COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND PREPAREDNESS

Brian J. Bradshaw | Tallahassee Fire Department - Emergency Management Division

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

WHAT IS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

The managerial and coordinating function that creates the framework within which communities respond, recover, and reduce vulnerabilities to emergencies and disasters.

PREPAREDNESS, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- It plays a significant role in surviving and recovering from a disaster.
- Personal and community preparedness build more robust and resilient communities, neighborhoods, and cities.

PREPAREDNESS, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- While help during a disaster is coming, you need to be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours.
- You should build preparedness kits containing five to seven days of supplies for every family member.
- Important items you should never forget are nonperishable food, water, batteries, important documents, and medications.
- Don’t forget your pets.

LINKS FOR DEVELOPING PREPAREDNESS KITS AND PLANS

- City of Tallahassee PREP | Talgov.com/PREP
- Florida Division of Emergency Management Supply check list | https://www.floridadisaster.org/globalassets/plan--prepare/disaster-supply-checklist.pdf
- Ready.gov Preparedness planning for your business| Ready.gov/business
- Ready.gov Prepare Your Pets for Disasters | Ready.gov/pets
- Florida Division of Emergency Management - Preparing and planning for your home https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/secure-your-home/

STAY INFORMED

- City of Tallahassee
  - Talgov.com (update your contact information for City Utilities)
  - Twitter, @CityofTLH
  - Facebook.com/CityofTLH
- Radio (WFSU 88.9)
- Television (main broadcasting stations or WCOT-13).
- Leon County Emergency Information Portal https://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/

STAY INFORMED

- National Weather Service Tallahassee Twitter @NWSTallahassee
- National Weather Service Wireless Emergency Alert https://www.weather.gov/media/wrn/WEA_flyer_final.pdf
- Florida Division of Emergency Management Twitter @FLSERT
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Twitter @FEMA

PREPAREDNESS – INSURANCE

- Review homeowners/business insurance policies yearly.
- Renter's insurance coverage.
- Most weather events are never Federally Declared. If a disaster is Federally Declared some individuals **may** qualify for FEMA disaster assistance, but this assistance is designed as a stop-gap or to help. It is not intended to make you whole or recover all your losses.

PREPAREDNESS – FINANCIAL

- Have cash on hand during an emergency
  - Amount is dependent on your individual and family situation.

- Documents – protect and back up vital documents
  - Safety deposit box, electronically, etc.

GENERATOR SAFETY

- Generators are a great way to keep essential appliances going after losing power.
- Understanding proper use and **safety concerns**.
  - https://www.energy.gov/ceser/activities/energy-security/emergency-preparedness/using-portableemergency-generators-safely
  - https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage/safe-generator-use.html
  - https://www.talgov.com/you/you-products-home-loans.aspx (City of Tallahassee Energy Efficiency Loans)

SHELTERING

- Sheltering
  - There are seven general population risk shelters and one special needs shelter city/countywide we have access to.

- Sheltering opening
  - Storm forecast and threat analysis driven.
  - Discussion with School Board leadership to determine availability of facilities and personnel.
  - Anticipated needs

- * The opening of shelters is typically staged and storm-dependent.

- If you have a qualified medical need, you may seek shelter at the Special Needs Shelter. To register: https://snr.flhealthresponse.com/

SHELTERING

- Shelter Transport
  - We utilize StarMetro to help transport the transportation disadvantaged to the shelter.

- Evacuations
  - “Run from water, hide from the wind.”
  - Voluntary or mandatory
  - It’s based on the threat analysis.

ELECTRICAL RESTORATION AND ROADWAY CLEARANCE

- Electrical Restoration
  - Electrical restoration is a highly technical operation and more complex than most folks think.
  - We do have an established priority restoration list.
    - Critical facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes

