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HURRICANE PREPARATION GUIDE



Long Before a Storm Arrives

- ___ Know the risks of hurricanes in your area.
- ___ Review your insurance policies and update as needed.
- ___ Find out about the National Flood Insurance Program if you live in a flood plain. Remember, there is usually a 30-day waiting period for such insurance.
- ___ Create a family disaster plan. Information for creating a family disaster plan can be obtained through your local Emergency Management Office or the American Red Cross.
- ___ Protect your windows. Create plywood panels for each window and pre-drill holes every 18 inches. Make sure that you mark where each panel goes. When the storm approaches, it will be quicker and easier to install them, and you won't have to be concerned about a supply shortage.
- ___ Go through your house and take an inventory with your camera. Take photos of all the furniture, flooring, light fixtures, etc in every room. Open all closets and dresser drawers and take photos of the contents. Make sure you photo the basement and attic also. Also take photos of all four sides of the house and the yard. This will help you to prove what it looked like before the hurricane in case you have damage.
- ___ Get the serial numbers of your electronics, washer, dryer and refrigerators.
- ___ Make a copies of the photos and serial numbers on a disc and give it to your insurance agent, put one in your safety deposit box and keep one with you.
- ___ Make sure all trees close to the house are trimmed to a safe distance.
- ___ If you have a boat, prearrange for storm hauling. Many marinas have a special form for this.

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Getting Ready for a Hurricane

Prepare emergency supplies...

- Window Protection & Masking Tape
- Bottled Water
- Disposable Plates, Utensils & Cups
- Cash
- Fuel for portable stove or grill
- Manual Can Opener
- Battery-operated Radio & Clock
- Flashlights
- Ice Chest & Ice Non-perishable Foods
- Batteries
- First Aid Supplies
- Matches
- Fuel for Cars & Generators
- Charcoal & Lighter Fluid (of course, this should only be used outside)
- Be sure that emergency equipment is working properly.
- Store enough supplies to last 2 weeks.
- Have materials on hand to secure your home.

Shelters - Know your **evacuation route** if you plan on leaving your residence and plan what you should bring with you. Shelters have limited supplies. **Bring** food, medicine, water, medical supplies, pillows, blankets and personal care items. **Bring** such items as books, magazines and games for children.

Make arrangements for **pets**; shelters will not admit them. Keep a list and photocopies of **prescriptions and medications**. Be prepared for taking care of **elderly relatives or friends** and their residences. (Residents should remain in their homes during a hurricane unless there is a valid reason to leave. Most new homes have been built to the high standards of the South Florida Building Code and many older homes were constructed with the destructive forces of a hurricane in mind. It's fairly simple to determine if you should go to a shelter.)

Plan to go to a shelter if...

- You are in an evacuation zone and have been advised by authorities to evacuate
- You live in a high-rise building.
- Anyone in the household suffers from health related problems.
- Your residence is in a deteriorated condition.
- You just don't feel safe.

If you plan to evacuate your residence, **LEAVE EARLY**. Don't get stuck in traffic or flooded areas. Follow evacuation advisories.

Shortly Before a Storm Arrives

Get and use only official information

Know the storm surge history and elevation of your area.

Learn the safe routes inland.

Learn the location of official emergency shelters.

Store everything that might blow away.

Review the needs and working condition of emergency equipment, such as flashlights, battery-powered radios, etc.

Check your home for loose or clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall or bump against the house. When trimming, try to create a channel through the foliage to the center of the tree to allow for air flow.

Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.

Review your insurance policy to ensure it provides adequate coverage.

Individuals with special needs should contact their local office of emergency management.

Back up your computer hard drives and store off-site.

Remove flag from flagpole and, if possible, lower the pole.

Remove expensive artwork from outside walls.

Make a pre-appointment with a tree removal service and a landscaper.

When a Hurricane Watch is Issued

Frequently monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or hurricane hotline telephone numbers for official bulletins of the storm's progress.

Fuel and service family vehicles.

Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding materials.

