

## What to Do During a Hurricane/Tropical Storm Warning

### CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Listen to and watch local news.
- Evacuate if advised by authorities, or stay inside.
- If in a mobile home, evacuate immediately.
- Avoid floodwater.

### You should:

- **Use a NOAA Weather Radio or continuously listen to a local station on a portable, battery-powered radio or television.** Hurricanes can change direction, intensity, and speed suddenly.
- **If officials advise you to leave your home, go as soon as possible.** (See Appendix: What to Do if Evacuation Is Necessary Because of a Storm.) Take your Disaster Supplies Kit and go to a shelter or to the out-of-town contact identified in your Family Disaster Plan. Call your contact and tell him or her when you are leaving and where you are going. Local officials will advise you to evacuate only if they conclude that you are in danger. It is important to follow their instructions as soon as possible. Roads may become blocked and the storm can worsen, preventing safe escape.
- **If you evacuate, take your pets with you.** If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them. Be sure to take your pet disaster kit with you. (See Disaster Supplies Kit for information about what should be in this kit.) Leaving them will endanger not only your pets, but also yourself and emergency responders.
- **If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows, skylights, and doors, even if they are covered.** Stay on the floor least likely to be affected by strong winds and floodwater. A small interior room without windows on the first floor is usually the safest place. Have as many walls between you and the outside winds as possible. Sometimes strong winds and projectiles may tear hurricane shutters off, so stay away from windows even if they are covered. Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object. Being under a sturdy object will offer greater protection from falling objects.
- **Close all interior doors.** Secure external doors. Closed doors will help prevent damaging hurricane winds from entering rooms.
- **Have a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy.** Flashlights provide the safest emergency lighting source. **DO NOT USE CANDLES.** Do not use kerosene lamps, which require a great deal of ventilation and are not designed for indoor use.
- **Store drinking water in clean plastic bottles and cooking utensils.** (See Appendix: Storing Water.) Public water supplies and wells may become contaminated, or electric pumps may be inoperative if power is lost. Often, a person's greatest need following a disaster is water.
- **Fill bathtubs and sinks with water to use for flushing the toilet and washing floors and clothing.** Do not use water that has been stored in glazed tubs or sinks for drinking or to bathe young children because over time lead can leach from the glaze into the water.
- **If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce the power surge when electricity is restored.** When electricity is restored, the surge from many major appliances starting at the same time may cause damage or destroy the appliances. Turning off or unplugging major appliances will allow you to decide when it is best to turn them back on.