

Hurricane Prep Guide 2026

Heron Bend Commons Homeowners Association, Inc. · Prepared by the management office with the Board of Directors · Updated October 24, 2026

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. Heron Bend Commons sits along a tidal canal in Broward County, so wind, heavy rain and storm surge can all reach us. This guide covers what to do before the season, when a watch is issued, during the storm, and afterward. It works alongside §7 of the Rules & Regulations.

Before the season

Know your zone

Canal-front homes and the ground floors of Buildings A, B and C are in Broward County evacuation zone A. Check your zone and your evacuation route on the county's emergency website, and decide now where you would go: a friend or family member inland, a hotel, or a county shelter.

Build your kit

- Water: one gallon per person per day, for at least seven days.
- Non-perishable food, a manual can opener, and food for pets.
- Medications for two weeks, copies of prescriptions, and a first-aid kit.
- Flashlights, a battery or crank radio, spare batteries, and phone power banks.
- Copies of insurance policies, IDs and important papers in a waterproof bag.
- Cash in small bills, since card readers stop working when the power is out.

Get the alerts

Turn on app notifications in the Heron Bend Commons resident app. When the National Weather Service issues a watch or warning for our area, the association sends instructions by app, text and email in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Trim and check

Have trees and palms trimmed before June 1. Test your shutters or panels, make sure every piece and fastener is labeled, and replace missing hardware now rather than when stores sell out.

When a watch is issued

A tropical storm or hurricane watch means storm conditions are possible within 48 hours. This is when to secure your home.

Shutters and openings

- Storm shutters and panels **may go up once a tropical storm or hurricane watch is issued for Broward County** (Rules & Regulations §7.3). Please do not install them earlier.
- They **must come down within 14 days after the storm** has passed.
- Condominium owners with removable panels should coordinate with neighbors on the same floor; the building's maintenance staff can help residents who need assistance if you call the office before the watch becomes a warning.

Pool furniture and outdoor items

- Association staff stack and chain the furniture at the community pool and lakeside lawn, and lower the pool water level.
- At your own home, bring in **pool and patio furniture**, umbrellas, planters, grills, decorations, wind chimes and anything else the wind could pick up.
- Balcony and lanai furniture in Buildings A, B and C must come inside. Do not tie furniture down on a balcony.

Trash and recycling bins

- Roll **trash and recycling carts** into your garage, or for condominium residents, make sure the enclosure gates are latched.
- Do not put bulk trash or yard waste at the curb once a watch is issued; collection is suspended until after the storm.

Boats and docks

Move boats to a marina or haul them out if you can. If a boat must stay at a dock behind a canal home, double the lines, remove canvas and electronics, and allow slack for surge.

Your home and car

Fill prescriptions, charge devices, fill your vehicle's gas tank, and set refrigerators and freezers to their coldest setting. Photograph each room and the outside of your home for insurance.

During the storm

- Stay inside, away from windows and glass doors, in an interior room on the lowest floor that is above flood level.
- In Buildings B and C, the elevators are shut down and returned to the ground floor when sustained winds reach 40 mph. Use the stairs and help neighbors who need it.
- Never run a generator indoors, in a garage, or on a balcony. Place portable generators at least 20 feet from any door, window or vent.
- The management office closes when a hurricane warning is issued. For emergencies, call 911.
- Do not go outside during the calm of the eye. The second half of the storm arrives quickly and from the opposite direction.

After the storm

Check in and report damage

- Wait for the all-clear before going outside. Watch for downed power lines, standing water and wildlife pushed out of the canal.
- Report damage to common areas, roofs, fences and building exteriors through the resident app. Photos help the board prioritize repairs and insurance claims.
- Report your home as safe through the app's check-in message so the office knows who may need help.

Storm debris pickup

- Broward County announces the storm debris collection schedule after the storm. Ember will post it in the resident app as soon as it is published.
- Separate debris into piles at the curb: vegetation (branches, palm fronds), construction debris, and appliances. Do not block storm drains, hydrants or the sidewalk.
- Condominium residents should bring storm debris to the marked area beside their building's dumpster enclosure.

Shutters down

Remove shutters and panels within 14 days after the storm (Rules & Regulations §7.3). The pool stays closed until the deck and water are inspected and the furniture is set back out.

Questions? Ask Ember in the resident app, or contact the management office at the clubhouse.