

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

It's never too early to get prepared!

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 – November 30. This checklist is provided to assist you in making preparations for the Hurricane Season.

PREPARING AHEAD OF THE STORM

- ✓ Review your insurance policy to determine if you have adequate coverage. Home Insurance Policies do not cover damage caused by flood. A separate Flood Policy is needed to protect your property from flooding. To obtain more information contact your independent agent.
- ✓ Prepare an inventory of your personal property and document with photos or videotape. Keep one copy at home and another at a location away from home that will not be damaged in a storm.
- ✓ Plan an evacuation route and destination if it is necessary to leave your home.
- ✓ Teach your children what to do in the event of an emergency.
- ✓ Make a plan for what to do with your pets in the event you must evacuate your home.
- ✓ Maintain a supply of water and non-perishable food, juice, etc.
- ✓ Have a portable radio, flashlight, cell phone and fresh batteries.
- ✓ Have an out-of-state friend/relative as a “family contact”.

WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED (Threat of a hurricane within 24-36 hours)

- Monitor the News.
- Review evacuation route and destination.
- Stock up on food, water and gas in advance since these items may not be available after the storm passes.
- Check to determine that you have an adequate supply of medicine/prescription drugs.
- Fill all vehicles with gasoline.
- Assemble important documents (medical records, insurance policies, checkbook, etc.) in a waterproof container or watertight re-sealable bag.
- Procure cash, as Banks/ATMs may not be available for extended periods.
- Assemble a first aid kit.
- Close and secure shutters (or mount plywood) across windows and sliding glass doors. *Be sure to leave a way out of home in case of fire.*
- Turn refrigerators/freezers to coldest setting in anticipation of the power failing.
- Fill the bathtub(s) with water. It may be your main supply of water for either drinking (or simply flushing toilets).
- Bring outside furniture, toys etc. into the house or garage.
- Cut tree branches that could damage windows or walls (*discard or secure appropriately*).
- Move furniture away from windows or cover with plastic.
- Move valuables up off of the floor to limit flooding damage.
- Unplug appliances/electronics that are no longer needed as the storm approaches.
- Move vehicles into garage if possible. Otherwise, park away from trees and as close to home or building as possible.
- Do not drain pool. Rather, add extra chlorine to reduce contamination. Do not put lawn furniture in the pool.
- Secure and brace external doors, especially the garage door and double doors. *Be sure to leave a way out of home in case of fire.*
- Bring ALL pets indoors. They should be wearing identification tags and have a two-week supply of food available.

Conditions will deteriorate rapidly, sometimes hours before storm landfall...so get inside QUICKLY

HURRICANE DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- ❖ Canned goods and nonperishable foods that do not need cooking (ie. canned meats and fish; canned fruits and vegetables; canned soups and puddings; canned fruit juices; dried fruit and nuts; bread; cookies and crackers; peanut butter and jelly; coffee and tea; bottled water).
- ❖ Manual can opener
- ❖ Bottled water (1 gallon per person/per day)
- ❖ Prescription medication (2 weeks supply)
- ❖ Pet food/supplies
- ❖ Water purification tablets (*halazone*)
- ❖ Disposable plates, cups and utensils
- ❖ Infant care items: · disposable diapers · baby wipes · baby food · formula
- ❖ First aid supplies
- ❖ Masking and duct tape
- ❖ Flashlight or lantern, with extra batteries
- ❖ Battery operated radio, with extra batteries
- ❖ Watch or battery operated clock
- ❖ Ice chest
- ❖ Matches
- ❖ Canned heat (sterno)
- ❖ Portable outdoor camping stove or grill with fuel supply (*do NOT use indoors*)
- ❖ Plastic trash bags
- ❖ Plastic sheeting or drop cloth
- ❖ Chlorinated bleach
- ❖ Personal hygiene items
- ❖ *Other useful items* - work gloves; sun lotion; insect repellent; hammer; screwdriver; pliers; wrenches; handsaw; razor knife; ax or chainsaw; rope caulking; nails and screws; rope and wire; broom, mop and bucket; all-purpose cleaner; ladder; sandbags; portable generators; tree pruner; shovel, rake and wheelbarrow; sheets of plywood.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Develop your “Family Emergency Communication Plan” early. It is important that you have a clear and efficient plan on how family members will be able to contact each other following a disaster in case family member are separated from one another. It is a greater possibility than you may think especially if disaster strikes during the day when adults are at work or traveling and children are at school, camp or a friend’s home.

- Have two designated ‘family points-of-contact’ (separated family members should reach out to both contacts if possible):
 1. An out-of-state relative or friend. After a disaster, it is sometimes easier to call long distance than locally.
 2. As well as a local relative or friend.
- Make sure everyone knows the name, address and telephone number of the contacts.
- Establish a commonly known meeting point near your home and a secondary meeting point in another neighborhood.