



**Put Together Your 'Emergency Preparedness' Kit Today...  
BEFORE the Storm Hits**

In an emergency situation, **you must prepare to sustain the basic needs of your family for 96 hours** - the time during which emergency services are overloaded. Compiled below are basic tips and a specific list of supplies you should include in your 'family disaster supply kit'.

### **Have a Plan!**

Don't wait until warnings are given to formulate a plan...it could be too late. Find out where local shelters are **before an evacuation order is given**, and map the route to cut down on travel time.

- If you are ordered to evacuate, **leave as soon as your area is instructed to do so.**
- If you are not ordered to evacuate, find shelter in your home. The safest place during a hurricane is an interior room without windows.
- Prepare your home and yard:

- Secure windows (with hurricane shutters or plywood)
- Remove dead and diseased trees and branches
- Identify items in the yard that should be brought inside
- Clean rain gutters, outside stairwells, window wells, drain lines, and downspouts



- Family members can get separated during a hurricane. Establish, ahead of time, an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or family friend) that can coordinate family members' locations and information. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses, and that they are well versed on the emergency plan.

### **Family Disaster Supply Kit: Checklist**

In a disaster, help may not arrive for hours or days. Prepare your **family disaster supply kit** today...you won't have time to shop or search for supplies once the storm hits.

Keep all supplies in a plastic, small suitcase, or other similar container, and include the following:

- First aid kit and first aid manual
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Four gallons of water per person (frozen jugs)
- Four-day supply of non perishable food
- Kitchen tools (mechanical can opener, utensils, etc.)
- Plastic to cover holes in your roof – and a staple gun
- Generator with fuel (must be kept outside)
- Supply of prescription medications
- Credit cards and cash
- Identification for each family member
- An extra set of car keys
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Signal flare
- Phone numbers and map identifying safe places to go



- Special needs items such as diapers, formula, hearing aids, spare eyeglasses or items for other physical needs
- Complete change of clothes for each family member
- Tools and other accessories
- Sanitation and other personal hygiene products such as toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, etc.
- Entertainment such as games, books, CDs and tapes with battery-operated players



### **During and After the Storm**

A hurricane watch means that conditions are favorable for and could produce a hurricane. Listen to the news and weather updates – and make sure you leave if an official evacuation is ordered (with your ‘family disaster supply kit’ in tow). If a hurricane warning is issued, a violent storm, possibly a hurricane, is expected within 24 hours.

During the storm:

- Remain inside, away from windows and doors.
- During power outages, try to avoid carrying a lit candle...use flashlights instead. Don't use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space and **never** use a candle when checking for pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern – the flames may ignite the fumes.
- Don't be fooled by the calm when the eye of the hurricane is above your area; the worst of the storm is probably yet to come.
- Be prepared for tornadoes; remain inside and at the center of your home or in a closet or basement.



After the Storm:

- Continue to listen to the news and weather updates. When the storm is over, damage is still likely to exist from floods, downed power lines, and electrically charged water.
- Stay out of buildings that have been damaged or flooded.

- Obey detour and warning signs when driving. Never enter a flooded or barricaded roadway (even with a large vehicle). Vehicles can be swept away by only two feet of water.

\*\*\*Information pulled from the National Fire Protection Association's website ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)).