

Relocation Guide

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History Of The Naples Area

The Caloosa Indian Tribe comprised the early population of what is now Naples, Florida, located about 100 miles west of Miami and 30 miles south of Fort Myers. Roger Gordon and Joe Wiggins, the area's first white settlers, arrived in the late 1860s; Collier County's Gordon River and Wiggins Pass Inlet still bear their names. The area's mild, fair climate and abundant fish and wildlife inspired writers to liken the place to Italy's sunny peninsula. Thus in the late 1880s the settlement was dubbed Naples.

Most of Naples city proper was purchased in 1887 by Confederate General and U.S. Senator John Stuart Williams and his partner, Walter N. Haldeman, both of Kentucky. Newspaperman Haldeman, owner of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, founded the Naples Company, whose first task was to build a pier 600 feet

into the Gulf of Mexico. The pier's unusual "T" shape construction was designed to allow easy docking for ships. The "T" shape remains today, although the pier has been destroyed and rebuilt three times.

Barron G. Collier, who owed his fortune to streetcar advertising, visited nearby Useppa Island in 1911, and subsequently bought more than a million acres of pristine swampland (including most of Naples). In the 1920s, Collier promised to build the Tamiami Trail and bring in the railroad, so Naples could experience the same tourist boom already enjoyed by Florida's east coast. Collier spent more than \$1 million of his own money to help construct the Tamiami Trail which, when it

opened in 1926, formed the only paved link between Tampa and Miami. In 1923 the state legislature named Collier County, of which Naples is the county seat, to honor his efforts.



Downtown Tampa, Florida

Although Collier died before his dream was realized, the city's reputation as a prime winter vacation spot grew, and the popular Naples Hotel hosted many socialites and celebrities including Rose Cleveland, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, Greta Garbo, Hedy Lammarr, and Gary Cooper.

Property prices skyrocketed, and the tourist trade boomed. Today the area remains renowned for its sport fishing, hunting, boating, sunshine, and beautiful white sand beaches.

Economic Overview

Tourism forms Naples' major economic base, and many hotels and cultural hotspots are located within the city limits. The city is a gateway to Marco Island and the Everglades, which form the popular vacation area called "The Paradise Coast."

Collier County supports business development and growth with a solid infrastructure, a competent

and multilingual workforce, and broad opportunities for education. Florida's strategic geographic location and natural resources have made the state a leader in international trade and foreign investment. Several business resources are available to support the budding entrepreneur interested in locating in Collier County.

In addition to the tourist trade, major companies in the area include the Fortune 1000 company Health Management Associates, ASG Software, medical equipment manufacturer Arthrex, and technology giant Neighborhood America.

FHFA places the median income of Collier County at 70,800 in 2009-10.

Naples Area Climate

Located in SW Florida between Miami to the east and Fort Myers to the north, Naples enjoys warm temperatures and pervasive sunshine with an occasional shower. Average summer high temperature is 85°F; aver-

age winter low temperature is 63°F. Gulf water temperatures range from the mid-60s January through March, and into the mid-80s from June through September. As in much of Florida, the rainy season occurs be-

tween June and September of the year. Thunderstorms are common in the summer and provide evening relief from high summer temperatures. Florida receives the highest density of lightning strikes in the U.S.

Hospitals and Health Care

The Naples area is served by the NCH Healthcare System, which currently has 681 beds between two hospitals, and Physician's Regional Health Care System, which has two hospitals and 201 beds and is owned by Health Management Associates (also headquartered in

Naples). CHS Healthcare is a private, not-for-profit "safety net" health care provider with 12 facilities throughout Collier County.

Naples Community Hospital is located at 350 7th Street North in Naples.

North Collier Hospital serves the northern part of the county, and is situated at 11190 Health Park Blvd. The Marco Island Healthcare Center is located at 40 Heathwood Drive South in Marco.

