



Weather Preparations

(A calm, practical guide for Venice & Sarasota County residents)

Living in Southwest Florida means sunshine, coastal breezes.. and a season where we simply stay a little more prepared. The good news? A little planning goes a long way—and once you have a plan in place, you can enjoy the season with confidence.

This isn't about fear. It's about being ready so you don't have to think twice if the weather turns.

Step 1

Know Your Zone (It's Easier Than You Think)

In Sarasota County, evacuation levels are organized from Zone A (most vulnerable) through Zone E. These zones are based on storm surge risk and help officials determine who should leave first if needed.

Zone A areas are typically closest to the coast or low-lying, while Zones B through E move progressively inland. Mobile homes are often included in early evacuation orders regardless of location because they are more vulnerable to high winds.

The key here is not to memorize everything—it's simply to know your zone ahead of time so you're not scrambling during a storm watch.

👉 Go to <https://ags3.scgov.net/knowyourlevel/> to get your level now.

💡 Local insight: Many full-time residents rarely need to evacuate, but knowing your zone ahead of time removes uncertainty and helps you make calm, confident decisions.

👉 Not sure how evacuation zones differ from flood zones? You're not alone—keep reading.

Step 2

Have a “Where Would We Go?” Plan

If an evacuation is recommended, the goal is to already know your next move. Most residents rely on one of three options: staying with friends or family outside their zone, booking a hotel inland, or using a public shelter.

Shelters are available when needed, but it's important to understand they are designed as a safe place—not a comfortable one. They are shared spaces, and you'll need to bring your own essentials like bedding, food, and medications.

📄 Find your Sarasota County Shelter list on Page 3.

💡 A simple but powerful tip: choose your Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C now. When a storm is approaching, you don't want to be deciding—you want to be executing.

Step 3

Create a Simple Family Plan

One of the most overlooked steps is creating a simple plan you can share with your family. This doesn't have to be complicated—just a one-page outline that answers a few key questions.

Where will you go? How will you communicate if phones are down? Who is responsible for pets- make sure you have their vaccination records! Where are important documents stored?

💡 Keep it accessible—on the fridge, in your car, and saved on your phone—so anyone can step in and follow it if needed.



Step 4

Save Key Emergency Contacts

Having important numbers saved ahead of time can save valuable minutes when it matters.

Sarasota County Call Center: 941-861-5000

Emergency: 911

Florida Power & Light: 800-468-8243

Non-emergency sheriff: 941-861-5800

💡 Consider creating a single contact in your phone labeled “Emergency Info” so everything is in one place.

Step 5

The “Ready, Not Overwhelmed” Supply Approach

Instead of overthinking a long checklist, think in terms of a simple 3–5 day window. Water, easy food, medications, chargers, a flashlight, and copies of important documents will cover most situations.

💡 A helpful mindset shift: think of this as a ‘power outage weekend kit’ rather than a storm kit. It keeps things practical and manageable.

Step 6

Flood Zones vs. Evacuation Zones

This is one of the most common questions we hear: “If I’m not in a flood zone, does that mean I don’t have to evacuate?”

The short answer is no. Flood zones and evacuation zones measure completely different things.

Flood zones are used for insurance and long-term risk, while evacuation zones are used for short-term safety decisions during a storm.

Understanding both helps you better prepare—not just for weather, but when evaluating a home overall.

Step 7

Your 15-Minute Prep Routine

When a storm is approaching, preparation doesn’t have to be overwhelming. A quick routine—bringing in outdoor items, charging devices, filling your gas tank, checking on neighbors, and reviewing your plan—is often all it takes to feel ready.

FINAL THOUGHT: Prepared = Peaceful

When you know your zone, have a simple plan, and keep a few basics ready, you’ve already done most of the work. Preparation creates peace of mind—and that’s really the goal.

