

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

United States coastal areas are especially vulnerable to hurricane destruction because of their topographical makeup and heavy population concentrations. The areas along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, where most of the U.S. hurricane-related fatalities have occurred, are also experiencing the country's most significant growth in population, according to the National Hurricane Center. Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected; the time to prepare is NOW. Acadian provides these tips so all residents can be prepared before, during, and after the storm.

SUPPLIES KIT

Put together a basic disaster supplies kit and consider storage locations for different situations. Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work, and vehicles. Your supply kit should include the following:

- Ten-day supply of prescription medication for every member of your family, including pets
- Water (one gallon of water per person per day)
- Non-perishable food items
- Bedding and clothing
- Tools and emergency items such as flashlights, batteries, and sanitation supplies
- Children's necessities (diapers, wipes, formula)
- Device chargers
- Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

EVACUATION

If you plan to evacuate

Prepare your home:

- Board up windows
- Turn off main electrical power switch and main water valve
- Turn off propane tanks
- Unplug appliances
- Bring your basic disaster supplies kit.
- Store a copy of all important documents in a waterproof container and in a secure location.
- Make sure your gas tank is full before getting on the road. Bring a full gas container as well.

If you plan to stay

- Listen to your local radio stations for the most up-to-date information
- If you have gas items you need to operate after the storm (generator, chainsaw, etc.); fill gas storage container(s)
- Prepare your hurricane kit by viewing the basic disaster supplies kit

DURING THE STORM

- Listen to your local radio stations for the most up-to-date information
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed
- Avoid using the phone except for emergencies
- Stay indoors and away from windows and glass doors
- Close all interior doors
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level of your home

AFTER THE STORM

- If you have evacuated, return only after the all clear is given for your area
- Do not venture on to roads until you have been advised they are passed and safe
- Carefully inspect your home and perform an exterior assessment for safety issues
- Be on the lookout for downed power lines and avoid them if identified
- Do not enter your home if you smell gas or other toxic fumes
- If any safety issues are present, have your home inspected by a qualified building inspector or engineer
- Watch for and avoid loose animals and poisonous snakes
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning hazards; DO NOT operate generators, grills, or other gas operated appliances indoors

Remember, recovering from a natural disaster is usually a gradual process. Make a plan, and stay informed for when a hurricane strikes.