

# Be Hurricane Ready

Hurricanes are strong storms that cause life and property threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. Preparation is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane.

## HURRICANE SAFETY CHECKLIST

### WHAT SUPPLIES DO I NEED?

- Water: Minimum 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Food: Minimum 3-day supply of nonperishable, easy-to-prepare food
- Flashlight
- Radio: Battery-powered or hand-crank (NOAAWeather Radio, if possible)
- Batteries (extra)
- First aid kit, medications (7 days) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lense, syringes, cane etc.)
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents and information: passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, proof of address, deed/lease to home, medication list and pertinent medical information
- Cell phone with chargers
- Emergency contact information (family and friends)
- Cash
- Maps of the area
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Emergency blanket
- Rain gear
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Camera for photos of damage

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- NOAAWeather Radio: Listen to for information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Disaster supplies: Check, replace and restock as needed.
- Hazards: Bring inside anything that can be picked up by the wind.
- Windows, doors & hurricane shutters: Close hurricane shutters and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- Refrigerator and freezer: Set to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- Gas & electricity: Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- Vehicle: Fill your car's gas tank.
- Evacuation plan: Create one with your household. Planning and practicing your evacuation minimizes confusion and fear during an event.
- Response plans: Find out about your Community's hurricane plan. Learn about your routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
- Evacuate: If advised by authorities, evacuate. Be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Insurance: Consider purchasing hurricane insurance to protect your property

### WHAT DO I DO AFTER A HURRICANE?

- Listen to a NOAAWeather Radio or the local news for updates. Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- Only return home (if evacuated) when officials say it is safe.
- Immediately report any loose or dangling power lines and keep away from them.
- Drive only if necessary – avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it.
- Inspect for any damages to your home.
- For insurance purposes take pictures, both of the building and contents.
- Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- Until you are sure it's not contaminated, avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water.
- Check refrigerated food for spoiled items. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury and wear protective clothing.
- Watch animals closely and keep them under control.

### KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

**Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.