


COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE!

This guide is also available as a free download at [chesedfund.com](http://chesedfund.com).



# 2018 Guide to Pesach Safety

for families traveling to Orlando

## Orlando Emergency Numbers

Shomrim:

Chaverim:

Hatzalah:

Poison Control: 1.800.222.1222

Zmanim Hotline: 718.331.8463 | [www.myzmanim.com](http://www.myzmanim.com)

Eruv:

Homeowner contact info: *in the event of emergency*

Name:

Phone:

410.340.1000 | [chesedfund@gmail.com](mailto:chesedfund@gmail.com) | [www.chesedfund.com](http://www.chesedfund.com)

The Chesed Fund Limited is dedicated in memory of Mordechai & Rebecca Kapiloff, ה"ע, Dr. Bernard Kapiloff, ה"ע, and Rabbi Norman & Louise Gerstenfeld, ה"ע. Project Ezra of Greater Baltimore, Inc. is dedicated in memory of M. Leo Storch, ה"ע.



# Welcome!

We hope you had an enjoyable trip to your Orlando vacation home for Pesach 2018! Please read this comprehensive guide and consider which safety and general tips are applicable to your family and your "home away from home." These recommendations will help keep your experience as comfortable and safe as possible.



*The*  
**Chesed**  
*Fund*  
LIMITED

&

Project Ezra  
  
Of Baltimore



- Post local emergency numbers and shul times on the fridge or near a phone. For visitors with serious medical conditions, locate the closest pharmacy to you, and post phone number and address with emergency numbers.
- Have each family member take a picture of the emergency contact list to store in their phone.
- If the home has a pool and a child goes missing, always check the pool first
- Do not hide house keys in a mailbox, under a doormat, or a rock.
- Ensure all family members are familiar with the front door locks and codes if there are combination locks.
- Familiarize yourself with house alarm settings, if there is an alarm. Advise other family members in its use.
- Test all, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are working properly.
- Familiarize yourself with all locks on entrance/exit doors to the home (e.g., basement, deck, and balcony doors.)
- Test each lock on all windows and doors to be sure that they are working properly.
- Walk through the home and try to replicate all safety and security measures you have in your own home to avoid any potential issues
- Always check through a peephole or window when someone knocks or rings the bell. Instruct children not to open doors to strangers unless you verify their identity first.
- If there are young children in your family, or visiting:
  - Check on furniture placement and fragile decorative items and move if necessary (e.g., an expensive floor vase, a coffee table with sharp edges).
  - Make sure all furniture and computer or tv monitors are properly secured to avoid "tip-overs"
  - Check bedroom doors that can be locked from the inside of the room and make sure they are kept unlocked.
  - If bedroom windows that children are staying in do not have safety bars, always keep the windows locked.
  - If there are bunkbeds in the home and your children are not familiar with them, instruct them not to jump on them or off them and show them how to use the bunkbed ladder
  - If there are cords on blinds or ropes on curtains, knot them or store them in a high area so children cannot access them
  - Ensure cribs meet safety standards, do not have crib bumpers, and are not placed near items within babies reach
  - Make sure there are baby gates by steps, if necessary or, place large furniture at the landing that blocks the area so the child cannot climb over or crawl under it.
- Check to ensure the thermostat and air conditioning is functioning properly and set to your desired temperature
- Check lower kitchen and bathroom cabinets to make sure they don't contain household cleaners and/or hazardous material
- If a bathtub has no grip strips or anti-slip mats, use care, especially with children and elderly.
- If water handles for sinks, bathtubs, or showers, have temperatures that are reversed or are difficult to determine, (single-handled faucets) consider posting a temporary sign
- Check the hot water tank to ensure it is set to a non-scalding temperature (120°) If the flame on the water tank is out, do not attempt to ignite it yourself but seek help from a professional.
- If there is a sump pump, test it to confirm its functionality
- Find the circuit breaker panel in the home so it can be easily located in the event of a power outage or an emergency
- Check all windows to ensure they are not sealed or painted shut to ensure they can be used as a method of escape in the event of an emergency
- Secure valuables including important documents in a safe and unordinary place, not in a bedroom
- If you are a gun owner, make sure the gun and ammunition are secured in a properly locked safe
- If there are flashlights available, make sure they have working batteries and keep one on each floor, or each room in an obvious place, and inform family members of where they are
- Advise family members not to leave items on steps or stair landings
- Leave lights on in multiple rooms of the home, using timers if available, when leaving the home for extended periods.
- Turn on outside lights during evenings to avoid tripping hazards (e.g., steps, walkways, driveways, decks)
- When pulling out of driveways always check driver's side, passenger's side, and rearview windows and mirrors to confirm there are no children or adults in the cars path. Check for bikes, scooters, etc.
- Always wear a reflector belt when walking at night or in bad weather
- Bring in newspapers and mail daily so the home does not appear unoccupied.
- If there is a play structure in the back yard touch the surface before allowing children to play on it to ensure it is not too hot
- Don't leave trash bags outside the front or back doors, since wildlife and numerous insects will become attracted to it.

