

It's Hurricane Season



Hurricane season has begun - is your family prepared? Here are some recommendations

Before a hurricane watch or warning:

- Have a back-up plan. Identify several places where you and your family can go if you are told to evacuate. These can include places such as an out-of-town relative or a shelter.
- Be prepared to evacuate when advised to do so. Familiarize yourself with the local roads and the area around your evacuation places. Roads may be flooded or blocked during the storm and you may have to find an alternate route.
- Make certain your home has hurricane shutters or enough pre-cut plywood to cover every window. Tape will not prevent windows from breaking.
- Cut diseased or damaged branches from trees and remove some branches so that wind can blow through the tree easily. Remove branches that blow against the roof. Broward County Extension has a tree trimmer certification program. For more information call (954) 370-3725 ext: 249.

Prepare a disaster supply kit. Do not wait until the last minute to prepare this kit because many stores run out of these supplies right before a hurricane. The Disaster Supply kit should include:

1. Emergency telephone numbers kept inside a plastic zippered bag.
2. A road map of your area kept inside a plastic zippered bag.
3. Some cash, in small bills and change.
4. First aid supplies.
5. Canned food (enough to feed your family for at least 3 days) Don't forget food and water for your pets.
6. A manual can opener.

7. Three or more gallons of water per person.
8. A battery-powered radio.
9. At least one flashlight.
10. Extra batteries for the radio and flashlights.
11. Clothing and raincoats.
12. Matches in a water proof container.
13. Bedding or sleeping bags.
14. Any special item for infants, elderly, disabled and other family members. This can include diapers, formula, and medications.

When a hurricane watch is issued:

- Listen for periodic media updates on the storm.
- Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind, such as outdoor furniture, trash cans, and hanging plants.
- Cover your home's windows.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Follow recommendations for appropriate level of water to maintain in your swimming pool.
- Collect necessary and important paperwork and place in a water proof container to take with you in the event of evacuation.

When a hurricane warning is issued:

- Leave if local officials recommend evacuating. Return home when these officials tell you it is safe to return.
- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
- Do not go outside during the eye of the storm. The worst part of the storm is located around the eye. Because the winds will blow from the opposite direction once the eye passes, it is especially dangerous-damaged trees and buildings from the first part of the storm can be broken or destroyed by these winds.
- Beware of tornadoes that accompany hurricanes. Remain indoors until officials say it is safe to go outside. Continue to listen for up-to-dates on the storm.

Sources:

[Http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont207_lang0_94.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont207_lang0_94.pdf)

[Http://www.floridasolar.com/public_html/Pooltips.html](http://www.floridasolar.com/public_html/Pooltips.html)

