

QUICK START FOR HURRICANE PLANS

Creating a Hurricane Kit

Store items for your hurricane kit in a cooler, that way you will be ready with your cooler as well. If you are planning to use a generator, place items in a box. Choose items that you like to eat and need little or no heating. Don't wait until the stores are crowded, begin now and buy things gradually and on sale. Don't use this food until the hurricane hits! Don't forget about items like powdered milk and instant coffee. One gallon of water for each person per day for 5-7 days is a must. Purchased bottled water with a seal is best for storage. Paper plates, cups and plastic utensils are good to have as well.

Flashlights, batteries, radios or portable televisions are essential. If you have problems with putting the batteries in these items, make sure you have someone place fresh batteries in them before a hurricane is in the area. A car charger for your cell phone is a must! Don't forget about a manual can opener, hand sanitizing lotion and first aid kit.

Things to Keep In Mind

- Have at least a two-week supply of all medications at all times.
- Keep your car at least half full always
- Make sure your gas tank on your BBQ is full and have a spare if you can
- A traditional phone that is placed directly in the phone jack will work if we lose power and not phone service
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phone
- Keep Insurance information and other pertinent papers in a safe dry place.
- Extra baby formula and Pedialyte
- Doctor's Offices will be closed so be prepared

Children's Issues

Assemble a kit for your children just for the Hurricane:

- Crayons, coloring books, paper and scissors
- Reading books, deck of cards and board games
- Battery operated CD player
- Items that will entertain your child during the first few days

Don't Forget About The Pets

- Pet food and treats
- Two week supply of any medications
- Water for the pet
- Plan for pet if you need to evacuate

Questions That Need Answering

- Can you manage the needs of everyone in the household for three days with little or no assistance
- Can you meet any crisis or emergency on your own for that time period
- Can you make decisions concerning all your needs for three days without outside consultation or help
- Do you have the supplies and equipment to meet your special needs for three days

If the answer is no to any of these questions, families should consider evacuation to a special needs shelter or a home of a family member or friend. Call your local Red Cross in advance for more information about the special needs shelter.

Supplies For Special Needs

- Make arrangements with your physician for respirators and other electric-dependant medical equipment or oxygen
- Two-week stock of disposable supplies such as dressings, nasal cannulas, suction, catheters, etc.
- Electrical backup for medical equipment
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Extra eyeglasses
- Extra batteries for hearing aids, communication devices
- Two-week supply of all medication

Evacuation

- Bring Hurricane Kit
- Bring toiletries
- Children's items
- Medicines
- Sleeping equipment
- Change of clothes
- Battery operated radio or TV
- If you drive to the shelter, pack your car with anything you may need. It could be used like a storage place.
- Lock your home before leaving
- Shelters are only open for the storm and a day later.
- Make plans for shelter after the storm

Hurricanes and all disasters are so frightening. The more you plan ahead, the better you will feel. Listen to the local news before and during the event and they will keep you informed.