

Disaster Planning Essentials



It is important to be prepared for any disaster that may affect your area. Having a Disaster Plan in place prior to an incident could minimize damage and protect lives.

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Family Disaster Plan

- Waterproof your valuables in sealed plastic bags
- Take pictures or videos of the inside and outside of your residence. Keep the information in a safe, dry place or take it with you when you evacuate
- Know your home's vulnerability to a storm surge, flooding, & wind
- Locate a "safe room" in your home for a hurricane hazard
- Determine escape/evacuation routes from your home & places to meet inland
- Have a list of emergency numbers for children & teach them when and how to dial 911
- Check your insurance coverage
- Stock emergency supplies & A Hurricane Kit
- Use a NOAA weather radio
- Take First Aid, CPR, and/or disaster preparedness classes

Evacuation Tips

- Assemble a disaster supply kit
- Secure your home against disaster to help reduce damage. Cover windows and secure loose yard objects
- Know your area's evacuation plan/routines before leaving home
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank as soon as possible
- Bring extra cash in case banks are closed & ATM's are inoperable
- Notify family & friends of your plan & Destination
- Develop an Emergency Plan in case family members are separated
- Ensure children know how & when to call 911
- When officials direct you to do so, evacuate and travel safely to your destination
- Expect travel times to be significantly longer than normal
- Move crashes to the shoulder immediately as to not hinder traffic flow

Keeping Food Safe

- Keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer
- Make sure the freezer is at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit and the refrigerator at 40 degrees Fahrenheit
- Freeze containers of water for ice to keep food cold when the power is out
- Freeze refrigerated items such as leftovers, milk, & fresh meat and poultry that you may not need immediately
- Plan ahead & know where dry ice can be purchased
- Store food on shelves that will be safely out of the way of contaminated water in case of flooding
- Have coolers on hand. Purchase additional ice and/or gel packs. Freeze them ahead of time
- Grouping food together in the freezer helps them stay colder longer

Hurricane Kit Checklist

Food/Water

- ✓ Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day) for 14 days
- ✓ Canned meat, fish, fruit, & vegetables
- ✓ Bread (In moisture-proof packaging)
- ✓ Cookies, candy, dried fruit
- ✓ Canned soups & milk
- ✓ Powdered or single serve drinks
- ✓ Cereal bars
- ✓ Package condiments
- ✓ Peanut butter and jelly
- ✓ Instant coffee and tea

Cooking

- ✓ Portable camp stove or grill
- ✓ Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups
- ✓ Napkins & Paper Towels
- ✓ Aluminum foil
- ✓ Oven mitts

Prepare for Pet Safety

- Make sure your pet's vaccinations are up to date
- Keep current photos of your pet
- Have a carrier for each pet
- Make sure your pet has a proper ID collar
- Enough food and water for the duration of your evacuation
- Medications, leashes, collars, muzzle, paper towels, & trash bags

Supplies

- ✓ Flashlight (1 per person)
- ✓ Portable battery powered lanterns
- ✓ Glass enclosed candles
- ✓ Battery powered radio or TV
- ✓ Battery powered alarm clock
- ✓ Extra batteries
- ✓ Ice Chest & Ice
- ✓ First Aid Kit (Including aspirin, antibiotic cream, & antacids)
- ✓ Mosquito repellent
- ✓ Sun screen (45 SPF & above)
- ✓ Waterproof matches/butane lighter
- ✓ Money
- ✓ Plain bleach or water purification tablets
- ✓ Maps of the area

Baby Needs

- ✓ Disposable diapers
- ✓ Formula, food, medication
- ✓ Clothing and blankets

Other Necessities

- ✓ Tools (hammer, wrenches, nails, saw, screw drivers)
- ✓ Trash bags (lots of them)
- ✓ Cleaning supplies
- ✓ Plastic drop cloth
- ✓ Mosquito netting
- ✓ ABC rated fire extinguisher
- ✓ Masking or duct tape
- ✓ Outdoor-rated extension cords

After the Weather Emergency

- Keep the refrigerator & freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep the cold temperature
- Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals
- Never taste food to determine its safety
- Obtain dry or block ice to keep your refrigerator and freezer cold
- Check the temperature of each package to determine its safety
- After 4 hours of no power, discard any food left in the refrigerator
- Drink only bottled water if flooding occurs
- Discard any food that came in contact with flood waters
- Thoroughly wash dishes, pots & pans, and utensils to may have come into contact with flood water
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT**

Personal Supplies

- ✓ Prescriptions (1 month)
- ✓ Photo copies of prescriptions
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Entertainment : books, magazines, cards, etc.
- ✓ Soap & detergent
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Bedding, pillows, sleeping bags
- ✓ Changes of clothing
- ✓ Rain ponchos & work gloves
- ✓ Extra glasses or contact lenses & solution

Documents

- ✓ Insurance papers (home/renters, automobile)
- ✓ Proof of occupancy (Utility bills)
- ✓ Photo identification
- ✓ Medical history information
- ✓ Waterproof containers for storage
- ✓ Back-up storage devices of home computer files
- ✓ Camera & film document damage to home/belongings

Pet Supplies

- ✓ Dry & canned food for 2 weeks
- ✓ Water (1/2 gallon per day)
- ✓ Litter box supplies
- ✓ Traveling cage