

PREPARING FOR HURRICANES



REDFORA GUIDES 



CHAPTER 1

GETTING STARTED WITH QUICK TIPS

Hurricanes are powerful storms that start in the ocean but bring threats such as strong winds, flooding, tornadoes, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and rip currents to coastal and inland areas. In the United States, the primary hurricane threat occurs along the eastern and Gulf coast from hurricanes that develop over the Atlantic ocean, typically between June and November each year.

Hurricane frequency and severity continue to grow over time, with damages consistently breaking \$60 billion annually. Knowing how to prepare with these tips can help keep you and your family safe.

Know your Evacuation Zone

Plan how you will leave and where you will go if ordered to evacuate. It's important to also practice your plan with all members of your household including pets. Identify several places where you can stay that are in different directions so you have multiple choices in an emergency.

Have a Go-Bag Ready with Supplies

Keep a Go-Bag ready with items that you'll need to evacuate quickly. It should be easy to carry and kept in a place that's easily accessible.

Sign up for SMS Emergency Alerts

Sign up for your local SMS weather alerts. Florida residents can sign up to receive emergency alerts and other public safety notifications for your community at [AlertFlorida](#). Other coastal states can sign up for wireless alerts through the [National Weather Service](#). Monitor local weather reports and news channels to stay storm-aware.

Fill up your Vehicle with Gas Early

Don't let your gas tank get below halfway full ahead of the storm so you're always ready to leave quickly. Keep your go-bag and other emergency supplies in your car.

Helpful APPS for your Phone



Florida Storms

Offers a simple way to stay informed of potential weather and other hazards, backed by real-time credible information from the nearest public radio station.



Byte to Bites

Help people find local food pantries, soup kitchens, farmers markets and locations where they can use SNAP benefits.



American Red Cross

Monitor more than 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts in your town, and other cities that matter to you. Available in English or Spanish.



Florida 511

Get up-to-the-minute, real-time traffic conditions and incident information for the State of Florida.



FEMA

Your source for information about everything from evacuation to clean up and shelter efforts in your area. This is a must-download.



Gas Buddy

Find the nearest gas stations and compare prices.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL: Unique tips from a native of the Southeast after weathering dozens of hurricanes and tropical storms.

- + If you're sheltering in place with pets then put a kiddie pool in the garage with sod in it. Most pets will not and cannot go out during a hurricane to go to the bathroom. The sod will act as a safe and dry place for them to go to the bathroom.
- + How long was the power off? Freeze a Tupperware of water and place a quarter on top of the ice. If your power goes off and comes back on before you get home, you will be able to estimate just how long your food was exposed to unsafe temperatures by how far the quarter made it into the frozen block before the water refroze. Not perfectly scientific but reassuring!
- + Have a few clean gallon jugs to freeze water in. When a storm is expected to hit, put a few gallon jugs of water in the freezer. This will help keep important things cold (such as medicine). You can move them to coolers or leave them in the freezer to keep the items near it cold. Bonus, If they thaw then you have extra drinking water.



CHAPTER 2

KNOW WHEN TO EVACUATE

Knowing when to evacuate can help keep you and your family safe. Use the flow chart to help you decide if you should evacuate now or shelter in place.





Next Steps

Although making the decision to evacuate can be difficult, it is always better to err on the side of caution. Once you've made a decision on sheltering in place or evacuating, here are a few tips to follow to help keep your family safer:

Shelter in Place Tips:

- Follow the guidance from local emergency management authorities.
- Considering going to a local shelter if you are unable to evacuate further.
- Protect yourself from high winds by staying in an interior room.
- Move to higher ground or a second level if there is flooding or a flood warning (Do not go to the attic) Take your go-bag with you.
- Call 9-1-1 if you're in life-threatening danger.

Evacuation Tips:

- Be sure to get a full tank of gas and ideally fill a can or approved container if you are in a situation without access to a gas station.
- Follow approved evacuation routes, even if there is traffic. These routes are checked and vetted for safety.
- Never walk or drive through a flooded road.
- Make sure you have your go-bag handy.



CHAPTER 3

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST: Inside and Outside Your Home

Hurricanes can cause severe damage to your home. Taking the proper precautions inside and outside your home can give your home better chances of weathering the storm.

OUTSIDE THE HOME

- ☐ Tie down or bring in loose objects around your home.
- ☐ Bring potted plants inside your home.
- ☐ Bring patio furniture inside.
- ☐ Cover all windows and doors with shutters, boards, or other materials that can shield the glass from breaking.
- ☐ If you live in a storm surge or flood zone, consider solutions like sandbags to prevent flooding inside your home.