# GENERAL FIRE SAFETY



Some amenities at your vacation home may be different from what you're used to at your own home. Make sure to follow the suggested fire safety rules to ensure your family is protected.

- Plan an emergency escape route, and review it with all family members
- Don't block doors with items such as suitcases, boxes.
- Instruct family members to never light candles in their bedrooms
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Do not use extension cords
- Do not use outlets that have cracks or breaks.
- Do not use appliances or electronic devices that have cords that are frayed or exposed
- Never place pot holders, plastic utensils, towels, and other non-cooking equipment on or near the stove

## CHECKING FOR CHOMETZ & CHOMETZ BURNING

Searching for and burning Chometz can be a fun experience for children and adults but be sure everyone is informed and aware of how to keep this process safe. Florida is subject to wildfires and has strict outdoor fire laws.

- When searching for chometz:
  - o do not allow children to hold the candle. If they are checking their rooms by themselves, they should use only a flashlight.
- When burning chometz:
  - o Consider joining a group in the neighborhood
  - o If conditions are windy take every precaution necessary to avoid sparks from traveling to trees and homes.
  - o Use a fire pit if available.
  - o If there is no fire pit, only burn items on dirt or cement floors
  - o Ensure the area you select to burn your items is in a large open area at least 25 feet away from the home or cars
  - o Do not burn anything on grass. Select an area where there are no bushes, tall grass, long-hanging branches, leaves, and foliage, dead leaf litter, or electrical cables nearby
  - o keep candles away from mattresses, curtains, and blinds, etc.
  - o Do not add lighter fluid, paint thinner, or gasoline to the fire
  - o Do not burn plastic or glass bottles
  - o Do not burn any pressurized spray cans or either cans or bottles of soda or sparkling water
  - o Keep a fire extinguisher nearby
  - o Always supervise children while the fire is burning. Do not allow them to stand close to the fire or place items in the fire
  - o Make sure fire is completely out and there is nothing "smoking" before you leave the area
  - o Saturate the fire area with water after the fire is extinguished

**CANDLELIGHTING SAFETY: Do's & Don'ts** *Candlelighting is the cause of many home fires. Follow these Do's and Don'ts to keep your family safe while performing the mitzvah.*



- o place candles/tea lights on a surface that is non-flammable and heat resistant (e.g., foil or aluminum or stone tray)
- o keep candles at a safe distance away from flammables (e.g. curtains, blinds, flowers, cords, shelving, walls)
- o place candles, lighters, and matches, in the center of the table, if lighting on a table, and keep out of reach of children and pets
- o ensure there is ventilation in the room where the candles are being lit
- o use candle holders that are durable and wide enough to contain any wax spills
- o cut candlewicks ¼ inch before lighting and make sure the wicks are upright
- o trim or melt each candle-base so it fits securely in its candleholders

- o use long, BBQ style matches, if possible
- o ensure matches are extinguished completely after lighting
- o use yahrtzeit candles that are in glass or metal holders
- o keep candles at a safe distance from one another, at least 1 ½ inches apart
- o keep hair, sleeves and scarves away from the flames when lighting
- o light candles situated in the back first and move your way up to the front
- o extinguish candles if flames grow too strong, constantly flicker or smoke
- o keep a fire extinguisher within reach and ensure all adults and older children know how to use them



- o keep candles on a tablecloth that is long and can be pulled or tripped on
- o do not place matches or lighters on the tray where candles are burning
- o reach across lit candles
- o move a burning candle
- o light a tea light from another tea light
- o pass a lit match from one person to another
- o leave candles burning unattended
- o light candles near smoke alarms or sprinkler systems
- o use short matches or match books
- o use yahrtzeit candles that are encased in plastic

Use the fire extinguisher with the **PASS** method:

**P**ull the pin and point nozzle away from you  
**A**im low at the fire's base  
**S**queeze the lever  
**S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side



# POOL SAFETY



Carefully review these vital rules even if you have a pool at your own home, to ensure pool-time is as safe as possible.



