

Contact Us!

The University of Florida—Brevard County Extension office has a wealth of information available to the citizens of Brevard County.

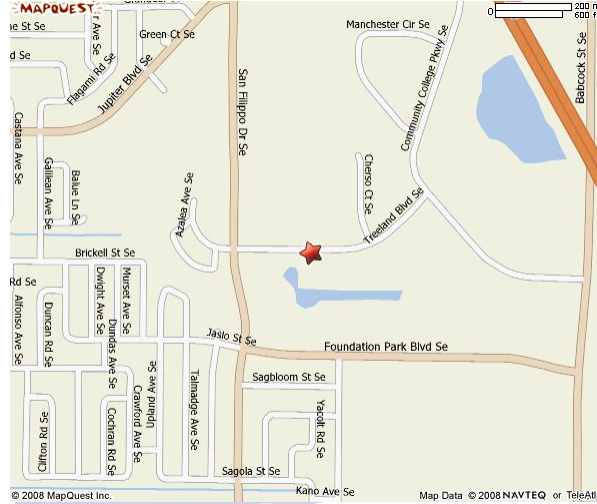
Please contact our office Monday through Friday, 8am—5pm to speak with our knowledgeable staff.

Funnel clouds are prevalent in Florida due to the moist air.

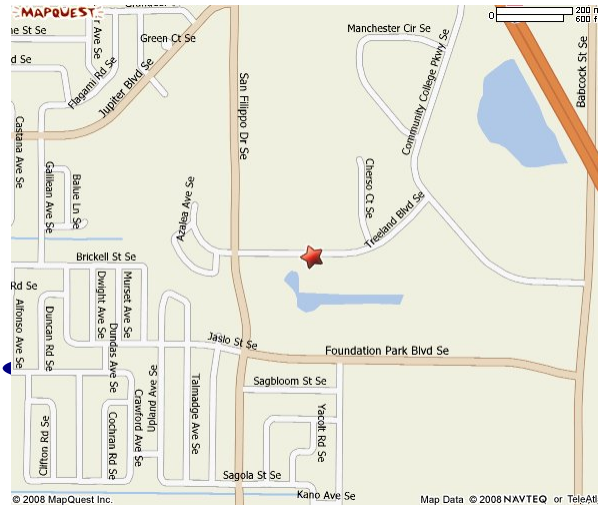
If you are unable to come

to the office, information can be sent by the most convenient method for you and most questions can be answered over the phone.

Prepared by: Gayle Whitworth, July 2008

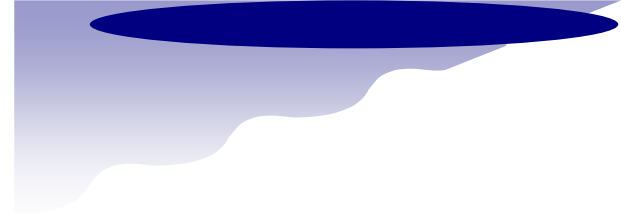


Cocoa Extension Office
3965 Lake Dr
Cocoa, FL 32926
321-633-1702



Palm Bay Extension Office
1455 Treeland Blvd SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
321-952-4536

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S., persons needing accommodations or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should notify the University of Florida Brevard County Extension Service no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting at 321-633-1702 or fax 321-633-1890.



Preparing for a Disaster



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Disasters Take on Many Forms

Florida living appeals to many people. They come here to enjoy the almost year-round sun and warm weather. However, despite all its appeal, Florida also has all the right conditions to make it a hazardous place to live. Hurricanes, tornados, lightning, wild fires, and floods are prone to the state.

Residents need to be aware of the possibilities for natural disasters, and need to take steps to prepare and protect themselves and their homes against the threats associated with them.



Floods can result in the loss of personal property.

Pre-planning is essential. Families should develop disaster preparedness plans that cover all of the natural disasters that can occur, and should update their plans annually. As with

most things, an ounce of prevention goes a long way in ensuring the safety of your home and family.

Hurricanes and Tornados

2004 was a busy and destructive hurricane season, impacting millions of Florida residents.

Many residents, and their homes, were unprepared for the impact the storms brought. .

The steps you can take to prepare are:

- Perform a home assessment
- Plan for evacuation
- Protect your home
- Develop and emergency communication plan
- Prepare a disaster supply kit



Hurricane Olga, 2007

Unlike hurricanes, tornados can strike at any time. Tornados can have wind speeds of 200 miles per hour or more, can be created and disappear within minutes, and can wreak havoc on homes. According to the National Weather Service, the average lead time for tornado warnings is only 11–12 minutes. Simple steps you can take to keep your family safe include:

- Investing in a weather radio, which can alert you to conditions that may result in a tornado, and to tornado warnings themselves.
- Designating a safe area in your home,

away from windows, where family members can meet in the event of a tornado warning.

Fires, Floods, and Other Natural Disasters

Wildfires, floods, and lightning are other disasters that Floridians must be prepared for.

Florida is the lightning –strike capital of America. The electrical charge and intense heat from lightning can electrocute on contact, split trees, ignite fires and cause electrical failures.

Wildfires pose a threat to people living near wild land areas, can grow to an enormous size and be virtually undetected until they have burned hundreds of acres and are encroaching a residential area.



Florida is the lightning capital of the United States.

Floods can result in the loss of life and personal property. Floods can rise slowly or quickly, though generally they develop over a period of days, and flash floods can occur with little or no warning and can

reach full peak in only a few minutes.

Whatever the disaster may be, it's important that you take steps to make sure your family and home are protected.