

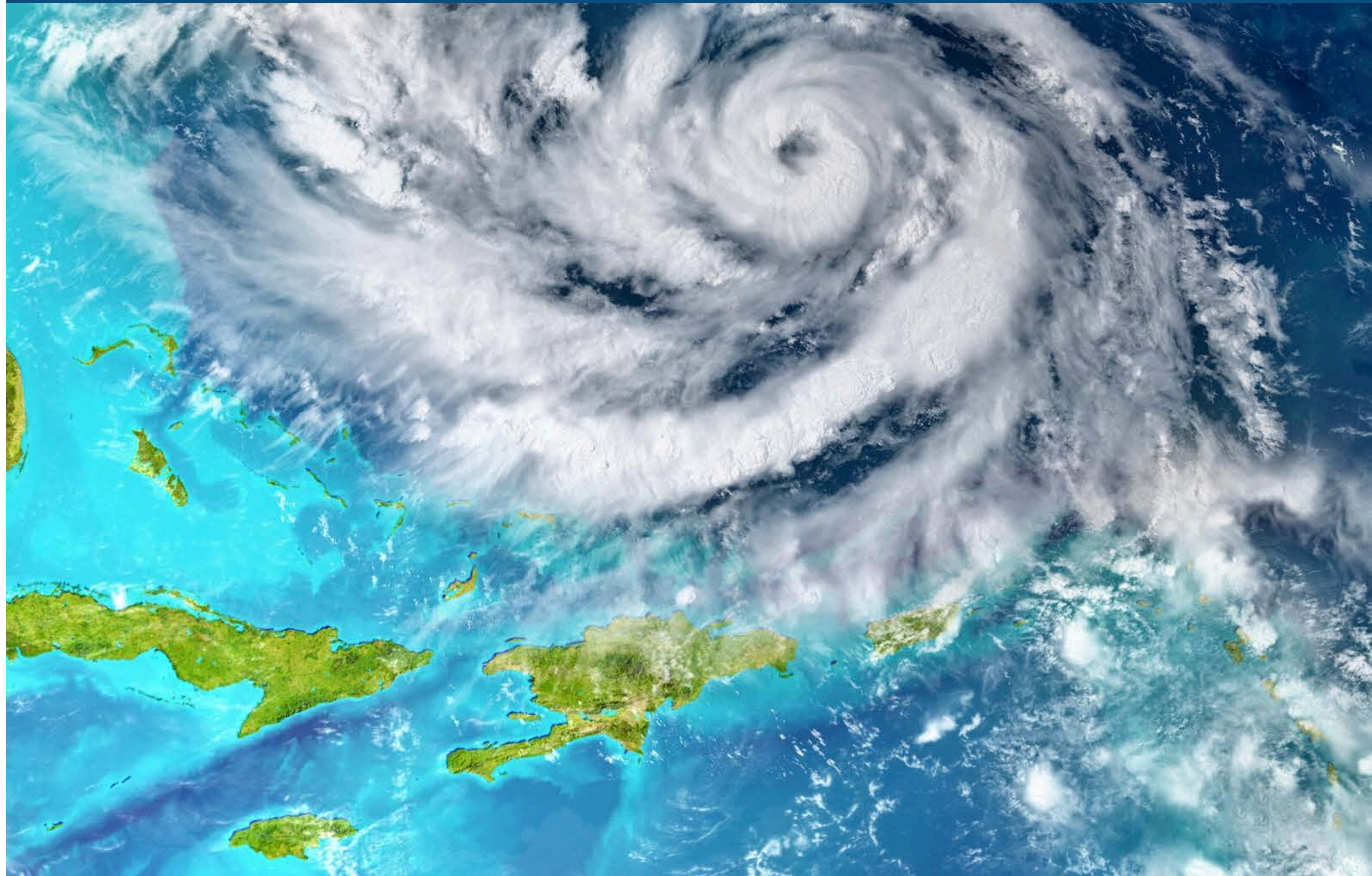
PREPARING FOR A HURRICANE



CARD
Center for Autism &
Related Disabilities

University of Miami
Nova Southeastern University

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
Transition & Adult Programs



HOW TO USE THIS SOCIAL NARRATIVE

A social narrative is a learning tool designed to help a person understand and navigate a social situation or new experience.

