



# SMOKE SIGNALS

VILLAGE OF  
TEQUESTA  
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

## ELECTION QUALIFYING PERIOD



The next municipal election is March 14, 2023 and the qualifying period begins at Noon on November 1, 2022 and ends at Noon on November 15, 2022. Due to the Election Code, these dates and times are strictly enforced and are not flexible.

*The following seats are scheduled for the March 2023 election:*

**Molly Young – Seat 2 • Kyle Stone – Seat 4**

### How to Run for Office:

When a resident decides to seek office, they should schedule an appointment with the Village Clerk to review the "Candidate Election Handbook." It is important this meeting take place well before the start of the qualifying period, as there are certain requirements that need to be fulfilled prior to qualifying. During this meeting, a comprehensive explanation of the process is provided, including the review of required forms, election laws and important dates and deadlines.

**For additional election information,** contact Lori McWilliams, MMC, the Village Clerk at 561-768-0443 or via email at [lmcwilliams@tequesta.org](mailto:lmcwilliams@tequesta.org).

## CHARTER REVIEW BOARD UPDATE

In August 2021, Council established a Charter Review Board (CRB) consisting of five residents who submitted applications of interest to serve. The mission of the CRB was to review the Village's Charter, as it had not been reviewed in over ten years, and make Charter Amendment recommendations to Council. The CRB met numerous times over five months reviewing in microscopic detail every aspect and potential option to the items contained within the Village's Charter.

During the July 14, 2022 Council Meeting, Council accepted the Committee's recommendations and approved moving the approval process forward. We appreciate the time and diligence the Charter Review Board put in on behalf of our residents.

**You can find additional information on the Village's website:**  
<https://www.tequesta.org/1141/Elections>

## HIGHLIGHT



**Council Member  
Aaron Johnson**

A very simple definition of democracy is "rule by the people." It isn't always that simple, of course. But, especially at the local level, the people can have a legitimate impact. If you have ever thought of becoming more involved, you should! If not, here are some reasons you might reconsider:

### It affects your day-to-day life

Cracks in your sidewalk? Does your street have potholes that need fixing? Do you need to get a streetlight installed in your neighborhood? All these issues are handled at the city and county levels. Local city and county officials are often so overwhelmed that if you don't bring up the issues that specifically concern you, they may go unnoticed.

### Learn about government spending habits

When I was a police officer in Tequesta, I was also a union representative. One of my duties was to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement every three years. I was always told that money was tight and was left wondering where all of the money goes. It has been eye-opening for me to learn how the government works and manages its money. If you are curious about your local government's spending habits, join the respective boards and committees to see it for yourself.

### Learn about legislative processes

Do you know how the legislative process creates a bill? It all starts with an idea, which can come from anywhere, especially from you. If your local council person likes

the idea, they submit it as an agenda item to discuss (workshop). And when it gains enough votes, it is put into action. I oversimplified the process a bit, but you get the idea. As a concerned constituent, you must understand how this process works because only then can you submit your ideas and see them become a reality.

### Opportunity to serve

We have an innate need to help others and make a difference. After leaving the police department to run my own business, I noticed that something was missing. I soon realized it was being involved in my community that I missed. Getting involved in local councils and committees can serve the community and help the causes that matter most to you.

### Find your passion

Being involved in various boards and committees will expose you to new areas such as planning and zoning, pension, charity organizations, and environmental groups. It could help you discover your passion in the areas you never knew existed.

### Networking

As you begin to join these local boards and committees, you will make connections that could lead to unexpected results. You will certainly meet neighbors you never knew you had and it could even open employment opportunities for you. And lastly...

### Be heard!

Your opinion matters. Your point of view matters. Your perspective matters. Don't like how government officials are handling issues in your community? Speak up! My first four months as a council member have been eye-opening and quite educational. And I still run into friends who have a laugh when they hear that I am an elected official. I guess my point is, anyone with a little bit of curiosity and desire can do this.

*Council Member Aaron Johnson*

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PRESORTED STANDARD  
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Village of Tequesta  
Village Manager's Office  
345 Tequesta Drive  
Tequesta, FL 33469-0273

# Around the Village



## Summer Fire Safety Tips

Back yard BBQ's are a summer-time staple. While you are out there this summer wear your SPF, and remember these tips from Tequesta Fire Rescue:

- **Never leave your grill unattended**
- **Make sure your grill is in an open area, and at least 10ft away from other structures**
- **Regularly check your propane tank, lines, and other equipment for leaks or deterioration**
- **Use only starter fluid as an accelerant for charcoal grills, and only as directed**
- **Tequesta Fire Rescue is trained and ready to properly extinguish fires, if there is an emergency, call 911**

**HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!**

- ✓ Guard Your Grill
- ✓ Maintain a Safe Distance
- ✓ Check Propane Tanks
- ✓ Only Light Charcoal with Starter Fluid
- ✓ Emergency Call 911

**TEQUESTA FIRE RESCUE**

## IMPORTANT LAW CHANGES FOR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

Vote-by-Mail refers to voting a ballot received by mail or picked up by a voter instead of going to the polls to vote during early voting or Election Day. Any registered voter can Vote-by-Mail. You can request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for a specific election or for all elections through the next general election. After the next general election, you will need to make the request again.

A Vote-by-Mail ballot is not forwardable by the U.S. postal service and a ballot returned undeliverable cancels a request for future elections and must be renewed. If you are presently registered to vote in Palm Beach County, you may request a vote-by-mail ballot online, by email, fax, phone, or mail. Contact the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) at [pbcelections.org](http://pbcelections.org) for information.

The deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you is no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth (10th) day before Election Day (§101.62(2), F.S.). The SOE must receive the vote by mail ballot request by 5 p.m., a postmarked vote-by-mail ballot request is not valid. If you miss the deadline, you can visit one of their offices and they will print a mail ballot for you until 5:00 pm on the day before Election Day. Alternatively, you can vote in person on Election Day.

### IMPORTANT NEWS:

*Under the current Florida Laws, Vote-by-Mail requests are valid through the end of the calendar year of the next regularly scheduled general election (November 8, 2022). Voters who wish to receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot for 2023 through 2024 elections will be required to submit a mail ballot request after November 8, 2022.*

### Tequesta Municipal Election:

If you wish to Vote-by-Mail in the March 14, 2023 municipal elections (Tequesta election), you will need to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot from the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections office after November 8, 2022.

## Tequesta Fire Rescue's Non-Combat Volunteer Program

Tequesta Fire Rescue's Non-Combat Volunteer Program is your opportunity to learn the ins-and-outs of the Fire Department, and help those who help our community. Applicants have to be 18 years or older. Qualifying applicants will receive training in CPR, Stop the Bleed, HIPPA Compliance, etc. If you or someone you know is interested, reach out the Fire Rescue Administration at 561-768-0559.

## Public Safety Awards Banquet



The Public Safety Awards Banquet is an annual event dedicated to acknowledging the men and women of Tequesta Fire Rescue for their service to our community, and beyond. A highlight from the evening was Fire Chief James Trube honoring several of our Fire Officers & Firefighters with the Meritorious Service Award. These brave individuals volunteered their time and safety to deploy to the Champlain Tower Collapse in Surfside, FL. Join us in thanking all of our Fire Personnel for their dedication.

## Four New Fire/Medics Hired



Tequesta Fire Rescue has been very fortunate to hire four new Fire/Medics this year. Veterans of the department, some of whom have been with TFR for 20+ years, train new hires. This is important because they are able to pass down valuable institutional knowledge. Our Captains, Lieutenants, and Field Training Officers (FTO's) are essential in the training process. They provide a wealth of knowledge to help build up successful, empowered, and reliable Fire Personnel who will also continue to be an asset to the department for years to come.

## VACATION RENTALS NEW ORDINANCE REGARDING VACATION RENTALS WITHIN THE VILLAGE

The new Village of Tequesta ordinance regulating vacation rentals will take effect on October 1, 2022. Vacation rental means the rental of any unit or group of units in a condominium or cooperative or any individually or collectively owned single-family, two-family or multiple-family house or dwelling unit that is also a transient public lodging establishment as defined in Florida Statutes §509.013, and that is located in an area zoned R1-A, R-1, R-2, or R-3 but that is not a timeshare project. Vacation rental use does not include hotels, motels, and RV spaces.

Per Florida Statutes §509.013, a transient public lodging establishment means "any unit, group of units, dwelling, building or group of buildings within a single complex of buildings which is rented to guests more than three times in a calendar year for periods of less than 30 days or 1 calendar month, whichever is less, or which is advertised or held out to the public as a place regularly rented to guests."

The Ordinance requires property owners to register their vacation rental properties with the Village of Tequesta Building Department by obtaining a vacation rental permit. If you have any questions, please contact the Building Department at (561) 768-0454 or email to [permits@tequesta.org](mailto:permits@tequesta.org). Vacation rental permits are required prior to October 1, 2022. You can obtain a copy of the vacation rental permit application package in person at the Building Department, or on our Building Department website, and applications can be submitted in person or via email to [permits@tequesta.org](mailto:permits@tequesta.org). If you would like to set up an in-person meeting to discuss your vacation rental application with the Building Director, he would be happy to meet with you. Please call (561) 768-0454 to arrange an appointment.

**Composting.** We all hear about how great it is and that we should do it. However, what is compost exactly and what are the benefits that make it worthwhile?

## Composting 101

Composting is organic matter that has been decomposed and can be used as fertilizer. Many gardeners are beginning to use it, but why?

### HERE ARE FIVE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING:

#### 1. Adds nutrients to the soil.

Compost is humus—nutrient-rich soil. When compost is placed on top of existing soil, it adds nutrients, such as carbon and nitrogen. Plants for growth and photosynthesis use these nutrients. Adding compost also helps retain water for plant use.

#### 2. Introduces valuable organisms to the soil.

Microorganisms, such as bacteria, fungi, and protozoa, decompose organic material. The presence of microorganisms is vital because they aerate the soil, which speeds up the composting process, convert nitrogen to a usable form, and repel some plant diseases.

#### 3. Recycles kitchen and yard waste.

Composting keeps as much as 30% of waste from going to the trashcan. This reduces the amount of trash in your home. By diverting some waste, there will not be a need to buy as many trash bags or to take out the trash as often.

#### 4. Reduces landfill waste.

Many people think that organic material will just decompose in a landfill. This is true, but the process is a lot slower. When organic material does decompose, the nutrients produced are being wasted in a landfill.

