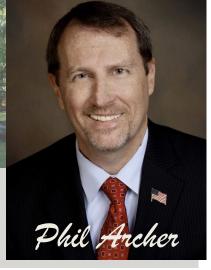


# The Monthly Brief



## **SURVIVING A DISASTER**

Take steps now to help you and your loved ones survive a potential deadly disaster.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management plans for and responds to both natural and man-made disasters. From hurricanes to floods, hazardous materials to nuclear power, the FDEM wants to help you survive a disaster by providing vital information you'll need, before, during, and after an event.

#### Step 1: Visit FloridaDisaster.org

The website offers comprehensive planning tools, links to community resources, event updates, disaster guides, evacuation zones, shelter info, state assistance hot lines, even a 5-day weather outlook.

#### Step 2: Get the 2024 Hurricane Guide.



This unique guide includes detailed info on disaster prep kits, evacuation planning, special needs registration, survival tips, and post event assistance and resources.

#### Step 3: Make A Family Plan

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find. A checklist can help ID specific living needs so you don't forget something.

For more info on avoiding these and other disasters, you can visit the FDEM website at FloridaDisaster.org.

\*FDEM

## **Comments or Questions?**

Subscribe: philarcher@sa18.org

### Amazon Scams

Scammers are creative and they love targeting Amazon customers. Here are some of their favorite and profitable scams happening now.

Prime Membership Scams: Unexpected calls/texts/emails warning of a costly membership fee or problem, and asking you to confirm or cancel. The objective is to get a payment, banking info, or account credentials. Amazon will never ask you to provide payment over the phone. Learn how to identify real messages on the Amazon website.

Account Suspension/Deletion Scams: Calls/texts/emails with this urgent warning, asking you to click a link or verbally provide account verification info like payment methods and login credentials. Amazon will never ask you to provide your password or verify payment info over the phone or a third party website. Check the "message center" in your Amazon account to verify real communications.

Only use the Amazon website or mobile app to contact customer service, tech support or to make changes to your account. Urgency is a Red Flag and a favorite scammer tactic. Take time to independently verify any alert or warning. Never pay over the **phone**, Amazon will never ask for credit or gift card info in a phone call. Always look

If you suspect an Amazon scam or receive a communication (call, text, or email) that you think may not be from Amazon, please report it to the company directly on their website at amazon.com/reportascam. They'll let you know if it's legit or a scam.

## FLORIDA PRICE GOUGING APP



Hurricane season hits its peak next month and we're highlighting the availability of the "No Scam Price Gouging App" from Attorney General Ashley Moody. The app allows consumers to report suspected price gouging typically seen before and after a natural disaster or state emergency, directly to the AG's office in real time. The app also offers the ability to attach photos and

copies of receipts directly from a mobile device.

Price gouging is a <u>crime in Florida</u> and happens when anyone unjustifiably increases the cost of essential commodities in advance of, or after a declared emergency.

In addition to being used to report price gouging during states of emergency related to hurricanes, No Scam has been continually updated for use during other states of emergency—most notably the health state of emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers were able to report outrageous price increases on essential commodities related to COVID-19 via the app

For tips on how to better report price gouging, read the Attorney General's Tips for Avoiding Price Gouging and Gathering Gouging Evidence.

To learn more about price gouging visit the website of the Florida Attorney General. You can also download the 2024 Hurricane Preparedness Guide in English and Spanish. No Scam Price Gouging App can be downloaded for free through Apple and Android stores by searching "No Scam". \*MyFloridaLegal.com