



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE 2023

Your complete checklist to help you plan and prepare for this hurricane season.

5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE

- Keep an emergency phone number list in a waterproof bag somewhere safe.
- Have an emergency supply kit.
- Do not stay if you're in an evacuation zone. Plan to stay at a family or friend's home instead. If this is not possible, take refuge in a designated shelter.
- Do not leave your pet behind. Learn which shelters and hotels are pet-friendly or speak to your vet about where you can safely board them.
- Sign up for local weather alerts.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

You may not have power or water in the days and weeks after a storm, and you may not be able to get to a store. Have these supplies on hand:

- Water – 1 gallon of drinking water per person, per day, for at least 3 days.
- Canned foods.
- Non-perishable foods.
- Prescriptions and medications.
- Baby items such as formula, diapers, wipes, and medications.
- Flashlights.
- Batteries.
- Manual can opener.
- Propane for BBQ grill.
- Lighter or matches (in a waterproof bag).
- Cash (ATMs and credit cards may not work).
- Power source or power bank, fully charged.

PACKING FOR A SHELTER

Space, privacy and power outlets are very limited at shelters, and only basic necessities are supplied. Use our hurricane preparedness checklist below.

- Bedding
- Towels
- Childcare items such as formula, diapers, wipes, toys, etc.
- Toothbrush/toothpaste and other personal hygiene items
- Prescriptions and medications
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable snacks
- Extra clothes
- Fully charged power banks
- Charging cords
- Earbuds
- Special items for elderly or disabled family members

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE

18-36 hours before the storm

- Clear your yard of possible projectiles (patio furniture, garbage cans).
- Trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.
- Put up shutters or board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood.
- Take photos of your home both inside and outside.
- Fill clean water containers with drinking water.
- Fill up sinks and bathtubs with water for washing.
- Have a cash reserve.
- Fill up your vehicle with gas.

6 hours before the storm

- Notify your family of your location (home, shelter, out of town).
- Close storm shutters.
- Turn your refrigerator/freezer to the coldest setting.
- Stay informed on the latest weather updates.
- Charge all your electronics.

DURING the storm

- Never use a generator indoors.
- Stay away from windows.
- Stay in an interior, windowless room on the lowest floor.
- Do not climb into the attic, as you may get trapped by rising water.
- Stay updated on current weather info and instructions.
- Do not enter flood waters. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Do not go outside, even if it looks calm. Wait until it's deemed safe by authorities.

AFTER the storm

- Stay out of floodwaters and flooded areas.
- Use flashlights instead of candles whenever possible.
- Never use a generator, gas grill or camp stove inside your home or garage.
- Keep gas and coal-powered equipment outside and at least 20 feet from any window, door, or vent.
- Stay away from fallen power lines.
- Drink safe water (bottled or boiled, if you have electricity).
- Throw out food if the proper temperature was not maintained.