

Be Prepared!

THINGS TO DO BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON:

- Create a family disaster plan. Talk about hurricanes with your family, especially any young children. Know the vulnerability of your home to storm surge, flooding and wind. Decide which part of your home is safest, should you decide to stay.
- Review all insurance policies, keeping in mind what types of damage (wind, water, etc) are covered.
- Have a place where valuable papers, photographs, etc. can be kept, ready to be grabbed on short notice. The best way to prevent water damage is to store valuables in plastic garbage bags.
- Prepare window shutters or plywood to cover doors and windows. Have attachment supplies arranged for quick installation.
- Get a NOAA Weather Radio with battery backup. It's your fastest and most accurate source for weather warnings and information.

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PREPARATION BEFORE THE STORM:

- Check stock of canned foods, first aid supplies, drinking water, and prescription drugs. Plan for one to two weeks without basic utilities.
- Gas up your vehicle as widespread power outages will shut down service stations. Get extra cash as ATM machines will be inoperative as well.
- Plan to evacuate early if you live on the coastline, in a mobile home, or in a flood plain. Know evacuation routes. Contact friends or relatives who live inland and tell them you plan to visit - hurricanes make great excuses for visiting out-of-town people!
- Keep your pets in mind if you plan to evacuate, since all shelters and many hotels will not accept them.

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WHAT TO DO AFTER THE STORM:

- Listen to commercial media or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest information from local emergency officials. Wait until an area is declared safe before returning.
- Roads may be closed for your protection, so don't travel across a flooded or barricaded road.
- Check gas, water and electrical lines, as well as appliances for damage.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use flashlights instead.
- Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- Be extremely careful if using a chain saw or other mechanical devices to cut fallen trees. Many post-storm injuries are the result of chain saw accidents.

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Additional information can be found on our Tropical page:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lch/?n=tropic>

Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Guide

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/lch/tropical/LCHHurricaneGuide-SWLA.pdf>

Southeast Texas Hurricane Guide

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/lch/tropical/LCHHurricaneGuide-SETX.pdf>



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