



**HURRICANE  
PREPAREDNESS  
CHECKLIST**

# Hurricane Season is Upon Us!

We have prepared this checklist to help you before, during, and after a hurricane or tropical storm. Remember, it is always better to be prepared than to be caught short when a watch or a warning is issued.

## Before a Storm

Pull your Emergency Flood Folder and place it with your evacuation materials. This folder should have:

Copies of your insurance policies and your agent contact information.

Your home inventory including room-by-room pictures and lists of items along with serial numbers and receipts.

Your checklist.

When a storm is predicted, have your folder at the ready - and go through the checklist.

## Prepare the House

Listen to the radio or TV for information regarding evacuation.

Secure your property. If you do not have storm shutters, board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.

Test your sump pump to ensure it is working properly; install a battery-operated backup in case of a power failure.

Make sure there is no debris in the gutters and downspouts. Be sure trees and shrubs are well trimmed.

Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure.

Anchor any fuel tanks.

Shut off natural gas, water, and electricity if advised to do so. Make sure you shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its door closed.

Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water for cleaning and flushing toilets.

Remove/secure any outside furniture or items that could become projectiles in heavy winds.

Secure your boat.

Make sure you have cash and or an emergency savings account that can be used if you have to travel to a safe location.

**Assemble your Disaster Supplies Kit. Make sure it is in a convenient place for quick evacuation. Your kit should include enough basic supplies to last for a minimum of three days.**

## **Components of a Disaster Supplies Kit**

**Non-perishable food**

**Water – one gallon of water per person, per day**

**Portable, battery-operated radio or TV and extra batteries**

**Flashlight and extra batteries**

**First aid kit and manual**

**Sanitation and hygiene items**

**Matches and waterproof container**

**Whistle**

**Extra clothing**

**Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a can opener**

**Photocopies of credit and identification cards**

**Cash/coins**

**Special needs – prescriptions, eye glasses, contact lens solution, hearing aid batteries**

**Items for infants – formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers**

## **During the Storm**

**With hurricanes come floodwaters. Here are some safety tips:**

**Listen to the radio or TV for information and evacuate when told by authorities to do so.**

**Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.**

**Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.**

**Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – and winds will pick up again from the opposite direction.**

**Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.**

**Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.**

**Flash flooding can occur so move immediately to higher ground.**

**Streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas are known to flood suddenly.**

## After a Hurricane

Keep a battery-powered radio available to listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe and listen for the latest updates.

Use a battery-powered flashlight to inspect a damaged home. Turn on the flashlight before entering the house.

Watch for animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.

Avoid floodwaters. Water can be contaminated by oil, gas, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. Avoid moving water.

Roads may have been weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.

Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.

Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.

Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there might be hidden damage.

Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.

Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.

After assessing the house and damages, call your insurance agent – take pictures of any damage. Keep receipts of all repair and cleaning costs.