Remove awnings.

Check food, water, and medical supplies.

Have clean, air-tight containers on hand to store up to 2 weeks of drinking water (14 gallons per person).

Stock up on canned provisions.

Get a camping stove with fuel.

Keep a small cooler with frozen gel packs handy for packing refrigerated items.

Have a fully stocked first aid kit available.

Have a non-electric can opener available.

Check prescription medicines. Obtain at least 10 days' to 2 weeks' supply

Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights and lanterns.

Prepare to store and secure outdoor lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, potted plants, etc.

Make sure you have cash on hand. ATMs and charge machines could be out for a week or more.

Review evacuation plans.

If you have a boat, moore it securely, have the marina haul and store it in their yard, or move it to a safe place. If possible, store it in a garage or warehouse. If you have a trailer, be sure the boat is well secured to the trailer and attach the trailer to something that is firmly planted in the ground. Deflate the trailer tires for additional stability. Use ropes or chains to secure the boat to the trailer. Use tie-downs to anchor the trailer to the ground or the house.

- ___ Raise the settings on your refrigerator & freezer to the coldest temperature; don't open the doors unless absolutely necessary. Freeze water in plastic containers and use to fill in space and keep food cold.
- ___ Clean your bathtub thoroughly; wipe with unscented bleach; rinse tub and let dry; fill with water, to serve as a sanitary water reserve.
- ___ Cover windows with shutters or plywood.
- ___ Unplug your TV prior to disconnecting a satellite dish.
- ___ Bring loose outdoor objects, like trashcans, potted plants, lawn furniture, etc., inside.
- ___ Fill the gas tanks of all vehicles and have cash available.
- ___ Store important documents and valuables in waterproof containers and place in the highest possible location.
- ___ Carry identification with you such as a driver's license.

When a Hurricane Warning is Issued

Continue close monitoring of radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio or hurricane hotline telephone numbers for official bulletins.

Complete all preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters or panels, storing loose objects, etc.

Brace outside doors.

Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warning area of your evacuation plans.

Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container and place in the highest level of your home.

Avoid elevators.

Follow instructions issued by local officials. *Leave immediately if ordered to do so.*

If evacuating, leave early (if possible, in daylight).

Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.

During a Hurricane

Stay indoors. Weather conditions usually deteriorate quickly just before a Hurricane's worst weather arrives.

As the eye (center) of the hurricane passes over, continue to stay indoors unless emergency repairs are needed. It's unpredictable when the other side of the hurricane will arrive with potentially worse weather than before.

Strong winds may cause structural damage and may create deadly projectiles out of loose objects.

If Winds Become Strong...

Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered.

Take refuge in a small first-floor interior room, closet or hallway.

Keep a battery-operated radio or TV, flashlight, and a gallon of water with you.

Identify a clear escape path in the event of a fire.

Close all interior doors. Brace exterior doors, especially double-inward opening doors and garage doors.

Lie on the floor under sturdy objects.

After a Hurricane

Continue to listen to weather reports from the National Hurricane Center and local officials.

DO NOT call 911 except for emergencies.

DO NOT report individual interruptions of electric, gas, water or telephone service.

Report individual trouble only after general service has been restored to your area. DO report downed power lines and broken gas or water mains.

NEVER go near or touch a downed power line. Consider every power line deadly, whether or not it seems to be live.

DO NOT touch anything made of metal on or near your house, such as railings or lamp posts.

Avoid injuries after a hurricane. Be careful with equipment such as chainsaws. Most injuries following a hurricane occur as a result of carelessness with equipment.

NEVER use a grill (gas or charcoal) indoors; it may cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Avoid standing water, as it may be contaminated.

Do not refreeze thawed food. If possible, cook and refrigerate it.

Watch out for bees. There will be lots of them flying around if there was a lot of tree damage.

Rinse all ornamental trees and shrubs in fresh water. Lots of salt in the air during the storm, while invisible on your plantings, can kill them in the days after a storm.