#### 5. Good for the environment!

Composting is free and a lot healthier for the environment. By composting, you are not relying on factory-made fertilizers and chemicals. <https://www.google.com/search?>

**For information on outdoor compost bins, see this link:**

[www.bobvila.com/articles/best-compost-bin/](http://www.bobvila.com/articles/best-compost-bin/)

**For information on composting options for the kitchen, see this link:**

<https://www.ecowatch.com/best-kitchen-compost-bins-2653767565.html>

**For information on items you should not compost, see this link:**

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/compost/what-not-to-compost/>



**Blue Gets**

- Plastic Bottles and Containers - Lids on; 2 gallons or less
- Cans, Food and Beverage
- Glass Bottles and Jars - Lids off
- Cartons, Milk and Juice - Lids on
- Drink Boxes - No pouches - No straws

**PLEASE NO...**

- Plastic Bags
- Foam Products
- Aluminum Foil or Pans
- Shredded Paper
- Plastic Eating Utensils or Straws
- Paper Plates
- Paper Towels or Napkins
- Coat Hangers
- Light Bulbs
- Needles

**Yellow Gets**

- Cardboard - Flattened
- Newspaper and Inserts - No plastic bags
- Office and School Paper
- Mail
- Magazines
- Dry Food Boxes - No food stains
- Paper Bags
- Cardboard Paper Rolls
- Pizza Boxes - No food stains

**When in doubt, throw it out!**

**For Recycling Bins, Call 866-NEW-BINS (639-2467)**

- ★ - This cart is only available to multi-family complexes
- ★★ - This bin is provided for curbside collection

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County - 7501 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33412

# ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM



Thinking about buying a new tree for your yard? Before you buy, check out the Village's tree give-a-way program.

Why would the Village spend money on providing trees free of charge to residents? It is simple! The more people we have planting trees, the more people we have working to achieve our goal of repairing our tree canopy in the Village. Expanding our urban canopy and maintaining the health of our tree population is a top priority.

Trees are one of our major lines of defense against the damage from greenhouse gas emissions and the heat island effect. Canopy cover cools our streets, cleanses our air, expands wildlife habitats, prevents soil erosion to help manage our floodplain, and beautifies our Village.

• **Visit our website for more info:**  
[www.tequesta.org/1545/Tree-Give-a-Ways-and-Programs](http://www.tequesta.org/1545/Tree-Give-a-Ways-and-Programs)

• **Donate to Tree Fund:**  
<https://www.tequesta.org/1549/Donate-to-Tree-Fund>

• **Program Brochure:**  
<https://bit.ly/VOT-Adopt-a-Tree>  
or use the QR Code



## SKIP THE FERTILIZER MAGNETS AVAILABLE!



Skip the Fertilizer magnets are now available! Contact the Clerk's Office 561-768-0440 to get one (or two or three to share) - or stop by the Village Hall lobby to get yours before they are all gone.

If you plan to fertilize your lawn or plants, please be aware of the following new restrictions and requirements:

- Timing of Fertilizer Application / Rainy Season Ban 6/1 - 9/30 - No applicator (company or homeowner) shall apply fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus to Turf and/or Landscape Plants during the rainy season period from June 1st - September 30th. See ordinance for rules for golf courses & athletic fields.
- If you have a company applying fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous to your landscape, insure that they are properly trained and certified and abide by VOT's Rainy Season ban from June 1 - September 30.

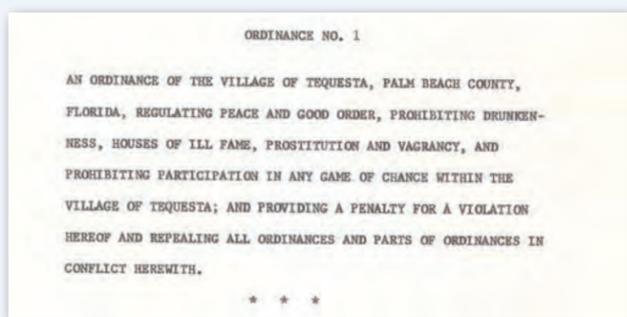
## BUSINESS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

"Check out our new Job Opportunities page featuring Tequesta businesses vacant positions here:

<https://tequesta.org/1535/Tequesta-Businesses-Job-Opportunities>



## HISTORY HIGHLIGHT



65 years ago, on July 10, 1957, the Village Council passed its first ordinance "regulating peace and good order" for its citizens by outlining what behavior was unacceptable and what was deemed good citizenship within the Village limits.

Violators of this primary ordinance include (Section 1) "whoever willfully disturbs the peace of another by violence, tumultuous or offensive demeanor, loud or unusual noise, profane, obscene or offensive language..." (Section 2) "Whoever shall disturb any congregation met for religious worship" (Section 3) "Whoever shall become drunk" and (Section 4) "every person being, or having the reputation of being a "bunco man, con man or wire tapper.

Section 4 also mentions "fake horse race promoters" making me wonder if the horse or the promoter is 'fake."

Section 5 frowns upon "whoever shall keep or maintain... a house of ill fame and Section 6 goes on to name as guilty both participating parties.

Section 7 names "all rogues and vagabonds, tramps, person who use juggling or unlawful games or plays, common drunkards, night walkers, pilferers, pipers or fiddlers, lewd persons, common railers, persons who neglect their employment and have no visible means of support, and by the way "stubborn children." If those "stubborn children" juggle" or play the flute is the fine doubled? Moreover, when does a protester morph into a "railer?"

Gambling is prohibited in Section 8 (including games of chance with cards, dice whereby any sum is wagered" (There goes those poker game, Bingo and church raffles)

Staying on the good side of this ordinance saved a citizen a \$500 fine or being imprisoned at the Village Prison or at hard labor upon the streets... not to exceed ninety days, or by other such fine and imprisonment.

Records do not indicate if our first Police Chief Wiard P. Dahlmeyer ever arrested anyone for railing, juggling, piping, or being stubborn. In addition, I wonder where "the Village Prison" might have been located as the first village council meeting was held in the office of Thomas H. Daly and subsequent meetings were conducted in Jupiter Inlet Beach Colony (Charles Martyn's business address)

## FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE & ADVISORY SERVICE



The Village of Tequesta Building Official/Floodplan Administrator is available to provide one-on-one consultations and site visits to advise inquires about property protection measures, such as retrofitting techniques and drainage improvements. The objectives of Tequesta's Flood Protection Assistance Advisory Program are to increase awareness and use of the service, and enhance mitigation information provided. Supplemental materials are also available to inquires. For any questions or to schedule an on-site visit, please contact the Building Department at (561) 768-0450.

### VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA EMPLOYEES

#### Star Award Winners

Lisa Conti  
Jesse Jenkins



#### Joining Us

Bob Berto	Recreation Specialist I
James Breslin	Police Officer
Elle Cohen	Engineering Intern (Civil or Environmental)
Leanna Collazo	Accounting Clerk II
Jada DeGraffenreid	Police Officer
Lori Gigante	Recreation Specialist I
Joseph Maiorana	
Max Medford	Recreation Specialist I
Lori Gigante	Recreation Specialist I
Courtney Page	Part Time Recreation Specialist I
Jessica Quarles	Firefighter/Paramedic I

#### Anniversaries

Joshua Kitzi	5 yrs
Janet McCorkle	10 yrs

#### Retirements

Joe Fabiano

## SMOKE SIGNALS

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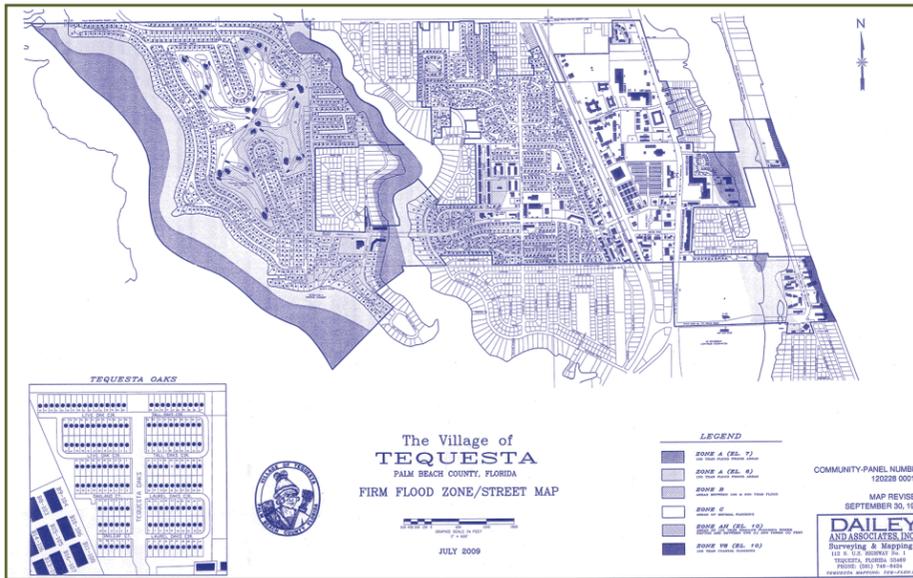


# YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUILD AN ARK.

**But you should be prepared for a possible flood. Know your risks & follow some simple steps so you're not unprepared.**

## KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK

Living on the water has many benefits, but also comes with the risk of flooding. Other than flooding caused by hurricanes or tropical storms, it can also be caused by living in a low-lying area, storm water runoff when those heavy afternoon rains occur, or if drainage pipes or ditches are blocked. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) or "flood hazard maps" provide a visual reference for the areas at higher risk for flooding. The flood map and additional resources can be viewed on the Village website at <http://www.tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/6028>



**You can call the Building Department at Village Hall at 561-768-0450 for the following information:**

- If a property is located in a flood zone.
- If the property is in an undeveloped coastal barrier or otherwise protected area of the Coastal Barrier Resources System.
- If the property is in an area predicted to be flooded in the future because of sea level rise.
- If past flood problems have occurred in your area.
- If property is in an area with natural floodplain functions that should be protected.
- If mandatory purchase of flood insurance is required.
- If a FEMA elevation certificate that includes flood insurance rating data is on file for your property.

## KNOW HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

If further Flood Hazard information is required, a meeting may be scheduled with the CRS Coordinator/Building Official Jose Rodriguez, at 561-768-0511, to discuss depth data or other flood problem information.

According to FEMA, flooding causes approximately 90% of disaster-related property damage in the United States. The NFIP paid over 3.5 billion dollars a year in flood claims between 2003 and 2013. More than eight billion was paid in flood claims after Hurricane Sandy.

Fortunately, there are some effective techniques to help protect against damage from flooding. These include relocation of a building to a site not subject to flooding, the use of earthen berm or small flood walls to protect properties, and retrofitting, which will help minimize flooding in a habitable space. To speak to Community Development personnel about flood protection advice and assistance, please call 561-768-0450. If necessary, a community representative will visit the site in question to review the potential flood problems and explain possible ways to protect the property with the residents. These services are free. This number may also be used to speak to a community representative for financial assistance advice regarding flood damage.

**Flood and hurricane warnings will be broadcast by local television and radio as well as the Weather Channel. The local media outlets provide a wealth of comprehensive information before, during and following a storm event:**

- **WJTW News Channel 5**
- **LEGENDS Radio 100.3**
- **WPEC News Channel 12**
- **www.tequesta.org**
- **WPBF News Channel 25**
- **http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/default.aspx**

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: WHAT CAN I DO

- Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches, swells, streams, rivers, or storm drains. This is a violation of Village of Tequesta Code of Ordinances section 74-242.
- Practice good drainage maintenance by keeping grass clippings and other debris out of storm water drainage systems and drainage canals to prevent clogging and loss of storm water storage and conveyance capacity.
- Please report any dumping violations and observed canal obstructions to the Code Enforcement Division at 561-768-0519.
- If you would like advice and recommendations to alleviate drainage problems on your property, call 561-768-0490 to talk to a community representative.

