

HURRICANE PREPARATION

Proper hurricane preparations made ahead of time will not completely protect your property from damage. However, proper planning can reduce the risk of death and injury to you and your family. Careful preparation well ahead of time can reduce stress levels leading up to the hurricane, and following a few simple tips may also greatly reduce the damage to your property.

Before Hurricane Season:

- Prepare an emergency supply kit and create an evacuation plan.
- Know your flood and evacuation zones.
- Check tie-downs on mobile homes.
- Trim back trees and shrubbery near your home.
- Repair broken fences, and replace old or damaged roofing shingles.
- Check and/or install hurricane clips to roof trusses and side walls.
- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Reinforce garage doors and double entry doors.
- Inspect existing or install hurricane tested shutters.
- Have vehicle regularly serviced and in good working order.
- Make preparations for pets.



Immediately Before the Storm:

- Listen frequently to official sources for updates.
- Double check items in your emergency supply kit. Have enough supplies for at least 72 hours.
- Fuel your vehicle, and have plenty of extra cash on hand.
- Store light weight outdoor objects and board up and secure windows.
- Mobile home residents and those living in flood prone areas **MUST** evacuate if told to do so! If told to evacuate, notify a point of contact of your evacuation plan.
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.



During the Storm:

- Remain inside, away from boarded up windows and doors.
- Take refuge in your predetermined safe room.
- Do not venture outside during the eye of the storm. Some of the strongest winds may occur shortly after the eye passes.

After the Storm:

- If you evacuated, wait for an all clear from public officials before attempting to return to your home. Be prepared to show proof of residence upon return..
- Be cautious of structural damage and downed trees and power lines. Do not attempt to move structural supports or large pieces of debris.
- Restrict your driving to emergency use only.
- Do not use open flames indoors.
- Listen for instructions regarding use and safety of public water supply.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell and hear gas leaking, leave immediately.
- Report visible damage of electrical lines to the power company.
- DO NOT run power generators indoors. Inhalation of carbon monoxide from the generator exhaust can cause death.

