

# Preparing for a Hurricane – Get Ready! Be Safe!

Preparing for Hurricane Season - June through November - can be challenging. Below are tips that can help you get ready for severe weather before it approaches.

## Family Safety

- Establish a family emergency communication plan
  - Make sure you know how to contact family members who may not be in the same place
  - Set a location point to get back together after the hurricane passes
  - Have important phone numbers written down in case cellular and landlines are cannot be used
- Protective supplies - stock up on essentials, such as face masks, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Plan for evacuation
  - Make arrangements of where you can go in the event of evacuation and have options – download the FEMA app to locate emergency shelter locations
  - Ensure you have plans for your entire family, including pets
  - Pack a “Go Bag” that includes all the essentials you’ll need and make sure it’s easily accessible
  - Keep your vehicle fueled up and ready to go with emergency supplies
    - Snacks/Water
    - First aid kit
    - Flashlight
    - Jumper cables
    - Tools
    - Blanket
    - Change of clothes
- Gather emergency supplies
  - Medical needs/prescription medications
  - Put critical documents in a waterproof container
  - Collect tools and safety items
  - Food/supplies - at least 3 day supply of non-perishable food and water
  - Hygiene and sanitation items
  - Protective gear - warm clothes, blankets, footwear, and gloves
  - Irreplaceable items or items that may provide comfort to your family, especially children

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## Protecting Your Home & Assets

- Storm shutters/opening protection
  - If you have existing shutters and/or opening protection
    - Check to make sure the opening protection is in good condition and ensure you have all of the tools and materials needed for installation
- If you’re reliant on someone else to install your opening protection, reach out to them to ensure they’re still in business and you’re on their response list
- Back-up generator
  - Consider purchasing a back-up gas-powered generator in advance of the storm
  - Make sure the generator is full of fuel and have extra fuel
  - Test run the generator once/week
- Stockpile emergency protective materials
  - Plywood
  - Plastic sheeting
  - Sandbags
- Sump pump
  - If your home has a sump pump, test it in advance
  - Consider purchasing a battery back-up for your sump pump to maintain operation during lengthy power outages
- Elevate valuable assets
  - Consider moving any valuable assets to a higher floor in your home or elevating them off the floor
- Outdoor furniture & decor
  - Minimize the amount of lightweight objects outside your home; i.e. patio furniture, decor, garbage cans, toys
  - Secure items that would be unsafe to bring indoors; i.e. grills, propane tanks
- Trees
  - Trim and/or remove trees in close proximity to your home and other buildings
- Clean Gutters
  - Keep gutters clean to allow rainwater to efficiently drain away from your home
- Create or update an inventory of your contents
  - Take pictures and create an inventory of the personal property within your home

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