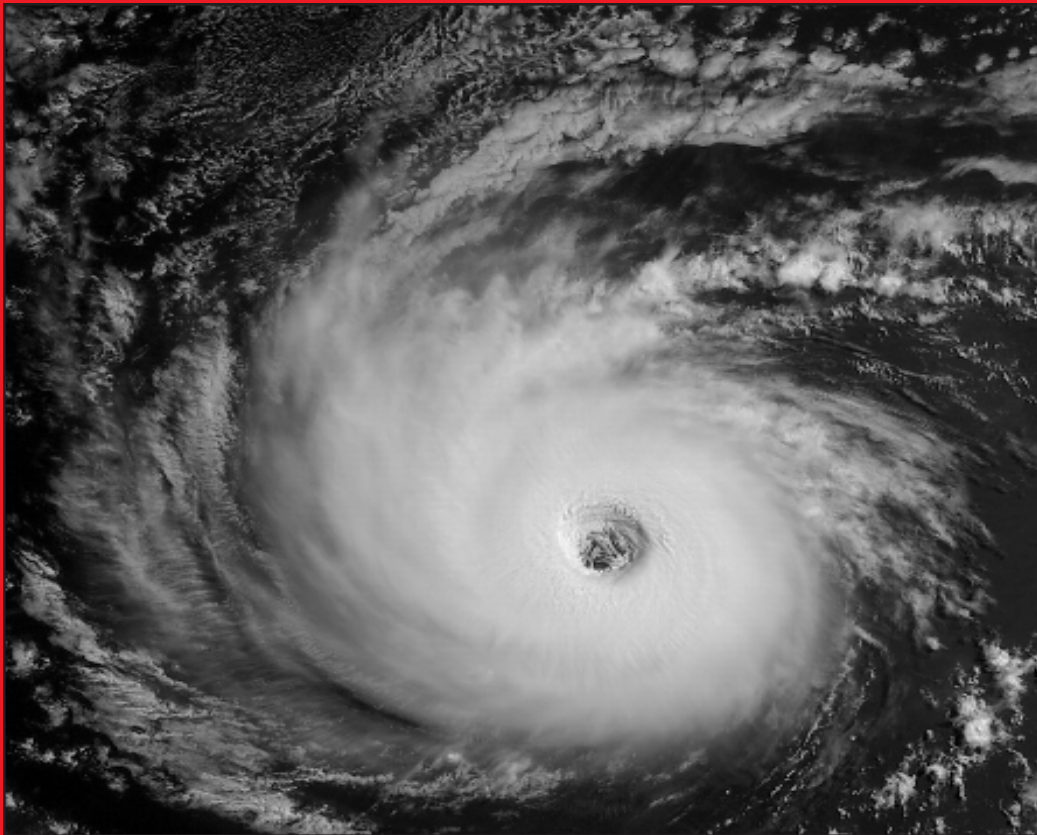


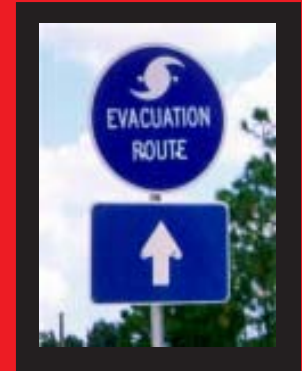
# **BEFORE THE HURRICANE**



**PLANNING AHEAD CAN REDUCE THE  
CHANCES OF INJURY OR MAJOR  
PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

# KNOW WHERE YOU WILL GO IF YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE.

Map an evacuation route for your family to follow not only from your home, but also from schools, places of work or anywhere you may be at the time you plan to evacuate. Estimate the number of hours that will be needed to evacuate during peak traffic. Have shelters and meeting places designated on the map. Familiarize all driving family members with evacuation plans and keep a map in each vehicle.



## FOOD SUPPLIES

Buy supplies early to prepare for the storm. When the storm threatens, lines will be long and supplies short.



