

## In Case of a Hurricane Watch

A hurricane watch is issued when a hurricane may threaten an area but is not imminent. At this point, you should immediately begin to gather the survival supplies and materials that you will need in the event that a hurricane reaches your area.

Some examples:

Materials to protect glass windows and doors (shutters, plywood, masking tape) and the tools to install and apply them.

Several days' supply of canned food and beverages and non-perishable foods that don't need refrigeration or cooking. Buy food and beverages in containers and packages that will allow for immediate consumption with no leftovers.

An adequate supply of needed prescription drugs, other medications and basic first aid supplies.

Filled fuel tanks and safe battery water levels on your vehicles.

A good supply of clean clothing and linens.

A transistor radio and flashlights that work, along with fresh batteries to last several days.

In addition, you should:

Be sure all doors are watertight.

Use bleach to clean the bathtub, washing machine and containers with covers to store water for drinking, cooking and washing for several days.

For drinking, you will need containers with covers to hold two quarts of water per person per day. (If you rely on commercially bottled water for drinking, be sure to have several days' supply on hand.)

Know how to use any fuel-operated lanterns you have safely, and have several days' supply of fuel.

Be sure your fire extinguishers are fully charged.

Know where your main turn-off switches are for electricity, water and gas.

If there are ill or disabled persons in your home, ask a doctor where they should stay in the event a hurricane approaches your area. If relocation will be necessary, have plans in place.

Make arrangements ahead of time if you want to board pets at a veterinary facility.

## During the Hurricane

Remain indoors. Wind, downed live power lines and falling or flying trees and debris all pose serious danger.

Stay on the side of the house opposite the direction the wind is coming from. As the wind shifts, move to a room on the opposite side. If you have a room within a room, such as a bathroom, stay there during the height of the hurricane. Keep away from windows and glass doors.

Don't go out during the calm as the eye of the hurricane passes overhead. The wind may cease for several minutes or for an hour or more, and the sky may clear, but this is only the mid-point of the hurricane. The lull will end suddenly as the wind strikes from the opposite direction, rising rapidly to hurricane force, often stronger than before.

If the roof blows off or the house shows signs of collapsing, take cover in a room within a room such as a bathroom or under a stairway, strong table or doorframe.

Make the effort to remain calm and encourage your family members, especially children, to stay calm. Stay inside until you are absolutely sure it's safe to go out again.

## Hurricane Preparedness Tips

When a hurricane threatens your area, you must decide whether to evacuate or ride out the storm at home. Listen to the radio for weather advisories, and if authorities recommend evacuation for your area, leave promptly.

In general, plan to leave if you live on the coast or in a low-lying area not far inland, in a mobile home, or aboard a boat. You also should leave if you know your home is not structurally sound or if it is in an area that continually floods or is near a stream or gut likely to overflow in heavy rainfall.

If you need to seek emergency shelter, wait for notification from the American Red Cross officials of shelter locations.

Public shelters are set up as a temporary, emergency means of

caring for people. A shelter's primary function is to provide a roof over your head. Food, blankets and amenities may not be available. Pets, weapons, alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not allowed in shelters. Smoking may be banned.

### If you go to a shelter, travel light. Put everything into a portable disaster kit, including:

- Non-perishable food
- Drinking water (two to four quarts per person per day)
- Valuable papers such as your driver's license or other identification, bankbooks, insurance policies, property inventory and photographs
- Eating and cooking utensils, can and bottle openers
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies
- Medications, prescriptions, important medical information, eyeglasses, cleaning solution for contact lenses, hearing aid, and walking aids
- Rope
- Portable radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- Small valuables such as photographs

### Before you leave your home:

- Unplug all electrical appliances and machines and store them as high as possible.
- Turn off electricity at all breakers plus the main switch. Label breakers to identify what the lines carry.
- Store toxic materials as high as possible in the most protected area available.
- Agree with family members on a location to meet or a means of reaching one another with messages in the event you become separated.