Dear Citizens:

Each year we face natural disasters. They come in the form of tornadoes, hurricanes, severe thunderstorms, and lightning. Some of these disasters strike with little or no warning, such as severe thunderstorms and lightning. Others, such as hurricanes, provide information as much as 48 to 24 hours in advance.

While I, members of the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office and the Office of Emergency Management, will do all that we can to protect your life and property, you can help too.

It is imperative that all of our citizens have a disaster plan and stick to it. Inside of this safety guide are tried and proven suggestions to help you weather a natural disaster. You may have to decide between seeking emergency shelter or remaining in your home. Either way, preparation is the key to survival.

This guide provides you with important information that could save your life. Please keep it in your home, in a place which is easily accessible. The information contained inside is valuable. When there is a disaster, law enforcement and emergency personnel may not be able to get to your location for 72 hours or more. Please pay particular attention to the survival tips and act accordingly.

Together, we will all meet the challenges of a natural disaster and emerge safely.

Respectfully,

Morris A. Young, Sheriff
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sheriff’s Greeting .................................................................Page 2
EOC Staff..............................................................................Page 3
Thunderstorms ......................................................................Page 4
Tornadoes ..............................................................................Page 5
Cities ................................................................................Pages 6-8
Hurricane Hazards/Terms .....................................................Page 9
Tracking Chart/Names .................................................Pages 10-11
Survival Kits/Food Safety ............................................Pages 12-13
Citizens On Patrol ...............................................................Page 14
KISS Program ....................................................................Page 15
Red Cross / Talquin Electric .................................................Page 16
Special Needs Information ..................................................Page 17
Shelter Locations ....................................................................Page 18
Evacuation Routes ...............................................................Page 19
Important Telephone Numbers ..........................................Page 20
SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

In case of a severe thunderstorm, the National Weather Service will issue an alert called a severe thunderstorm watch. If this type of storm is spotted on radar and is imminent a severe thunderstorm warning is issued. A warning is more serious than a watch. At any given time, there are approximately 2,000 thunderstorms in progress worldwide. In our area, especially in summer and early fall, thunderstorms can occur and many of them may become severe.

Thunderstorms form when the atmosphere is unstable as warm air rises from the hot ground and forms tall cumulus clouds that can grow into storms. A passing cold front or approaching low pressure system can trigger thunderstorms. An average thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts about 30 minutes. Often these are quick downpours but some become severe and can produce hail at least one inch in diameter.

WHAT TO DO...

In an open recreation area find indoor shelter immediately. If you can see lightning, it can strike you. If you can hear thunder, find indoor shelter immediately. According to the National Lightning Safety Institute, 5 percent of lightning deaths in the U.S. occur on golf courses.

In a swimming pool, lake, ocean or any body of water, leave the water because water is a dangerous place to be during a thunderstorm. Water is a conductor of electricity, which means if lightning strikes the other end of the pool, you can still be injured. Leave the water at the first signs of a thunderstorm.

In a boat on the water, go back to land. No boating environment is perfect during a thunderstorm. It is crucial to listen to the weather when boating. If thunderstorms are forecast, don’t go out. If you are out on a boat and skies are threatening, go back to land and find a safe building or vehicle. If you are stuck on your boat in a thunderstorm and are inside the cabin, stay away from metal and all electrical components, including the radio. If the boat does not have a cabin, crouch down in the lowest area. Do not dangle legs or arms off the side of the boat. If you are caught in a small boat, drop anchor and get as low as possible.

In a car, you should never leave the vehicle unless there is a tornado warning. In that case, seek shelter or low ground, such as a ditch. A safe vehicle is any fully enclosed, metal-topped vehicle such as a hard-topped car, minivan, truck or bus. Unsafe vehicles include convertibles, golf carts and riding mowers.
TORNADOES

One of nature’s most violent storms is the Tornado. These are rotating columns of air, stretching from a storm cloud down to the ground. It is said that a tornado sounds like an approaching freight train. Tornados are the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena. Although they occur in many parts of the United States, they are found most frequently east of the Rocky Mountains during the spring and summer months.**

According to NOAA, in an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and more than 1,500 injuries. Do not confuse tornadoes with funnel clouds. Funnel clouds never touch the ground although they are a rotating column of air. If a funnel cloud touches the ground, it becomes a tornado.

Tornadoes form in severe thunderstorms due to changes in air speed at different heights of the storm. Rising air within the thunderstorm draft tilts the rotating air from horizontal to vertical. As the air spins upward from the bottom of a tornado, its force lifts anything in its path.

