



The GP Responder

June 2023

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 4, Issue 2

Message from GP-CERT Leader, Gordon Holtby



Many of us are still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, but **NOW** is the time to start preparing for the Atlantic hurricane season, which kicked off on June 1 and runs through November 30. If you're an Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Don, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harold, Idalia, Jose, Katia, Lee, Margot, Nigel, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince, or Whitney, you might hear your name pop up in the news at some point over the next several months, as these are the names chosen for 2023 tropical cyclones/hurricanes. NOAA is forecasting a "near normal" range of 12 to 17 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 4 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). Please have a plan in place, and get your supplies in early.

It is always important to learn from our experiences, and the first article in today's newsletter by Richard MacCready does just that – "What I Learned from Ian: the Good, the Bad, and the Damage". The second article provides some helpful links (thanks to Plantation CERT) to help all of us better prepare for the 2023 hurricane season. There is also a brief listing of "Your Responsibilities" for hurricane season.

I want to reiterate that all residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer GP-CERT team. GP-CERT is about empowering our community – both educating our volunteers about disaster response, and communicating safety messages and information to our residents. If interested in learning more about GP-CERT, please reach out to any of the volunteers listed at the end of this newsletter for more information. Our next bi-monthly meeting is on Tuesday, July 11 th @ 6pm in the craft room, so please feel free to join us at that time. In the interim, I hope you enjoy this 12 th edition of The GP Responder. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

Gordon Holtby

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Volunteers Needed!

GP-CERT is a volunteer organization that deploys in the aftermath of disasters in the community. There is a continued need for volunteers to assist in areas such as damage assessment, access control, communications, and triage (basic first aid). Volunteers will be assigned to tasks based upon their desires, skills and experience. Background/training in these areas is encouraged but not required. The GP-CERT training and preparation will allow community members to respond and assist each other in those hours or days between the incident and the return of our property management staff.



For more information or to volunteer, please go to the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org> or contact Gordon Holtby at gordon.holtby@gmail.com

What I Learned from Ian: the Good, the Bad, and the Damage

Submitted by Richard MacCready

You'll notice that there are a few names in this document. I learned from their experiences. I hope that this document will help you with your plans.

The Good

1. We used our analytical skills well. Jean and I took in all the information we could, decided what our options were, and when we would need to execute them. Some websites we used to gather information were -

[National Hurricane Center](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov) - <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

[Sarasota County, FL | Home](https://www.scgov.net) - <https://www.scgov.net>

[Driving directions, live traffic & road conditions updates - Waze](https://www.waze.com) - <https://www.waze.com>

2. Installing bifold hurricane shutters the year before the hurricane. We are getting older, and the steel shutters are heavy. It took 15 minutes to secure the house.

3. Filling the gas tanks about five days out. Filled the tanks to the top of the neck, where I could see the fuel. This proved to be helpful as we tried to fill up at the FL/GA border, only to find gas stations without gas. We had another 100-mile range left, and we filled up about 50 miles further north on I-95.

4. Bags of mulch work just as well as sandbags (thanks, Rich B). Easier to cleanup too, just add to your garden.

5. Zip-tying the outside electrical shutters (thanks, Rich B).

6. Zip-tying the lanai screen door (thanks, Rich B). I believe this is what kept my lanai intact; only screen tears and the door twisted.

7. Clothes and medications were packed three days out.

8. Food for the drive was loaded the night before our evacuation.

9. Important documents were transferred from the strong box three days out, placed in a plastic container, and moved to the trunk of the car.

10. Handheld amateur radios were loaded into the car.

11. Emailed several relatives of our intended auto route and order of priority of our final destination based on the hurricane's path. We originally thought to go towards Miami, but changed to a South Carolina plan.

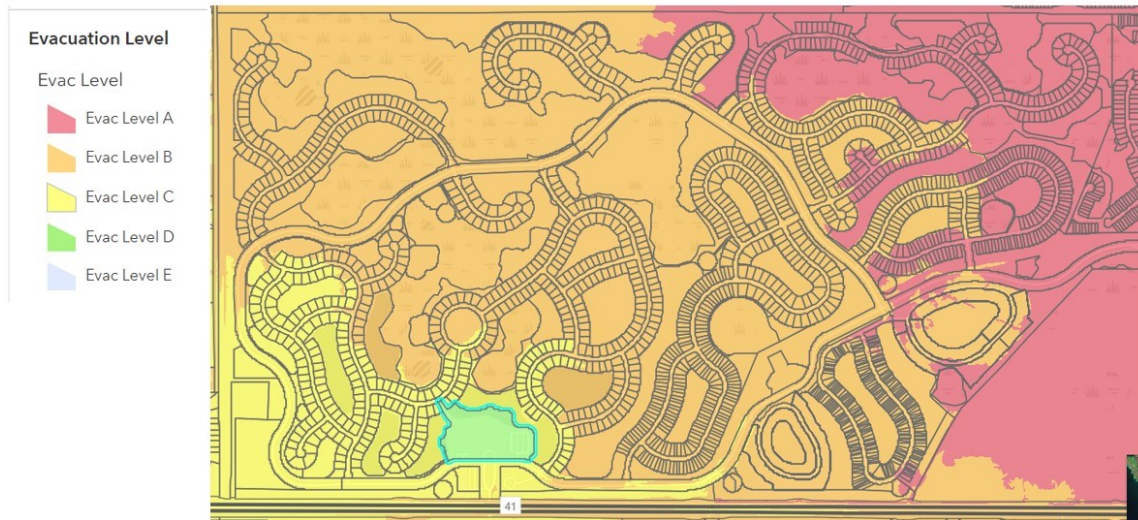
12. I carried cold hard cash. My amount is calculated by having \$100 for the event, then add x amount of dollars per day. I assumed that we could be out for five days, and we calculated a need for \$75 per day, so the amount of money I brought with me was $(100+(5*75))=\$475$. I brought \$500 with me. I also had a vast amount of this cash in \$20 bills, but my breakdown was $((\$20*20)+(\$1*10)+(\$5*6)+(\$10*6))$. The intent is that if I needed something (fuel, food, etc.) and I had competition for the item, I can give the provider cold hard cash versus a credit card.

