

HOME MATTERS

Loss prevention tips for all your home matters provided by:

Peoples First Insurance

The Importance of Being Prepared

Hurricane season lasts from June through November, when storms with heavy rains and catastrophic winds can severely damage or destroy homes in low-lying coastal areas. There is no time like the present to work together to create emergency kits: one for use if you need to evacuate your home and one for use if you get trapped in your home for several days.

PREPARING FOR A HURRICANE

Here are some suggestions on what to do before, during and after a storm.

Before:

- Refill prescriptions, fill up your car's gas tank and withdraw a week's worth of cash.
- Store valuable papers and items in waterproof bags.
- Cover windows and secure any outdoor items.
- If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.

During:

- Tune into a battery-operated radio or TV and follow instructions.

- Seek shelter in an interior room away from windows, such as a closet.

After:

- Stay inside until an "all-clear" is issued. If you have evacuated, don't return until the area is re-opened.
- When inspecting your home, wear sturdy shoes and clothing for protection.
- Allow only those trained to turn off damaged utilities and appliances.
- Use only bottled water until tap water is determined safe.
- Contact your agent promptly to report damages. Be patient, as delays are likely.

Safety First

Plan evacuation routes and designate a "post-disaster contact" that family members know to call after a hurricane. Stock up on items such as a week's supply of bottled water and canned goods, along with a manual can/bottle opener, flashlight, battery-operated radio or television, nails, tarps and plywood. Keep an up-to-date log (including photos/videotape) of your possessions and review your insurance policy coverage annually.

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