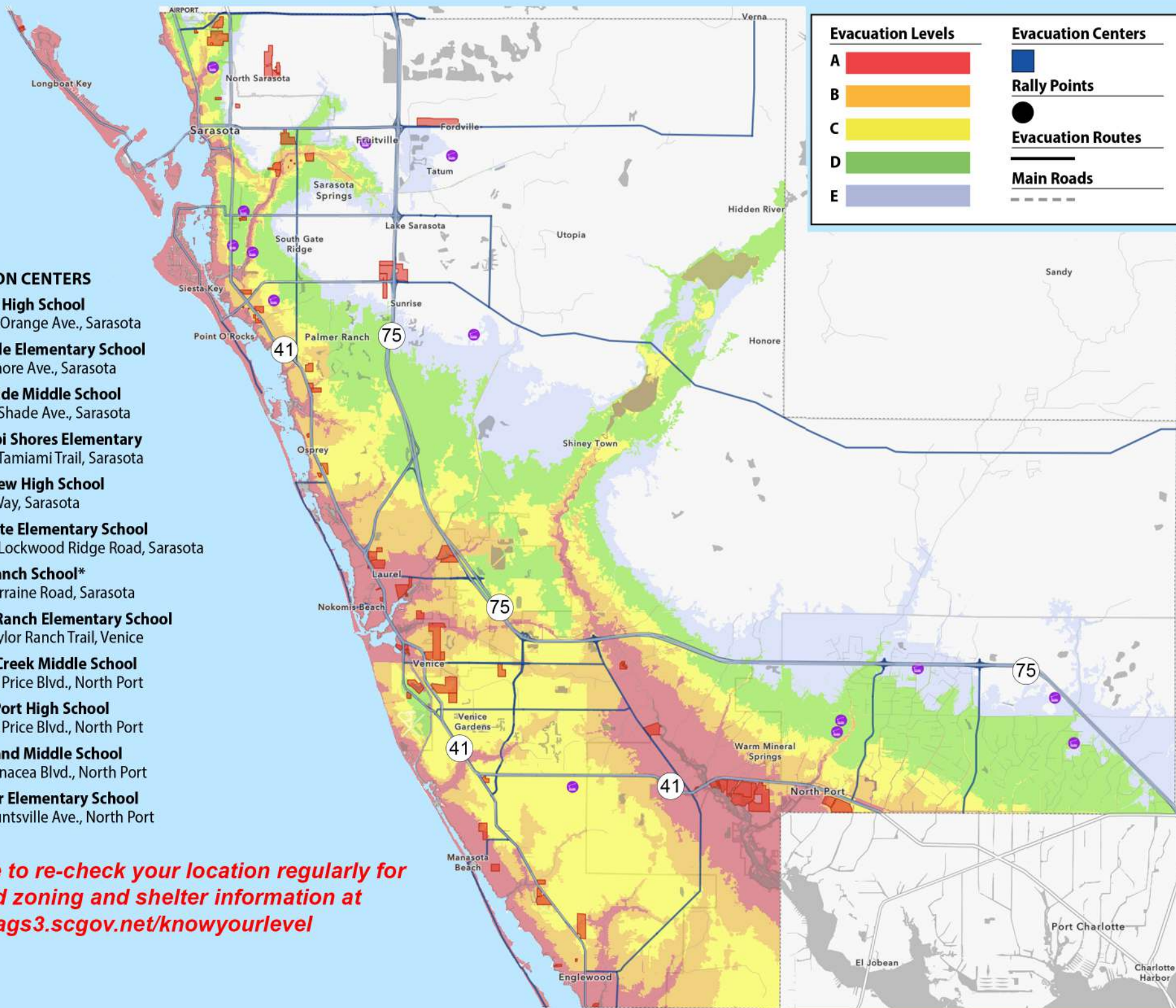
FROM TEAM ALLARD

We live here, we love it here—and we believe being informed makes everything easier.

If you’re looking at homes in Venice or Sarasota County and want help understanding how things like location, elevation, or surrounding areas may impact your overall experience, we’re always happy to talk it through.

Helping good people make smart moves.





Evacuation Levels		Evacuation Centers	
A			Rally Points
B			Evacuation Routes
C			Main Roads
D			
E			

EVACUATION CENTERS

1. **Booker High School**
3201 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota
2. **Fruitville Elementary School**
601 Honore Ave., Sarasota
3. **Brookside Middle School**
3636 S. Shade Ave., Sarasota
4. **Phillippi Shores Elementary**
4747 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
5. **Riverview High School**
1 Ram Way, Sarasota
6. **Gulf Gate Elementary School**
6500 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota
7. **Skye Ranch School***
9501 Lorraine Road, Sarasota
8. **Taylor Ranch Elementary School**
2500 Taylor Ranch Trail, Venice
9. **Heron Creek Middle School**
6501 W. Price Blvd., North Port
10. **North Port High School**
6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port
11. **Woodland Middle School**
2700 Panacea Blvd., North Port
12. **Atwater Elementary School**
4701 Huntsville Ave., North Port

Be sure to re-check your location regularly for updated zoning and shelter information at <https://ags3.scgov.net/knowyourlevel>