

# CREATING YOUR SAFETY PLAN

If you are on or near the east or gulf coasts of the U.S. it's important that you plan a safe evacuation route that will take you 20-50 miles inland.

Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter, and ask for the community's emergency preparedness plan.

In addition, take the time to discuss your plan with any family members, friends or coworkers so that everyone is on the same page if this natural disaster happens to strike.

## STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES

Don't wait until the storm hits to get all the products and supplies you need to stay safe. Start now. Here's a list of basic emergency supplies to have on hand:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kits
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Local maps
- Essential medicines and supplies





#### SECURE YOUR PROPERTY

- Cover all of your windows, either with hurricane shutters or wood.
- Although tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, be warned that tape does not prevent the window from breaking.
- If possible, secure straps or clips to securely fasten your roof to the structure of your home.
- Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters.
- Reinforce your garage doors.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down.
- If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors and close, secure and brace internal doors.
- Have your insurance policy available and take pictures of inside and outside of the property (before and after the storm) for insurance claim if you suffer damages. This is helpful with submitting a claim showing evidence of the damages occurred.

### **SHELTER**

For some hosts, checkout simply means asking guests to close the door behind them and enjoy their journey home. Other hosts leave detailed instructions for tidying up. Whatever your hosting style, making sure your expectations for guest checkout are clearly communicated is the key to ending their stay on a positive note.

#### **Red Cross Contact Info**

If you have an immediate need for food, water or shelter, call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROS (1-800-733-2767)



## **PROTOCOL**

The National Weather Service forecasts, updates and directs the public during a national disaster via TV, radio, cell phones and computers. Your local authorities will also issue statements if need be. Be sure to stay in the loop, and follow whatever instructions are made to avoid danger. If an evacuation order is given, leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges. Secure your all the rooms. Unplug appliances and turn off electricity and the main water valve. If time permits, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or move it to a higher floor. Take your preassembled emergency supplies and warm, protective clothing, cash and credit cards, rain boots, and copies of important papers, including bank accounts, insurance, and household and business inventory records.

#### **NEW SAFETY ISSUES**

It's important to be aware of new safety issues created by the disaster. Watch for washed out roads, contaminated buildings, contaminated water, gas leaks, broken glass, mold, damaged electrical wiring, and slippery floors. Inform local authorities about health and safety issues, including chemical spills, downed power lines, washed out roads, smoldering insulation and dead animals.

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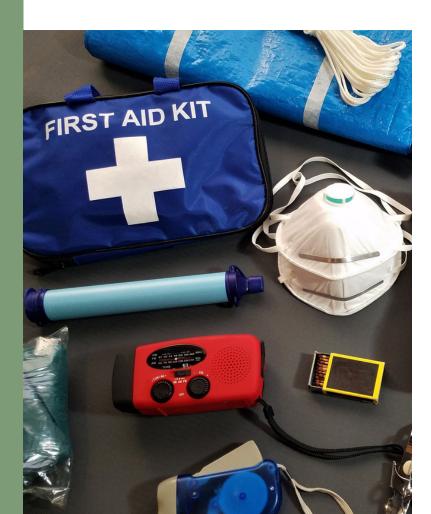


#### **DISASTER KIT**

Items To Consider for your Disaster Supply Kit •

- Cash and Credit Cards
- ID and Driver's License
- Inventory of household contents
- Copies of family and personal records including your insurance policies and the phone number of your insurance company and agent. Phone number(s) to report an insurance claim.
- Road maps
- List of temporary housing locations to include phone numbers
- Change of clothing (several days is advisable)
- Protective clothing and sturdy shoes
- Prescription medicines
- First Aid Kit and manual Whistle
- Fire Extinguisher (ABC Type). Be sure everyone knows how to use your fire extinguisher(s).
- Matches and waterproof container.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Items for infants, such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers.
- Bottled water and canned beverages. You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. A normally active person needs at least one half gallon of water just for drinking. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water. Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed. A medical emergency might require additional water.

- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a can opener.
- A five (5) day supply of nonperishable food.
- Sanitation and hygiene items.
- Portable radio and extra batteries.
- Blankets and pillows.
- A family communications plan. Your family may not be together when a storm hits, so plan how you will contact one another. Have contact information documented for each family member and make sure you let out-of town family members know where you are going in the event of an evacuation.
- If you have a pet, see Pets Section for a list of pet supplies to consider



#### **KNOW THE TERMS**

- <u>Tropical Storm Watch</u>: Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.
- Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the area.
- <u>Tropical Storm Warning</u>: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.
- Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the area.
- Eye: Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.
- <u>Eye Wall</u>: Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.
- <u>Rain Bands</u>: Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.
- <u>Storm Surge</u>: An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a landfalling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

## **HURRICANE AFTERMATH**

Bad storms can be both physically and mentally challenging. Disasters can be dangerous even after they are over. Take the time to be cautious with food, sanitation, and especially electricity. Use a battery-powered flashlight to inspect a damaged home. (The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering-the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.)

#### Cleanup

Begin cleanup of your property as soon as possible. Contact your insurance companies. • If you must throw away valuables, take photographs of them for insurance purposes. • Take pictures of exterior damage to structure and trees. • If air conditioning is not available, open all doors and windows in the house to dry and ventilate.

#### Food and Water •

Avoid opening the refrigerator door unnecessarily. • Do not drink untreated water from taps until officials give the all clear. • Do not eat fresh food or use spices or utensils that have been contaminated by floodwaters. • Eat the food most likely to spoil in your refrigerator first. • If you suspect that food has spoiled, do not eat it. 8 Hurricane Guide - 2020 • Conserve water used to cook with and for washing utensils. In a large cook pot, cook canned goods in their cans by opening them, removing the label, and placing them in 2 inches of gently boiling water. Use oven mitts to avoid burning hands when lifting cans from water. Reuse that water for another meal, but don't drink it. • Disinfect water if that is the only source of drinking water available and boil for 5 minutes. Add 16 drops (1/4 teaspoon) of liquid chlorine bleach to a gallon, providing that the bleach contains hypochlorite as its only ingredient. Let the water stand, unopened, for one hour before drinking. Boil water