

Citizens' Disaster Guide 2021



ARE YOU READY ?

You could be anywhere when a catastrophe hits – at work, in the car, at home, or at school. The situation could confine you to where you are, or force you to evacuate to a safer place. You could be left without basic services like electricity, clean water, or telephones. Emergency responders and relief workers will come, but they won't be able to help everyone right away. You need to be ready to be as self-reliant as possible. Knowing what to do before, during, and after a disaster is everyone's responsibility.

This guide is designed to help you plan for the inevitable, from local emergencies to major disasters.

Taking these simple steps to prepare now means fewer losses and less recovery time later:



Know the Risks

Know what can happen, how you will be informed, and what you should do to stay safe and reduce losses.



Make a Plan

Decide how you will communicate with others and what you will do to keep yourself, family, and pets safe and healthy.

Put all of the things you need to stay safe and healthy in one place so you can get them quickly.

Let others know what you plan to do, practice your plan, and make improvements.



Get a Kit

Check the items in your kit; add missing supplies and replace expired items.

Use the information in this guide and our website www.onenassau.com to take steps to prepare yourself as well as your family, pets, property, and business to survive and stay safe in any disaster.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



9-1-1 is for Emergencies Only

During a disaster Nassau County Emergency Management will set up a Citizen Information Center **904-548-0900** to answer questions and address specific concerns.

Nassau County Emergency Management	904-548-0900
Nassau County Sheriff's Office	904-225-5174
Fernandina Beach Police Department	904-277-7342
Nassau County Fire Rescue	904-530-6600
Fernandina Beach Fire Rescue	904-277-7331
Florida Dept. of Health - Nassau County	904-875-6100
Baptist Medical Center Nassau	904-321-3500
Nassau County Board of Commissioners	904-530-6010
City of Fernandina Beach	904-310-3100
Town of Hilliard	904-845-3555
Town of Callahan	904-879-3801
Nassau County Animal Services	904-530-6150
Nassau County School District	904-491-9900
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Forestry Service Jacksonville District	904-266-8350
Council on Aging	904-261-0701
National Flood Insurance Program	877-336-2327

Nassau County Emergency Management

77150 Citizens Circle

Yulee, FL 32097

904-548-0900

www.OneNassau.com

HAZARDS IN NASSAU COUNTY

Nassau County residents need to be prepared for a wide range of natural and man made hazards, some of which are listed below. For more comprehensive information, including preparedness guides and detailed information for each hazard visit our website at www.OneNassau.com

Hurricanes



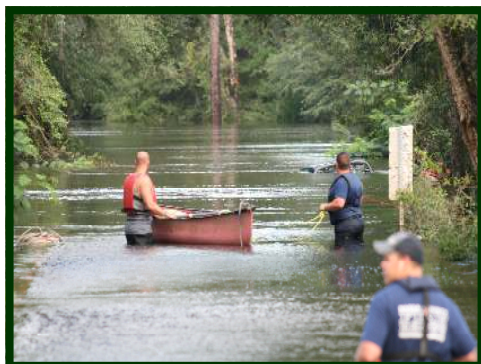
Hurricanes are violent storms which bring intense winds, heavy rain, storm surge, floods, coastal erosion and tornadoes. Whilst it is difficult to predict the exact time, place and force of hurricanes Nassau County residents must be prepared. Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30, with most hurricanes occurring mid August to late October.

Tornadoes



A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground or can be a spin-off of a hurricane. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Florida's deadliest tornadoes usually occur in spring, and Florida is the state which experiences the most number of tornadoes per square mile.

Floods



Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community. Flash floods can develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes or without any visible signs of rain. According to the National Hurricane Center, inland flooding has been responsible for half the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the last 30 years. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam.

HAZARDS IN NASSAU COUNTY

Thunderstorms and Lightning



The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of thirty minutes. Florida has more thunderstorms and lightning strikes each year than anywhere else in the United States. Florida also leads the nation in deaths and injuries from lightning, averaging 10 deaths and 30 injuries each year. Although all thunderstorms are dangerous, produce lightning, and can be lethal, about 10% produce dangerous winds or hail that will likely exceed thresholds

known to cause bodily harm or significant damage to well-built structures. These are known as severe thunderstorms.