Tornado terms:

The National Services defines a Tornado Watch as “conditions favorable for the development of tornadoes” in and close to the watch area. During a watch, people should review the tornado safety rules and prepare to move to a place of a place of safety if threatening weather approaches. Durning a Tornado Warning, “people in the affected area should seek shelter immediately.”

Tornado facts:

• In southern states, peak tornado occurrence is March through May.
• Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. but are possible at all hours.
• The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction. The average forward speed is 30 miles per hour, but may go as high as 70 miles per hour.
• Tornadoes can last for several seconds to more than an hour. Most, however, last less than 10 minutes.

•In 2011 there were 525 deaths related to tornadoes, including the devastating ones that struck Alabama and Mississippi in April then Missouri and Oklahoma in May.

Source: NOAA
City of Chattahoochee
Address: 52 Jefferson Street
Telephone: 663-4046
City Manager: Elmon Lee Garner
Police Department: 663-4383
Public Works Department: 663-4475

Town of Greensboro
150 E. 11th Street
Telephone: 442-6215
Police Non-Emergency: 442-9342
City of Gretna
Address: 14615 Main Street
Telephone: 856-5257
City Manager: Antonio Jefferson
Police Department: 856-9460
Public Works Non-Emergency: 856-9468

Town of Havana
Cecil Tripp Municipal Building
711 North Main Street
Telephone: 539-2820
Town Manager: Howard McKinnon
Police & Fire Non-Emergency: 539-8201
City of Midway
50 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.
Telephone: 574-2355
City Manager:

City of Quincy
404 N. Stewart Street
Telephone: 618-0020
City Manager: Jack McLean
Police, Non-Emergency: 875-7315
Public Works: 618-0030 ext. 8024
Utilities: 618-0038
WATCH OUT!!! HURRICANE HAZARDS

Gadsden County is approximately 40 miles from the coast and, as such, will not experience many of the severe hazards (storm surge, wind and flooding) others encounter.

Some of the inland hazards this community may face, include:

• Wind--even minimal hurricane force winds will impact an area many miles inland from where the storm makes landfall. Winds associated with hurricanes and tornadoes can destroy homes and power lines. Flying debris, including signs, roofing material, siding and unsecured objects can become flying missiles.

• Flooding--flash flooding is associated with hurricanes and tropical storms. The tons of water the storm picked up over the ocean will be released as the storm moves inland. Assume that all floodwater is contaminated. If driving and you encounter a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Never drive through flooded roadways. If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

Also, it is recommended that you purchase flood insurance. Damage to your home and contents is not covered by homeowner’s insurance.

• Downed power lines--always assume that downed power lines are energized. Immediately contact your utility provider to report downed power lines. Do not connect generators directly to your home as it will energize the lines and injure or kill your neighbors or utility workers

HURRICANE TERMS TO KNOW

• TROPICAL DEPRESSION: An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 miles per Hour (33 knots) or less. Sustained winds are defined as one-minute average wind measured at about 33 feet (10 meters) above the surface.

• TROPICAL STORM: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 33-78 miles per hour (34-63 knots).

• HURRICANE: An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 miles per hour (64 knots or higher).

• STORM SURGE: A dome of water pushed onshore by hurricane and tropical storm winds. Storm surges can reach 25 feet or higher and be 50-100 miles wide. The greatest potential for loss of life is associated with a storm surge, which historically claims 9 to 10 lives. Storm surges occur most often along coastal counties but can also affect inland counties, such as Gadsden.

• HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WATCH: Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible in a specific area, usually within 36 hours. Tune in to NOAA weather radio, commercial radio or television for information.

• HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WARNING: Hurricane/tropical warning conditions are expected in the specific areas, usually within 24 hours.

• SHORT TERM WATCHES AND WARNINGS: A “hurricane watch,” issued for your area indicates that hurricane conditions are possible within approximately 36 hours. A “hurricane warning” issued for your area indicates that hurricane conditions are expected within approximately 24 hours.
HURRICANE NAMES

Hurricane season for the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea is June 1 through November 20. Residents are urged to get prepared at the beginning of each season. Hurricanes often give days warning as they are monitored frequently as soon a disturbance is indicated. Still, many people wait until the last minute to stock up on essentials such as groceries, batteries and water. Consequently those supplies may not be readily available in the event a hurricane strikes.

Tropical disturbances form in the summer and early fall months if weather conditions are ripe for their development, these disturbances can form monster hurricanes. The heat of the warm ocean water fuels the storms, enabling the area of disturbed weather to grow into a tropical depression with winds up to 38 miles per hour, then a tropical storm, with sustained winds of 39 to 73 miles per hour. A tropical storm is given a name, when a tropical storm’s sustained winds reach 74 miles per hour or more, it becomes a hurricane.


