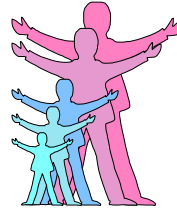


Helpline



June 2014
 Newsletter

Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness—Are You Ready?



The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st and ends November 30th each year. Although the past few seasons have been relatively quiet, we should guard against complacency through preparation. You should prepare for the entire season.

A written plan should be developed for your household. The plan should be reviewed frequently with all members of your household. Disasters can happen anytime and when they strike, you may not have much time to respond. The best way to protect your life and property is to plan ahead.

After a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but cannot reach everyone immediately. Your family will cope best by preparing for a disaster before it strikes. One way to prepare is to develop a Hurricane/Disaster Plan that takes into consideration your family’s individual circumstances and needs. Making planning a family project will help ensure that everyone will know their responsibilities, and provide a sense of security.

Hurricane Sales Tax Holiday in Florida

The 2014 hurricane sales tax holiday which begins on June 1st and continue through June 14th, gives Floridians the opportunity to prepare in advance for the hurricane season. The tax break will cover supplies, such as flashlights, batteries, weather radios, and other basic items.

The 15 day sale is expected to save Florida families \$20 million as they prepare for the upcoming hurricane season by protecting their homes.

Items Included in the 2014 Florida Sales Tax Holiday

- A portable self-powered light source selling for \$20 or less
- A portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weather band radio selling for \$50 or less
- A tarpaulin or other flexible water proof sheeting selling for \$40 or less
- A self-contained first-aid kit for \$30 or less
- A ground anchor system or tie-down kit selling for \$50 or less
- A gas or diesel fuel tank selling for \$25 or less

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Jacquelyn Gibson
 Extension Faculty Family & Consumer Sciences



The Family & Consumer Science Program and the 4-H Youth Development Program has a New Home!!

Amelia Earhart Park
 401 East 65th Street
 Hialeah, FL 33013
 Phone: 305-769-4050
 Fax: 305-769-4052

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- A package of AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt or 9-volt batteries, Excluding automobile and boat batteries, selling for \$30 or less
- A non-electric food storage cooler selling for \$30 or less
- A portable generator that is used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage selling for \$750 or less.



Key Steps to Developing a Hurricane/Disaster Plan

- Learn about your community's emergency plan, evacuation routes and locations of emergency shelters.
- Verify if you live in an evacuation zone by visiting www.miamidade.gov/oem or by calling 3-1-1.
- Develop and review family evacuation plan.
- Check and replenish hurricane supplies.
- Shop for a 3-7 day supply of water and non-perishable food.
- Store at least one gallon per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for preparation/sanitation).
- Post emergency phone numbers at every phone.
- Review insurance policies and make copies (ensure that your insurance is adequate to cover your needs in the event of a disaster).
- Prepare a "Family Document Kit."
- Take an itemized inventory of household goods.
- Take photos of your home inside and out.
- Videotaped documentation of all valuables in home.
- Purchase or prepare a "First Aid Kit."

- Trim trees early.
- Inspect shutters.
- Make plans for persons with special needs, and pets.

Be Budget Conscious When Buying Supplies

Residents spend hundreds of dollars each year purchasing hurricane supplies. In most cases, people wait until a storm threatens South Florida to purchase supplies, usually resulting in a large expenditure.



Remember it is more cost-efficient to start building your kits early, little by little, using what you already have at home whenever possible. Other tips to keep in mind are:

- Purchase an extra can or box of non-perishable food or other supplies for your hurricane kit during each trip to the grocery store.
- Make use of coupons and sales when available.
- Combine resources with family, friends and neighbors to save money buying in bulk, then divide the items up.
- Make bed rolls from your existing comforters and blankets.

Other Things to Consider

- Buy single serving or one-meal cans whenever possible to avoid waste. Leftovers won't be safe.
- Don't buy a lot of very salty foods such as chips, beef jerky or crackers. These will make you thirsty.
- If you have a way to boil water, buy instant coffee, oatmeal, rice, soup mix and cup-o-noodles.
- Buy instant powdered drink mixes such as Tang®, Kool Aid®, or iced tea. They can cover the taste of treated or stale water.

Maintaining Your Kit

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed.

Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

- Keep canned foods in a dry place where the temperature is cool.
- Store boxed foods in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend its shelf life.
- Throw out any canned items that becomes swollen, dented, or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad, and replace them with fresh supplies.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your list as your family's needs change.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supply kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trash can, camping backpack, or duffel bag.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>

Family Document Kit

Always keep these things with you:

- Photo ID
- Medical information such as blood type, health conditions, allergies, and your doctors name, address and phone number.
- Credit cards
- Cash for emergencies
- Emergency contact information

Place valuables and copies of personal papers in waterproof containers and store them in the highest possible spot. Use plastic bags for large items. You can store many of these documents electronically on a CD, disk, or USB drive. You can also scan some of these original documents into your computer so that you can have an electronic archive.

