

## **What to Remember Before the Storm**

- First-aid kit, prescription medication and essential medications
- Canned food and can opener
- Protective clothing, rainwear and bedding, including sleeping bags and pillows
- At least three gallons of water per person
- Battery-operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Important documents including driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates and tax records
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so--also keep in mind that a professional will be needed to turn them back on
- Camera for documenting damage after the storm
- Install hurricane shutters or purchase precut 1/2 inch outdoor plywood boards for each window in your home
- Install anchors for the plywood and predrill holes in the plywood so it can be put up quickly
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, then strategically remove branches so wind can blow through

## **What to do When a Hurricane Watch is Issued**

- Listen to local radio or television for the most relevant information.
- Prepare to bring in any lawn furniture or outdoor decorations, plants, trash cans and anything that can be picked up by the wind.
- Prepare to cover all windows in your home--tape does not prevent windows from breaking and is not recommended.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Recheck manufactured home tie-downs.
- Check batteries, stock up on batteries and other supplies as listed above.

## **What to do When a Hurricane Warning is Issued**

- Listen to authorities advice and evacuate if told to do so
- Complete preparation activities
- If you are not advised to leave, stay indoors and stay clear of windows
- Be aware that the calm "eye" of the storm can be misleading--the storm is not over and the calm of the storm will be followed by the worst part of the storm when the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, buildings and other objects damaged by the first winds can be destroyed by the second winds and create more debris

- Be alert for tornadoes which can happen during a hurricane and after it passes. Remain indoors, in the center of your home in a closet or room without windows.
- Stay away from flood waters. If you come across a flooded road, turn around and take a different road. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.