

# CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

## STORM PREPAREDNESS

### GUIDELINES

The City of Indian Rocks Beach suggests utilizing the following guidelines in helping you prepare for the 2007 Hurricane Season.

#### **PRE HURRICANE SEASON MAINTENANCE**

*All major cutting of vegetation (i.e., tree removal) should be completed long before June 1<sup>st</sup>, the beginning of Hurricane Season.*

- Cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings.
- Thin you foliage so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that the trees/plants will be uprooted.
- Place trimmings at the curb on Wednesday's and follow the 4 'x 4' x 8' rule (the pile should not exceed 4 feet in height – 4 feet in width – eight feet in length).
- Containerize small pieces of vegetation such as leaves, twigs, etc. in bags or cans that weighs less than 40 lbs. When full and place at the curb on your scheduled household waste pick up day.
- Clean your yard of any items that could become missiles in a storm such as old lumber, lawn furniture, bar-b-q grills, etc.

#### **ONCE A STORM HAS BEEN NAMED**

- Do not cut down trees or do major yard work.
- Do not begin construction projects that produce this type of debris.
- Once a storm watch or warning has been issued, do not trim vegetation of any kind.
- Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal collection process and there is not enough equipment or manpower to collect the additional material before the storm makes landfall. You could put not only yourself at risk but your neighbors as well.
- Do not take materials to the curb, transfer stations or landfill during a watch or warning period. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm.

#### **AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED**

##### **Please be patient!**

- Keep household garbage, recycling and vegetative and/or construction storm debris in separate piles.
- The City of IRB's number one priority is the collection of household garbage.
- Securely containerize all household garbage in plastic bags or cans on your scheduled pickup day.
- Do not place any debris near or on a fence, mailbox, powerline equipment, poles, transformers, downed electrical wiring, water meters or storm drains.
- Be prepared to repair possible damage to yard areas from the specialized equipment used to collect storm debris.

- Contact the City of IRB Public Services Department at (727)-595-6889 or City Hall at (727)-595-2517 for updates on your collection services.

**IMPORTANT!**

**\*\*\* There is no reimbursement provided to any individual resident or condominium association who hires a private contractor to remove and dispose of storm related debris.**

**The City of IRB asks all residents of the City to be our partners in restoring the City to its pre-storm state. Your cooperation and support enables the City of IRB to complete the entire process in the quickest, safest and most efficient manner possible.**

**The City of IRB will provide regular updates on the progress of debris collection.**

- Re-establishing normal household garbage and commercial waste collection is our first priority.
- It may be several weeks before the first collection of storm debris (vegetation and building material) is provided depending on the severity of the storm.
- **Clean vegetation only** will be collected on the first pass with construction debris and mixed loads (construction debris mixed with vegetation) on subsequent passes.

**Please do not call the City of IRB and ask that trucks be pulled from scheduled routes to pick up your own debris first. Deviation from carefully planned routes may cause delays to the entire process and creates a burden to those with the greatest need.**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: When is hurricane season?**

**A:** Hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: I know the City of IRB wants all residents to do regular yard maintenance year round, but what is the best time for me to do major cutting and/or tree removal?**

**A:** All major cutting and/or tree removal should be done between December 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. Hurricane season has ended by December and even though the City of IRB has not yet experienced a hurricane in June, it does not mean it that it will not happen. **There should be no major cutting done from June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Q: Why shouldn't I put large amounts of vegetation from major cutting at the curb in May when hurricane season doesn't officially begin until June 1<sup>st</sup>?**

**A:** If everyone waited until May, the collection system would become overburdened possibly making it impossible to collect all vegetation before a June hurricane landfall.

**Q: Does the City of IRB collect my storm debris or is it FEMA that provides the service?**

**A:** The City of IRB will manage the City's storm debris collection program in accordance with FEMA rules and guidelines. The City of IRB may hire private contractors to collect all residential storm debris and FEMA representatives interpret and enforce the rules of collection.

**Q: I live in a condominium association and/or on a private road. Will the City of IRB collect my storm debris?**

**A:** If you reside in the City of IRB and receive Solid Waste services, your storm debris will be collected at the curb. If you reside in a multi-family unit such as a condominium and have

containerized (dumpster) service, your condominium association will need to hire a private company to place all storm debris at the nearest public road right-of-way for collection.

