

# HURRICANES

During hurricane season, storms can bring dangerous winds and heavy rain causing major power outages and structural damage—but typically with proper warning. Thus, the right preparation is key. Here are some important tips for before, during, and after a hurricane to help keep you safe and ready.



## 1 PREPARE

- Identify a place to store lawn furniture, toys, gardening tools, and trash cans away from stairs and exits to prevent them from becoming projectiles in the case of high winds.
- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or install one-half-inch marine plywood that is pre-cut to fit your doors and windows.
- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts to prevent flooding and unnecessary structural pressure.
- Fill plastic bottles, bathtubs, and sinks with clean water for drinking, flushing toilets, or washing. In case an evacuation notice is issued, fill your car's gas tank.
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- Make sure you have access to NOAA radio broadcasts.

## 2 DURING

- If caught on a flooded road with rapidly rising waters, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.
- Use flashlights if the power goes out. Do not use candles or open flames.
- Continue listening to local area radio, NOAA radio or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- Stay indoors.
- Avoid contact with floodwater as it may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- Stay out of areas subject to flooding. Underpasses, dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc. can become filled with water.

## 3 AFTER

- Let friends and family know you're safe.
- If evacuated, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Do not use water that could be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice, make baby formula, or drink.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding.

### Fast Facts



Hurricane wind speeds can reach more than 160 mph and unleash more than 2.4 trillion gallons of rain per day.



Every second, a large hurricane releases the energy of 10 atomic bombs.