In 2009, Yahoo.com ranked Naples as one of the Top Ten "Pricey Cities That Pay"

Transportation

Naples is served by the Naples Municipal Airport (APF), serving thousands of commercial customers annually. APF is located a few minutes from downtown Naples with access to Interstate 75 and other



major highways. Yellow Air Taxi provides access to Key West. Many visitors use nearby Southwest Florida International Airport in South Fort Myers, which served more than 8 million passengers in 2007.

The main highway access to Naples is via Interstate 75, also known as "Alligator Alley." Highway 41 (today's name for the Tamiami Trail) con-

nects Naples to Miami and is designated as a National Scenic Byway and Florida Scenic Highway. The Tamiami Trail takes visitors through the Everglades and Big Cypress National Preserve with numerous scenic stops along the way.

Naples also is accessible by train (Amtrak stops at the Fort Myers station just north) and bus (Greyhound Bus Line has a Naples station). In the city, the Collier County Bus System provides convenient transit service for both residents and visitors. Naples Trolley is a private trolley tour service operating within Naples. Boat rentals to explore the Everglades can be obtained in Naples and on Marco Island.

Statistics

Florida :	54,135 square miles
Collier County:	2,025 square miles
State Water Area:	4,425 square miles
State Coastline:	1,197 square miles
State Capital:	Tallahassee
Nickname:	Sunshine State
State Song:	Suwanee River by Stephen Foster
State Flower:	Orange Blossom
State Tree:	Sabal Palm
State Fish:	Largemouth Bass (Freshwater), Sailfish (Saltwater)
State Bird:	Mockingbird
State Mammal:	Manatee
State Animal:	Panther
State Motto:	In God We Trust
State Shell:	Pleuroploca
State Gem:	Moonstone



Libraries

The Collier County Library System is headquartered and has 6 branches



in Naples proper. Available resources include not books, audiobooks, ebooks, magazines, newspapers, genealogy resources, and interlibrary loan. Programs for adults, teens, and children, including computer

classes and an ongoing film series, are offered.

Library cards can be obtained at any branch in the system and are free to permanent residents and property owners in Collier County. Seasonal visitors may obtain cards for a fee.

Headquarters:
(239) 593-0334
East Naples: 239) 775-5592
Golden Gate:
(239) 252-4542
Naples Regional:
239) 262-4130

Schools, Universities, & Colleges

The Collier County School District has 50 schools which served a student population of 42,822 in 2009. The system includes 30 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 8 high schools, and one pre-K through 12 school; 12 alternative school programs and 2 charter schools are avail-



able. In addition, Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology provides technical instruction to 270 dual-enrolled students from Immokalee High School each semester.

Collier County students represent a wide diversity of cultures. English is not the first language of 16% of students, and 45% come from non-English homes. Enrolled students hail from 147 different countries of origin and speak 81 different heritage languages.

CCSD earned its first “A” grade from the State of Florida DOE in academic year 2008-09. High school students’ participation rate in the ACT has increased from 39% in 2004-05 to 59% in 2008-09. Collier County students’ mean scores on the most recent SATs for verbal, writing, and math

exceeded those of the state, and verbal scores exceeded the national average.

More than 7,200 volunteers were registered in the Collier County School District in 2008-09, and the district’s Community Involvement Program promotes student motivation, rich learning experiences, positive student and community attitudes toward education, and school-community communication through a variety of avenues.

For more information,

new residents to the county may go to www.collierschools.com, visit the Office of Student Services in person at 5775 Osceola Trail, Naples, FL, 34109, or call (239) 377-0505.

Higher Education

Hodges University, a private comprehensive degree-granting institution, was founded in Naples in 1990 as International University; its name was changed to Hodges in 2007 to recognize a generous gift from long-time residents Earl and Thelma Hodges. Hodges University offers Associates, Bachelor’s, and masters degrees in a variety of career pursuits. Adult continuing education at Hodges places particular emphasis on lifelong learning for senior citizens at the Frances Pew Hayes Center for Lifelong Learning. The university also

nars and instruction by request to companies and professionals, and online and distance education are available. For more information, visit www.hodges.edu or call 1-(800)-466-8017 (Naples Campus).

The Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology, established in 1974, also makes its home in Naples. Former state legislator James Lorenzo Walker was instrumental in obtaining the school’s original funding. The school provides workforce education in career-related experiential training and job preparation. The Institute awards certificates in Arts & Humanities; Business; Cosmetology & Beauty; Culinary Arts; Family & Consumer Science; Health, Medical, & Legal Services; Security & Protective Service; Skilled Trades; and Technician Services. See www.lwit.edu or call (239) 377-0900.



University Of South Florida

provides specifically tailored semi-

Catholic institution Ave Maria University is located northeast of Naples, and the Ave Maria School of Law recently opened in Vineyards in 2009. Florida Gulf Coast University is situated just outside of Estero, between Bonita Springs and Fort Myers to the north.

Information Especially For Newcomers

Auto Insurance, License, & Tags

Auto Insurance

Florida law requires that all automobile operators have No-Fault insurance. Under No-Fault Law, your insurance company pays for treatment of any personal injuries received as a result of an auto accident, no matter who is at fault. You must show proof of this insurance to obtain automobile tags. For more information on insurance laws, call 1-800-342-2762.

Drivers License

If you become a resident of Florida, are employed here, or enroll your children in area schools, you must have a valid Florida driver's license within

30 days. The license is good for six years and is renewable by your birth date. If you have a valid license from another state, you need only to take a



sight test.

Auto Tags

Within 30 days of moving to Florida, you must also obtain a Florida license plate if (1) You are employed here (2) Your children attend school in the state (3) You claim a homestead exemption, or (4)

You register to vote.

The tag is renewable annually during your birth month by obtaining a small adhesive sticker to be placed on the

metal plate. The metal plate is transferable if you purchase another vehicle. Usually the registration renewal form and emission inspection information is sent to you in the mail at renewal time. To get your license plate, take your vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and automobile title to any of a number of tag offices.

Look in your county government listing in the phone book for convenient locations. Some driver's

license branches include:

725 Airport Road South
(239) 434-4600

2335 Orange Blossom Drive
(239) 252-8177

Boating & Fishing

A valid out-of-state registration of any pleasure craft is recognized for up to 90 days in Florida. Then, boats must



have a valid Florida registration. The registration is available from auto tag registration offices. All craft, motor or sail, and regardless of size, must be registered annually.

Fishing Licenses

A license is needed for many types of recreational fishing.

Licenses are available from the county Tax Collector's office or substations ranging from bait shops to discount stores. Contact your local Tax Collector's office for more information:

Collier County Tax Collector
3301 Tamiami Trail,
Bldg. C-1, Naples
(239) 252-8171

Gallery Row, located in downtown Naples, concentrates some of the region's best artwork.

CNN and Money

Magazine have recognized Collier County as one of the top 5 "best places for a long life" in the U.S.

Utilities, Phone, & Cable

Each community has its own utility services and rates are determined accordingly. Most utilities require refundable deposits and they too, may vary. Florida's utility rates are regulated by the Public Services Commission in Tallahassee, 1-800-342-3552. The major gas, electric, water & cable companies are:



Electric:

Florida Power & Light (239) 262-1322

Collier County Public Utilities (239) 495-5862

Cable TV:

Comcast (239) 793-3577

CenturyLink 1-(877)-290-5458

Natural Gas:

Naples Natural Gas (239) 596-8127

Ferrellgas (239) 332-7422

Telephone:

CenturyLink 1-(877)-290-5458

Verizon 1-(877)-300-4498

AT&T 1-(800)-205-6268

Trash/Solid Waste:

City of Naples, Solid Waste Collections (239) 213-4700

Collier County (239) 732-2258

Water & Sewer:

City of Naples, Water Sewer & Stormwater (239) 213-4700

Internet:

Roadrunner Broadband Internet 1-(888) 547-6602

Taxes

Florida law mandates a minimum 6% sales tax, but the law also provides for a local option sales tax that lets each county set its own local tax collected on top of the general state rate. Current sales tax in Collier county is 6%.

