Personal and

Community Preparedness

Before the Hurricane season

- ✓ Know the hurricane risks in your area.
- ✓ Learn safe routes inland.
- ✓ Learn location of official shelters.
- ✓ Review needs and working condition of emergency equipment, such as flashlights, battery-powered radios, etc.
- ✓ Ensure that enough non-perishable food and water supplies are on hand.
- ✓ Obtain and store materials, such as plywood, necessary to properly secure your home.
- ✓ Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- ✓ Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- ✓ Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.
- ✓ Review your insurance policy.

Individuals with special needs or others requiring more information should contact their local National Weather Service office, emergency management office, or American Red Cross chapter.

During the Storm

When in a Watch Area...

- ✓ Frequently listen to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins of the storm's progress
- ✓ Fuel and service family vehicles.
- ✓ Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- ✓ Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding materials.
- ✓ Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications
- ✓ Prepare to bring inside lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight object, such as garbage cans, garden tools, etc.
- ✓ Have on hand an extra supply of cash.

When in a Warning Area....

- ✓ Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- ✓ Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, etc.
- ✓ Follow instructions issued by local officials. ***Leave immediately if told to do so!***
- ✓ If evacuating, leave early (if possible, in daylight). Stay with friends or relatives, at a low-rise inland hotel/motel, or go to a predesignated public shelter outside a flood zone.

Plan to evacuate if you...

- ✓ Live in a mobile home. They are unsafe in high winds, no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- ✓ Live on the coastline, and offshore island, or near a river or a flood plain.
- ✓ Live in a high-rise. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- ✓ Leave mobile homes in any case.
- ✓ Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.
- ✓ Put food and water out for a pet if you cannot take it with you. ***Public health regulations do not allow pets in public shelters, nor do most hotels/motels allow them***.

What to bring to a shelter: first-aid kit; medicine; baby food and diapers; cards, games, books; toiletries; battery-powered radio; flashlight (one per person); extra batteries; blankets of sleeping bags: identification, valuable papers (insurance), and cash.

☞ **Reminder !** **If you are told to leave, do so immediately!**

If Staying in a Home...

Only stay in a home if you have NOT been ordered to leave. Stay inside a well constructed building. In structures, such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds can produce deadly missiles and structural failure.

- ✓ Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- ✓ Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- ✓ Turn off propane tanks.
- ✓ Unplug small appliances.
- ✓ Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.

If winds become strong...

- ✓ Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway.
- ✓ Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- ✓ If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room, such as a bathroom or closet.
- ✓ If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows.
- ✓ Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

Be Alert For: ☞ **TORNADOES, which often are spawned by hurricanes.**

☞ **The calm "EYE of the storm. After the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force**

After the Storm

- ✓ Keep listening to radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio
- ✓ Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
- ✓ Roads may be closed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, ***turn around and go another way!***
- ✓ Avoid weakened bridged and washed out roads. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- ✓ Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your fee. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. ✓ Check gas, water, and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- ✓ Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- ✓ Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.
- ✓ Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- ✓ Be especially cautious if using a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.

Community Preparedness

Each community subject to a hurricane threat should develop its won hurricane safety plan. After you have developed a personal/family safety plan, you may want to find out about your community safety plan. Your local officials should have the most detailed information for your immediate area. Please listen to and follow their recommendations before, during, and after the storm.