PREPARING FOR HURRICANES AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS

Each water supplier should have an emergency response plan and procedures for their public water system and customers that addresses pre-preparation, who to contact, initiating advisories and ending them.

The goal is to enhance communication and coordination between the impacted water system, your water customers, regulatory food agencies, the Florida Department of Health in each county (i.e. county health departments), and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) District Office. Effective communication between all parties and consistency in the application for these guidelines is critical for public health protection.

At the DOH Hillsborough County’s Drinking Water Website we have Emergency Hurricane Notification, PBWN And Hurricane Procedures and a PBWN Public Fact Sheet available to add to your response plans that includes contact names and emails and steps to prepare prior to a weather event.

**Loss of power is the biggest issue experienced by water utilities**

The Department of Environmental Protection will activate the StormTracker [http://stormtracker.dep.state.fl.us/] system prior to a Hurricane warning and water systems will be notified to update their status AFTER the event with the following information:

- Precautionary boil water notices(PBWN) issued, when it is lifted
- Status of the system (operational, non-operational)
- Request for assistance such as generators, fuel, handing out PBWN notices or if you or your operator needs assistance with sampling.
- Our contact during this event for the water system

Take Corrective Actions

After issuing a PBWN, make corrective actions to the water system, restore pressure and maintain disinfectant residual, perform flushing as needed, and test for coliform bacteria as prescribed by the agency overseeing your system. Our office encourages you to notify your customers in advance that in the event of a power outage or system malfunction that a PBWN may be issued and what to do.
Phone Numbers and Websites for more information and assistance

**Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County**

Call (813) 307-8059, **after hours 813-307-8000**
FAX (813) 272-7242 or
E-mail DLCHD29DrinkingWater@flhealth.gov


**Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

Call (813) 272-5900, **and**
FAX (813) 627-1200 or (813) 627-1201 or (813) 627-1202

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

[https://floridadep.gov/water/source-drinking-water](https://floridadep.gov/water/source-drinking-water)

**Environmental Protection Agency**

[https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse](https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse)

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**DOH-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

EH59-Division of Environmental Health • Safe Drinking Water Program
PO Box 5135
Tampa, FL 33602

«ATTENTION»
«Contact_Name»
«Address1» «Address2»
«City» «State» «Zip»