The state of Florida offers a Homestead Exemption credit to Florida residents who own and occupy a home as of January 1 of any given year. The exemption is \$25,000 off the assessed value of the home. You must file for the exemption between January 1 and March 1 and must renew the exemption annually (depending on the county).

For more information, contact the Collier County Tax Collector's Office: (239) 252-8171.



Voter Information



You must be at least 18 years old and a permanent resident of the state of Florida to register to vote. Registration must occur 30 days prior to an election in order to vote in that election. For more information, contact your local Supervisor of Elections.

Collier County Supervisor of Elections, 3301 E. Tamiami Trail Dr. MLK Bldg., Naples, FL, 34112, (239) 252-8450

Florida Living

Allergies

People expect to be ever healthy in warm, sunny Florida. Many are dismayed to find that allergies and sinus conditions they never experienced up north, develop in Florida. Vegetation varies and pollination from different types of trees and flowers occurs year-round. This causes problems for asthma and allergy sufferers.



The long growing season for grasses poses problems from mid February until Mid-October. Mold spores tend to be high for the majority of the year in all parts of Florida, with a count of more than 2,000 being common during the same period.

Fortunately, most homes are centrally air conditioned which reduces the humidity in the air and significantly lowers the mold count to below that of the outdoors.

To help keep allergies under control: (1) Dust your house regularly (2) Minimize your exposure to grasses and pollen (3) See an allergist to determine your specific allergies, and (4) Ask your doctor about prescription and over the counter medications for allergies.

Call the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Florida Chapter, for more information at (813) 972-7872.

Alligators

Alligators are common throughout Florida, but found mostly in major rivers and lakes in central and southern Florida. Alligators are carnivorous and should be considered dangerous at all times.

Alligators vary in size and shape, with the largest recorded alligator in Florida measuring 17 feet and 5 inches. Alligators dig nests for themselves and their young. Adult alligators have no natural enemies except man. Follow these steps if you should encounter an alligator:

Do not approach it. Call the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at 1-800-282-8002 if the alligator presents a serious threat.

Do not swim in waterways that could be infested with alligators. You can assume that there are alligators in ponds, lakes and drainage areas.

Never feed an alligator under any circumstances.

Alligators can run fast, even if only for short distances. Look for a safe place to climb up.



Bites and Bumps

Florida's tropical climate brings with it some uninvited guests. Bugs and other crawly things deserve a look.



Caterpillars

Three caterpillars-the "Puss", "Saddleback" and "Io"- pose problems for Florida residents. Touching their prickly spines may inflame the skin. When this happens, you should apply an antiseptic cream to the affected area. If nausea, sweating or dizziness occurs, seek medical treatment.

Insects

Insects can ruin the day, especially bees, hornets and wasps. These insects are found mainly outdoors and can be avoided by following these guidelines.

Avoid wearing brightly colored clothing and perfumes.

Wear shoes or sandals when walking outdoors.

After picnicking or sun bathing, shake out towels and clothing before putting them

on. Wear an insect repellent or repelling skin oil.

Stings affect people in many different ways. Most stings only cause localized pain, itching and swelling and can be relieved with ice or cold compresses. Applying bleach to the stings on arms and legs can also reduce swelling and draw out the pain. Also, a paste made of baking soda or meat tenderizer and water can decrease the swelling and speed healing. If you know that you are allergic to stings, seek medical attention immediately. Severe reaction to stings can cause hives, welts, vomiting, dizziness, tightness in the chest and difficulty in swallowing or breathing. Seek medical attention immediately for severe reactions to stings.

Scorpions

Florida scorpions are not poisonous. If you are stung by a scorpion, self-treatment is usually sufficient. To provide relief from the itching and pain, apply a mixture of baking soda and water, ice or hydrocortisone cream.