Clean up any water that may have penetrated your house ASAP. Put air conditioning on high if you have it or run a dehumidifier. Mold is often an exclusion in home owners' insurance policies.

Pool Preparation

- ___ Pool cover—open vs. closed, talk to your pool company, there are pros and cons to keeping your pool cover closed.
- ___ Cut power to pool if not on generator
- ___ Remove all loose items from pool area. If time is short, you can consider putting pool furniture IN the pool.
- ___ Turn the power off to your pool pump and cover it with plastic.
- ___ Add extra chlorine to pool water to avoid contamination.

Dock and Pier Preparation

- ___ NO boats on dock during storm.
- ___ Cut power and water to dock.
- ___ Remove loose items (dock boxes etc.).
- ___ Remove floats and ramps and put on mooring or have hauled.
- ___ Check condition of moorings: chain, connectors and scope.

American Red Cross Family Disaster Supplies Kit

These contents can be assembled over a five month period on a weekly basis, and perishable items should be changed or replaced every six months. For more information on assembling and refreshing supplies, contact the American Red Cross for their Disaster Supplies kit brochure.

Essentials

- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries

(Do not include candles, which cause more fires after a disaster than anything else.)

Water

- 3 gallons/person, minimum, in a food-grade, plastic container
- Additional water for sanitation

Food

- Minimum 3-day supply of non-perishable food that requires no refrigeration or preparation, and little or no water, for example:
 - Dry cereal
 - Canned fruits
 - Canned juice
 - Peanut butter
 - Canned vegetables
 - Ready-to-eat canned meats

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- ___ Quick energy snacks, graham crackers
- ___ Ready-to-eat soups (not concentrated)

First Aid Kit (one for your home and one for each car)

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|---|--|
| ___ Scissors | ___ Sunscreen |
| ___ Thermometer | ___ Tweezers |
| ___ Needle | ___ Cleansing agent/soap |
| ___ Latex gloves (2 pairs) | ___ Tongue blades (2) |
| ___ Moistened towelettes | ___ Assorted sizes of safety pins |
| ___ 2" sterile gauze pads (4-6) | ___ 4" sterile gauze pads (4-6) |
| ___ 2" sterile roller bandages (3 rolls) | ___ 3" sterile roller bandages (3 rolls) |
| ___ Triangular bandages (3) | ___ Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant |
| ___ Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes | |

Non-Prescription Drugs

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ___ Laxative | ___ Anti-diarrhea medication |
| ___ Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever | ___ Antacid (for stomach upset) |
| ___ Activated Charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center) | |
| ___ Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center) | |

Tools and Supplies

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ___ Whistle | ___ Aluminum foil |
| ___ Crowbar | ___ Compass |
| ___ Paper, pencil | ___ Plastic sheeting |
| ___ Medicine dropper | ___ Needles, thread |
| ___ Signal flare | ___ Matches in a waterproof container |
| ___ Assorted nails, wood screws | ___ Pliers, screwdriver, hammer |

STORM PREPARATIONS

- Plastic storage containers
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Tape, duct and plumber's tape or strap iron
- Patch kit and can of seal-in-air for tires
- Map of the area (for locating shelters)
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water
- Heavy cotton or hemp rope
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife

Sanitation

- Disinfectant
- Soap, liquid detergent
- Feminine supplies
- Toilet paper, towelettes, paper towels
- Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)
- Household chlorine bleach
- Personal hygiene items
- Plastic bucket with tight lid

Clothing and Bedding

- Sunglasses
- Hat and gloves
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- One complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Rain gear
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Thermal underwear

For Baby

- Formula
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Diapers
- Medication

For Pet

- Food
- Records of vaccinations
- Leash, harness or carrier
- Non-tippable food and water containers

Important Family Documents

- Copy of will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Copy of passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Record of credit card account numbers and companies
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Record of bank account numbers
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Important telephone numbers

Family Medical Needs

- Insulin
- Denture needs
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Prescription drugs
- Extra eye glasses
- Heart and high blood pressure medication

Entertainment

- Games and books