**Q: When can we expect to have the first collection of storm debris?**

**A:** Depending upon the severity of the storm. It may be several weeks before residents receive their first collection of storm debris.

**Q: How soon will my regular garbage be collected following a storm?**

**A:** Normal household garbage collection is the City's first priority and it will be the first thing collected following a storm's passing. Residents should have their normal household garbage ready for pickup on their regular scheduled collection day unless our public service announcements advise otherwise.

**Q: How many times will the City of IRB and/or their contractor collect storm debris from my home?**

**A:** The actual number of times can change depending upon the severity of the storm and the amount of damage it leaves behind.

**Q: What will the City of IRB and/or their contractors collect on the first pass?**

**A:** Clean vegetative debris only will only collected on the first pass. If your vegetative debris is mixed with construction or other debris, it will not be collected until the second or third pass.

**Q: Why do I have to separate my yard waste from my construction debris? Can't you pick them up in the same truck?**

**A:** The collection of storm debris can be very costly and keeping debris types separate reduces the overall cost which is savings to the taxpayer. Processing clean vegetation is cheaper then processing vegetation with construction and other debris mixed in.

**Q: The City of IRB and/or their contractors left a lot of leaves, twigs, etc., when they picked up my vegetative debris pile. Who is responsible for cleaning that up?**

**A:** The homeowner is responsible for cleaning up residual debris following the first collection. All leaves, twigs, etc., need to be raked up containerized in plastic bags for collection on the next pass. Small debris that is not containerized cannot be collected by the heavy equipment used by storm debris contractors.

**Q: Will there be more damage to my property from the storm debris collection process?**

**A:** Because of the specialized, heavy duty equipment used to collect as much debris as possible in the shortest amount of time, minor damage to lawns is not uncommon. Residents should be prepared to add fill dirt and sod to the staging area of their yard if this occurs.

**Q: If a resident and/or condominium association does not want to wait for the City of IRB and/or their contractors and hire a private contractor, will they be reimbursed?**

**A: NO!** There is no reimbursement provided to any individual or condominium association that hires a private contractor to remove and dispose of storm debris generated from a federally declared natural disaster.

**Q: How do I dispose of roofing shingles or tiles?**

**A:** Small amounts of roofing shingles or tiles should be containerized by double bagging.

Small amounts placed loosely at the curb are almost impossible to collect mechanically and if collection is attempted the result is usually extensive damage to the lawn or street.

If you have a large amount the City of IRB recommends the rental of a roll-off container or having your roofing contractor include the cost of removal of the singles in their roof replacement estimate. In many cases, these costs are covered by your insurance company.

**Q: My fence blew down. Will the City of IRB and or their contractors pick it up from the curb?**

**A:** Fencing will be collected by the City of IRB and /or their contractors and should be placed at the curb in a pile separate from vegetative debris and household garbage.

**Q: Will the City of IRB and/or their contractors come into my yard to collect my large debris so I don't have to transport it to the curb?**

**A:** FEMA guidelines do not provide for the City of IRB and/or their contractors to come into a resident's yard to collect debris. All debris must be moved curbside or to the nearest public right-of-way.

**Q: Why can't the City of IRB and/or their contractors guarantee a truck will come to pick up my neighbor's and my large piles of debris when they know a storm is approaching? We could be seriously harmed by flying debris if it isn't collected!?**

**A:** The City of IRB encourages residents to plan well ahead by completing all major cutting by April 30<sup>th</sup>. When residents cut large amounts of debris after a storm is nearing landfall, there is not enough manpower, equipment or hours in the day to collect it all.

The City of IRB and the contracted haulers also have to prepare their own facilities and equipment to safely weather the approaching storm.

**Q: Will stumps also be collected?**

**A:** Stumps are collected, however they are picked up by a separate contractor and generally collected from the middle to the end of our cleanup efforts.

**Q: Is there a cut-off date for getting my storm debris curbside?**

**A:** There is a cut-off date however the City of IRB does not know the exact date until collection begins and progress is measured. Generally speaking, collection can take anywhere from 45-180 days to complete. Residents should stay tuned to local media for the City of IRB public announcements or call the City of IRB Public Services Department at (727)-595-6889.

This information is being provided through the City of Indian Rocks Beach Public Services Department.

Thank you to all residents from your partners at the City of Indian Rocks Beach.