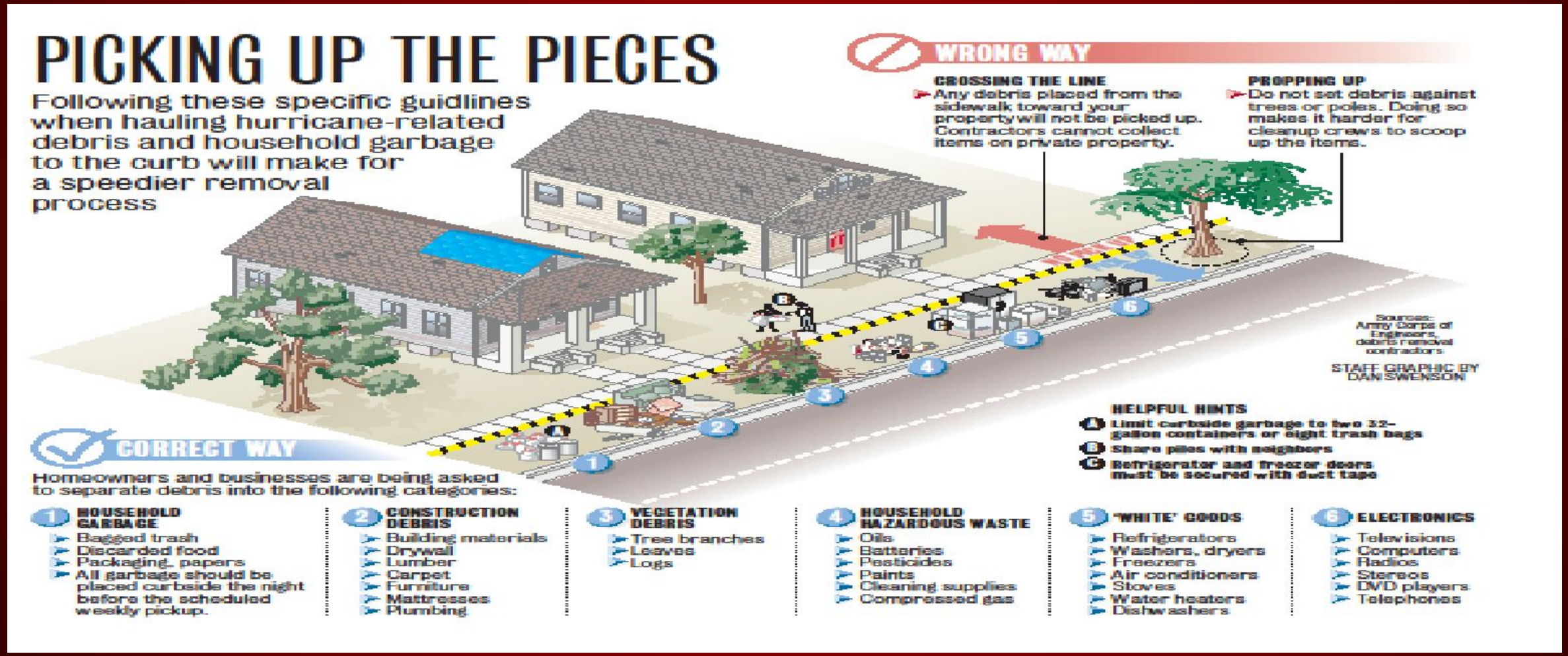
- Roadway / Street Clearance
  - The City has teams assigned to begin road clearing as soon as it is safe.
    - There are clearance priorities.
      - Arterial Roads-Collector Roads-Local Streets
      - Roadways that have critical facilities and hospitals are given priority.

DAMAGE AND HUMAN NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

- The City has Citizen Care Neighborhood Teams that go into the community and engage residents.
  - Helps determine impacts and what support is needed.
  - Examples of support services:
    - Food and water distribution
    - Cooling/warming or comfort stations
    - Portlets/showers
    - Etc.

- Not every storm warrants the deployment of these support services.
- There are pre-established locations, but the operational site is impact-dependent.

DEBRIS – POST-DISASTER



CONTRACTOR FRAUD – PROTECT YOURSELF

- Red Flags
  - Estimates that are extraordinarily high or low in comparison
  - Estimates that are lump sum, not itemized expenses
  - Asking for 10 percent or more upfront or as a down payment
  - Asking you to sign or transfer an Assignment of Benefit (AOB)
  - No fixed business address
  - Lack of references

    - Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Consumer Services 1-877-693-5236

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

- The transition from response to recovery should be done soon as possible to return to normal or the new normal.
- The quicker a community can get out of response into recovery or back to normal, the better the social outcomes.
- Recovery can take days, weeks, months, and even years.

QUESTIONS?

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

- Contact

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