

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

### What to do before the storm

- Gather important documents including insurance papers, list of agent and carrier phone numbers.
- Walk through your home with a video recorder to record images of your belongings and household.
- Clear your yard of potential flying debris including lawn ornaments, yard furniture and trash cans.
- Install shutters on windows or doors. In the event you have no shutters or other wind mitigation devices, board windows and other openings with plywood that is at least 5/8" thick.
- Fill your car's tank with gas and check fluids and tires.
- Take out extra cash in the event ATMs and banks lose power.
- Anchor boats or move them to a safe place.
- Turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting. Fill jugs and bottles of water to put in your fridge and freezer to help keep food temperatures cold.
- If you evacuate, notify family and friends of your plans.
- Turn off all water in the house.

### What to pack

- Bottled water (5-7 gallons per person).
- Canned vegetables, fruit, juice and meat for your family.
- Dry foods such as coffee, tea, milk, dry cereals, nuts and fruit.
- Disposable utensils, cups and plates, paper towels, garbage bags and a non-electric can opener.
- Small electronics such as flashlights, portable AM/FM radio, weather radio and extra batteries.
- Wet weather gear: ponchos, galoshes and umbrellas.
- A few days worth of dry clothes changes and plenty of diapers for babies.
- Hand wipes, rubbing alcohol, bug spray, sunscreen, latex gloves, liquid hand soap and bleach.
- First-aid kit packed with aspirin, tweezers and extra prescription medicine. Include personal hygiene products.
- Cards, books and small games.
- Video and still camera with extra film.
- Spare sets of house and car keys.
- Heavy rope, tarp or rolls of plastic, duct tape, bungee cords, heavy work gloves and disposable dust masks will help with temporary photos.
- Pliers, vice grips, hammer, nails, utility knife, extra wood.

### What to do after the storm

- Stay where you are until authorities say it is safe to move around or return home. Listen to the radio for information and avoid driving whenever possible.
- Flooding is often a problem after a hurricane. Do not drive through flooded areas and keep children away from standing or moving water.
- The wind force of hurricanes can result in trees down and other debris scattered. Drive slowly in these areas to avoid damage to your car and tires.
- Have a professional check gas, water and electrical lines for damage before use.
- Contact your insurance agent. An adjuster will be assigned to visit your home.
- Prepare for the agent's arrival by taking photos or videotaping damaged property. Separate damaged from undamaged belongings.

### Important Websites:

National Hurricane Center: [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration: [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)