- Check to see if:
  - all doors and windows leading to the pool area are closed and locked.
  - the pool gate is completely secure, has a lock or latch, or a gate alarm
  - it has any gaps through which a child can climb
  - there are objects near the gate that a child could climb over (i.e. chair, table)
- If the pool is an above-ground pool, steps and ladders should be secured, locked or removed when the pool is not in use

## BEFORE USING THE POOL

- Check the pool area to ensure:
  - you are familiar with the location of the cutoff switch for the pool pump in case of drain entrapment
  - the drain at the deep end of the pool is visible and covered with a functional drain cover
  - there is a first-aid kit, rescue tubes or ring buoys, rescue poles or a life hook
  - the pool's water color is a clear blue, not aqua, green, or cloudy. If it is any of these colors, don't let anyone swim in it. If you have to "treat" it with a pool chemical, wait until the chemical has done its work and the water is back to a safe "blue" before swimming
  - there is nothing unhygienic/dangerous floating in the pool; if a net is available, carefully remove debris and insects with a "buddy" nearby,
  - all chemicals are properly stored and locked in a cabinet or closet
- Use pool test strips, if available, to check pH (acidity/alkalinity) to ensure proper levels.
- Check the weather forecast for any impending thunderstorms or severe weather
- Remove the pool cover and put it away during swimming to prevent anyone getting trapped under the cover

## WHILE USING THE POOL

- Do not enter the pool with an open wound or if you have a stomach ailment
- Keep a well-charged phone on and ready, with a copy of emergency numbers on a dry surface, in a Ziploc bag near the pool area
- Never swim alone; always swim with a buddy
- Always designate one person to lock the pool area immediately after use
- Shower for one minute before you get into the water
- Tie hair back or wear a bathing cap
- Avoid swallowing pool water
- If swimming with a non-swimmer, use a life jacket rather than foam or air-filled toys
- Never allow a non-swimmer to swim past shallow water
- Have swimmers take a break every hour to use the restroom, reapply sunscreen, and take a cool drink
- Pay attention to sudden weather changes since conditions can change very rapidly in Florida. Make sure everyone exits the pool immediately at the first sign of a storm or extreme weather, including steadily increasing wind or darkening skies
- When children are at the pool:
  - Make sure they are always supervised in/ around the pool by a responsible adult who is their "Water Watcher".
  - The "Water Watcher" should supervise the children g without any outside distractions (phone, alcohol, etc.)
  - Choose a secondary "Watcher" to relieve the first one if s/he needs a break
  - There should be a minimum of 1 adult supervising per 3 children under age 6.
  - Children over 6 and teenagers must also be supervised
  - Advise the adult/ designated "Water Watcher" to:
    - NEVER leave the area to answer the phone or door.
    - NEVER leave the area to check on food in the oven, stove, or barbeque, or to do laundry.
    - NEVER leave the area to use the restroom, unless a 2nd Watcher is already there to take over.
    - Use "touch supervision" where children are not more than an arm's length away
    - Check to ensure arm floaties have not come off in the water.
    - Be aware that even with floatables, children can drown
    - not allow children to eat or drink in the pool
    - ensure children know to slide down the slide (if there is one) feet-first only and never headfirst
    - strictly enforce diving rules such as no diving in shallow water (less than 8 feet), no diving for toys or rings since they can settle next to pool drains
    - not allow diving in above-ground pools,
    - not allow children to run anywhere near the pool, with or without shoes on
    - not allow children to push or dunk each other in the water
    - not allow children to play "holding breath" games in the pool

## AFTER USING THE POOL

- Dry ears thoroughly to help prevent "swimmers' ear"
- Scan the bottom of the pool and make sure nothing is at the bottom
- Remove ladders and steps that lead into pool
- Remove all toys from the pool and put away safely in a locked cabinet
- Spread out pool cover or screen over pool
- Lock gate or make sure self-latching gate locks correctly, and turn on alarm if applicable