## FLOOD INSURANCE INFORMATION

The Village of Tequesta participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all eligible buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, ocean storms, and local drainage problems. The NFIP insures buildings, including mobile homes, with two types of coverage: building and contents. Building coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately, if the contents are in an insurable building. Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 made the purchase of flood insurance mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). It also affects all forms of Federal or Federally related financial assistance, for buildings located in SFHAs. The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" or "V." The rule applies to secured mortgage loans from such financial institutions as commercial lenders, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions that are regulated, supervised, or insured by Federal agencies such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision. It also applies to all mortgage loans purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac in the secondary mortgage market. Federal financial assistance programs affected by the laws include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



How it Works: Lenders are required to complete a Standard Flood Hazard Determination (SFHD) form whenever they make, increase, extend or renew a mortgage, home equity, home improvement, commercial, or farm credit loan to determine if the building or manufactured (mobile) home is in an SFHA. It is the Federal agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to determine if the building is in an SFHA. Copies of the FIRM are available for review in most local government building or planning departments. Lenders may also have copies or they use a flood zone determination company to provide the SFHD form. If the building is in a SFHA, the Federal agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building. Federal regulations require building coverage equal to the amount of the loan (excluding appraised value of the land) or the maximum amount of insurance available from the NFIP, whichever is less. The maximum amount available for a single-family residence is \$250,000. Government sponsored enterprises, such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, have stricter requirements. The mandatory purchase requirement does not affect loans or financial assistance for items that are not covered by a flood insurance policy, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping, and vacant lots. It does not affect loans for buildings that are not in an SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be. While not mandated by law, a lender may require a flood insurance policy, as a condition of a loan, for a property in any zone on a FIRM. More information can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

If you don't have flood insurance for your home and its contents, contact your insurance agent. Information is also available from the Village of Tequesta by calling 561-768-0450, Or from <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>. Don't wait to purchase flood insurance protection. There is often a 30-day waiting period before a policy will take effect.

# THE FLOOD IS COMING!

***We just don't know when.*** Purchase National Flood Insurance. Don't be caught unprepared.

**Living close to water has its benefits, and flood hazards often accompany those benefits.** Although today, we have much better information about floods and construction engineering than just a few decades ago, floods still take a heavy toll on society; costing lives, damaging buildings and property, disrupting livelihoods, and often necessitating federal disaster relief, which has risen to record levels in recent years.

**Weather-related disasters over the last several decades, and extreme events have been happening more frequently resulting in greater losses, costs and damages.** Additionally, climate variability and change adds many uncertainties to future flood risk estimates, and costs for the engineering of projects to withstand floods are rising. Communities across the country are now looking ahead and making decisions that will hopefully increase their economic and ecological resilience and minimize their risks. Many are attempting to determine how climate change may affect them in the future, and how officials can incorporate the best available data into short-term and long-term decision-making.

**Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), also known as flood hazard maps, are important tools in the effort to protect lives and properties in communities across the nation.** By showing the extent to which areas of the Village and individual properties are at risk for flooding, these flood maps help residents and business owners make better financial decisions about protecting their property. However, flood risks are dynamic and can change over time. Water flow and drainage patterns can be altered dramatically due to surface erosion, land use, and natural forces. As a result, flood maps for some areas may no longer accurately portray the current flood risks. Consequently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been updating the nation's flood maps using the latest data gathering and mapping technology.

**There are three types of Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) present in the Village of Tequesta: the floodway (river), the flood fringe (river banks), and Coastal Storm Surge velocity flooding.** We are affected by two forks of the Loxahatchee River in the Village (the North and Northwest), as well as the Intracoastal Waterway/Jupiter Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Areas lying east of Federal Highway are particularly vulnerable to flooding from hurricane storm surges, while people to the west may be vulnerable to riverine flooding. Historically, the Village of Tequesta has mainly been subject to flooding caused by tropical storms or heavy downpours during afternoon thunderstorms. It just takes one storm to cause a flood, and just a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage often necessitating federal disaster relief.

**The Village of Tequesta has been a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 1992, which makes it possible for Village property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance.** National Flood Insurance is the best hope to keep residents from paying for the damage out of pocket since homeowners, renters and business insurance policies typically don't cover flood damage.

National Flood Insurance is available to any owner of insurable property for a building or its contents. Tenants may also insure their personal property against flood loss. The actual costs will vary depending upon the amount of coverage and the degree of flood hazard. Contact your insurance carrier regarding flood insurance availability, rates and coverage for your property.

**In certain instances, such as the purchase of a home with a federally backed mortgage, flood insurance is required. Residents need to be advised of the following:**

- There is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance policies;
- New flood insurance policies will not be written once a storm is approaching;
- Premiums for flood insurance policy holders provide the financial recovery for insured flood losses - not tax funds;
- With insurance proceeds, policyholders can repair or rebuild damaged homes, clear away debris, and replace business inventories and personal belongings;
- Flood insurance policyholders don't need to rely solely on federal disaster loans that must be repaid with interest;
- Flood insurance claims are usually handled quickly, helping flood victims rebuild homes and businesses.

**The Village of Tequesta joined the Community Rating System (CRS), which provides for reductions in flood insurance premiums within participating communities.** To acquire and maintain CRS discounts, the Village of Tequesta continues to implement flood awareness and mitigation programs in an effort to provide better information and assistance to its homeowners and businesses. The Village provides a status report to the NFIP each year.

