

- **If you are in a mobile home, check the tie-downs.** Mobile homes may be less affected by strong winds if they are tied down according to the manufacturer's instructions. Properly tied-down homes are more likely to stay fixed to their foundations. Historically, mobile homes suffer the greatest amount of damage during hurricanes. Prior to 1994, most mobile homes were not designed to withstand even moderate winds.
- **Check your Disaster Supplies Kit.** Some supplies may need to be replaced or restocked.
- **Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting.** Open them only when absolutely necessary, then close them quickly. Keeping the coldest air in will help perishables last much longer in the event of a power failure.
- **Store valuables and personal papers in a safe-deposit box or in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.** Hurricanes can cause much water damage inside homes. Protecting valuables in this manner will provide the best security.
- **Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.** Authorities may ask you to turn off water or electric utilities to prevent damage to your home or within the community. Most of the time they will tell you to leave the gas on because, if you shut it off, a professional is required to turn your gas back on, and it may be several weeks before you receive service.
- **Turn off propane tanks.** Propane tanks may be damaged or dislodged by strong winds or water. Turning them off reduces the fire potential.
- **Unplug small appliances.** Small appliances may be affected by electrical power surges that may occur as the storm approaches. Unplugging them reduces potential damage.
- **Review your evacuation plan.** Make sure your planned route is the same as the currently recommended route. Sometimes roads may be closed or blocked, requiring a different route.
- **Stay away from floodwater.** If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Most hurricane-related deaths are caused by floods from heavy rainfall. The National Hurricane Center reports that more than one-third of inland flooding deaths involve people trapped in cars while trying to escape rising water. The depth of water is not always obvious. The roadbed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped. Rapidly rising water may stall the engine, engulf the vehicle and its occupants, and sweep them away. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle and two feet (0.6 meter) of water will carry away most automobiles, SUVs, and pickup trucks.
- **Consider a precautionary evacuation of large or numerous animals.** If you think an evacuation might be advised or ordered and if you have large, unusual, or numerous animals, start evacuating them as soon as you are aware of impending danger. If you are using a horse or other trailer to evacuate your animals, move early rather than wait until it may be too late to maneuver a trailer through slow traffic. The winds or water may be too high, or other hazards may make this too dangerous for you and for them.