

Hurricane Survival Checklist

Before the Storm:

Know your risk

- How high is your home above sea level?
- Does your neighborhood flood during heavy rains?
- Is your home structurally sound?

Special Circumstances Require Additional Preparation:

- Mobile Homes/Recreational Vehicles
- People with special medical or physical conditions
- Pets or Agricultural Animals
- Boats and Aircraft

Know the Strength of the Hurricane

Determine Where You Will Seek Shelter and Select an Alternate

- Friend or relative's house if located away from at-risk area.
- Hotel or motel located inland and away from at-risk areas.
- Emergency Public Shelter operated by the American Red Cross or other public agency.

Make the commitment now to evacuate when told to do so by local or state officials.

Consult your insurance agent about flood insurance coverage. There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins. Approximately 30% of flooding damage occurs in high risk areas.

Prepare a Hurricane Evacuation Kit, whether you evacuate or not.

During the Storm:

If you decide not to Evacuate, remain indoors.

- Blowing debris can injure or kill. Travel is extremely dangerous.
- Stay inside until local authorities have announced your area is safe. A sudden lull in the storm gives a false feeling of security. The worst is yet to come!
- Stay away from windows. Seek refuge in an interior, windowless area.
- Avoid using appliances even if you have electricity.

After the Storm:

Expect the worst.

Be Extra Careful of:

- Downed electric lines
- Weakened structures
- Stray dogs and cats

- Poisonous snakes and/or wild animals
- Driving in flooded areas

Don't Drink Tap Water Unless Informed by Authorities That it's Safe:

- Don't brush your teeth with water if you are unsure it is safe.
- To purify water, use liquid household bleach (4%-6%); add 2 to 4 drops per quart, OR ¼ teaspoon per gallon. Shake and let stand for 30 minutes or, bring it to a rolling boil for 5 minutes. Strain through a clean cloth to remove sediment.
- Do not swim, bathe, or play in rivers, streams, creeks, ditches, lakes, or the ocean.

Be Careful of What You Eat:

- Do not open the refrigerator and freezer any more than necessary during the first 12-18 hours after power is lost.
- Canned goods, dry food, food in glass jars with tight seals are safe; fruits and fresh vegetables are safe if not mixed or washed with contaminated water.
- Foods are safer if well cooked, but cooking will not prevent all types of food poisoning.

Be Careful of Human Waste!

- Water and sewage disposal systems (including septic tanks) may not be working. Use portable toilets, if available, or dig trench latrines as follows:
Dig trench about 1-foot deep, 1-foot wide and 2 feet long. After waste is disposed of, cover with soil or lime (this includes soiled diapers). Wash hands thoroughly.

Bury Garbage

- Bury kitchen garbage at least every 4 days and at least 75 feet from a well, stream, or other water source.

Be Extra Careful in Handling:

- Power tools
- Gas lanterns
- Matches and candles
- Electric generators (when improperly connected, can cause serious injury or death)

Hurricane Evacuation Kit

If you decide to take refuge in an emergency public shelter, you must take provisions. These items will make your temporary stay more comfortable. Even if you weather the storm at home, have these items accessible:

- Canned goods and nonperishables that do not need cooking.
- Drinking water in unbreakable containers. (2qts. Per person per day)
- Special dietary food if required.
- Cash, identification, valuable papers, insurance policies & photos in waterproof container.
- Personal hygiene items such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, aspirin, antacid, wash cloth and towel, etc.
- Utensils such as a manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, napkins, etc.
- Prescription medication and specific medical information.
- Personal aids such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, etc.
- Infant care items such as formula, baby food, disposable diapers.
- Books, magazines, cards, toys and games.
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- Flashlight or lantern and extra batteries.
- First aid kit, which includes: betadine solution, gauze bandages, adhesive tape, sterile pads, Band-Aids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, non-prescription medications.
- Sleeping bag or blanket, sheet and pillow.
- Change of clothing
- Rainwear
- Carrying case for the items on this list.
- Pets, Weapons, and Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in shelters.

For further information on the above subjects contact:

American Red Cross
904-358-8091

Bradford County Emergency Management
904-966-6336

Note: During a disaster, DO NOT dial 9-1-1 for information.