

Family Hurricane Readiness Checklist

Do long-lead work before hurricane season. Act early when a storm threatens.

KNOW YOUR RISK

- ☐ Check your local evacuation or storm-surge zone
- ☐ Review flood history, large trees, overhead lines, and road access
- ☐ Identify the local officials and alert sources you will follow

PLAN FOR YOUR PEOPLE

- ☐ Pack medications, first aid, documents, cash, keys, and irreplaceable items
- ☐ Add water, familiar food, hygiene, clothing, accessibility, and medical-device needs
- ☐ Write the school/daycare reunification plan; add caregiver contacts and a recent child photo
- ☐ Prepare pet food, carrier or leash, ID, medication, and essential records

PLAN FOR THE OUTAGE

- ☐ Fully charge and test the phones, tablets, laptops, battery banks, any power station, weather radio, and lights you rely on
- ☐ Prioritize phones and a weather radio, safe lighting, medical needs, then refrigeration
- ☐ Match battery banks or a power station to needed loads and runtime; plan safe solar recharging if useful
- ☐ Place appliance thermometers in the refrigerator and each freezer
- ☐ Plan how refrigerators/freezers stay cold; keep doors closed during an outage
- ☐ Keep generators outdoors, at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents; use a working battery-backed carbon monoxide detector

KEEP A PAPER BACKUP

- ☐ Choose one out-of-area contact everyone will text to check in
- ☐ Print household, school/daycare, work, utility, insurance, and emergency contacts
- ☐ Write meeting places, destinations, and what to do if separated; keep a copy with evacuation supplies

PREPARE HOME AND VEHICLES

- ☐ Before hurricane season, review homeowners or renters insurance, separate flood coverage, limits, and deductibles
- ☐ Photograph possessions; protect policies, IDs, documents, and irreplaceable items
- ☐ Prepare shutters or fitted plywood if responsible for the exterior; never tape windows
- ☐ When a storm threatens, secure loose items; fuel or charge and safely park vehicles

KNOW WHEN TO LEAVE

- ☐ Write a primary and backup destination plus two routes
- ☐ Choose the official order or household condition that becomes your go signal to leave
- ☐ Follow evacuation orders immediately; give children, pets, and medical needs extra travel time

AFTER THE STORM

- ☐ Wait for official guidance and avoid unnecessary travel
- ☐ Assume every downed line is energized; never approach, touch, or drive over it
- ☐ Do not clear debris near a line or anything touching a line - call the utility company
- ☐ Never drive through floodwater; watch for hidden road and bridge damage
- ☐ Check food temperatures and official guidance - never taste food for safety
- ☐ Check on a neighbor or relative when it is safe to do so

LOCAL GUIDANCE COMES FIRST

Follow evacuation orders and current local emergency-management, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, FEMA/NFIP, CDC, and FoodSafety.gov guidance. This planning aid does not replace professional advice.