

ACTION MESSAGES

Be Prepared for a Hurricane Protect Yourself

CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Determine your risk.
- Consider flood insurance.
- Make an evacuation plan.
- Prepare members of your household.

For general preparedness, every household should create and practice a Family Disaster Plan and assemble and maintain a Disaster Supplies Kit. In addition, every household should take hurricane-specific precautions and plan for and practice what to do in a hurricane situation.

If you are at risk from hurricanes, you should:

- **Talk to your insurance agent.** Homeowners' policies do not cover flooding from hurricanes. Ask about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or visit www.fema.gov/nfip.
- **Ask about your community's hurricane preparedness plan.** The local emergency management office or local chapter of the American Red Cross should be able to provide you with details of this plan, including information on the safest evacuation routes, nearby shelters, and what conditions would trigger a recommendation to evacuate certain areas.
- **Develop a hurricane evacuation plan.** (See Appendix: "Evacuation and Sheltering and Post-disaster Safety.") All members of your household should know where to go if they have to leave. Making plans well in advance will help you avoid last-minute confusion.
- **Discuss hurricanes with members of your household.** Everyone should know what to do in case all members are not together. Discussing hurricanes and reviewing flood safety and preparedness measures ahead of time will help reduce fear and save precious time in an emergency.
- **Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.** Marinas and other storage facilities may fill up quickly. Some locations may have less risk of damage than others. You may be required to secure your boat well in advance of an approaching hurricane.
- **Protect your animals.** Ensure that any outbuildings, pastures, or corrals that house animals are protected in the same way as your home. When installing or changing fence lines, consider placing them in such a way that your animals are able to move to higher water in the event of flooding. Get rid of debris around your home and any outbuildings as well as in pastures.
- **Know where to go with your animals.** Because evacuation shelters generally do not accept pets, except for service animals, you must plan ahead to ensure that your family and pets will have a safe place to stay. Do this research well before disaster strikes. See chapter on **Evacuation and Sheltering, and Post-disaster Safety** for more information on planning for evacuating your animals.