13. We knew our Evacuation level (B). On the next page is a map of Gran Paradiso with a part of River Road and the Tamiami Trail included. Note, Red is Zone A, the worst rating, then Orange, Yellow, etc. Gran Paradiso is mostly orange but has both red and yellow zones. The map can be found at [Know Your Zone, Know Your Home | Florida Disaster](https://www.floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone) - <https://www.floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone>.



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Gran Paradiso – Evacuation Zone Map



14. We treated this like a Washington DC snowstorm. This is a whole other story...

15. We made the hard decision to leave, why... We had no generator at the house. Personal medical issues that were ongoing. I supported the EMS efforts at Hurricane Katrina, I saw Ian's travel pattern similar to Katrina and you only go through one hurricane in your life if you are intelligent.

The Bad

1. I had no generator. We now have a generator in place that supports the whole house. It was last tested in March and will be tested by Jean in May. I wrote a 4-page procedure for startup/shutdown of the generator which I'm willing to share. (Thanks to Sal Baglio for allowing me to copy his generator design).

2. I didn't inform any GP residents that I was leaving.

3. I bugged Gordon from afar, much like everyone else.

4. I forgot to turn off the main valve to the water. This is located outside of the house. Or, it can be found inside your garage.

The Damage

1. Our lanai door was twisted, but I was able to correct this.

2. Several lanai fabric screens were ripped. I was able to correct all but one screen. The top center roof screen was too high and I didn't have the right equipment.

3. One soffit panel was displaced, but I was able to correct this too.

4. I took the opportunity to add "Air Vent Baffles" to my house, which is standard since 2018 in all homes. I had rain drops hitting the exhaust fan in the Master bedroom prior to Ian.

5. Three lost roof panels, and I was able to correct this.

6. One un-resettable circuit breaker and I corrected this. I determined that it served an outside box that was slightly pulled away from the house. Reseated the box and added a silicone sealer to the perimeter of the box.

Generator Activation - Deactivation Procedure

Submitted by Rich MacCready

Go to website for the [complete document](#).

Generator Configuration in Storage State

The generator is stored just under the circuit breaker box with the following characteristics:

- Extension cord and security chain are on top of the generator
- Oil, oil funnel, manual gasoline transfer device and Instruction manual are located on the shelf immediately to the left of the generator.
- Generator valves and switches are set as follows:
 - o Fuel valve is set to off.
 - o Battery switch is set to off.
 - o Idle switch is set to off.
 - o Circuit breaker on generator is disabled.
 - o Battery has been connected to the leads and is located behind the bottom center black panel.



Picture courtesy of Rich MacCready

Generator Activation Procedure

1. Verify that the commercial electrical power is not being provided.
2. In the Circuit Breaker Box, do the following:
 - a. Disable the main breaker (biggest switch inside of box, middle, bottom)
 - b. Keep Circuit Breaker (CB) number 1 (CB#1) enabled.
 - c. Disable all other circuit breakers.
3. In the Circuit Breaker Box, ensure the silver metal “electrical source” plate now allows for the use of the Generator’s 50-Amp circuit breaker (CBs 2&4), and therefore, disallows the use of the commercial electrical service circuit breaker (the large breaker switch).
4. Verify oil level in the generator is at the proper level; correct if needed.
5. Verify gas level in the generator is at the proper level; correct if needed.
6. Move the generator to outside of the garage and if warranted, secure it to the tree using the locks and chain.
7. Connect 50 Amp extension cord to the appropriate location on the generator.
8. Connect 50 Amp extension cord to the generator receptacle box located just below the circuit breaker box.
9. Turn Fuel valve to On.
10. Wait one minute for fuel to flow from tank to the carburetor.
11. Battery Switch to On.

Contd. on page 5

Generator Activation Procedure—contd.

