

Hurricanes

Pre-Season Preparation:

- Enter the season prepared
- Know all evacuation routes if you live close to the coast or a large body of water that is prone to flooding
- Make sure your home meets building codes for withstanding hurricanes and make sure they have storm shutters
- Ensure that all free standing structures such as swing sets and sheds are structurally sound and properly anchored
- Have proper tools, supplies, and a well-stocked first aid kit on hand
- Have plenty of batteries and flashlights
- Always have plenty of non-perishable foods and water on hand (a three to five day supply is recommended)

When a Watch or Warning is Issued:

- Leave low-lying areas
- Protect windows with plywood boards or storm shutters, if available
- Secure outside objects (ie patio furniture, tools and pool hardware)
- Make sure you have plenty of fuel for any vehicle, generator, and/or power tools you might need to use
- Ensure that there are several days supply of food and water for each family member
- If called to evacuate the area, do so immediately. DO NOT DELAY. As you depart the area, stock your vehicle with items you may need
- Turn OFF water, gas and electricity to your home
- If you or family members use medication, make sure you have ample supplies to get through the emergency

Before the Storm:

- Be ready to put your plan and preparation into action
- Pay attention to local weather reports on radio, television and/or the Internet
- Have your home boarded up or the storm shutters in place
- Ensure that you have plenty of (non-perishable) food and water for each family member
- Make sure all your tools, supplies and first aid kit(s) are available for immediate use
- Have a secure "storm room" available to ride out the worst of the storm if you do not leave the area

During a Storm:

- Stay in your storm room
- Stay away from windows
- Do not use phones or candles
- Monitor weather and civil service bulletins on either regular or NOAA radio channels
- Have supplies on hand

- Remain indoors when the eye of the storm moves over your area because the storm will resume shortly, with similar ferocity

After the Storm:

- Make sure that all is definitely clear outside and that the storm has completely passed before going out
- Due to the possibility of damage sustained, assume that the environment around your home may be dangerous. Venture out cautiously and monitor children and pets carefully
- There will likely be downed power lines and other utilities. Report these items to authorities and keep children and pets away
- Use stored water and food
- Be patient. Depending on the category, strength and duration of the storm, it may take a while before life gets back to normal. Anticipate major regional damage.