



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SAFETY TIPS



Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. Hurricane Preparedness Week is 6-12 May 2018. This is the time to prepare for a potential hurricane. Hurricanes can produce thunderstorms, tornadoes, large amounts of rain, and flash flooding. Two key elements of weather safety management: 1) Actively prepare for potential risks, and 2) Act on those preparations when alerted by emergency personnel. The 2018 Hurricane Season runs from 1 Jun to 30 Nov. The following Safety Tips are provided to help prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster:

BEFORE A HURRICANE:

- Build a family emergency plan. Establish checklists, emergency kit, phone #'s, responsibilities, and a meeting place. Practice, review, and update annually. Ensure plan is accessible.
- Secure all outdoor equipment (e.g. lawn furniture, boat, bikes, grill, trash cans, etc.).
- Protect your home. Trim trees/shrubbery to mitigate damage. Clean gutters and down spouts.
- Conduct periodic generator maintenance and start monthly. Place outdoors when in use.
- Fill vehicles, generator, and gas cans. Learn shelter locations and evacuation routes.
- In preparation for power loss, set refrigerator to coldest setting and limit openings.
- Store plywood sheets in garage or shed to shore up windows or doors, should the need arise.
- Review home insurance policy. Secure important family documents in waterproof safe.
- If evacuating the home, ensure electronics are unplugged and secure all utilities.

DURING A HURRICANE:

- Monitor weather conditions and follow instructions of authorities. Keep a radio and several day supply of batteries on hand, should power be lost.
- Remain inside, away from windows and doors. Close interior doors, blinds and curtains.
- Use flashlights vice candles for lighting, and only use the telephone for emergencies.

AFTER A HURRICANE:

- Check on friends/family members. Continue monitoring local weather for rainfall or flooding.
- Be extremely cautious walking outside. Avoid (and report) downed power lines or dangling tree limbs. Keep street drains debris free. Inspect residence for damage; take photos.
- Report any property damage to your insurance agent/company quickly.
- Report status to your supervisor.

EMERGENCY KIT ITEMS:

- At-Home Kit – First aid kit, money, cell phone/charger, emergency contacts, flashlights, batteries, radio, food/water (min. 3-day supply), can opener, sanitary items, moist towelettes.
- Evacuation Kit – Money, credit cards, medicines, important documents, glasses, cell phone, emergency #'s, food/water, pet supplies, maps, blankets, tools, activities for kids.

RESOURCES:

- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/index.shtml>
- <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

Manage the Risk...Protect the Force!