

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

# Preparedness Tips for Home

*Adverse weather like hurricanes, severe thunderstorms or tornadoes can be dangerous, listening to the emergency warning messages and planning ahead can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage.*

### **BEFORE**

- **Have disaster supplies on hand**
  - Flashlight and extra batteries
  - Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
  - First aid kit
  - Non-perishable (canned food) and water
  - Non-electric can opener
  - Essential medicines
  - Cash and credit cards
  - Sturdy shoes
- **Check into your Home and Auto Insurance**

Confirm that policies are valid and coverage is appropriate.
- **Develop an emergency communication plan**

Make sure that all family members know what to do. Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water. Teach children how and when to call police or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information. In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- **Make arrangements for pets and livestock**

Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons. Contact your local humane society for information on animal shelters.
- **Trim back branches from trees**

Trim branches away from your home and cut all dead or weak branches on any trees on your property.

### **DURING A ADVERSE WEATHER**

- Listen to the radio or television for the storms progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows.
- Remove outside antennas and satellite dishes.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water in clean jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.

### **SHOULD A WARNING BE ISSUED**

- If you need to evacuate your home, lock up home and go to the nearest shelter.
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
- Listen constantly to a radio or television for official instructions.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored

## **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
- foods for infants or the elderly / snack foods
- non-electric can opener / cooking tools / fuel
- paper plates / plastic utensils

☐ **Blankets, Pillows, etc.**

☐ **Clothing-** seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes

☐ **First Aid Kit, Medicines, Prescription Drugs, Adhesive tape and gauze**

☐ **Special Items-** for babies and the elderly (elderly may want to stay with friends or relatives)

☐ **Toiletries, Hygiene items, Moisture wipes**

☐ **Flashlight, Batteries**

☐ **Radio -** Battery operated and NOAA weather radio; listen for realistic restoration times

☐ **Telephones -** Fully charged cell phone with extra battery & a traditional (not cordless) telephone set

☐ **Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards-** Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods

☐ **Keys**

☐ **Toys, Books and Games**

☐ **Important documents-** in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag  
i.e.: insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.

☐ **Tools-** keep a set with you during the storm

☐ **Vehicle fuel tanks filled, assure that sump pumps are plugged in, keep away from downed power lines**

\_\_\_ Pet care items

- proper identification / immunization records / medications
- ample supply of food and water
- a carrier or cage, muzzle and leash

**PLEASE: Don't be afraid to ask the police for help, but use 911 only for emergencies!**