

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Before the storm - Evacuation - Sheltering - After the hurricane

Use this checklist before hurricane season and again whenever a storm threatens your area. Follow evacuation orders and local emergency instructions for your specific location.

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

- Know your hurricane and storm-surge evacuation zone
- Identify at least two evacuation routes and destinations
- Build and maintain emergency food, water and medical supplies
- Plan for pets, children, older adults and household medical needs
- Review insurance coverage and photograph important property
- Store copies of identification, insurance and key documents
- Test smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms
- Inspect flashlights, radios, batteries and backup power
- Keep the vehicle maintained and the fuel tank well above empty

WHEN A HURRICANE IS APPROACHING

- Monitor official forecasts, watches, warnings and local alerts
- Charge phones, battery banks, radios and rechargeable lights
- Fill approved emergency water containers while service is normal
- Fuel vehicles and review evacuation routes
- Bring loose outdoor furniture, tools and other objects inside
- Install shutters or planned window protection while conditions are safe
- Move important items away from areas vulnerable to water intrusion
- Refill critical prescriptions when possible
- Prepare evacuation bags, pet supplies and important documents

IF YOU EVACUATE

- Leave when directed - do not wait for conditions to deteriorate
- Take identification, medications, water, food and charging equipment
- Bring pet carriers, food, water and necessary records
- Tell an out-of-area contact where you are going when practical
- Use alternate routes if your primary route becomes blocked
- Never drive around barricades or into a flooded roadway

IF YOU SHELTER AT HOME

- Stay indoors and away from windows, skylights and glass doors

- Keep emergency supplies, sturdy shoes and lighting nearby
- Continue monitoring official emergency information
- Use flashlights or battery lighting instead of open flames
- Do not go outside during the calm eye of the hurricane
- Operate generators outdoors only and away from doors, windows and vents

AFTER THE HURRICANE

- Wait for official guidance before returning or going outside
- Stay away from downed power lines and damaged structures
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwater
- Wear sturdy footwear, gloves and eye protection during cleanup
- Photograph property damage before major cleanup when safe
- Follow local drinking-water and boil-water advisories
- Check refrigerated and frozen food after extended outages
- Use tarps or temporary coverings only when conditions are safe
- Check on family and neighbors when conditions allow

REMEMBER: A hurricane's category describes wind intensity, but storm surge, heavy rain and inland flooding can also create life-threatening conditions. Base decisions on official local warnings and the hazards affecting your location.