

HURRICANE PREPARATION CHECKLIST



This checklist has been compiled from a variety of sources and is provided Pangea Institute with the intent to provide our Members and Patrons with information that may help them prepare for a storm event. This checklist is by no means a complete or definitive list and all decisions about what to do in a storm or hurricane are yours alone.

Due to special personal circumstances, there may be additional supplies, precautions, et cetera, that you or your family may need to consider in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane.

STORM TERMS

TROPICAL STORM WARNING: Tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds 39-73 mph, is expected within 24 hours or less.

HURRICANE WATCH: An announcement or bulletin usually issued by the National Weather Service when there is the possibility that a hurricane may pass near or through the area within 36 hours.

HURRICANE WARNING: A hurricane with sustained winds of at least 74 mph is expected within 24 hours or less. When a hurricane warning is issued, all precautions should be taken immediately.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Fire/Police/Medical Services:	911
Poison Information Center:	800/222-1222
Florida Power & Light:	697-8000
TECO:	866/299-0800
TECO:	888/223-0800
Central Florida Gas:	800/554-6427
Suburban Propane:	863/686-6123
Bellsouth, Verizon, ATT, Sprint, and all cellular carriers:	611
Polk County Emergency Management*:	863/519-7300

**In the event of a major disaster, this county agency will coordinate, assist, and support response & recovery efforts to protect the lives and property of Polk County residents. For counties other than Polk, please check your telephone directory under "County Offices".*

GENERAL PREPARATION

- Fill your vehicle's fuel tank; check battery, water, and oil.
- Locate/purchase storm shutters or lumber, hardware, and tools needed to protect up your home.
- Check flashlight and TV/radio batteries and have an extra supply of batteries on hand.
- Obtain containers of drinking water. Sterilize bathtub for storage of water.
- Refill prescription drugs and obtain any special medications.
- Make arrangements for animals, pets, and livestock. They are not allowed into Emergency Shelters.
- Turn refrigerator & freezers to the coldest settings.
- Make or purchase ice to be placed in ice chest or coolers.
- Secure and move items that may blow away to a safe location. (i.e., garbage cans, awnings, outside antennas, patio furniture, bicycles, lawn equipment, flower pots, hoses, etc.)
- Turn off sprinkler system.
- Stake small newly planted trees to anchor them.
- Trim dead tree branches, shrubbery, and plants.

DO NOT trim trees once a storm watch or warning is announced. This should be done well in advance of a storm.

SWIMMING POOL PROTECTION

- Disconnect power & protect your pool pump and heater.
- Super-chlorinate or double the chemical you normally add to help avoid contamination.
- Disconnect and remove automatic pool cleaners.

DO NOT lower water level more than 6-12 inches. If water level is lowered there is a possibility of the pool popping out of the ground, due to the rising water table.

DO NOT throw patio furniture in the pool. Pool chemicals may harm the furniture and may damage the sides of the pool.

BEFORE THE STORM

Refer to the checklist that appears below and stock up on any items that you do not already have on hand. You should expect to be without normal services and supplies for up to one week.

City and well water can become contaminated in a severe storm. So don't forget to stock up on drinking water. You'll need at least one gallon per day, per person. It's a good idea to clean and fill your bathtub with fresh tap water before the storm. You can use this water for personal hygiene and in a severe shortage situation. You should also keep a supply of water purification tablets on hand. These can be obtained at most camping supply stores and expedition outfitters.

Prepare an emergency toilet by setting up a small can, 5-gallon painter's bucket or garbage can with a tight-fitting lid. Line the can with heavy-duty plastic garbage or yard bags for easy disposal after the storm. Have disinfectant or bleach available near the latrine. RV toilet disinfectant solution works very well and contains a deodorizer to reduce odors.

DURING THE STORM

If the center or the "eye" of the storm passes directly overhead, there may be a lull in the wind lasting from a few minutes to a half an hour or more.

DO NOT venture out during this time. Remember the wind may return suddenly from an opposite direction with even greater violence.

AFTER THE STORM

- Use telephones for emergencies only.
- Watch out for fallen power and telephone lines. Report such damage to the appropriate power company, your telephone carrier, or the nearest Law Enforcement Agency.
- Check all food and water carefully to insure that nothing is contaminated.

DO NOT venture out until Emergency Management Officials give the all-clear signal.

DONOT go sightseeing.

DO NOT drive unless absolutely necessary, there may be fallen power lines and weakened roadways and bridges.

Hurricane Checklist

Tip: Buy your supplies early to prepare for the storm. When a storm threatens, lines will be long and supplies often run short.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Tip: Get enough nonperishable foods now for two weeks. Then put them in a box and leave them alone. Don't buy foods that are salty or dry or high in fat or protein; they will make you thirsty and increase your need for water. Avoid frozen foods as your power may go out.

- Water (1gallon per person per day. 1 week supply)
- Ice
- Shelf-package juice and milk boxes
- Canned or powdered milk
- Beverages (fruit juice, instant coffee, & tea)
- Prepared foods (canned soups, beef, spaghetti, tuna, chicken, ham, corned beef hash, packaged pudding)
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Dried fruits
- Snacks (crackers, cookies, hard candy, nuts)
- Snack spreads (peanut butter, cheese, & jelly)
- Cereals
- Raw vegetables
- Sugar, salt, pepper
- Bread
- Dry and canned pet food

BABY NEEDS

- Disposable diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Diaper-rash ointment, petroleum jelly
- Baby medicines (pain, cold, cough)
- Medicine dropper
- Extra formula and baby food

HURRICANE KIT

Tip: Assemble this ahead of time and put aside in a special box. Keep heat-sensitive items inside home and rotate stock throughout season. Batteries can be stored in your refrigerator.

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Battery-operated TV or Radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns. Don't get candles and kerosene lanterns. They are fire hazards.
- Extra batteries
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery- operated)
- Plastic trash bags
- Working fire extinguishers

- Scissors
- Toilet paper
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots you won't mind throwing away later
- An inexpensive rabbit-ears television antenna to use if your cable or satellite goes out
- Map of the area (note the location of emergency shelters)
- List of phone numbers
- Copy of insurance policy

FOOD PREPARATION SUPPLIES

- Manual can opener
- Bottle opener
- Matches in a water-proof container
- Pocket knife (preferably Swiss Army-style)
- Camp stove or other cooking device and plenty of fuel. Use canned fuel, not charcoal or gas
- Ice chests or coolers
- Paper plates, napkins
- Plastic cups, knives, forks, spoons

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Tip: Drugstores will be mobbed just before a storm and closed for days after. Keep a 2-week supply of prescription drugs.

- Medic Alert tags
- Insect repellent sprays and candles
- Feminine hygiene items
- Insect bite lotion
- Sunscreen
- Soap
- First-aid kit (see Pangea Institute website "Resources" section)
- First-aid handbook
- Extra OTC medicines (for colds, allergies)
- Children's medicines
- Aspirin
- Diarrhea medication
- Bandages
- Adhesive tape
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Antiseptic solution
- Sterile rolls, bandages
- Tweezers
- Needles
- Disinfectant