Hurricane names are selected by the World Meteorological Organization. The names alternate between male and female and are derived from languages that the people speak in a particular part of the world. For the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico, the names are in English, French, Dutch and Spanish. The cycle of names repeats every six years, except when a hurricane is very costly or deadly, then the name is retired and never used again. “Katrina,” “Wilma” and “Rita” are examples of hurricane names.
SURVIVAL KIT CHECKLIST IF YOU STAY AT HOME:

**Groceries:**
---2 week supply of nonperishable foods/special dietary foods
---Canned meats, fruits and vegetables, drinks
---Crackers
---Ice
---Drinking water (2 gallons per person per day for 2 weeks)

**Other items:**
---2 coolers (one for ice, one for food)
---Gas operated generator
---Battery operated radio and extra batteries
---Cash (banks may be closed and loss of power will make ATM and credit cards useless)
---One month supply of prescription medicines
---Nonelectric can opener
---Flashlights and extra batteries
---First Aid Kit
---Charcoal or LP gas grill
---Cell phone, car charger and 2 charges batteries
---Plastic trap for roof or window repair
---Tools, including nails
---Diapers, bottles and formula for infants
---Cleaning supplies
---Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels and pre-moistened towelettes)
---Toys, books and games for adults and children
---Mosquito repellent
---Water purification kit (chlorine)
---Camera/film/batteries
---Protection mask for air pollution

**FOOD SAFETY DURING POWER OUTAGES**

During a power outage, you need to take extra precautions so that the foods you eat and the water you drink are safe. During a storm, tap water or well water may become contaminated. Frozen and refrigerated food, without a source of electricity, may go bad. If flooding occurs, immediately move your stored food and water supply. Perishable food such as meat, poultry, seafood, milk and eggs that are not properly refrigerated or frozen can cause illness if consumed, even when thoroughly cooked.

**GUIDELINES FOR FOOD SAFETY DURING A STORM**

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to maintain a cold temperature. Before a storm strikes, during the warning period, set freezers and refrigerators to their coldest settings. If the power goes out, a refrigerator will keep food cold for up to four hours, an unopened freezer will stay cool 48 hours if full and approximately 24 hours if half full.

Wash fruits and vegetables with water from a safe source, such as bottled water.

Thoroughly cook frozen and refrigerated foods. If you plan to eat refrigerated or frozen meat, poultry, fish or eggs while they are still at safe temperatures, it’s important that food is thoroughly cooked to the proper temperature to assure that any foodborne bacteria that may be present are destroyed.

Take extra care with baby food. If possible, use prepared, canned formula and jarred foods that require no added water. If you must use concentrated formulas, be sure to add water from a safe source, such as bottled water.
SURVIVAL KIT CHECKLIST IF YOU GO TO SHELTER:

- Cots and blankets may be available but it is best, if possible, to take your own pillows, blankets, sleeping bags or air mattress, folding chairs or cots.
- Battery operated radio, DVD, CD, with head phones and take extra batteries.
- Personal first-aid kit
- Toys, books, quite games
- Eyeglasses
- Cash
- One month supply of prescription medicines
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash
- Diapers, bottles and formula for infants
- Extra clothing and shoes
- Contact solution
- Medical information
- Insurance policies
- Driver license
- Property inventory

***Pets, firearms and alcoholic beverages will be not allowed in the American Red Cross shelters. Inquire with the local Red Cross about "pet friendly" shelters.

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE IF I GO TO A SHELTER

Citizens may go to an emergency shelter only after an evacuation order has been issued. It is recommended that persons who have no place to go should seek emergency shelter as a last resort. Person who live in substandard housing, mobile homes or are vulnerable to storm surge should seek shelter at a hotel or with family members first.

Instead of emergency shelter, citizens may want to identify a friend, family member, or hotel/motel out of the affected area where you can stay for an extended period of time. Do not wait until the last minute to evacuate as roads may be crowded or traffic is bumper to bumper. Be patient and do not return to your home until you have received official word that it is safe.

Pre-planning is the key. If you leave, check off the following items.

--Take your important papers, including driver license, special medical information, insurance policies, and property inventory.
--Let friends and relatives know where your are staying.
--Lock windows and doors.
--Turn off electricity at the main breaker.

PLAN FOR YOUR PET

Many shelters and hotels do not take pets. Many kennels and veterinary offices will but you must meet certain requirements.

