

Hurricane Preparedness & Safety Tips

June signals the beginning of hurricane season. Every year between the months of June and November, hurricanes account for more than \$5 billion in property damage. With the onset of hurricane season, Paul Davis offices help spread the word in their communities about the importance of being prepared during this time of year.

There are many useful steps to follow which can promote personal and household safety during hurricane season. This document outlines a host of helpful tips to keep you and your family safe.

Basic Emergency Kit:

Whether preparing for hurricanes or other emergencies, every home should have a Basic Emergency Kit to include at least the following:

- Water – One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food – At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank commercial radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit – Two pairs of Latex, or other sterile gloves; sterile dressings to stop bleeding; cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes; antibiotic ointment; burn ointment; adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes; eye wash; thermometer (adult and baby); prescription medications; prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.

Also, consider adding the following items to your emergency kit including cell phone with charger; scissors; tweezers; petroleum jelly or other lubricant, and non-prescription drugs such as aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever; anti-diarrhea medication, and antacid among other personal needs.

Pre-hurricane season preparation:

- Enter the season prepared; put together a plan for your family and go over it with them.
- Know your evacuation routes.
- Make sure your home meets building codes for withstanding hurricanes.
- Put together a Basic Emergency Kit to include proper tools, supplies and a first aid kit.
- Have plenty of batteries and flashlights and at least a 3-day supply of water and non-perishable foods on hand.

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When a hurricane watch or warning is issued:

- Leave low lying areas.
- Protect windows with plywood boards or storm shutters.
- Secure outside objects.
- Make sure you have a 3-day supply of food and water for each family member.
- Evacuate if instructed to leave the area.

What to do before the storm:

- Be ready to put your plan and preparation to action.
- Pay attention to local weather reports on radio, TV or the Internet.
- Have the house boarded up or have storm shutters in place.
- Make sure all your tools, supplies, first aid, food, fuel and other items are ready for use.
- Have a secure room available.

What to do during the storm:

- Stay in a secure room and away from windows.
- Don't use the telephone or candles.
- Monitor weather and civic service bulletins on either regular or NOAA weather radio.
- Have supplies on hand.
- Remain indoors when the eye of the hurricane moves over your area, the storm will resume shortly.

Safety tips after the storm:

- Make sure everyone is safe and accounted for.
- Monitor the radio for information from emergency management officials in your area.
- Before venturing outside, ensure the storm has completely passed.
- Report downed power lines and stay away from them.
- Use stored water and food.
- Be patient until your environment is safe and back to normal.

In the unlikely event that your home suffers damage due to a hurricane, it is important that you act promptly to prevent further loss and damage. The potential for further damage doesn't stop after the storm is passed. Contact a professional in the restoration and emergency mitigation service industry about losses in the home. Look for properly licensed individuals and companies with certifications from leading industry organizations like The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC).

Paul Davis Restoration, Inc. is a leading provider of fire, water and mold damage cleanup and restoration services for residential and commercial properties. They also provide remodeling services for kitchen and bath remodeling and room additions. Founded in 1966, Paul Davis Restoration has franchise office locations throughout the US. Visit the website at www.pdrestoration.com or call 1-888-4-PDR-NOW.