



**Department of Planning,  
Zoning & Building**

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June 1, 2023

To All Construction Industry Partners:

Today marks the start of the Atlantic hurricane season. While we remain hopeful that we will not experience a tropical cyclone, the possibility exists and we must remain vigilant. Remember, we are subject to fast approaching storms that form with little or no notice. We remind contractors to undertake reasonable preparations for any storm that might cause flying debris. Recent storm impacts from last year and even earlier this year, remind us that we must remain diligent in our preparations for any storm event.

Specific language in the Florida Building Code (FBC) relative to storm preparedness include the following references:

- Section 110.9 of the PBC Amendments to the FBC prohibits any adverse impacts caused by construction on adjacent properties and also specifically references the storage of construction debris and materials.
- Section 3301.2 of the FBC requires equipment and materials to be stored and placed so as not to endanger the public, the workers or adjoining property for the duration of the construction project.
- Section 115 of the PBC Amendments to the FBC authorizes the building official to issue a stop work order when work on any building is being done in a dangerous or unsafe manner.

Accordingly, every permit holder and subcontractor in unincorporated Palm Beach County must adhere to the following:

- 1. Upon issuance of a tropical storm or hurricane watch for our area by the National Weather Service, immediate actions should be undertaken to secure/prepare a project/site for the potential effects of a storm event.** Ordinary activity may continue, if these actions are being taken.
- 2. Upon the issuance of a tropical storm or hurricane warning for our area by the National Weather Service, all normal construction activities are ordered to suspend except for those activities directly necessary to secure a project or site in preparation for a storm event.**
- 3. All regulated work may resume once the storm has passed and the prevailing winds drop below tropical storm force (40 mph) at the site.**

Thank you in advance for acting responsibly by protecting your project from unnecessary damage and our community from collateral damage from flying debris. Please distribute this communication to all of your stakeholders and urge them to remind their coworkers of the need to help mitigate potentially dangerous construction scenarios. Hopefully, these measures will not become necessary in the near future. Please feel free to contact me directly with concerns or questions, or if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Doug Wise, CBO, CFM, MCP  
Building Division Director