Wildfires



Wildland fires are usually signaled by dense smoke that fills the area for miles around. Fires can be ignited by various phenomena, such as lightning, burning without a permit, and arson. Florida's typical fire season lasts January through May. The most at risk portions of the county are the urban interface and rural areas. Fires can also cause significant losses and destruction for timber interests in Nassau County.

Rip Currents



Rip currents are powerful, narrow channels of fast-moving water that are prevalent along the coast of Nassau County

Moving at speeds of up to eight feet per second, rip currents can move faster than an Olympic swimmer. Panicked swimmers often try to counter a rip current by swimming straight back to shore, putting themselves at risk of drowning from fatigue.

Approximately 100 people drown in rip currents in the USA annually, including would-be rescuers. If you see someone struggling in the ocean, get help, don't try to be a hero. Even lifeguards use floatation devices.

Know the conditions before you enter the water. If caught in a rip current, don't fight it! If you're a strong swimmer, swim parallel to the shore and then swim back to land at an angle. Otherwise, float - the current won't pull you under - then yell for help and wave your arms to attract the attention of someone on shore.

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never Swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:

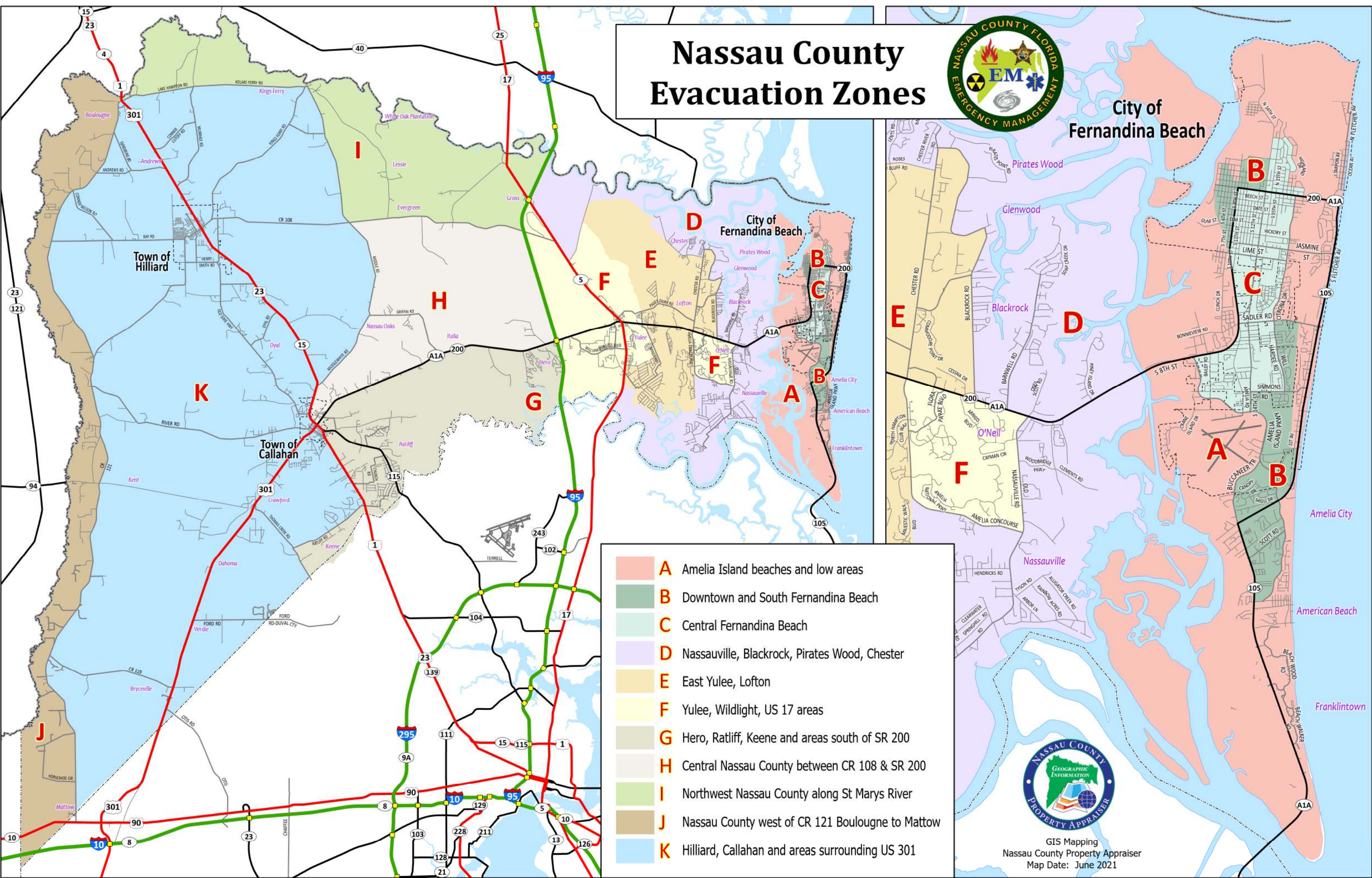
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.usis.org



