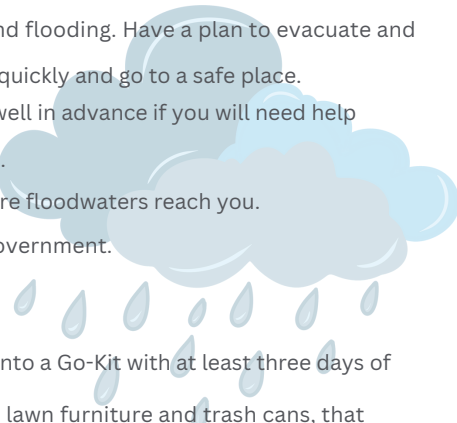


Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

Hurricanes and tropical storms are rotating storms that form over warm waters. These storms bring high winds, heavy rain, storm surge (rise in water level), flooding and tornadoes. Climate change has caused hurricanes to strengthen faster and bring heavier rainfall. The most common cause of death during a hurricane is from drowning. These storms are dangerous and can damage places far inland. But we can take action to be ready. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones and your home.

What to Do: Before

- ☐ Make Plans to Stay Safe! Determine your best protection from high winds and flooding. Have a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter safely.
- ☐ If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. You may have to leave your home quickly and go to a safe place.
- ☐ Know where you will go, how you will get there and where you will stay. Plan well in advance if you will need help leaving or need to utilize public transportation.
- ☐ Be ready to live without power, water, gas, phone and internet for a long time.
- ☐ Be aware that flooding can happen quickly. Have a plan to evacuate fast before floodwaters reach you.
- ☐ Plan to stay connected! Sign up for free emergency alerts from your local government.
- ☐ Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone.
- ☐ Have a battery-powered radio during a power outage.
- ☐ Gather food, water and medicine as stores may be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit with at least three days of supplies you can carry with you.
- ☐ Protect your home from wind! Secure or bring inside outdoor items, such as lawn furniture and trash cans, that could be picked up by high winds and hurt someone or damage physical property.



What to Do: During

- ☐ If local authorities advise you to evacuate, go right away.
- ☐ Bring your Go-Kit.
- ☐ Follow evacuation routes and do not try to take shortcuts because they may be blocked.
- ☐ Check with local officials for shelter locations.
- ☐ Determine your best protection for high winds and flooding.
- ☐ Take shelter in a designated storm shelter or an interior room to avoid high winds.
- ☐ Stay away from glass windows and doors.
- ☐ Move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- ☐ Never walk, swim, or drive through floodwater. Remember, Turn Around, Don't Drown!



What to Do: After

- ☐ Stay Safe! Wait for officials to say it is safe before going back home.
- ☐ Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles and downed wires, as they can electrocute you.
- ☐ Do not touch floodwaters because they may contain sewage, bacteria and chemicals that can make you ill.
- ☐ If power is out, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns to reduce fire risk.
- ☐ Never use gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, basement or garage.
- ☐ Cleanup Safely! Wear appropriate protective equipment including gloves, goggles and boots.
- ☐ Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- ☐ When cleaning heavy debris, work with a partner.
- ☐ Make sure that you have proper training before using equipment, such as chainsaws.
- ☐ Stay Healthy! When in doubt, throw it out! Dispose of food that got drenched or defrosted.

