

MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED

HURRICANE SAFETY CHECKLIST

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HURRICANES?

The low country is all too familiar with the damage **Hurricanes** can leave behind. Once the strong storms form a cyclone in the ocean they can make landfall or linger around the coast causing flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. Being prepared is the best protection against the dangers of a hurricane. Stay alert and pay attention to the terms weather professionals will be using. A **Hurricane Watch** means hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. A **Hurricane Warning** is when hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Your family should be prepared in advance to take action and evacuate long before conditions become dangerous.

WHAT TO DO:

- Create an evacuation plan with your family members or employees. Planning and practicing an evacuation reduces confusion in the event of an emergency.
- Listen to all National Weather Service updates on the storm.
- Evacuate if advised by authorities. Avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Bring any outside belongings that can be picked up by the wind inside (Lawn furniture, bicycles, etc.).
- Close windows and doors. Board up windows with plywood if necessary.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep the doors closed. This will help your food last longer if the power goes out.
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances. Lift any computers/valuables off the ground level floor.
- Keep your vehicles full of gas.
- Plan routes to local shelters and make sure you have a plan for your pets.
- Make sure you have all your insurance information in an easy to locate spot.
- Make sure all of your documents (medical information, birth certificates, passports, deed/lease, proof of address, etc.) are in a safe place.

SUPPLIES:

- 3 day supply of water - 2 Gallons per person per day.
- 3 day supply of non-perishable food.
- Flashlight.
- Battery Powered or Hand Crank Radio.
- Extra Batteries.
- First Aid Kit with prescription medications.
- Multi-Purpose Tool.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- Cellphone with Chargers.
- Family and Emergency contact numbers
- Important documents (driver's license, social security card, insurance, wills, deeds, tax records, medical records, family pictures, etc.).
- Extra cash.
- Emergency blanket.
- Maps of the area.
- Pet supplies (food, leash & carrier, vaccination records).
- Extra clothing, bedding and shoes.
- Rain gear.
- Insect repellent/sunscreen.
- Camera for photos of damage.

AFTER THE STORM:

- Continue to listen to the National Weather Service for updates.
- Stay alert for extended rain fall and flooding after the storm has ended. If you have evacuated, only return when officials have cleared the area as safe.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them to the power company immediately.
- Stay out of any building that has water in it.
- Inspect your home for damages. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilages. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- Watch animals closely and keep them under direct control.
- Remember local wildlife was also displaced by the storm and may have found shelter on your property.