

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff Ken Mascara is urging residents of St. Lucie County to be disaster ready this hurricane season through the participation in three notification systems.

According to the Sheriff, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is urging citizens to make sure law enforcement knows who to notify in an emergency situation by enrolling in **Florida's Emergency Contact Information (ECI) system**. The information can be accessed by law enforcement nationwide only during times of emergency. Individuals can register or update their designated contact information at no cost on the DHSMV website or by visiting any local driver's license and tax collector office.

Locally, the St Lucie County Disaster Re-Entry Program has been established for residents of our barrier islands to alleviate confusion after an evacuation, Mascara said. **Residents of the barrier island should receive a placard to re-enter the island immediately following a disaster, however it is not a requirement.** To receive this placard, each resident must produce two forms of proof that they reside on the barrier island such as a utility bill with a local address along with a local driver's license. One placard is issued for each household. Placards are issued at four locations throughout the county. The Sheriff's Office main office on Midway Road, the St. Lucie West Courthouse and the Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie office of the St. Lucie County Tax Collector.

In addition to these two programs, the Sheriff said his agency utilizes the CODERED Emergency Notification System to deliver emergency and non-emergency pre-recorded phone messages to citizens. Messages may include information regarding pending weather conditions, neighborhood criminal activity, missing children, and other police, fire, or health information.

According to Sheriff Mascara, unpublished, unlisted and cellular phone numbers are not in the **CODERED** Emergency Notification System database. St. Lucie County citizens who want to be added to the database can subscribe via the Sheriff's Office website. Citizens can have their phone numbers removed from the system by contacting the Crime Prevention Unit at (772) 871-5303. Information provided will be kept confidential and will not be released or used for any reason other than its intended purpose.

"Being ready for a natural disaster is critical to living in Florida," said Sheriff Ken J. Mascara. "These three forms of communication, notification and resident re-entry are vital to remaining safe and informed before, during and after such as crisis."

Information about all three programs can be found on the homepage of the Sheriff's Office website at www.stluciesheriff.com.