

### **Facts and Fiction**

**Fiction:** It is safe to go outside during the "eye" of the hurricane.

**Facts:** It is not safe to go outside during the "eye" of the hurricane. You have no way of knowing how long the light winds will last. Strong winds will return very quickly from the opposite direction. Stay indoors.

**Fiction:** Evacuations are ordered only because of liability.

**Facts:** Evacuations are ordered because there is a real danger of storm surge.

**Fiction:** Hurricanes strike only southern states.

**Facts:** Hurricanes have hit the coast from Texas to Maine.

**Fiction:** Hurricanes/tropical storms strike only during the official hurricane season of June 1 through November 30.

**Facts:** Hurricanes/tropical storms sometimes occur before or after the hurricane season. Tropical Storm Anna happened in April 2003. Hurricane Lili occurred in late December 1984.

**Fiction:** Hurricane destruction occurs only along the coast.

**Facts:** A hurricane's effects (flooding, tornado, and wind damage) can be felt well inland. For instance, during Hurricane Hugo (September 10-22, 1989), Charlotte, N.C., which is 100 miles (161 kilometers) inland, experienced winds of 87 miles (140 kilometers) per hour, resulting in a swath of downed trees and power lines 50 miles (80 kilometers) wide.

**Fiction:** Taping windows protects them as effectively in a hurricane as boarding them up.

**Facts:** Taping does not prevent windows from breaking and takes critical time from more effective preparedness measures. All tape does is help prevent broken glass from scattering inside your home.

**Fiction:** Water stored in bathtubs and sinks is a good source of drinking water if the public water supply is interrupted or contaminated.

**Facts:** Over time, lead can leach from the glaze in bathtubs and sinks into water stored in them. Water stored in bathtubs and sinks should never be used for drinking or for bathing young children. You can use water stored in bathtubs and sinks for tasks such as flushing the toilet or washing the floor or clothing.