## AND IT'S OFFICIAL...

The Village of Tequesta received written confirmation dated July 25, 2016 from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) raised the rating of the Village of Tequesta community to a Class 7 in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

The community qualifies for a 15% discount off the premium cost of flood insurance for NFIP policies issued or renewed in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) on or after May 1, 2016. This increase in CRS Class is based on a field verification of the Village's 5-year cycle CRS application. Please note that Preferred Risk Policies are not eligible for the CRS discount.

Reduce the financial impact of flooding by taking steps yourself before disaster strikes. Many residents and business owners in Tequesta are unaware that they qualify for flood insurance. Even more may be unaware they may qualify for Federal financial assistance both pre-disaster and post-disaster. Everyone should review their current homeowner policy and become familiar with what is and what is not covered, as damage due to flooding is typically not covered.

Contact the Building Department for information as to whether or not your home is in danger. Our staff can help you determine your flood zone and elevation. Just call 561-768-0450, check us out on the web at [www.tequesta.org](http://www.tequesta.org), or stop by the Village Hall during business hours.



## FLOOD WATCH = "BE AWARE"

**Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area. Steps to Take:**

- Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions;
- Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot;
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies.

## PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage;
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted;
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.

## FLOOD WARNING = "TAKE ACTION!"

**Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.**

**Steps to Take;**

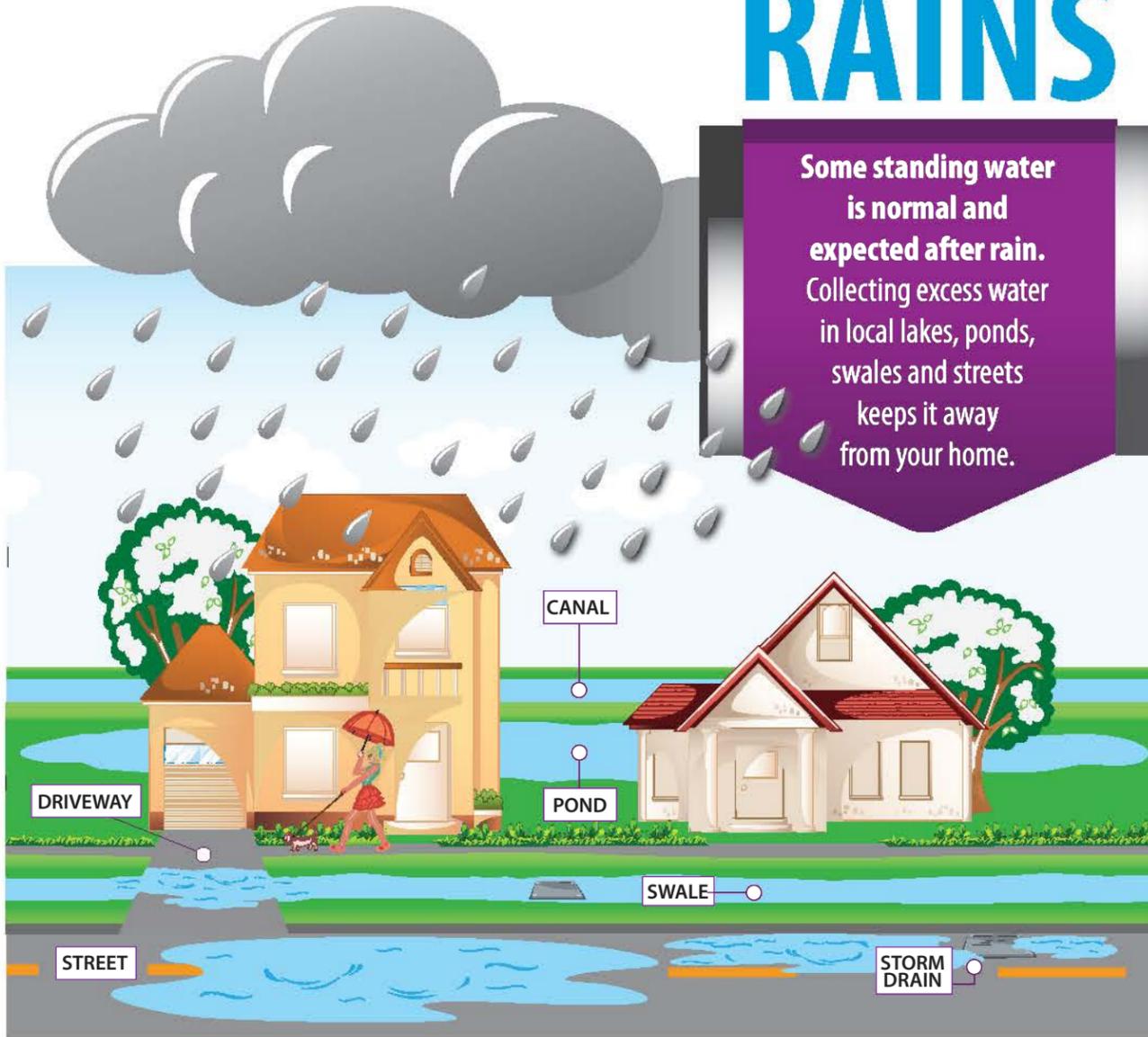
- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground;
- Evacuate if directed;
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.

## AFTER THE FLOOD

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe;
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris;
- Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways;
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded;
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines;
- Photograph the damage to your property for insurance purposes.



# What to expect when it RAINS



Some standing water is normal and expected after rain. Collecting excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets keeps it away from your home.

