

HURRICANE PREPARATION

Experts in emergency preparedness advice having enough food, water, medical & other supplies to last 3 days. Be sure to run dishwasher ahead of storm. Do laundry ahead of time - if power goes out you are ahead of the storm! Here is a compilation of supplies & steps recommended:

Home Emergency Kit:

Keep items in airtight plastic bags, and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy to carry containers, such as an unused trash can, camping backpack or duffel bag. Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family needs change.

Check off supplies when added to your home kit:

- Food & water
- Manual can opener
- Utensils
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery operated radio
- Batteries
- Cash in small denominations & coins
- Unscented liquid household bleach for water purification
- Personal hygiene items, toilet paper, soap
- Sturdy shoes
- Heavy gloves
- Warm clothes, hat and rain gear
- A local map
- Extra prescription eyeglasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items
- Plastic sheeting, duct tape and utility knife for covering broken windows
- Tools including pliers and shut-off wrench to turn off utilities if necessary
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Extra keys to your house and vehicle
- A copy of important documents and phone numbers
- Paper towels, aluminum foil
- Fire extinguisher
- Paper, pencils
- Large plastic bags for waste & sanitation
- Diapers and other items for babies & children
- Special-need items for family members with mobility problems, such as an extra cane or manual wheelchair in case there is no power for recharging an electric wheelchair
- Tent
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Pet supplies
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flare
- Needles and thread

First-aid kit:

- Two pairs of disposable gloves
- Sterile dressings
- Gauze bandages
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes

- Antibiotic ointment
- Burn ointment
- Thermometer
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
- Adhesive tape, 2 inch wide
- Eye-wash solution
- Cold pack
- Scissors
- Cotton swabs
- Tweezers
- Over the counter medicines , such as aspirin or other pain reliever, antacid, etc
- Daily prescription medications, such as insulin, heart medicine, or asthma inhaler
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose monitoring equipment or blood pressure monitors

Food:

Store enough emergency food to feed your family for at least 3 days, such as:

- Ready to eat canned meats, fruit and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk and soup
- High-energy foods, such as peanut butter, jelly crackers, granola bars and trail mix
- Comfort foods, such as hard candy, sweetened cereals, candy bars and cookies
- Dried foods
- Instant meals that don't require cooking or water
- Vitamins
- Protein or fruit bars
- Nuts

Water:

- Store 1 gallon of water per person and pet per day
- Seal water containers tightly in a clean food-grade plastic container, label them with a date and store them in a cool, dry place
- Rotate water supplies every 6 months (water can develop bacteria or algae from small cracks in the container)
- Keep a small bottle of unscented liquid bleach to purify water (add 8 drops of bleach to a gallon of water, shake or stir and let stand for 30 minutes)

Pets:

- Get a pet carrier or a crate for each household pet. It should be large enough to allow your pet to stand up and turn around inside
- Have a leash and a muzzle on hand to help control your dog
- Have newspapers, plastic bags, cleansers, kitty litter and disinfectants to handle pet wastes
- Have sufficient amounts of pet food, water and special medications on hand
- Be sure your pet's rabies and other vaccinations are current. Your pet's collar should have a license tag. Gather your pet's ID records and medical info into a waterproof package. Include a recent photo of you and your pet with a detailed written description and a copy of the current vaccination certificate
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster

Important documents:

Keep originals of legal documents in an off-site safe-deposit box:

- Birth certificates, adoption papers
- Marriage certificate

- Social security cards
- Military discharge
- Health insurance ID cards
- Life insurance policies
- Auto registration/ownership papers
- Auto insurance policies
- Property insurance policies
- Naturalization documents
- Power of attorney
- Will
- Passport
- Real estate deeds of trust
- Previous year's tax returns
- Contact info of your attorney
- Inventory of valuables with photographs

Maintaining contact:

- Determine the best two escape routes from your home
- Plan where to meet if your home becomes unsafe. Choose two places, one just outside of your home, and one outside your neighborhood
- Designate a contact person far enough away to not be affected by the same emergency. Instruct family members to call this person and tell them where they are
- If you have a cell phone, include an emergency contact in your phonebook. Put the letters ICE (in case of emergency) before a person's name to let rescuers know whom to contact

Evacuation bag:

An easy to carry bag with an ID tag for each member of the family for use for an evacuation. Include the following:

- Some water, food, and manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Whistle
- Personal medications and prescriptions
- Extra keys to your house and vehicle
- Walking shoes, warm clothes and rain gear
- Extra prescription eye glasses, hearing aid or other vital personal items
- Toilet paper, plastic bags and hygiene supplies
- Dust mask
- Pocket knife, compass
- Paper, pens and tape for leaving messages
- Cash in small denominations
- Copies of insurance and identification cards
- A recent picture of your family members and pets
- In your child's bag include a favorite toy, game or book, as well as his or her emergency card with reunification location and contact info