## BEFORE OUTINGS

- Inform a friend or family member, who is not with you in Orlando, of where you are going and when you should be back. If applicable, include tour company or boat rental name.
- If possible, print or write a copy of your route in case your WIFI/data connection should falter on the way.
- When planning on a trip on Erev Shabbos or Erev Yom Tov, depending on the time of day include, at minimum, an additional two hours in the event of heavy traffic; remember to take extra water, snacks, and medication, etc. with you, in case you get stuck for a while
- Check online reviews of any activities to be sure that others have had a safe and well-run adventure.
- Turn off Location Services on all family members' cell phones and instruct all children who have their own phones not to turn them back on during the trip. social media shares inadvertently ID the family's location. Don't post pictures of your trip on social media. Wait till you get home to share your adventure!
- If traveling with children:
  - download the FBI's child ID app which alerts police rapidly if a child goes missing
  - take a picture of your child so you can have the most accurate description of her or him what s/he is wearing
  - set ground rules and review the rules with her/him
  - designate a meeting point if anyone gets lost or in the event of any emergency or severe weather.
  - If s/he can't find the meeting place, instruct her/him to stay in a public place and look for the 'right strangers'(e.g., police/security, woman with children, employee in uniform)
  - place a note card with your name and phone number in your child's pocket. Inform the child that you placed it there so they can notify someone about your contact information if they get lost
  - Carry a well-charged cell phone set on ring and vibrate, near your body, in case the area's noise won't let you hear the ring
  - Dress your child in bright colors or clothes
  - Have a buddy system where you pair a teenager with a younger one, but if possible, try not to let them out of your sight
  - never allow children to go to the restroom without an adult or older teen accompanying them into the restroom

## CAR/TRAVEL SAFETY

- If you rent a car and have young children obtain car seats from the car rental company if you do not have them with you. Check that they are properly and securely installed
- Florida recommends that children not sit in the front seat until age 12 due to possible injury from airbags
- Always check to be sure all infants or children are removed from the car. Use reminders such as leaving your pocketbook or wallet near their car seats, or a teddy bear in the front seat. The inside of a vehicle can heat up by 20° in just 10 minutes and cracking a window open does little to keep the vehicle cool.
- A child's body temperature can rise 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's and heatstroke in a closed vehicle can occur when the temperature is as low as 57 °outside.
- Any person responsible for a child younger than 6 years of age must not leave the child unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle for a period more than 15 minutes.
- Driving and talking on a phone is illegal in Florida.
- It is illegal to drive and text in Florida.
- Keep in mind that there are many tourists and seniors in Florida and speed limits may be higher than at home. Take extra precautions on the road.
- If involved in an accident, if possible, pull the car off the road and away from other cars. Call the police and Hatzolah immediately and remain in your car, if it is safe to do so, until they arrive. Also remain in your car if you are experiencing car trouble and have called your roadside assistance service and wait for them to arrive

## WATERPARKS

- Instruct children:
  - not to run (floors are slippery)
  - on water slides they need to go feet first, and face up
  - to count five seconds after the rider ahead of them goes before they take their turn



## BOATING

- If you aren't used to being on a boat, eat lightly beforehand, in case you get seasick. If you are concerned about seasickness consider bringing anti-nausea medication
- Wear sunscreen, light and bright colored clothing, a sun hat, and water shoes; bring extra dry clothes with you in case you get wet
- Wear a properly fitted life jacket even if you know how to swim
- Always remain seated
- Stay hydrated, bring extra water, snacks, and medicine (if applicable)
- Do not drive your boat near other boats and veer away from boats headed in your direction



# BEACH SAFETY



Going to the beach can be a fun trip. Take time to explore and enjoy but think ahead and use these tips to make good decisions for you and your family.