--Proper ID collar and tag
--Carrier or cage
--Leash
--Ample food for at least 2 weeks
--Water/food bowls
--Any necessary medications
--Specific care instructions
--Proper ID on all belongings
--Newspaper, cat litter, scoop, plastic bags for handling waste
CITIZENS ON PARTOL PROGRAM
C.O.P.S.

The Citizens On Patrol program is a volunteer division of the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office, established in October 2009, to offer citizens an opportunity to become actively involved in their community. The volunteers are concerned citizens who are resources (eyes and ears) for the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office. Volunteers are dressed in uniforms and drive specially marked vehicles displaying “Citizens On Patrol Volunteer.” The program is an effective tool to prevent crime and to promote safer communities. It also serves as a catalyst for strengthening the entire county.

On Dec. 14, 2009 the first graduating class of the Citizens On Patrol made a commitment to serve with integrity and promote safety throughout Gadsden County. The program received positive reviews from the citizens and business owners of Gadsden County. A second class graduated on June 10, 2010. There are currently more than 40 members of this program.

COP volunteers are observers only. They report criminal and suspicious activity to the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office and should not attempt to get involved. For additional information, please call 627-9233 or 933-5851.

The GCSO is proactive in fostering partnerships with local businesses, community groups, schools, and other local law enforcement agencies enhancing its involvement and commitment to community policing. The department has implemented several programs to get the community involved in community policing.

The GCSO is recruiting volunteers from the community to serve as Citizens On Patrol to watch for suspicious activities in their communities and report it to the GCSO. The Citizens On Patrol also foster relationships with our elderly citizens to ensure their safety by conducting well-being checks. They also participate in many community events.
Senior Safety Tips

Seniors can Reduce Opportunities for criminals to Strike by being Careful, Alert, and a Good Neighbor.

- Keep Doors and Windows Locked at all Times. Install Deadbolt on All Exterior Doors.
- Install Supplemental Locks on All Windows and Sliding Glass Doors.
- Never Let Strangers into your Home Without I.D.
- Use Only Your First Initial in Phone Books.
- Never Advertise that You Live Alone.
- Hang Up Immediately on Harassing or Obscene Phone Calls.
- Don’t Keep Large Sums of Money in Your Home.

Community Partners

Gadsden County Health Department
Gadsden County Fire Departments
Gadsden County EMS
Gadsden County Senior Services
Gadsden County Community Development
Gadsden County Veteran Services
Department of Children & Families
Department of Elder Affairs
Volunteer Florida
Area Agency on Agency
Gadsden County Retired Educators Association

Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office

Keeping Independent Seniors Safe

Also Visit FloridaDisaster.org

Contact Us
339 E. Jefferson St. Quincy, FL
Tashonda Whaley
Email: tashondawhaley@fds.net
Phone: 850.875.8833
Fax: 850.875.8643

Morris A. Young
Sheriff

What Is...
Keeping Independent Seniors Safe?

The K.I.S.S. Program is implemented by the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office and is designed to ensure the safety of independent seniors ages 60 and older.

The Program provides seniors with educational resources that are valuable to maintaining their well being and independence.

Our Mission

"To Bestow Outreach Tools, Educational Opportunities, and Networking Capabilities on the various Hazards that Seniors Face in Gadsden County."

Why K.I.S.S.?

As of 2010, there are 10,074 persons age 60 and older in Gadsden County. Of those, 2,572 live alone and 5,589 reside in rural areas of the county.

The Population of Seniors currently living in medically underserved areas is 5,737.

How Can Seniors Join?

A Senior May Join by Simply contacting the Gadsden Emergency Management Division @ 875-8833

K.I.S.S. also aims to improve the interaction between the Sheriff’s Office and the Senior Community by utilizing and building upon Programs that interact with the Senior Population.
The American Red Cross has been serving Tallahassee and the surrounding area since 1917. In the past eighty-three years, the American Red Cross has provided a helping hand by reaching out to local residents, and last year touched the lives of more than 10,500 people in the eight counties that we serve. The American Red Cross provided a “helping hand” that was needed following a disaster, helping to get loved ones home from the military during an emergency, training people in first aid, CPR, swimming, and HIV/AIDS courses.

Our Armed Forces Emergency Service and Disaster Services programs are high priority services that are available twenty-four hours a day for emergencies. Following major disasters, such as the Attack on America, Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Jeanne, and Tropical Storm Fay, our Disaster Services program has responded quickly and efficiently in helping victims in need. And, when a loved one is sick or dies, it is important to provide that information to a family member in the military stationed far from home. Volunteers provide essential services in both of the programs. The American Red Cross was recognized as “Charity of the Year” by Money Magazine for dedicating an average of 92% of it’s income to programs. Across the country, the ratio of paid to volunteer staff was 1 to 507, volunteers contributed 98% of the American Red Cross workplace nationwide.

