



2014 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SAFETY TIPS



Hurricane Preparedness Week is 25 May – 31 May 2014. Hurricanes are intense tropical weather systems with a well-defined circulation, and winds in excess of 74 mph. Hurricanes can produce tornadoes, storm surge and prodigious amounts of rain and flooding. Two key elements to weather safety management are 1) Prepare for the risks, and 2) Act on those preparations when alerted by emergency personnel. The following 'Safety Tips' are provided in preparation for the 2014 Hurricane Season which runs from 1 June to 30 November:

SAFETY TIPS:

- Create an emergency plan that includes all family members and pets. Establish checklists, emergency kit, emergency contact numbers, responsibilities, and a meeting place. Practice and review plan at least annually, and post the plan where family members can easily access.
- Keep a radio and sufficient batteries to stay aware of local weather updates.
- Prior to storm, secure lawn furniture, boats, bikes, grills, garbage cans, and other loose gear.
- Trim trees and shrubbery to alleviate branch damage. Clean clogged gutters and down spouts.
- If evacuating the home, ensure all electronics are unplugged, and secure all utilities. If staying home, designate a safe location, free of windows and doors, to ride out the storm.
- Perform generator maintenance, and start monthly. If a generator is used, ensure it's placed in a safe location outside the home. Use only approved power cords with generators.
- Ensure vehicles, generator and gas cans are full. Learn shelter locations and evacuation route.
- In preparation of power loss, set refrigerators / freezers to coldest setting and limit openings.
- Fill bath tub with water to use in flushing and cleaning.
- Store plywood in garage or shed to shore up windows or doors should the need arise.
- Review Home Insurance policy annually. Secure the following in a waterproof safe: Passports, Deeds, Titles, Wedding/Birth Certificates, Computer hard-drive (back-up), and Photos.

EMERGENCY CHECKLIST ITEMS:

- At-Home Kit - First Aid kit, Money, Cell phone/charger; Emergency contacts; Flashlights; Batteries; Radio; Food/Water (3-day supply); Can opener; Sanitary items; Moist Towelettes.
- Evacuation Kit – Clothes; Money; Credit Card; Medicines; Important documents; Glasses; Cell Phones/Car Charger; Emergency contacts; Water; Food; Pet supplies; Maps; Blankets; Tools; Gas can; and Activities for kids.

RESOURCES:

- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/>
- <http://www.weather.gov>