

Hurricane Preparedness

Employee Owned



Your Scott advisors would like to offer the following educational material on storm preparedness for you and your home.

Damage Prevention Steps When a Storm Approaches

- **Clear loose objects.** Bring outside patio and lawn furniture, potted plants, and outdoor bicycles and toys indoors. Help your neighbor bring in their backyard items as well so these items do not become flying objects that impact your home. Be sure all awnings are closed and secured. Tie down any other loose items that may become projectiles in a high wind.
- **Reinforce windows & doors.** If your windows and doors are not wind and impact resistant, plywood can be used as last minute protection. However, be sure it is strongly secured.
- **Reinforce your garage door.** If you do not have a storm bar or other garage door reinforcement, you may want to back up your car against the inside of your garage door to help prevent it from "twisting" due to high winds.
- **Move furniture and household fixtures.** Move them away from exterior door and window openings. If possible, elevate these items and cover them with plastic.
- **Secure household appliances.** Appliances, including personal computers, should be unplugged and stored away in cabinets or interior closets.
- **Test and refuel your backup generator.** If you've installed a gas-powered generator as a backup power supply in your home, regularly test it to ensure that it is operational at the time you need it. When a storm approaches, run another quick test and make sure that plenty of fuel is available.

Preparing an Emergency Supply Kit

Assemble and maintain an emergency supply kit throughout the hurricane season. Items should be stored in a watertight container.

- *Water* – minimum 1 gallon per day, per person for one week is needed. Two quarts are for drinking and 2 quarts are for food preparation or sanitation. When a storm approaches, fill empty containers and a bathtub with water as an additional emergency supply.
- *Food* – a one-week supply of non-perishable food. Remember a non-electric can opener, cooking tools, camping stove, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Remember special dietary needs for infants, the elderly or pets.
- *Clothing* – rain gear, sturdy shoes.
- *First aid kit* – painkillers such as aspirin or ibuprofen, an assortment of bandages and gauze pads, antiseptic, latex gloves, first aid cream, scissors, tweezers, and a thermometer. Also, include a two-week supply of prescription drugs.
- *Flashlights and batteries* – using candles for light can pose a fire hazard.
- *Battery-operated radio* – to help you stay informed of severe weather updates.
- *Cash*
- *Bleach & antibacterial soap*
- *Toilet paper and personal hygiene items*
- *Plastic bags and tarps*
- *Matches*
- *Pillows and blankets*

Store your kit in a place commonly known to all family members. Replace and/or refresh items in your kit every six months.

Prepare an “Action Plan” in the Event of an Evacuation

- Become familiar with your community’s disaster preparedness plan and know your evacuation route. Check with [The American Civil Defense Association](#) for the safest escape route in the event of a flood warning.
- Have a predetermined destination in mind so you can quickly relocate to a shelter or relative’s house. Select a common meeting place or single point of contact for all family members in case you are separated through the evacuation process.
- All vehicles should be fueled well in advance of evacuation. Gas will be hard to come by. Power failures will render gas pumps inoperable.
- Make sure your cell phone has a full charge, and bring along the charger.
- Always stay informed of approaching storms by monitoring local television and radio stations for severe weather updates.

If You Are Unable to Evacuate

- Identify a “shelter” room in your home. This enclosed area should be on the first floor, in the central part of the house and with no windows. When the storm gets bad, go there. Avoid all unprotected windows and doors until the storm passes.
- Remain in contact with neighbors. Others who are riding out a storm may need your help and you may need theirs.
- Use your emergency supply of water or boil any water before drinking, until official word is given that the water is safe.
- After the storm passes, beware of loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the proper authorities.

Understanding Your Pet Needs

- Provide a safe area for your pet. Understand their safe area may not be the same as yours. A pet may want to retreat under a bed or in a closet space where it feels safe.
- During the hurricane season make sure you include pets in your evacuation plans should you decide to evacuate. Do not leave your pets at home; begin planning now. Visit www.petswelcome.com or www.dogfriendly.com for a listing of pet-friendly hotels; and when traveling with your pet make sure to use safe pet carriers. Do not abandon or drop off animals at a local shelter.
- Make sure the pet has a properly fitted collar with identification and rabies tags attached. This could be your pet’s round trip ticket home in the event they get lost.

After the Storm

- *If you evacuated, keep listening* to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions before attempting to return home. Return when local officials tell you it is safe to do so.
- *Be cautious of hazards that are a product of the storm*, such as water due to flooding, sharp or broken objects, damaged tree limbs or other structures that may have been damaged by high winds or water.
- *Make emergency repairs* to prevent further damage to your property, if able to do so safely. We recommend having a contractor cover damaged areas of a roof with a tarp. It is important to always save receipts for emergency repairs.
- *Create a list of any damaged contents*, including a description of the item, name of the manufacturer, brand name, age, as well as the place and date of purchase, if known. Include photographs, videotapes or personal property inventories you may already have available.
- *Report damage directly to your insurance company as soon as possible* in the event you sustain storm damage. Report a claim online 24/7 by following [this link](#).

For More Tips to Prevent Hurricane Damage

[Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

This information is advisory in nature. No liability is assumed by reason of the information in this document.