INSIDE THE HOME

- ☐ Check emergency supplies to ensure everything that has batteries or needs to be charged is working.
- ☐ Stock up on non-perishable foods, medications, personal hygiene, sanitary, and baby supplies for at least 14 days.
- ☐ Have water on hand. Pro tip: you'll want at least 1 gallon of water per person per day, so if you are preparing for 72 hours for 3 people, that would be a total of 9 gallons of safe water on hand.
- ☐ Turn your refrigerator/freezer to the coldest setting to keep food fresh longer in the event the power goes out.
- ☐ Stock a cooler with ice or frozen ice packs.
- ☐ Place a dowel or broom handle into the track of a sliding glass door to secure the door shut.
- ☐ Have a first aid kit and make sure it is well stocked.
- ☐ Keep a whistle to signal for help.
- ☐ If you have a pet make sure to have plenty of food and water for them as well.



CHAPTER 4

KITS AND SUPPLIES: What You Need in a Hurricane Kit

Assemble a Hurricane Kit that includes all of the supplies you and your family will need when evacuating. Keep in mind that you will want to store your kit in an easily accessible spot, easy to grab if you need to evacuate quickly.

Whether you buy a pre-made option or make your own, here are a few things to look for:

FOOD & WATER

- ☐ Food - at least 3-7 days worth
- ☐ Water - one gallon of water per person per day
- ☐ Water Purification Tablets
- ☐ Can Opener - if you have canned food
- ☐ Mess Kits - paper plates, cups, utensils, and paper towels

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- ☐ Hygiene Kit - soap, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, pocket tissue
- ☐ Waste Bag
- ☐ Contact Solution
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Feminine Hygiene Products
- ☐ Razor & Shaving Cream
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Old Glasses

FIRST AID

- ☐ First Aid Kit

POWER + LIGHT

- ☐ Battery Powered or Hand Crank NOAA Radio
- ☐ Portable Charger for your Cell Phone
- ☐ Extra Batteries
- ☐ Candles
- ☐ Back Up Generator
- ☐ Flashlight - bonus points if it's a hand crank flashlight

PETS

- ☐ Extra Food & Water
- ☐ Collar & Leash
- ☐ Crate or Harness
- ☐ Bowls for Food & Water
- ☐ Waste Bag

SHELTER + WARMTH

- ☐ Extra Clothes
- ☐ Poncho
- ☐ Sleeping Bag or Blanket
- ☐ Emergency Tent

EMERGENCY TOOLS

- ☐ N95 Mask
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Paper + Pencil - leave notes or write down important information
- ☐ Leather Palm Gloves
- ☐ Dry Bag
- ☐ Wrench or Pliers to Turn off Utilities
- ☐ Safety Goggles
- ☐ Pry Bar

PERSONAL + DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Medication
- ☐ Bank Records
- ☐ Insurance Documents
- ☐ Evacuation Plan
- ☐ Local Map
- ☐ Personal and Local Evacuation Routes
- ☐ Emergency Shelters in the Area
- ☐ Plenty of Cash
- ☐ Books, Games, or Puzzles to Keep Kids Entertained



WHERE DO I STORE MY HURRICANE KIT?

The best storage locations are accessible, dry, and protected from extreme temperatures.

- + Near an Exit
- + Under Your Bed
- + In a Dry Place in the Garage
- + Trunk of your Car
- + Dry Outdoor Shed



CHAPTER 5

AFTER THE STORM: What to do After The Storm

There is a lot of information out there about what to do before a hurricane makes landfall, but very little information about what to do after the storm. We all hope that there is minimal damage to cope with, but oftentimes that is not the case.

- If you left the area, only return when authorities have said it is safe. Roads may be blocked, utilities may be out, and resources will be slim. Returning early can put unnecessary stress on first responders, even if you are anxious to return home.
- If you evacuated, try to return back with everything you need. Local stores and resources will be slim so if you can pick up groceries and other essentials before returning that is ideal.
- Whether you evacuated or sheltered in place, be sure to photograph any and all damage immediately. Whether you file an insurance claim or not, having evidence is important.
- Do not enter damaged buildings until inspectors have deemed them to be safe.
- Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through water.
- Look out for downed power lines, trees, and poles. Be sure to report them to the utility company and avoid them.
- Do not remove heavy debris by yourself. Wear gloves and sturdy, thick-soled shoes to protect your hands and feet.
- Do not drink tap water unless authorities have said it's safe to do so.

OTHER RESOURCES

Our friends at SBP have dedicated their time and energy to boots-on-the-ground volunteer efforts for storm and disaster recovery. They've also put together an incredible library of information for storm victims. Ever wonder what to tell your insurance company? How about whom to reach out to when it comes to making home repairs?

If you're curious about it, chances are they have it answered in their SBP Protects Hurricane Library! Check it out: www.sbpprotects.com