**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 (including diapers, non-perishable milk, baby food) ♦ snack foods ♦ non-electric can opener ♦ cooking tools / fuel ♦ paper plates / plastic utensils



## DISASTER SUPPLIES

Have disaster supplies on hand in the event of a storm, or if you have to evacuate:

♦ flashlight and extra batteries ♦ portable, battery operated radio and extra batteries ♦ first aid kit and first aid manual ♦ bandages of various sizes ♦ sterile gauze pads of various sizes and tape or roller bandages  
♦ scissors ♦ tweezers ♦ needle ♦ antiseptic ♦ thermometer ♦ moistened towelettes ♦ road maps ♦ aspirin or non-aspirin equivalent ♦ anti-diarrhea medication ♦ syrup of Ipecac to induce vomiting ♦ laxative ♦ anti-itch cream ♦ toilet paper ♦ toothbrush ♦ towels ♦ Personal hygiene products ♦ soap ♦ books ♦ small games and other small entertainment items ♦ important papers and valuables in a waterproof container ♦ names and addresses of relatives ♦ friends and other important contacts ♦ clothing and bedding ♦ cash and credit cards ♦ sturdy shoes ♦ prescription medications and copies of prescriptions ♦ special medical items, such as eyeglasses and hearing aids ♦ photo identification

## COMMUNICATION PLAN

### Develop an emergency communication plan.

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. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.



## MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR BOAT

### Decide what to do with your boat if a storm hits.

Choices include taking it out of the path of danger, securing it on a trailer and leaving it parked in a safe area, securing it in a marina or mooring it in a “safe” harbor.

## PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Install shutters or pre-cut boards to protect windows as they can prevent or lessen damage caused by flying debris and wind driven rain. You should purchase these materials now while they are available in stores.

Keep trees and shrubs well-pruned and free of dead branches to help reduce the chance that they will damage your home. The same holds true for maintaining shingles, shakes, rain gutters and down spouts.



## VALUABLE DOCUMENTS

### Protect valuable documents and property, including:

- ◆ birth certificates ◆ marriage certificates ◆ social security cards ◆ passports
- ◆ immunization records ◆ bank account and credit card numbers ◆ photos/video of your home and valuable property ◆ vehicle titles ◆ military service papers ◆ wills
- ◆ insurance policies, including personal, homeowners and disaster insurance ◆ deeds
- ◆ stocks ◆ bonds ◆ irreplaceable photos ◆ computer back up of important electronic data ◆ jewelry



## **MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PETS**

**Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons.**

Contact your local humane society for information on local animal shelters.



## **INSURANCE**

Take photos and/or video of your house, its contents and the surrounding property. This will make it easier to prove loss to your insurance company following landfall.

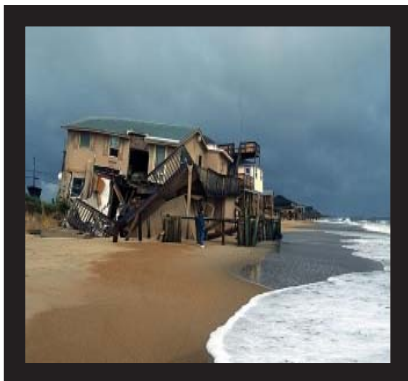
### **Do you Need Flood Insurance?**

Don't overlook flood insurance. If your home or business is near a beach, river, bayou or creek, or if you're in a floodplain, check to see if you have flood insurance. The Texas homeowners insurance policy does not protect your home against rising water, flash floods or storm surge. Neither do business policies.

If you need flood insurance, speak to an insurance agent. Flood insurance is offered through the National Flood Insurance Program.

## **Know Elevation of your Home and Storm Surge History**

Call your local flood plain administrator, usually your city or county engineer, to find out if your home or business is susceptible to flash flooding or storm surge. Drowning is the number one cause of death resulting from hurricanes and tropical storms.





## **WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED**

### **Listen Constantly to Radio or TV**

A hurricane watch is issued for a coastal area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24 to 36 hours. Check often for official bulletins on radio, TV or NOAA weather radio.

Remember, evacuation routes sometimes can be closed up to 20 hours before landfall by gusting wind or flooding. Consider leaving the area early to avoid traffic.

### **Prepare to Evacuate**

Fill your vehicle with gasoline. Prepare a three-day supply of canned goods and non-perishable foods that do not require cooking. Don't overlook a can opener. Fill unbreakable containers with drinking water as city water supplies could be interrupted or contaminated for several days. Have an adequate supply of prescription medicine on hand. Review evacuation procedures with all family members and know where each member is at all times.

## **WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED**

### **Continue Listening to Radio and TV**

A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 mph and/or dangerously high tides and waves. Actions for protection of life and property should begin if they haven't already.