Contd. from page 4

12. Start the generator using the push button or the hand pull line.
 - a. This will take a few attempts to start the generator as we had shut off the fuel flow, thus the fuel needs to be drawn into the carburetor before ignition can occur.
13. After the generator starts, let the generator run for about one minute for it to stabilize.
14. Turn on the Idle switch. (The other red switch)
15. Enable the Generator's 50-Amp circuit breaker.
16. Enable the individual circuit breakers sequentially as defined using the "Circuit Breaker Activation/Deactivation" matrix sheet at the end of this procedure.

Generator Deactivation Procedure

1. Verify that the commercial electrical power is now being provided and is considered stable.
2. In the Circuit Breaker Box, do the following:
 - a. Keep Circuit Breaker (CB) number 1 (CB#1) enabled.
 - b. Disable all other circuit breakers in REVERSE order using the "Circuit Breaker Activation/Deactivation" matrix sheet at the end of this procedure. (Matrix can be found online at <https://gp-cert.org>). Ensure that the Generator CBs (2&4) are disabled.
 - c. NOTE: KEEP the MAIN (biggest switch inside of box) breaker DISABLED!

3. At the generator:

- a. Turn Fuel valve to Off.

Wait for the Generator to stop running before proceeding. This will take about 2-3 minutes.

- b. Turn Battery switch to Off.
 - c. Turn off Idle Switch (Other Red Switch)
 - d. Disable generator's circuit breaker.
4. Disconnect 50 Amp extension cord from the generator.
 5. Disconnect 50 Amp extension cord from the generator receptacle box located just below the circuit breaker box.



Picture courtesy of Rich MacCready

6. In the Circuit Breaker Box, do the following:
 - a. Enable the main breaker (biggest switch inside of box, middle, bottom). This will require sliding the metal plate up.
 - b. Enable each breaker one at a time, using the "Circuit Breaker Activation/Deactivation" matrix.
7. Start a timer for 30 minutes to allow the generator to properly cool down before we move it.
8. Move the generator to inside the garage and place under the circuit breaker box.
9. Place 50 Amp extension cord and security chain on top of the generator.

2023 Hurricane Season*

Hurricane season begins June 1st. Below are links to helpful websites to prepare for the season. Check out page 5 of our [March issue](#) for more links on preparing for the hurricane season.

[What To Do Before You Evacuate Your Home](#) - from the reliable and trustworthy Consumer Reports, read expert advice on securing windows and doors, taking stock of your belongings, and more to prepare for severe weather.

[Evacuate or Stay? Which Path Should You Take?](#) - play this board game to see if you should stay (and prepare) or if you should leave.

[How To Prepare For A Hurricane](#) - government website

[Financial Documents To Prepare For Disasters](#) - covers more than finance, includes medical and insurance information

[How To Make A Family Emergency Plan](#) - Cover the following questions. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? What is my shelter plan? What is my evacuation route? What is my family/household communication plan?

Disaster Resource Guide For Older Adults If You Have [Special Medical or Disability Needs](#) - to assist in making decisions concerning care for individuals with access and functional needs. You can register for the [Florida Special Needs Registry](#) on the website. Individuals who qualify for a special needs shelter should contact their local emergency management agency for additional information.

[American Red Cross for Hurricane Safety and Post Disaster Shelters](#) - preparing your home for hurricanes and planning steps for people who may need extra help

[Sarasota Emergency Centers](#) - evacuations centers throughout Sarasota County

[Special Medical Needs Assistance Programs by Sarasota County](#) - Sarasota County residents with qualifying medical needs are encouraged to apply for registration as a medically-dependent person (MDP).

[Hurricane Recovery & Assistance Programs](#) - recovery assistance for homes and businesses

[Tips How To Prepare Your Home](#) - checklist for securing your home and sheltering in place

[Pet Disaster Preparedness Kits](#)— prepare a disaster kit for your pet

[Hurricane Retrofit Guide -How To Make Your Home More Hurricane Resistant](#) - how to protect your home against wind and rains of a hurricane

[How To Build A Disaster Emergency Supply Kit](#) - checklists for pets, clothing, medical, etc.

Your Responsibilities

- Share your disaster plans with a relative or friend outside the area.
- Call after a disaster and let them know you are all right and where you will be staying.
- When an emergency threatens, continually monitor radio and/ or TV to determine whether you are included in the evacuation area.
- If your area is ordered to evacuate, gather your belongings and proceed to your evacuation destination.
- If you have registered for transportation, units will be dispatched to your location.
- Create and bring your disaster supply kit

*Thanks go out to Plantation CERT for providing these links.



The Gran Paradiso – Community Emergency Response Team (GP-CERT) has been formed to assist neighbors in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The team is comprised of your neighbors who have undertaken the appropriate training to assist where needed.

Please submit articles and/or corrections to the newsletter publisher, Carole Myles, at cmyles252@gmail.com.



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The GP Responder is a publication of the Gran Paradiso—Community Emergency Response Team. Our plan is to publish it every third month throughout the year. The GP Responder is forwarded to all residents by KW, our management company, and it is also available for viewing on the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org>