Include these items in your Document Kit

- A list of all your important contacts (family, doctors, insurance agents). This should include people to contact in a case of emergency. List at least one person who lives locally and another who lives out of state.
- Banking information
- Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill)
- Insurance documents (address & policy number)
- A list of medications and prescribing instructions
- Passports, social security cards
- Family records (birth/adoption, marriage/divorce, death certificate)
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Driver's license
- Inventory of household goods
- Wills (including living wills and advance directives)
- Deeds
- Stocks and bonds, mutual funds, CDs
- Educational records

Financial Hurricane Tips

When you hear a hurricane watch/warnings, take precautions to protect your family, yourself, your property, and take actions to protect your financial interests. The Florida Department of Financial Services offers these financial tips:

Withdraw Money!



Financial institutions normally close for at least two days after a direct hit. ATMs could be out of order even longer.

So withdraw some money before a pending hurricane.

Credit and Cash:



Have a credit card with at least \$1,000 available. Get receipts for cash purchases before and after a storm.

Paying by Phone or Online:



If you pay bills online or by the phone, do it before a hurricane hits, even if they are not yet due. A hurricane could interrupt phone service, causing you to miss payments and get late charges.

Paying by Mail:



Send payments by mail at least two days before a hurricane strikes. The post office will not pick up mail within 24 hours of a strike.

Confirm Payments!



After a storm, contact those you've mailed payments to and confirm they have received them.

Finance Repairs:



Use credit cards to finance necessary minimal repairs and document all transaction.

Miami-Dade Alerts

Don't be the last to know when a hurricane is coming. Sign up for weather advisories with Miami-Dade Alerts. Find out more at <http://miamidade.gov/wps/portal/Main/safety>.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community has experienced a hurricane, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Website available through Red-Cross.org/SafeandWell to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-Get-Info to register yourself and your family.

Important Phone Numbers & Web Addresses

9-1-1 Emergencies

3-1-1 Government Information

Toll-free outside Miami-Dade County

1-888-311 Dade (3233)

TTY/TDD: 305-468-5402



2-1-1 Family Social Services

TTY: 305-644-9449

American Red Cross

305-644-9449

www.miamiredcross.org



Miami-Dade Department of Emergency Management

www.miamidade.gov/oem

305-468-5400



Federal Emergency Management Agency

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

TDD: 800-462-7585

www.fema.gov



Florida Power and Light

1800-4-OUTAGE(1-800-468-8243)


7-1-1 (hearing impaired)

www.fpl.com



AT&T

1-888-757-6500

TDD 305-780-2273 

Food safety during emergencies

www.foodsafety.gov/keep

Special Needs Registration (Miami-Dade County)

305-513-7700

305-468-5400

TDD- 305-468-5402



Florida Emergency Information Line - 1-800-342-3557

FEMA Fraud & Abuse Hotline

(Dept. of Homeland Security) 1-800-323-8603

Elder Helpline (Information & Referral) Florida Dept. of Elder Affairs - 800-963-5337 or 1-800-96-ELDER)

Price Gouging Hotline

Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

1-800-435-7352

Preparing and Storing Water Safely During an Emergency



Why Store Water?

During a disaster, normal drinking water supplies can quickly become contaminated without notice. The best strategy for an impending emergency is to collect and store a personal safe drinking water supply.

How Much Water Do You Need?

- You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. A normally active person needs at least one-half gallon of water daily just for drinking.
- Children, nursing mothers and ill people need more water.
- Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.
- Water is also needed for cooking and sanitation needs as well as drinking.
- You should store a minimum 3 day supply of water.

Example: A four-person household requiring 1.5 gallons per person for 3 days would need to store $4 \times 1.5 \times 3 = 18$ gallons.

How Should I Store Water?

To prepare the safest and most reliable emergency supply of water, it is recommended that you purchase commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container and do not open it until you need to use it. Be sure to observe the expiration or “uses by” date.



If You are Preparing Your Own Containers of Water

It is recommended that you purchase food-grade water storage containers from surplus or camping supplies stores to use for water storage. Before filling with water, thoroughly clean the containers with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Follow these directions on how to fill the containers with water.

If you choose to use your own storage containers, choose two-liter plastic soft drink bottles—not plastic jugs or cardboard containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them. Milk protein and fruit juice sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and provide an environment for a bacterial growth when water is stored in them. Cardboard containers also leak easily and are not designed for long-term storage of liquids. Also, do not use glass containers because they can break and are heavy.

Avoid using bleach containers for drinking water storage because they are not made of food-grade plastic.

Water stored in them to use for washing could be mistakenly be used for drinking, with serious consequences.

If Storing Water in Plastic Soda Bottles, Follow These Steps

Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Sanitize the bottles by adding a solution of one teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces. After sanitizing the bottle, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.

Filling Water Containers

Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. If the tap water has been commercially treated from a water utility with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean. If the water you are using comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to the water. Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it with your finger. Place a date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it.

Store in a cool, dark place. Replace the water every six months if not using commercially bottled water.