Snakes

Snakes abound in Florida. Most are harmless and help our ecology. However, there are some poisonous snakes that you want to observe only

Florida Living

Snakes Continued

from a distance. It is important that you and your family members recognize them.

Only six species are poisonous and they fall into two distinguishable categories:

Copperhead, cottonmouth and rattlesnakes have facial pits, located between the eyes and the nostril on each side of the head, V-shaped head and elliptical eye.

Coral snakes have bands of red, yellow and black. Coral snakes can easily be mistaken for the harmless king snake and are differentiated by the following poem:

Red touch black-a friend of Jack,
Red touch yellow-will kill a fellow.

Snakes occupy swamps, flatland and fields throughout Florida. To avoid being bitten, watch where you walk, especially at night. Do not stick your hands, arms, feet or legs in any bush, shrub or vegetation. Always wear shoes when walking in the woods or on river banks. Be especially careful on golf courses.

If bitten by a snake, stay calm. Do not run. Keep the bite below the level of your heart to slow circulation of the venom. Do not tourniquet or suction the bite. Do not drink anything. Get to the hospital immediately!

Contact the Poison Control

Center at (813) 253-4444 or 1-800-282-3171 (Plant City only) for further information.



Spiders

Two venomous spiders pose a threat in Florida. If you know you have been bitten by a venomous spider, seek medical attention immediately. If unsure, watch for warning signs.

The Black Widow (with a red hour glass marking), leaves two tiny red bites with a white middle and a bluish red border. These symptoms can occur 30 minutes after the bite and may include limb pain, redness, itching and swelling, cramping pain, muscle twitching and vomiting.

The Brown Recluse spider is recognized by the fiddle-like marking on its back. Its bite leaves a small laceration that festers within 6 to 12 hours. Reactions that may develop in 24-73 hours include fever, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, chills and shock. To care for spider bites, immobilize the affected area and apply cool compresses. Keep the victim still and get them to the hospital as soon as possible.

Other bugs

We have other frequent visitors, but they cause little harm:

Lovebugs are seasonal insects that usually arrive two times a year-in April/May and again in September. Lovebugs do not hurt people, but they can damage the finish of your car due to a chemical in their system. Be sure to wash them off immediately to prevent paint damage.

Roaches, Palmetto bugs, are another annoyance. The main concern is that they spread germs. To keep a roach problem to a minimum, consider having an exterminator spray your home monthly. Also, keep counter tops free of food and crumbs. Keep exterior doors closed. You can also lay roach traps between exterminator visits.



Boating

Boating can introduce you to a world of natural beauty and great sport in Florida. Remember, though, a boat is a

sophisticated vehicle that requires expert handling and attention to safety.

Boating is a licensed recreational sport and there are rules of the water to follow. Know Florida boating laws and proper boating procedures.

For further information on boating safety and available boating courses, contact the Marine Patrol, United States Power Squadron, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Boat Owners Association of the United States, 880 S. Pickett Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22304.

Outfit your boat with enough Coast Guard-approved flotation devices for all your passengers.

Let a friend know your travel and return plans so that any delay will be noted and help can be dispatched from shore.

Avoid alcoholic beverages when driving a boat. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, more than 1,000 people die annually from accidents involving alcohol and boats.

Finally, pay attention to weather bulletins before taking off on the high seas. Be sure that you are heading out for a day of fun in the sun, not showers.

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Food Poisoning

Picnics are a year-round pleasure in Florida, but heat can cause many foods to spoil quickly. Pack foods in ice, especially seafood and dairy items. Take no chances-never eat anything that looks or smells unusual. Food poisoning symptoms include nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever and chills. Call your doctor or go to the hospital immediately if you suspect food poisoning.

Hurricanes

Autumn winds bring hurricanes, not falling leaves to Florida. Tampa Bay's hurricanes are the result of warm temperatures in surrounding water. Hurricane devastation has hit Florida in the 1990's, most recently Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and Hurricane Opal in 1995. They rocked the coast of Florida with powerful winds, torrential rainfall, high tides and flooding. Andrew caused more than \$25 million in damages to southern Florida. Opal's destruction surpassed \$3 billion.

