

Hurricane Season Preparation

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE TODAY?

Being prepared is essential, so use the below guide as a way to start getting ready.

- Review your insurance policy with your insurance agent** to determine whether you have adequate protection. In particular, consider whether you have flood insurance and if your policy will cover current rebuilding costs. Sadly, after every hurricane, homes and businesses that get destroyed lack the proper insurance coverage. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 40 percent of businesses do not reopen after a disaster. Take time today to meet with your insurance agent to ensure your home and your business have adequate coverage.
- Secure your home or business** by repairing loose boards, shingles, shutters, down spouts—the kind of things that could become greater problems in high winds or torrential rain.
- Consider making improvements to protect your home**, especially if you are on or near the coast. These could include protecting windows and doors with storm shutters. Make sure you also protect glass windows with boards, shutters or tape. Otherwise they could be broken from wind pressure.
- Make a home or business inventory** so that you can easily offer a list of damaged possessions to your insurer in the event that you are impacted by the storm. Be as detailed as possible, listing all personal items and including photos and videos where possible. Keep your inventory list in a fireproof safe or a safe deposit box.
- Stock emergency supplies** based on the needs of the enrolled children and staff who work with them. Include a battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, medicines, first aid handbook and kit, and a week's worth of non-perishable food and water. Other items to have on hand include: tools, blankets and/or sleeping bags, cooking and eating utensils, pet supplies, paper plates and cups, boards, plastic sheeting, tape and toiletries such as soap, bleach (for disinfecting), and diapers. A more in-depth list is available on our Go-Kit at <https://hubs.ly/H0c9z3m0>.
- Develop an evacuation plan**, including how you will notify family and friends and where you will be staying if forced to evacuate. Share everyone's cell phone numbers and compile a

list of key numbers (fire, police, etc.) you might need in the case of an emergency. Evacuation routes are normally identified with signs posted year-round. Determine the nearest evacuation route to your location. Recognize that traffic may be difficult; plan for a couple of different options to reach the evacuation route. You should plan ahead and keep your car in good working condition with the gas tank full. If you do not already have one, you should purchase a cell phone charger for your vehicle.

- Fill the gas tank of your vehicle(s)** in case you have to evacuate. If there is a power outage, gas pumps may not be functioning. If you have a generator, ensure you have gas for that as well.
- Listen for advisories on the radio, TV or social media** to follow advice from local officials on how to best protect yourself for the upcoming storm. Most city and/or county emergency management agencies have a free emergency alert system that you can

register for, such as CodeRED or Everbridge. Information on these notification systems can usually be found on your city or county's website.

- Charge your cell phone and tablet** batteries.
- Bring items inside your home** that could become dangerous such as, flying objects, including all toys, and lawn furniture. Make sure that sheds, cabanas and similar detached structures are securely anchored.
- Move important papers and valuables** to the second floor if you expect flooding.
- Turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting** so food will last longer if the power goes out.
- Fill your clean bathtub** with extra water to use for washing, cleaning and flushing the toilet.

Child Care Aware® of America has many resources devoted to preparedness planning. Visit us at www.childcareprepare.org to review tips, tools, and resources related to emergency planning.

