

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR YOU & YOUR HOME

SAFE ROOM - In center of house and no windows are ideal. Put in water, flashlight, radio, snacks - plan to be in the room for 4 - 6 hours during the storm. Make sure to take a first aid kit and fresh batteries with you in the safe room. Bike helmets and plenty of cushions can be very helpful protection and make it a little more comfortable.

WINDOW STORM SHUTTERS - Line up the person that will install early. If you wait - it will be hard to find someone and you will pay dearly.

GARDEN HOSES - Put away in garage - they will whip around in the wind.

SECURITY ALARM SIGNS - Remove them, they will fly away and are razor sharp in a high wind - very dangerous.

SATELLITE DISHES - Remove and store in garage - they are like a frisbee - plus they will pull at the roof.

OUTSIDE WALL HANGINGS - Remove and store - easy fly away.

DOUBLE FRONT DOORS - very easily will blow open even when locked. Suggest Duct/Masking tape at bottom to prevent water from blowing under and some board or something to help secure from blowing open. Might also consider putting furniture against the door on the inside to help prevent blowing open. Keep in mind that you garage door may not open without power and you will need a way to get into your home.

GARAGE DOORS - If you lose power - you will need to be able to get in another way. The hanging red rope is the emergency release for the door.

ALARMS - Do not set your house alarm, it will most likely go off and create other issues.

VALUABLES - Put in a plastic tub and store in your car. Less likely to blow away if stored in a car.

IMPORTANT PAPERS - 5 years of Tax Returns - Birth Certificates - Passports - Car Titles - Jewelry - Wills - Roll Up In towels - Take them with you.

COMPUTER / HARD & FLASH DRIVE - Take it with you - lots of important stuff in a small package.

BATHTUB - Fill with water - can use to drink and cook if needed.

CABLE TIES / DUCT TAPE / BUNGEE CORDS - Have plenty - especially long ones. Work to secure many things.

LAND PHONE LINES - Probably will stay on longer - but if connected to the internet it will go off when the power goes off.

OUTSIDE GRILL - Tape or tie down the lid to keep wind from getting under it.

OUTSIDE REFRIGERATOR - Tape the door closed or lock it.

TARPS - Very helpful to cover things and to temporary patch roof or windows.

COMPUTER - Back Up all of your files on a Flash Drive - easy to carry with you and prevents lost files in the event your computer is damaged.

OUTSIDE TV - Bring it inside if possible if not wrap it in a plastic bag to prevent water from being "driven" inside the case.

CLOSE ALL INTERIOR DOORS - This will help prevent wind tunnels and damage.

OUTSIDE FURNITURE - Bring all of inside your home or garage. It will blow and create damage if left outside. Also can be put in the swimming pool if there is no convenient alternative.

OUTSIDE PLANTS and POTS - Must be brought inside, they will blow away easily.

MAKE ICE - Use containers to freeze blocks of ice to help fridge/freezer stay cool if loss of power.

PENNY TRICK / THAWED FOOD - Freeze a cup of water before the storm - put a penny or coin on top of frozen cup - when you return if the coin has gone to the bottom you will know that power has been off and your refrigerator has thawed - throw out the food.

TURN DOWN YOUR AC - Will keep home cooler longer if you loose power.

REFRIGERATOR- Turn down its temperature to its lowest setting - will help to keep frozen foods longer.

PREPARING YOURSELF AND FAMILY - Set up a Meeting Place, if you and family are separated - where will you agree to meet? Talk about this before the storm begins.

WHISTLE - Carry one around your neck - it will help to alert recovery people if you are trapped under rubble.

CELL PHONE - Turn off all unnecessary apps to preserve battery power. Keep emergency notification, text, Facebook, etc on for news and connection with others.

COMMUNICATIONS - Set up a local neighborhood communication chain to share news and keep track of where neighbors are staying - Watch out for each other!

EVACUATION CENTERS - Use them, they are far safer than your home in bad storms. Willis School has a generator and thus will have some lights and ability to store and prepare food. Take a pillow, sheet, air mattress, extension cord, water, snacks, flashlight, cards or games, reading material, folding lawn chair, toilet articles, towel, toilet paper, wipes, identification, phone charging cords and lots of patience,

understanding and empathy. Keep in mind this is not a Hotel and there will not be lake view rooms - just a safe little space. Make the best of it and check your ego at the door. Keep a smile on your face and consider offering to help support the Evac Center.

GAS - Get the car tanks filled early in the process - there will be a shortage.

ICE - It will be in short supply.

PACK for ESCAPE - Put your clothes in a garbage bag before putting in a suitcase (preferably a rolling bag for easy transport). The plastic will help keep the clothes dry as you go through high waters. Take clothes for 2 -3 days. Socks and hard solid soles on shoes are important.

MEDICINE - Make sure to take all important medicine and prescriptions with you

CASH IS KING - Gets lots of it. ATM's will lose power - banks will be closed. Get plenty early. After the storm credit cards may not be taken due to power issues.

PASSWORDS - Make sure you have them with you.

FAMILY - Make sure your extended family knows where you are going.

CURFEW - Be prepared for a curfew to be imposed. They will be serious about it. It is for our safety

LOOTERS AFTER THE STORM - Be careful and be aware. Bad people may show up and you should be alert for scams.

HERO - Don't try to be one. Storms are deadly in Florida. Know your limits about helping people. Do not over extend yourself.

RUMORS - Be aware there will be many - be careful - some can be very risky - some will create unrest and bad actions - just maintain your cool and act prudently.

EMOTIONS - Stay cool and it will not be easy. The “why me” mentality will raise up as well as the Blame Game.