

Hurricane Preparedness

Terms to Know

- Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 36 hours
- Hurricane warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning usually within 24 hours.

Before a Hurricane

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Including the Following Items:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.
(Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)

Prepare for High Winds

- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, then strategically removing branches so that wind can blow through.

When a Hurricane WATCH Is Issued

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Recheck manufactured home tie-downs.

- Stock up on medications.

When a Hurricane WARNING Is Issued

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if they tell you to do so.
- Complete preparation activities.
- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
- Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.
- Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over. Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.

After a Hurricane Is Over

- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Use flashlights in the dark; do not use candles