## BEFORE YOU GO

- Always check beach conditions before going by checking [visitbeaches.org](http://visitbeaches.org); or contacting the National Weather Service. Weather conditions can be more highly changeable than in the Northeast.
- Make sure that your cell phone is fully charged and placed into a Ziploc bag to avoid damage from sand and water.
- Sun hats
- goggles (or protective sunglasses over your prescription glasses)
- bathing suits
- bathing caps
- water shoes/flip flops/crocs
- beach toys
- high SPF sunscreen, preferably waterproof
- UV sunglasses
- An extra set of dry clothes (in the car, possibly) for every family member

### Don't forget:

- a cooler with ice for perishables and drinks
- water bottles
- snacks and easy to eat meals such as sandwiches
- to place everything edible in Ziplocs

## AT THE BEACH

- Look for and read all beach rule signs when you arrive, including open hours for visitors
- Never swim if a sign states "No Swimming"
- Look at all colored flags
  - Yellow-medium hazard
  - Green-calm waters TO SWIM
  - Purple/blue (purple-red flag)-dangerous sea creatures ( )
- Only swim in designated areas with a lifeguard present
- Don't float in an area that is too deep for you to swim in
- Leave the beach and head inland at the first sign of a storm or extreme weather, including steadily increasing wind or darkening skies; or during a storm
- Follow lifeguard advisories which can come at any time while you're on the beach; this includes a high-pitched whistle indicating attention to an announcement, or a bullhorned call, such as "Everyone out of the water, sharks have been sighted in the area!" (etc.)
- If you see something dangerous (like a shark), move slowly out of the water and alert others to do likewise immediately, and alert the lifeguard immediately
- If someone is struggling in the water don't try to help, get a lifeguard
- Closely supervise all children even at the water's edge or in shallow water; an adult should always be close enough to grab each child; water conditions can become dangerous very quickly
- Do not allow children to touch any dead sea-life, or living creatures

## BIKING SAFETY

- Make sure to wear a helmet, even on a short ride,
- Wear elbow/knee pads, waterproof gloves, bright clothes, reflector belt or gear, and have a bike lock
- Only drive a bike that fits you-if it is too big it's harder to control and can be dangerous
- Make sure the helmet is undamaged and fits properly
- The helmet should be CPSC certified (see label or sticker)
- Use bike lights at night or when there is low visibility
- Check ABC- Air, Brakes and Chain
- Tie shoelaces and tuck pants into socks
- Take and drink enough water
- Wear sneakers no flip flops, crocs, sandals or slip on shoes
- Do not use cell phones or headphones while riding
- Know all hand signals
- When riding a bike near a parking lot or driveway, slow down and look for cars backing out
- Look out for and avoid road hazards, puddles, potholes

If going on an extended bike trip make sure to have the following items:

- Backpack
- GPS, map of the trail
- Cell phone
- Pump/spare tube/ tool kit
- Medical information/ emergency contact #s
- Cash/ID/credit card
- Rain gear, sweater/ jacket
- First Aid kit
- Tissues, lip balm, hand sanitizer

# RESOURCES

**Weather Conditions:** [accuweather.org](http://accuweather.org) | **Beach Conditions:** [visitbeaches.org](http://visitbeaches.org)

**National Weather Service:**

beaches closest to Orlando- Tampa/St. Petersburg: 813-645-2506 | Jacksonville- 904-741-4370

**Weather Evacuation Info:** *Orlando is in Orange County*

Orange County Emergency Management (hurricanes, wildfires, terrorism)

407-836-9140 or visit [clickorlando.com](http://clickorlando.com)

**Orlando Emergency Radio Station:** 1650 AM | **Power Outage:** 407-423-9018

**Animal Services:** *wildlife, such as bears, alligators, etc., too close to people)*

407-352-4390



*The*  
**Chesed**  
*Fund*  
**LIMITED**

&

**Project Ezra**  
  
**Of Baltimore**

---

Please feel free to share your feedback regarding this guide to be used for potential future editions.

I can be reached at [chesedfund@gmail.com](mailto:chesedfund@gmail.com) or 410-340-1000.

---

*Legal Disclaimer: This guide is for informational purposes only. The author of this document and any related entities do not assume, and specifically disclaim, any and all liability with respect to any loss or damage to life or property caused by any omission in or use or misuse of suggestions described here. Information herein may not be applicable or appropriate in all states and jurisdictions. This document should only be used as a supplementary guide and does not substitute for all or specific legal and safety risk-management advice or solutions. Please check with local law enforcement, security personnel, fire departments, and the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that any suggestions implemented are in full compliance with public safety recommendations, laws, and regulations.*