



*"Preventing the loss of life and minimizing the damage to property from hurricanes are responsibilities that are shared by all."* – Joe M. Allbaugh, former FEMA Director

*"Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy."*  
– Max Mayfield, former Director National Hurricane Center

The official Hurricane Season is **June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>**. History teaches us that a lack of awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. Are you prepared?

Scientists now expect the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season to be above average. It is estimated that there will be 10-17 named storms, 9 hurricanes (2-4 of which will be intense, category 3-4-5).

The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense. Disaster prevention includes modifying your home to strengthen it against storms so that you can be as safe as possible. It is also important for your family to have a plan. You need to develop a hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens our area.

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage – flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and Disaster Supply Kit
- Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its batteries every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes

Do you have a *Disaster Supply Kit*? Do you know what you should have in you kit? Please refer to the list below to prepare your kit.

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- **Water** – at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- **Food** – at least enough for 3 to 7 days
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
  - food for infants or the elderly
  - snack-foods
  - non-electric can opener
  - cooking tools/fuels
  - paper plates/plastic utensils
- **Blankets/ Pillows, etc.**
- **Clothing** – seasonal/rain gear/sturdy shoes
- **First Aid Kit/ Medicines/ Prescription Drugs**
- **Special Items** – for babies and the elderly
- **Toiletries/ Hygiene items/ Moisture wipes**
- **Flashlight / Batteries**
- **Radio** – Battery operated & NOAA weather radio
- **Telephones** - fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional telephone (not cordless).
- **Cash & Credit Card (with some small bills)** – Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- **Keys**
- **Toys, Books and Games**
- **Important documents** – in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag
  - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- **Tools** – keep a set with you during the storm
- **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- **Pet care items**
  - proper identification/ immunization records/ meds
  - ample supply of food and water
  - a carrier or cage
  - muzzle and leash

