional release of chemical agents, even chemical warfare agents.

A person can be exposed to chemicals in three ways: breathing; swallowing contaminated food, water, medication or soil; or by touching a chemical, or coming into contact with clothing or something that has touched a chemical.

A terrorist chemical attack would more likely be the release of a poisonous industrial chemical such as chlorine or ammonia and not chemical warfare agents.

Chemical warfare agents are poisonous vapors, aerosols, liquids or solids that have toxic effects on people, animals or plants. Chemical warfare agents are difficult to deliver in lethal concentrations and difficult to produce. Outdoors, the agents often dissipate rapidly.

Chemical incidents typically are characterized by the rapid onset of medical symptoms and easily observed signatures. Severity of injuries depends on the type and amount of the chemical agent used and the duration of exposure.

Cyanide compounds, such as hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride, are both industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents.

- Cyanide gases dissipate very rapidly under most weather conditions.
- They are very toxic when breathed in, but respond to antidotes available in hospitals and state pharmaceutical stockpiles.

Mustard agents are colorless, oily, odorless liquids that can be vaporized to form a gas.

- Mustard agents enter the body through inhalation or skin contact and damage any tissue that comes into contact with them, causing large water-filled blisters.
- They may cause blindness and death by severe lung damage.

Sarin and other nerve agents, such as soman and tabun, were derived from compounds originally used as insecticides.

- **These agents are highly toxic to humans.**
- **All are liquid at room temperature but are most toxic when dispersed as aerosols. They may penetrate the skin and eyes but are rapidly absorbed when breathed in.**

**Chemical awareness
at home:**

- **Store chemical products properly.**
- **Never smoke while using household chemicals. Do not use hair spray, cleaning solutions, paint products, or pesticides near open flames of an appliance, pilot light, lighted candle, fireplace, wood burning stove, etc.**
- **Clean up a chemical spill immediately. Use cat litter to soak up liquid and then clean up with rags. Allow fumes from rags to evaporate outdoors in a safe place.**
- **Properly dispose of chemicals.**
- **Learn more about proper methods of chemical disposal from your county health department or waste collection facility.**

VX is a nerve agent. It is an oily liquid designed to remain in the environment for a very long time.

- **The liquid form can be similar in appearance to motor oil.**
- **VX can enter the body through ingestion, through the eyes or the skin, or be inhaled as vapor.**

ACTION & TREATMENT FROM ANY CHEMICAL DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

- **Immediate symptoms of exposure to chemical agents may include blurred vision, eye irritation, difficulty breathing and nausea.**
- **Try to get upwind and away from the affected area as quickly as possible without running (which increases breathing rate and absorption of an agent).**
- **If your clothing has been splashed with a liquid, remove it, being very careful not to get any liquid on your skin. If there is an oily liquid on your skin, scrape it off. Flush your eyes with water. Follow directions of authorities as they arrive on the scene.**
- **You may be asked to go through decontamination and you may receive antidotes depending on any symptoms.**
- **If you are at home or at work, you may be given directions to evacuate.**