

# Hurricane Checklist

By John F. Smith

- Before a Hurricane
  - Know where you will go if you have to evacuate.
  - Plan your evacuation route.
  - Have disaster supplies on hand in the event of a storm
  - Make arrangements for pets.
  - Make plans for your boat.
  - Protect valuable documents and property
  - Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a hurricane.
  - Protect your windows.
  - Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.
  - Check into disaster insurance.
  - Develop an emergency communication plan.
  - Take pictures of your house and property.
- During a Hurricane Watch
  - Listen to local radio or television stations for hurricane progress reports and emergency orders.
  - Check to be sure you have emergency supplies.
  - Fill all your cars with fuel.
  - If you have not already done so, stock up on water, non-perishable food, water and ice.
  - Bring in all outdoor objects like lawn furniture, toys, garden tools, etc.
  - Secure buildings by closing shutters and/or boarding up windows Remove outside antennas.
  - Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
  - Fill bathtubs, washing machines, sinks and other containers with clean water.
  - Review evacuation plan.
  - Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place Use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer. Use tie downs to anchor trailer to the ground or house.
- During a Hurricane Warning
  - Listen to local radio and television stations for official instructions.

- Get to shelter.
- If you are in a mobile home, check tie downs, then evacuate immediately to a safe location.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Avoid elevators.
- If evacuating
  - Leave as soon as possible, avoiding flooded roads.
  - Unplug all appliances.
  - Take emergency supplies and warm protective clothing.
  - Take your valuables with you.
  - Take your cellular phone and battery pack for recharging.
- After the Hurricane
  - If you evacuated, return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
  - If you evacuated, and your house has been vacant for a period of time, enter with caution.
  - Stay tuned to local radio and/or television for information.
  - Help injured or trapped persons.
  - Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately if possible to the power company, police, or fire department.
  - Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
  - Check gas, electrical and water lines for damage.
  - Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
  - Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
  - Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
  - Use telephone only for emergency calls.
  - Take pictures of the damage for insurance claims.