Here are some tips for hurricane preparedness:

Keep your TV or radio tuned to local weather reports for sophisticated tracking and early warning guidelines. Continue to monitor storm news until an "All Clear" is given. Hurricanes are unpredictable and change course quickly and erratically. They lose power over land, but can go back to the water and build up power and come ashore again.



instructions given by local officials, leave early if evacuating and notify neighbors and/or relatives of your evacuation plans.

When the storm arrives:

Be familiar with the evacuation routes. Know the location of the nearest shelter. Shelters do not accept pets, so plan ahead for your animals.

Buy enough non-perishable and bottled water to last at least two weeks at the beginning of hurricane season.

Avoid the use of candles; stock up on batteries and keep flashlights handy.

Know these hurricane designations:

A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a possible threat that a hurricane may hit and usually within 36 hours. Use the warning period. Be sure to monitor radio and TV announcements, fuel and service vehicles, secure your home with plastic and plywood, check food and water supplies, check prescription medicines and first aid items, and stock up on extra batteries.

A Hurricane Warning means that hurricanes are expected to hit land within 24 hours. Protect yourself: closely monitor TV and radio for instructions and information, follow

- (1) Stay away from windows and doors – even if they are covered.
- (2) Stay in a small room, hallway or closet. Take a battery powered radio with you.
- (3) If in a two story home, go to an interior room of the home.
- (4) Most important, stay calm in a hurricane. This will allow you to think clearly and help your family to stay safe.



Lightning

Did you know that you moved to the Lightning Capital of the United States? The Tampa Bay area is subject to thunderstorms and rainy weather, especially from June 1 to November 30. Thunderstorms can cause strong winds, large hail, tornados, flash floods and dangerous lightning. Florida ranks first in the nation for thunderstorms, averaging 143 days annually.

Lightning strikes kill 100 to 600 people in the U.S. annually. Each day more than 50,000 lightning bolts hit the earth. Lightning voltage is extremely high, often surpassing one million volts. Air temperature near a lightning strike is 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit-hotter than the surface of the sun. Lightning results from a buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged air. Thunder is a shock wave of this air. Remember, if you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

Take the following precautions to prevent a lightning strike:

(1) Find and stay inside a safe shelter.

(2) Get out of boats and get away from the water.

(3) Unplug electrical appliances and do not use the telephone.

(4) Do not take a shower or a bath. Lightning can travel through pipes and plumbing.

(5) If outside, find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.

(6) If in your car, stay there with the windows rolled up.

Helping a Lightning Strike Victim

Besides knowing how to keep from being struck by lightning, you need to know to help a lightning strike victim. Victims require immediate care and attention:

Florida Living

Lightning Continued

Call 911 for medical assistance.

Do not attempt to move the victim unless there is a threat of being struck again.

If moving the victim is necessary, keep in mind the possibility of spinal, neck and back injuries.

Clear the victim's airway and be sure he can breathe. If the victim is not breathing, being CPR immediately. Don't be discouraged if CPR does not offer immediate results because many lightning victims require lengthy CPR.

If and when a victim regains consciousness, provide emotional support.

Take the victim to a hospital for follow-up care.

Poisonous Plants

Florida has beautiful plants for your home or garden. However, precautions must be taken to avoid accidental poisoning by plants.

Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac are common types of poisonous plants. If you come in contact with these plants, a mild rash may appear within two to seven days. Wash the affected area with mild soap and water to prevent spreading and apply calamine lotion to relieve itching.



The Oleander is a beautiful, flowering shrub that also causes rashes. Avoid picking the pastel flowers or using the branches as sticks for barbecuing.

Other exterior plants to watch for are the China Berry, Boxwood, Lantana, False Poinciana and Water Hemlock. Some household plants are dangerous, too. The Diffenbachia is a popular decorator that can cause severe poisoning if ingested.

