

Hurricane Re-Entry Tags

In an effort to prevent looting and burglary after a large-scale mandatory evacuation, the City of St. Pete Beach has joined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to provide free Emergency Access Permits to all business and residents of the barrier islands. Once a mandatory evacuation order has been lifted, Emergency access Permits will be required to re-enter an evacuated area. Access will be limited based on the closest entry point to your residence. Residents are asked to hang the permit from their vehicle's rear view mirror upon evacuation. When the order is lifted, law enforcement officers posted at the entry points to the City will scan the barcode on the permit to verify your residence.

The Sheriff Department reentry tags will replace the old St Pete Beach reentry tags. Therefore, every resident will be required to obtain a new tag prior to the beginning of the 2015 hurricane season (June 1, 2015). Tags will be issued at:

1. City Hall, 155 Corey Avenue in the Building Department, Monday through Friday 8:00 4:00.
2. Fire station 23, 7301 Gulf Blvd, 8:00 to 4:00 daily (subject to calls, training and other essential activities which require your firefighters to be out of the station).
3. Fire station 22, 1950 Pass A Grille Way, 8:00 to 4:00 daily (subject to calls, training and other essential activities which require your firefighters to be out of the station).

Reentry tags are limited to two (2) per residential property and a maximum of Ten (10) to commercial properties (depending on the commercial property size and needs).

Residents need to bring a driver's license as proof of residency. Persons who do not have a St. Pete Beach address on their driver's license, may bring in a utility bill or rental agreement showing the address of their residence.

The storm has passed, now what? Be sure to watch local television stations as well as Pinellas County Channel 618 for the latest on which areas of the county have been cleared for reentry. Once reentry is permitted, we will let you know the process via the TV and radio media outlets. The way the tag works is that when re-entry is authorized, the citizen or business person will be required to hang a reentry tag on their rearview mirror. The Sheriff or National Guardsmen will not need to check identifications and will waive the vehicle through. The more residents and businesses owners who have reentry tags, the quicker the reentry process will proceed. We hope this process will make it easier for everyone involved.

Do hotels also get hanging tags? The hotels on the beach may acquire enough tags to ensure their emergency staff will have quick access after the storm. Usually the manager acquires the tags for their hotel and only hands them out when an evacuation is called. The plan is to have the employees' return them to the manager after the emergency is over so that one person has control of the tags.