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Citizens Is Preparing for Hurricane Irma. Are You?

TALLAHASSEE, FL- Citizens Property Insurance Corporation is urging policyholders and all others to take precautions to protect themselves and their families as Hurricane Irma threatens devastating winds, heavy rains, storm surge and flooding across Florida.

As Citizens ramps up its own preparation and response efforts, now is the time for all policyholders to prepare for the potential impact of Irma, a [Category 5](#) and the most powerful hurricane to threaten Florida in more than a decade.

“As Irma approaches, our policyholders’ highest priority must be their personal safety,” said Barry Gilway, Citizens President, CEO and Executive Director. “Take precautions and follow instructions of local emergency management agencies. Citizens is preparing all of its internal and external resources to help you recover.”

To help our policyholders stay abreast of developments, the Citizens website features a [Storm Tracker feed](#), which delivers real-time [National Hurricane Center](#) updates directly to your desktop and mobile device through its [website](#). Citizens also offers storm preparation and response information through [Facebook](#) and Twitter at [@citizens_fl](#).

Citizens has also partnered with the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) to bring the latest news about catastrophic weather impacting your area. FPREN updates can be heard on local public radio stations and by downloading their free *Florida Storms* app from [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

While keeping in touch with local emergency preparations, policyholders should:

- Verify that Citizens has up-to-date contact and mortgage company information. You can review your information on record with Citizens through [Manage myPolicy](#) (myPolicy) or by contacting your Citizens agent.

Christopher B. Gardner, Chairman, Orange County • Gary Aubuchon, Lee County
Bette Brown, Monroe County • Blake Capps, Martin County • James Holton, Pinellas County
John McKay, Manatee County • Freddie Schinz, Okaloosa County
Barry Gilway, President/CEO and Executive Director

- Ensure that all key property and family information (insurance policies, health records, financial records, pet records, identification details, [home inventory](#), etc.) are stored in a safe, waterproof and easy to access location.
- Pack a [disaster supply kit](#), learn your [evacuation route](#) and develop a family communication plan that includes emergency contact information. Don't forget to [create a plan for your pets](#)! Not all emergency shelters allow pets.

If you suffer property damage, remember to [Call Citizens First](#) at 866.411.2742 to report a claim. Representatives are available 24/7. More information can be found on the [Citizens website](#).

“With a storm of this magnitude threatening Florida, all Citizens customers, Florida residents and visitors to the state need to take immediate precautions to protect themselves and their families,” said Chris Gardner, Chairman of Citizens Board of Governors. “We at Citizens are taking all available steps to prepare for Irma and urge everyone to do the same.”

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In 2002, the Florida Legislature created Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens), a not-for-profit alternative insurer, whose public purpose is to provide insurance to, and serve the needs of, property owners who cannot find coverage in the private insurance market.

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