YES! The American Red Cross remains ready to respond in time of an emergency. We’ll help, will you?”Help Can’t Wait” is our slogan. Quick response and dependable services are features that we offer in all of our programs. We measure these through the Standards of Excellence that we are committed to provide locally. And, while service is an important product, we are also pledged to offer the embodiment of our hearts as well as reaching to find the best mix of people and service in a diverse community. We expect the future to continue to be eventful. We are committed to responding to our highest standard whether that response is to a house fire in the middle of the night or to teaching CPR to new parents. This is our vision and commitment for our community.

**Report an Outage Online**

If the system does not recognize your phone number when you click on the link to report an outage, please call (850) 627-7651 during business hours to update your records.

1-866-899-4832 (Automated System)
1-888-802-1832 (Live Operator)

**Light Out?**

**We Need to Know.**

If you are aware of an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light on Talquin Electric Cooperative’s lines, please call the Cooperative so that the outdoor light can be repaired. When reporting a problem, TEC must have the following information so that we can make the repair and contact you if there should be any questions:

- Identify and describe the streetlight location with such specificity that it can be identified, such as street name, nearest street crossing or other landmarks.
- Describe the nature of the malfunction or failure of illumination of the streetlight.
- Provide contact information such as the name, address, email address, or phone number of the person reporting the inoperative or malfunctioning streetlight so that they can be contacted.

Following these procedures will help ensure the proper response for your request. We certainly appreciate your help in this matter.

To report an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light, contact Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 850-627-7651 or 1-888-802-1832.
WHAT PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHOULD KNOW

A special needs shelter does not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor does it provide the level of care found in a medical facility. It may be in a school or other public facility, it may be crowded, noisy and boring. You can expect the following: food and water but if you want or need special food, you will have to bring it with you and it must be non-perishable. You can also expect basic medical assistance and monitoring, advanced medical equipment or staff is not available. There will be an area for you and your caregiver to sleep and there will be back up electricity for light and essential medical equipment.

If you have special needs, it is important to pre-register if you have no other place to go and need:
• Assistance with medication
• Observation by a health professional
• Electricity for life supporting medical equipment
• Basic nursing care
• Assistance to evacuate

Pre-registration will ensure that you will have a back-up plan. If you are ordered to or choose not to evacuate, identify the best sheltering option. If you can stay with family or friends or at a hotel out of the emergency area, you should. If you have no other options, you should pre-register and be prepared to go to the Special Needs Shelter. Do not wait until an evacuation has been ordered. Find out now if you qualify and what you need to bring with you in the event of an emergency,

You are eligible if: you have special medical requirements but do not require hospitalization, you cannot be accommodated in a regular shelter, you need assistance with basic everyday tasks or you have a chronic condition that requires assistance. To the extent possible under emergency conditions, the Special Needs Shelter will provide a safe sheltering environment and basic assistance to maintain your level of health.
SHELTERS

The American Red Cross has three designated shelters in Gadsden County:

EAST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL is located at 27001 Memorial Blue Star Highway between the cities of Midway and Quincy. To get there from Quincy, take Memorial Blue Star Highway (also East Jefferson Street and U.S. Highway 90 east). The school is located approximately 3 miles from the Quincy city limits. It sits off the highway on the left and is directly across from the Florida Public Safety Institute. 850-539-2882.

WEST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL is located at 200 Providence Road in Greensboro. To get there, take State Road 12 west to the Greensboro city limits. Turn left on Providence Road (County Road 274) the school is on the left. 850-442-9500.

HAVANA MIDDLE SCHOOL is located at 1210 Kemp Road in Havana. To get there, take U.S. 27 North to Havana’s city limits. At the first traffic light, make a right turn onto Hwy. 12A (Kemp Road). Go to the four-way stop sign, go straight, at the 3-way stop, go straight. Continue until you reach Havana Middle School on your right. 850-593-2760.
NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GADSDEN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 875-8642

GADSDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: 627-9233

GADSDEN COUNTY EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

GADSDEN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS: 875-8672

GADSDEN COUNTY SOLID WASTE: 875-8658

GADSDEN COUNTY FIRE COORDINATOR: 875-8699

GADSDEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT: 875-7200

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER INFORMATION 875-8833

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL: 627-7528

www.GadsdenSheriff.org