### **Evacuate Mobile Homes and Coastal Areas**

Leave mobile homes and beach homes. If you live or work on the coastline or on an offshore island, near a river or in a floodplain, plan to leave at this time. If local authorities recommend evacuation, you should leave immediately. Their advice is based on knowledge of the strength of the storm and its potential for death and destruction.

### **Protect Your Home and Property**

Check mobile home tie-downs. Moor or move small craft to safe shelter. If you have a boat on a trailer at home, move it as close as possible to your home and fill it with as much water as possible for ballast against high winds. Put garbage cans, lawn furniture and any other loose objects indoors. Secure large windows with shutters or boards. Tape small windows to prevent their shattering. Wedge sliding glass doors in to prevent their lifting out of their tracks; board them if possible. Brace your garage door.

### **Evacuation**

If you plan to evacuate, be sure to turn off the water and gas to your home at the main on the street, if possible. Turn off the electricity to your home. Move valuable possessions that you can't take with you to higher points in the house. Lock all doors and windows, and lock and brace your garage door. Take records and insurance papers with you in waterproof containers. Take your evacuation kit.

If your destination is a local shelter, take blankets, sleeping bags and light weight folding chairs with you. Bring your evacuation kit and infant needs. Do not take pets, alcoholic beverages or weapons of any kind to shelters.

## **If You Must Stay at Home**

If you stay at home, for whatever reason, there are some precautions you should take. Fill your bathtub as a water supply. Turn off electricity, gas and water at the main. Stay indoors in an inside room, away from doors and windows.

Do not go outdoors, especially during the calm passage of the eye of the hurricane because winds will increase without sufficient warning to 74 mph or more within seconds.

Should windows or doors cave in, do not attempt to protect your property until winds die down. When you are sure it's safe, move furniture and belongings away from openings.

Do not change your mind and attempt to leave when landfall is imminent or has already occurred.

## **AFTER THE HURRICANE**

*If You are Evacuated, Delay Your Return Until It is Recommended or Authorized by Local Authorities*

### **Beware of Outdoor Hazards**

Watch out for loose or dangling power lines, and report them immediately to proper authorities. Many lives are lost through electrocution.

### **Walk or Drive Cautiously**

Debris-filled streets are dangerous. Snake and poisonous insects will be a hazard. Washouts may weaken road and bridge structures which could collapse under vehicle weight.

### **Guard Against Spoiled Food**

Food may spoil if refrigerator power is off more than a few hours. Freezers will keep food several days if doors are not opened after power failure, but do not refreeze food once it begins to thaw.

### **Do Not Use Water Until Safe**

Use your emergency supply or boil water before drinking until official word that your regular water supply is safe. Report broken sewer or water mains to the proper authorities.

### **Take Extra Precaution to Prevent Fire**

Lowered water pressure in city mains and the interruption of other services may make fire fighting extremely difficult after a hurricane.

## **THE RECOVERY**

### **Insurance**

Insurance representatives will be on the scene immediately following a major disaster to begin the claims process. Notify your insurance agent or company representatives of any losses – and leave word where you can be contacted.

## **Take Steps to Protect Property**

Make temporary repairs to protect property from further damage or looting. Keep receipts for materials used. Use only reputable contractors. Sometimes unscrupulous operators move into a disaster area. Do not make permanent repairs unless an adjuster has reviewed your claim and you have been given permission to restore your property.

## **Be Patient**

Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. Don't assume your settlement will be the same as your neighbor's. Policy forms may differ and storm damage is often erratic.

## **It Takes a Team Effort**

Responsibility for the cleanup falls to numerous local, state and federal agencies. A local emergency management coordinator will be on hand to help residents in this effort.



## **BEING PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE**

- Have an evacuation plan
- Have a full tank of gas in all vehicles
- Have a first aid kit
- Have ample non-perishable food and water
- Have extra cash on hand
- Secure your home – garage, windows and outside objects
- Secure valuables and important documents
- Have a cell phone with charged battery
- Have portable radio with fresh batteries
- Have prescription medicines filled
- Have flashlights
- Have extra batteries
- Have candles, matches, lanterns and ample fuel
- Have phone numbers of a family contact away from coast
- Know what insurance coverage you have
- Know the phone numbers to your insurance agent and insurance company