



# GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE

## STORM SHUTTER SAFETY

**PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUE 4**

## YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

why keeping up storm shutters all year long is a life safety hazard

## STORM SHUTTERS

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Storm shutters can greatly impede firefighting operations and limit the ability to ventilate a structure of toxic smoke and gases, and prohibits safe evacuation of trapped victims.
- Firefighters are forced to use power saws and other heavy equipment to gain access to doors and windows blocked by storm shutters.
- Keeping up your hurricane shutters all year as a way of protecting your home can actually attract burglars instead of deter them because they think that no one is home.



**Make sure to only deploy shutters when there is an imminent threat of a hurricane in order to protect your home and your family.**



**Leaving up storm shutters presents a significant life safety hazard by blocking escape routes should a fire occur.**

### FACING THE FACTS

- There have been several instances in Florida where firefighters haven't been able to get into burning homes due to hurricane shutters being deployed outside of hurricane season.
  - In 2004, four children and an adult were killed in a house fire in Homestead, Florida.
  - That same year, a 53-year-old man was trapped inside his home in Fort Lauderdale during a fire.

### SAFETY TIPS

- All residential rooms are required to have two points of egress. If there is a fire, it is important to make sure you have a way to get out of your home.
- Establish an emergency escape plan and make sure everyone in the house is aware of how they should exit in the event of fire.
- When a storm has passed and it's safe to venture outside, remove the shutters or plywood format least one window or door in every room, particularly sleeping rooms.
- Pay attention to the news, radio and other forms of communication. If a hurricane is headed your way, it's okay to put up your hurricane shutters. However, you should take down your shutters as soon as your area is safe.

**A FIRE INSIDE A HOME WITH SHUTTERED WINDOWS AND DOORS MAY NOT BE VISIBLE UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.**

STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR INFORMATION BY FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