Check with the Poison Control Center, (813) 253-4444 or 1-800-282-3171 (Plant City only) for information on any plant or shrub that is unfamiliar.

Sun Safety

Florida is a sunbather's paradise. However, prolonged exposure to the sun can increase skin wrinkling and skin cancer or cause serious dehydration. Southern sun can be deceiving because a bad sunburn can develop on a cloudy day as ultraviolet rays penetrate through the clouds. Taking these simple precautions can keep skin healthy at the beach or golf course:

Limit your first exposure to 15 minutes.

Wear sunglasses to protect

your eyes from ultraviolet sun rays.

Sunscreen (at least 15 SPF) should be worn at all times and reapplied often.



Drink lots of liquids while sunning to replenish natural body fluids.

If you do get burned, the stinging sensation can be relieved with cool compresses, or a 20-30 minute cool bath. Keep an aloe plant at home. The soothing, healing aloe gel can also ease burns from the sun or the stove.

Heat emergencies may include heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Heat exhaustion occurs when the body loses salt and water, reducing the body's overall blood volume.

Heat exhaustion is characterized by fainting, nausea, fatigue and headache. A person with heat exhaustion should be allowed to lie down in a cool place. Give water in small, cool doses to replace body fluids.

Heatstroke can be life threatening. Heatstroke occurs when the cooling system of the body system breaks down. Skin becomes hot, red and dry-there is no sweating. A heatstroke victim may collapse, go into seizures, become

unconscious or die. Victims should be cooled immediately with cold water and taken to the hospital.

Swimming

Water safety is one of the most important responsibilities of a Florida resident, especially if you have small children. Everyone should know how to swim. Drowning is the third most common death among children and 40 percent of drowning victims are under the age of nine. We encourage everyone living in Florida to educate themselves on the dangers and precautions to take around water. To avoid drowning:

(1) Do not let children out of your sight near water.

(2) Keep doors locked and

pools fenced in when small children are around.

(3) Remove all floating

objects from the pool when not in use. Children may see these objects as toys and try to reach them.

(4) Keep an approved flotation device poolside at all times.

(5) Begin children in swimming classes as early as possible.

(6) Do not dive into unknown water, especially if you cannot see the bottom.

With the numerous amount of swimming pools and other bodies of water around



Florida Living

Swimming Continued

Florida, precaution and education are the best defenses. To aid a drowning victim:

- (1) Call for help.
- (2) Perform the Heimlich Maneuver to clear the air passage of any water or other foreign objects.
- (3) Begin resuscitation immediately and continue until medical assistance arrives. Do not give up on the CPR, it may take a long time before the victim will be revived.

Live Aquatic Hazards

Gulf waters are home to some

live hazards. These include a variety of marine life such as jellyfish, stingrays and sharks.

Jellyfish can be found mostly in shallow salt water. They are clear and blob-like, resembling gelatin. Reactions to their sting may include cramps, nausea and vomiting. The affected area should be washed with baking soda or rubbing alcohol. Medical attention is usually not necessary, except in very serious cases.

Stingrays are normally hidden because they burrow under the sand on the gulf or ocean floor. The best way to avoid contact with these creatures is to shuffle your feet along the

sand when in the water. Stingrays inject poison through their tail. If stung, one should immediately soak the area in hot water and seek medical attention.

Although rare, sharks do attack, even in shallow waters. Sharks normally feed on squid and fishes smaller than themselves. Swim with groups of people since humans who are attacked by sharks are usually swimming alone or wearing black or blue bathing suits. Also, don't

swim if you have a bleeding cut (sharks can smell blood) or at night, when sharks normally feed.

Don't confuse sharks with the dolphins found playing in the Gulf of Mexico-dolphin fins make a rounded, circular motion, while shark fins cut a straight path across the water!



People come to sunny Florida from every corner of the world. Florida is a beautifully diverse state, full of friendly people and unique things to do, see, and enjoy. We hope that our informational guide about Florida living has provided you with answers to some of the more common questions and an insight about our wonderful state.

