

Hurricane WATCH versus Hurricane WARNING

- WATCH: Hurricane conditions are *possible* in the specified area of the WATCH (usually within 36 hours).
- WARNING: Hurricane conditions are *expected* in the specified area of the WARNING (usually within 24 hours).

Know What to Do When a Hurricane WATCH Is Issued

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.
- Prepare your home and/or property:
 - Bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
 - Cover all of your home's windows. If shutters have not been installed, use pre-cut plywood as described above. (*Note: Taping is not recommended because it does not prevent windows from breaking.*)
 - Re-check manufactured home tie-downs.

Know What to Do When a Hurricane WARNING Is Issued

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if mandated.
- Complete preparation activities.
- If not advised to evacuate, stay indoors and away from windows.
- The calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over.
- If a tornado occurs, remain indoors in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Stay away from flood waters.

Prepare for High Winds

- Install hurricane shutters or purchase pre-cut 1/2" outdoor plywood boards for each window of your home.
- Install anchors; pre-drill holes in the plywood so that you can put it up quickly.
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, then strategically removing branches so that wind can blow through.

Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan

- Identify ahead of time where you could go if you are told to evacuate.
 - Choose several places--a friend's home, a motel, or a shelter in another town.
- Keep telephone numbers of evacuation places and a road map handy.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for evacuation instructions. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan (cont'd.)

- When evacuating, take the following types of items with you:
 - Prescription medications, medical supplies, and first aid kit
 - Bedding and clothing, including sleeping bags and pillows
 - Bottled water
 - Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
 - Flashlight
 - Car keys and maps
 - Documents, including driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residency, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.