In this story, you will learn what a hurricane is, how to prepare, how to stay safe during a hurricane, and after the storm.



South Florida is a tropical area that may get tropical storms and hurricanes from the months of June to November. A tropical storm will have sustained winds of 39-73 miles per hour, and a hurricane will have sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.



All preparations should be made BEFORE the storm because it is not safe to be outside or driving around once there is a tropical storm or hurricane conditions.



Hopefully, there will not be a big storm. However, it is important to prepare just in case there is a big storm. During a storm, I will try to stay inside to be safe. The power might go out. If this happens, I can use a flashlight to see.



I will try to gather non-electronic games, reading, drawing materials, or other activities to entertain myself during a storm. This is important because there is a high likelihood of losing power, possibly for multiple days.



I will try to fully charge my electronics (computer, cell phone, tablet) before the storm. This way I can use them for a while, even if the power goes out.



EVACUATIONS



The Miami-Dade County Mayor can issue an order directing the evacuation of specific areas of the county deemed to be in danger, based on a storm's track and projected storm surge.



If I live in a mobile home, I should evacuate when an evacuation order is issued. This is to keep me safe during the storm.



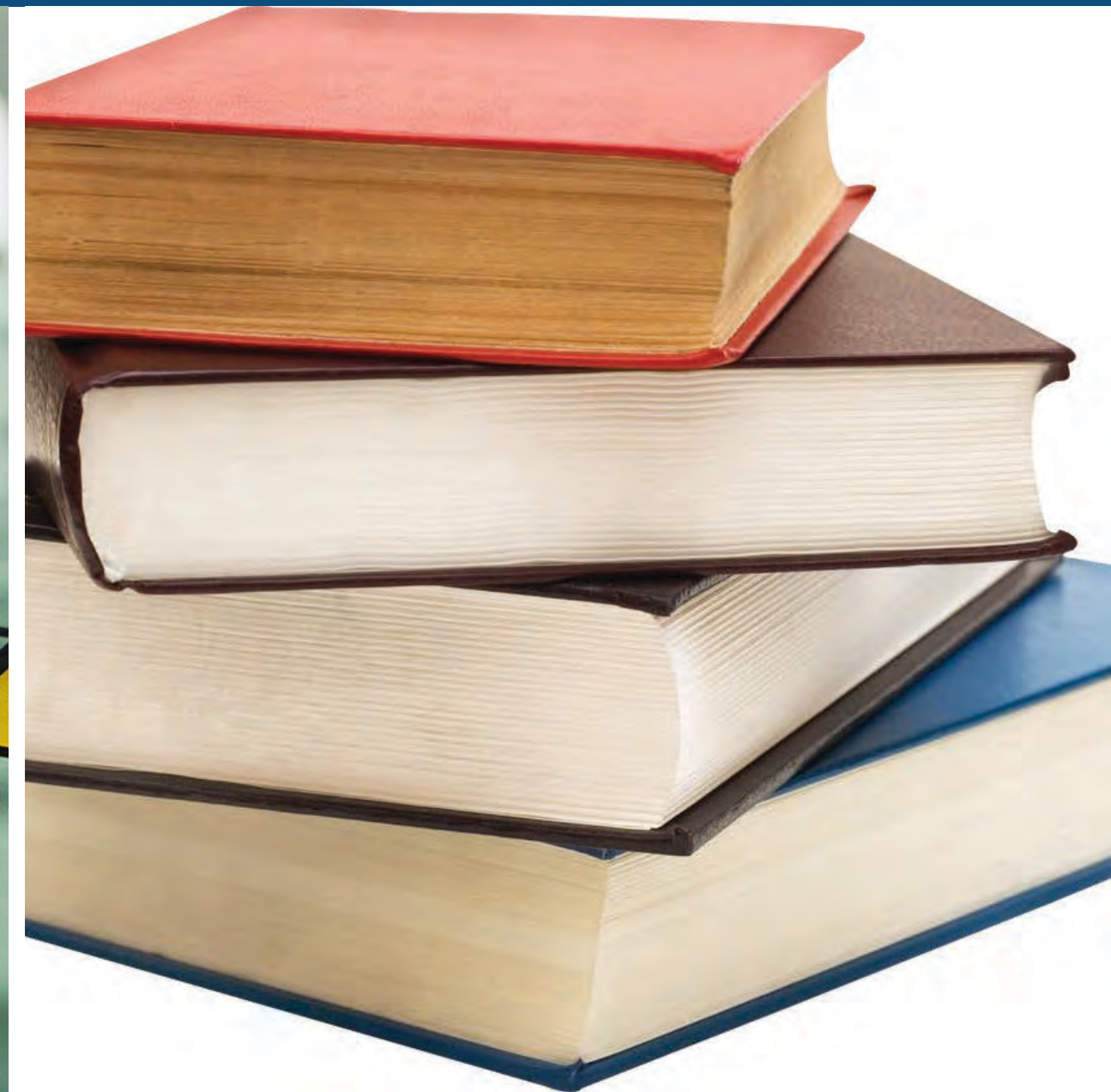
If my area is ordered to evacuate, I might stay with family or friends who live inland (away from the ocean) in an area outside of the evacuation order.



