



HURRICANES: WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE STORM



WHAT POLICYHOLDERS SHOULD KNOW

Hurricane season runs from June through November in the Atlantic and Caribbean, though a named storm has developed earlier the last six seasons. Hurricane hazards can include storm surges, flooding, tornadoes and high winds, which can have an impact both along the coast and inland.

PLAN FOR HURRICANE SEASON

- **Sign up for a warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA Weather Radio provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, become familiar with the warning tone.
- **Create your communication plan.** Landline and cell phone systems are often overwhelmed following a disaster, so you may need to text or use social media. Designate an out-of-town contact who can help your household reconnect. Practice your plan!
- **Create an emergency kit.** Keep a kit in an easily accessible location so you'll have it on hand if you need to evacuate. Include non-perishable food, bottled water, a radio, medications, blankets, flashlights, and batteries.
- **Check with neighbors,** including senior adults and those with disabilities, when securing hurricane plans to see how you can work together and assist as needs arise.
- **Fill extra gas tanks** and make sure you have a car charger for your cell phone.

PREPARE YOUR HOME

- **Inspect and reinforce your roof.** Inspect the roof to make sure it is sealed tight. Consider reinforcing the roof with hurricane clips to help prevent the roof from lifting off the home.
- **Identify outdoor items that could blow away in strong winds** so you can quickly bring them inside should a storm develop. Trim trees, branches, and bushes around the home to help minimize debris damage.
- **Declutter drains and gutters** to allow rainwater to efficiently drain away from your home.
- **Know how to turn off utilities.** Locate the home's gas and water shut-off valve. If damage occurs, know how to shut these valves off to prevent further loss.
- **Review important documents.** Make sure your personal documents are up to date and your insurance policies accurately reflect rising housing prices and increased construction costs.



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