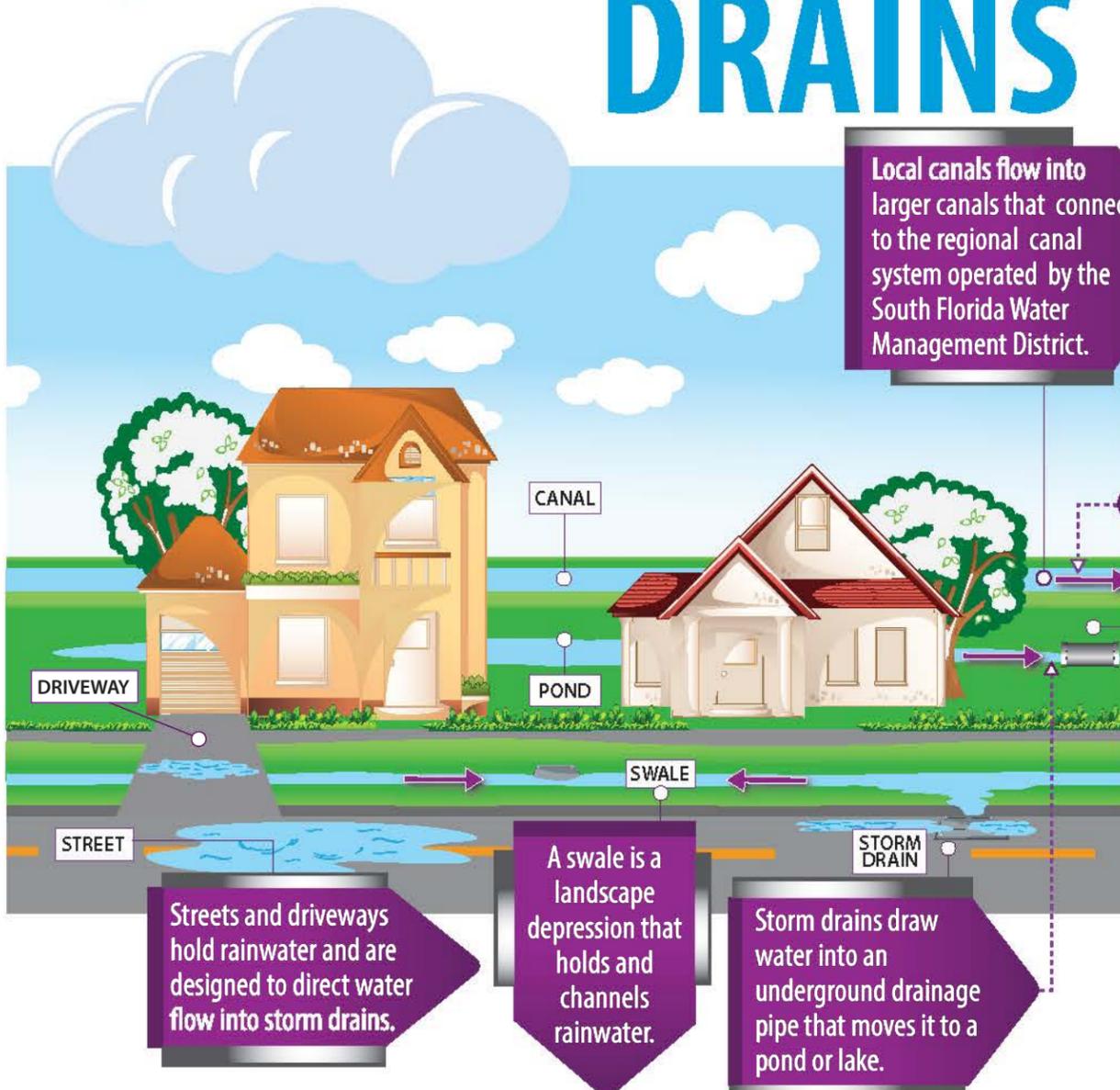
## Rainy Season CHECKLIST

- Recognize that flood control is a shared responsibility.
- Know the agency responsible for managing nearby canals.
- Understand YOUR neighborhood drainage limitations. Every neighborhood drains differently.
- If you are part of a homeowners association, identify the HOA representative authorized to operate any water control structures.
- Check for any structure, storm drain or canal blockages – remove debris and/or report any issues.
- Be aware that extreme rain can overwhelm drainage systems and result in temporary flooding.

Learn more at [sfwmd.gov/rainyseason](http://sfwmd.gov/rainyseason)



# How excess rainwater DRAINS



Local canals flow into larger canals that connect to the regional canal system operated by the South Florida Water Management District.

Excess pond water is routed to a neighborhood canal via a water control structure.

**Extent of rainfall.** If other neighborhoods are experiencing heavy rains, local and regional canals may not be able to accept all inflows at once.

Streets and driveways hold rainwater and are designed to direct water flow into storm drains.

A swale is a landscape depression that holds and channels rainwater.

Storm drains draw water into an underground drainage pipe that moves it to a pond or lake.

## What can slow THE FLOW?

- Intensity of rainfall.** If the ground is already saturated and community lakes and canals are high from previous rains, water will take longer to recede.
- Poorly maintained facilities.** Clogged or damaged facilities can prevent neighborhood water from draining properly. Also, there are some low-lying neighborhoods that are more prone to flooding.