EMERGENCY SHELTERS



If my family and I go to a shelter, we will bring the things we need from our house. This will include items that will serve as entertainment for me, such as downloaded movies to watch. If the power goes out for a long time, my electronics will not work.



I will try to remember that it is not anyone's fault if the power goes out. If the power goes out I can read, draw, color, play board games, or entertain myself with a favorite activity that does not need power.



At a shelter, each person is allowed to have a small space (20 square feet) to keep their belongings and to stay or sleep. If I go to a shelter, I will probably have to wait in line outside before going inside the shelter.



Shelters can be noisy and crowded places. I can bring noise-canceling headphones and/or fidget items to help me cope with the noise and the crowd.



**At the shelter, people will be sleeping close to where I am.
I will try my best to be quiet when people are sleeping.**



If my family and I go to a shelter, we can bring food for me to eat. I can also bring small items that help me stay calm.



STAYING SAFE DURING A STORM



It is important to stay inside during a storm. This is because it is dangerous to be outside.



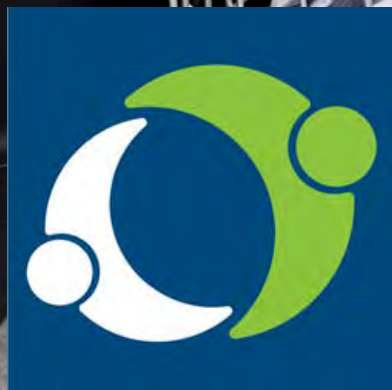
It is not safe to take a bath or shower during a storm. That is okay. I can take a bath or shower after the storm is over.



If the storm is very strong, my parents or friends may tell me to get in the bathtub that does not have water in it. They may tell me to sit in the bathtub with a mattress over my body. This is because they want me to be safe.



If I have pets, they will need to stay in their carriers or crate to stay safe.



AFTER THE STORM



It is important to remain inside until local authorities say it is safe to go outside. If I must go outside, I will watch out for fallen objects and downed powerlines. I will stay far away from downed powerlines.



**Stay out of areas with extensive storm damage or flooding. It is important not to drive or walk through standing water. It may be much deeper than I realize and there may be hidden hazards. When approaching water on a roadway always remember:
Turn Around, Don't Drown.**



It is important that no one uses charcoal grills, propane camping stoves, or generators while INDOORS.



My family and I should throw away any refrigerated food we suspect are spoiled (not safe to eat).



I will try to be patient and careful. Cleanup after a storm can take time.



SOCIAL NARRATIVE CREATED BY:

**The Daniel Jordan Fiddle
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