Nassau County Evacuation Zones



City of Fernandina Beach



- A** Amelia Island beaches and low areas
- B** Downtown and South Fernandina Beach
- C** Central Fernandina Beach
- D** Nassauville, Blackrock, Pirates Wood, Chester
- E** East Yulee, Lofton
- F** Yulee, Wildlight, US 17 areas
- G** Hero, Ratliff, Keene and areas south of SR 200
- H** Central Nassau County between CR 108 & SR 200
- I** Northwest Nassau County along St Marys River
- J** Nassau County west of CR 121 Boulougne to Mattow
- K** Hilliard, Callahan and areas surrounding US 301



GIS Mapping
Nassau County Property Appraiser
Map Date: June 2021

SHELTERS



Nassau County Emergency Management has identified emergency shelters that will be open to anyone who needs a safe place to stay during a disaster. Emergency shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable with no privacy, and there is no guarantee of electricity (kind of like camping with a lot of people you don't know, but without campfires or the scenery, and with schedules & rules to follow — no guns or alcohol.) Service Animals are accepted, pets or “comfort” animals are sheltered in separate designated areas of the

shelters and must have proof of current rabies vaccination as well as their own supplies. For a comprehensive list of supplies visit www.OneNassau.com

Plan ahead for evacuations – a public shelter should be your **LAST** choice of refuge.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The Special Needs Shelter (SpNS) and Evacuation program is designed for those who require daily help with their medical and/or functional needs, and who might need government assistance to evacuate to an emergency shelter in the event of a disaster. The SpNS will be open during disasters or emergency evacuation situations to accommodate evacuees requiring assistance with the daily activities of living. SpNS staff can not provide the level of support available in a skilled nursing facility or hospital. There is no dialysis equipment in the SpNS. Public Health nurses provide shelter supervision to help maintain the evacuees' level of health, but personal caregivers must remain with and provide for the evacuees in the shelter.

REGISTRATION

The Special Needs Shelter & Evacuation Program requires annual enrollment in the SpNS Registry. To get the Special Needs Registry enrollment form, go to www.OneNassau.com, select “Special Needs During Evacuation” from the home page, then click the Enroll Online link to register. You can also call Nassau County Emergency Management staff at 904-548-0900 and we will be happy to help you.

Shelters are opened on an as-needed, space-available basis. Verify the opening/availability of shelters by listening to radio or television, calling the Citizen Information Line at 904-548-0900, registering for our Citizen Alerts at www.OneNassau.com, or by monitoring NassauEM on Facebook and @NassauEM on Twitter.

EVACUATIONS

Officials order evacuations to keep the public safe from a known or expected danger. The evacuation may be as localized as a building, shopping plaza, or neighborhood if there is a bomb threat, release of a hazardous material, an active shooter, or any ongoing police activity that is likely to cause harm or injury to anyone in the vicinity. Occasionally, public safety officers will determine it is more safe for affected citizens to shelter-in-place, like in a school lockdown. In Florida, widespread evacuation orders are most likely when large segments of the population are threatened by an approaching hazard like a major wildfire, tropical storm, or hurricane.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW?

