

HURRICANE EARLY PLANNING

If you live in an area that has the potential of being affected by a hurricane, *the key to remaining safe is early planning.*

1. Keep your vehicle's fuel tank full.
2. Keep extra cash on hand, as automatic teller machines or banks don't operate without power.
3. Charging your cell phone and having a car charger on hand if possible is a good idea, as telephone lines may be down.
4. Make sure to store all important phone numbers on your cell phone.
5. Make sure to have all your medications in their original containers and if possible, you should have at least a two-week supply of your medications.
6. Have all insurance policies and other personal records, including birth certificates, marriage certificates, social security cards, etc. at hand, store in a waterproof document storage container, two coolers are good to have, one to keep food and another to transport ice.
7. You should have on hand at least one gallon of water per person, per day for at least three days, but preferably two weeks.
8. Have non-perishable ready-to-eat foods that do not require refrigeration or cooking and little or no water. Examples of these foods are: ready-to-eat canned meats and fruits; canned juices; milk; high energy foods, including peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars and trail mix, comfort foods are good to have, including: cookies, hard candy, instant coffee, tea, etc.
9. Kitchen supplies should include knives, spatulas, pots and pans.
10. Make sure to have a camera so you can take pictures as a form of inventory for all your valuables.
11. Also have paper and pencils at hand to write down what you are taking pictures of.
12. Rain and flooding in a hurricane area may lead to an increase in mosquitoes; make sure to have some insect repellent.
13. If you evacuate make sure to bring along sleeping bags, pillows, folding chairs, clothing and shoes.
14. Remember to frequently wash your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected, particularly after handling articles contaminated with floodwater or after participating in clean-up activities.
15. Have a supply of soap to wash dishes, liquid soap, wet wipes, hand sanitizers, and bleach to disinfect.
16. For cleaning up, make sure to have mops, buckets and sponges and a basic supply of tools.
17. Be sure to also have plenty of toilet paper and napkins.
18. Electricity, cable, internet, etc may be out for a while, having some books, games and magazines to pass by time during down time will help.
19. Have a fire extinguisher.