Learn more at [sfwmd.gov/rainyseason](http://sfwmd.gov/rainyseason)



# Where the water FLOWS

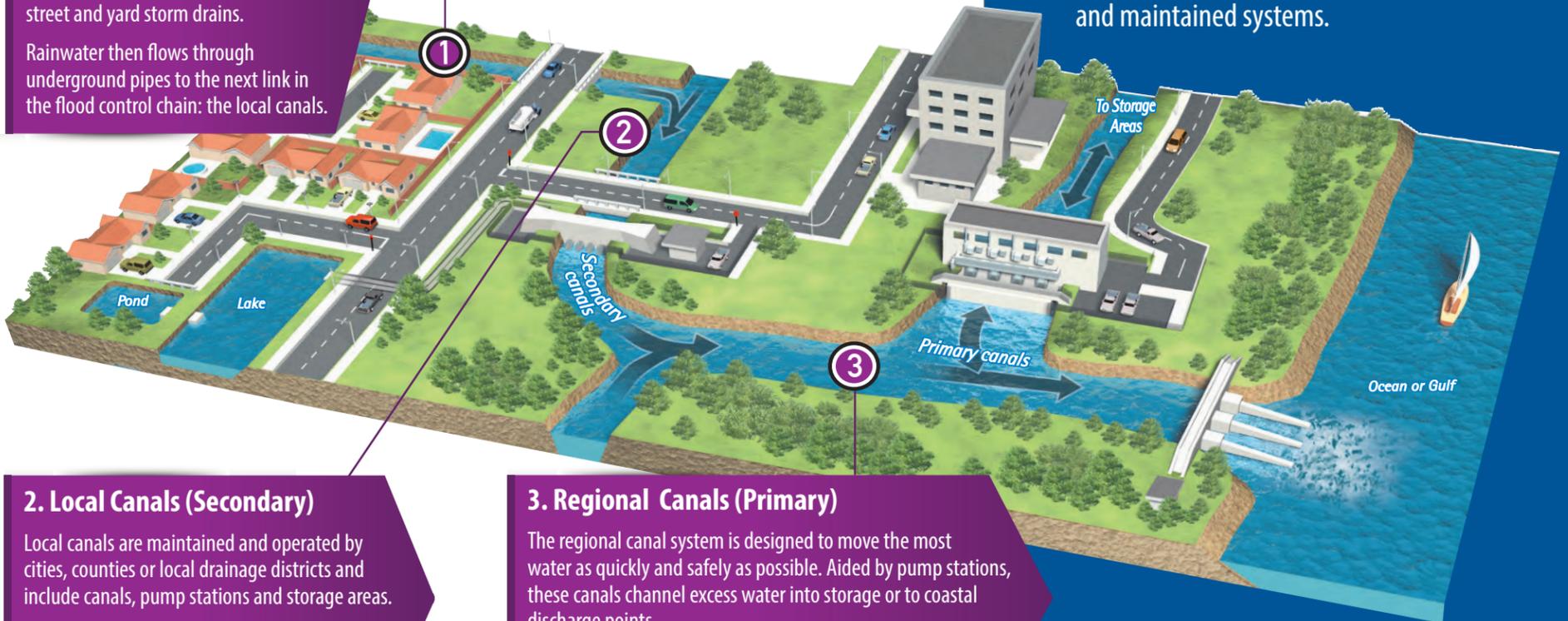
after it leaves your neighborhood

## 1. Neighborhood Canals

Community drainage systems store excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets. Some standing water is expected after heavy rains.

Excess water slowly drains to community lakes or ponds through street and yard storm drains.

Rainwater then flows through underground pipes to the next link in the flood control chain: the local canals.



## 2. Local Canals (Secondary)

Local canals are maintained and operated by cities, counties or local drainage districts and include canals, pump stations and storage areas.

These canals receive water from neighborhoods and store excess water or move it to the larger-capacity regional flood control system.

## 3. Regional Canals (Primary)

The regional canal system is designed to move the most water as quickly and safely as possible. Aided by pump stations, these canals channel excess water into storage or to coastal discharge points.

In areas not served by the water management system, natural rivers and other waterways serve as drainage outlets.

The South Florida Water Management District operates the regional water management system of canals, levees, water control structures and storage areas. The system connects to local drainage districts & thousands of neighborhood systems. These interconnected systems must work together to achieve maximum drainage of excess rainwater.

▶ Heavy rainfall in a short period of time may result in flooding, even with well-engineered and maintained systems.

Learn more at [sfwmd.gov/rainyseason](http://sfwmd.gov/rainyseason)

# Hurricane Prep Guide

Having a plan can save you precious time when there is a storm approaching. Tequesta Fire Rescue urges you to continually monitor updates and follow evacuation orders. Stop by Tequesta Public Safety to pick up your 'Hurricane Prep Guide' for more information.

## Have these if you stay in place

- Radio
- Flashlights
- Water & nonperishable food
- Manual can opener

## Have these in case of an emergency

- First aid kit
- Chargers & batteries
- Plastic sheeting & duct tape

## Protect your Essentials

- Medications & prescription glasses
- Cash & Travelers Checks
- Personal document

**6 TIPS TO ENSURE GENERATOR SAFETY**

- Operate generators outdoors
- Invest in battery operated carbon monoxide detectors
- Store gas in a garage away from any source of heat
- Do not plug into wall, use heavy duty extension cords instead
- Conserve resources, use only when necessary
- Keep children and pets away

**BASIC CHECKLIST Stay In Place**

- Battery powered/hand crank radio with NOAA alerts
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Water & non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Sign up for CodeRED Alerts

**In Case of Emergency**

- A first aid kit with pain meds
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Wrench/pliers
- Chargers and battery backups

**Protect Your Essentials**

- Prescriptions, and eyewear
- Cash/travelers checks
- Personal documents in waterproof container

For more safety information  
Like us on Facebook  
561-768-0550

**TEQUESTA FIRE RESCUE**

**HURRICANE PREP GUIDE**

**EMERGENCY 911**

[WWW.TEQUESTA.ORG](http://WWW.TEQUESTA.ORG)

