



BE ALERT FOR STORM NEWS

By the time a hurricane watch or warning is issued for your area, all but the most last-minute of your family's emergency preparations should be completed. Your emergency supplies, including copies of important papers, should already be on hand and ready to use, and your family should have already had at least one practice drill to make sure everyone knows what to do when a real emergency occurs.

Here are just a few tips to help you complete those last-minute details once a hurricane watch, which means the threat of hurricane conditions could come as soon as 24 - 36 hours, has been issued for your area:

- Check food, water, first aid, batteries, pet supplies and other stored supplies to make sure they are fresh, adequate and ready to use
- Start a last-minute shopping list for any items you may need and make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible
- Turn refrigerators and freezers to their coldest settings
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, bottles, jugs and cooking pots
- Fill your car with gas; check oil, tires and other maintenance points
- Secure mooring of boats or move them inland to a safe location. Secure boats to trailers with ropes or chains and secure trailers to ground or house
- If you plan to evacuate, place items you'll need in your vehicle if they aren't already stored there
- Complete any laundry or other household chores so your family will be more comfortable if you have to spend time at home without electricity
- Pick up loose items around your property, including outside antennas, and store them until after the storm passes
- Check the tools and supplies you'll need to secure windows, doors and other storm-vulnerable areas
- Make sure your generator, if you plan to use one, is ready with gas and oil and is in an appropriate location for safe use
- Contact family members, friends and business associates who are inside the storm area to see if you can help them prepare. While you're making those calls, update your family's emergency phone list as necessary
- Contact your doctor, veterinarian, dentist or pharmacist to arrange for any extra prescriptions or other medications you would want to have on hand in case of emergencies
- Stay tuned to local news and weather authorities. Be prepared to act quickly if the need arises

HURRICANE WATCH

HURRICANE WARNING



PREPARATION LEADS TO SAFETY

By the time a hurricane warning is issued for your area, options for dealing with the storm will be limited to two fundamental choices — evacuation, which is the safest plan, or weathering the storm at home. A hurricane warning means hurricane conditions are expected in 24 hours or less, so make sure you decide quickly and decisively what you plan to do. Use these guidelines for last-minute preparations involving either of those choices:

IF YOU'RE EVACUATING

- Your vehicle, travel supplies and home preparations should already be complete. If they aren't, don't spend too much time trying to catch up. It's much more important to evacuate your family safely, while there's still time
- Secure your home and property to protect it from hurricane-related damage. This would include boarding up windows, turning off power at the source, etc.
- Check and secure mobile home tiedowns and evacuate immediately
- Let your family, friends and neighbors know where you will be, how you can be reached and when you plan to return home
- Continue monitoring local news and weather updates
- Leave the area as soon as possible to help minimize traffic delays along evacuation routes. Plan to leave early and allow extra driving time
- Once you arrive at your destination outside the risk area — whether it's an emergency shelter, hotel or a friend's home — call to let your loved ones know you've arrived safely. Plan to stay put until local officials give the all clear for returning home

IF YOU MUST STAY HOME

- Your advance preparations should already be complete. If they aren't, don't spend too much time trying to catch up. It's much more important to focus on whatever steps are necessary to ensure your family's safety during the storm
- Secure your home and property to protect it from hurricane-related damage. This would include boarding up windows, etc.
- Make sure your vehicle is parked in the safest possible location to minimize storm-related damage
- Continue monitoring local news and weather updates
- Keep in touch with friends and family as best you can during the storm to let them know how you're faring