Get your information from reliable, official sources!

You might be told about evacuations via:

- First Responders going door-to-door
- Public Address Systems
- Radio and Television
- Citizen Alerts via text, e-mail, or cellphone
- Wireless Emergency Alerts
- Social Media (e.g. Official Public Safety postings on *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *Nextdoor*)

ACTIONS TO TAKE NOW

- Register for Citizen Alerts at www.OneNassau.com
- Think about where you can go on short notice, from home, work, school, etc.; consider alternate routes in case your normal ones are blocked.
- Know your evacuation zone; find it on the map in this guide or by visiting www.OneNassau.com
- Have a family evacuation plan before a major fire or hurricane approaches; know where you will go.
- Build a go-kit; keep supplies of food, water, fuel, medicines, and other needed items on-hand, especially during hurricane season
- Join your *Nextdoor* neighborhood or follow NassauEM on *Facebook* or *Twitter*

WHAT TO EXPECT AND DO WHEN A WIDESPEAD EVACUATION ORDER IS GIVEN

- Heed messages from public safety officials; if you are told to evacuate, grab your go-kit and leave! Even if you think you are in a safe place, the disaster may disrupt delivery of essential services (electricity, water, sewage, grocery, fuel, phone, medical) for an extended period, and help may not be able to reach you.
- Evacuation orders are timed to ensure everyone is out of harm's way before the hazard arrives (e.g. flames or tropical storm-force wind). Lots of things are taken into consideration when deciding to evacuate an area, such as time of day, transportation needs, work and school schedules, construction and other areas evacuating creating heavy traffic on our roadways. It might still look nice out when you are told to leave.
- Notify your "out of the area" contact where you will be so others will know you are safe even if you aren't able to reach them once you've evacuated.
- Follow public safety's local and social media announcements so you will know when it is safe to return.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KITS

The following items are recommended for your household emergency supply kit.

Since emergencies don't just happen when you are at home, consider keeping a smaller version or "Go Kit" for your car or at your workplace.

Remember to regularly replace perishable items.

- Drinking Water (1 gallon, per person, per day for at least 3 days)
- Non-perishable Food (at least a three-day supply) and snacks
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food & extra water, leashes, and plastic bags
- Manual can opener
- Radio (battery or hand-crank)
- Flash light and extra batteries
- First-Aid Kit
- Whistle
- Dust masks
- Moist towelettes, baby-wipes, hand sanitizer
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Local Area Map
- Prescription medications and extra pair of eyeglasses
- Books, games, puzzles, knitting, coloring and writing materials
- Other "comfort" items and/or toys (for adults, children, and pets)
- Important documents such as:
 - Insurance policies
 - Identification cards, licenses
 - Bank account information
 - Medical information, doctors' contact numbers, and copies of prescriptions
 - Pet vaccination records
 - Note: keep documents in a waterproof, container or zip-lock bag; consider storing scanned/photo-copies of critical documents on a thumb-drive or "the cloud"*
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, and mats
- Complete change of clothing and sturdy shoes
- Unscented chlorine bleach and a medicine dropper
- Lighter and/or waterproof matches
- Personal hygiene items, toothbrush/paste
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, and utensils

GET INVOLVED

Nassau County Emergency Management welcomes committed volunteers and student interns!

Your skills can enhance Nassau County's preparedness, communication, response, and recovery capabilities. Anyone wishing to intern or volunteer their time working as a Sheriff's Office volunteer before, during, or after a disaster should contact the volunteer coordinator at (904) 548 0940

CERT



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer

training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

ARES



Nassau County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (NCARES) supports Nassau County Emergency Management with radio communications in the event of a disaster or other emergency when normal communication systems become disrupted or inadequate.

NCARES is responsible for planning and coordinating amateur radio emergency preparedness and operations in Nassau County. NCARES is presently comprised of more than 100

licensed amateurs who reside and/or work within Nassau County, and who have voluntarily registered their equipment and skills.

MRC



The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds.

MRC units engage these volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities, and build community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, and floods, as well as other emergencies affecting public health, such as disease outbreaks.

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