

PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING STORM PRECAUTIONS

Emergency Management officials and the Governor have asked everyone to prepare for the impending hurricane that will hit Florida on Friday in the AM. Their suggestion is to prepare for the worst even though there are various paths the storm may take. The Association recommends owners to immediately take measures to ensure their safety and preparedness.

Be aware if the storm causes major damage public safety will be overwhelmed and we may not see first responders for many hours or even a day. If this happens we will need a team of volunteers to supplement staff in mitigating hazards on the property and helping those people who are injured or in need of rescue. If you are able bodied and able to help, after the storm has passed, make your way to the office and await further instruction. If you have a chain saw, flash lights, first aid materials or tools that might be useful bring them with you.

Questions will no doubt be raised about shutters on the front of all buildings. Are they hurricane resistant? The answer is no. Shutters are not hurricane resistant. Their only value is decorative and shading windows from the sun's heat. If the shutters are dropped, there is no way to secure them to the building. Having them up there are at least poles that secure them to the building.

The following advice is offered:

1. Remove all furniture, plants and other items stored on balconies/patios and entryways. If the storm is level 1 or higher these items will be blown around and destroyed by the storm and/or blown around causing damage to windows, glass doors, screens, etc.
2. Do not go outside during the storm, you can be injured by objects being blown through the air. You can also not be knocked off your feet and injured.
3. After the storm has passed be extremely careful when you go outside. There is the danger of downed electrical wires, debris falling from damaged buildings, falling limbs, trip and fall hazards, etc.
4. If the winds are tropical storm level, level one or higher we will probably experience a power outage that could last for hours, days or even a week. Prepare for this by having flash lights, batteries, and candles. Be careful with the use of candles. Candles should not be left burning and unattended. Don't fall asleep with candles burning or leave the condo with them burning.
5. If you have access to a generator use it where carbon monoxide fumes cannot enter the condo. You cannot smell carbon monoxide. Should you breathe it in it will displace oxygen in your blood stream causing you to lose consciousness and possibly die.
6. Protect your food. Buy a cooler if you don't have one. Make ice between now and Thursday evening to use in your cooler should power be lost and you need to preserve your food.
7. Have a sufficient bottled water supply to last up to one week. Fill tubs with water that can be used to bath and to flush toilets should water be lost.
8. If the storm is level 1 or higher plan on not having cell phone, house phone or TV for hours, days or weeks. That means you will also not have Internet access. With this in mind have a battery powered radio that will help keep you up to date on emergency measures.
9. Make sure you have enough canned or other non-perishable food on hand that does not need cooking. Your supply should last up to one week. Cooking will be a problem when electricity is lost.
10. Although Association Rules and Fire Code do not allow use of barbeque grills in or on the patios/balconies of units, in an emergency you can use them but keep them far enough away from buildings to prevent smoke from entering units or grilling to start a fire. The parking lot away from cars would be a safe distance for grilling.

WHAT TO DO: BEFORE A HURRICANE

- **Plan ahead with an emergency kit.** Build an [emergency kit](#), including food, water, medical needs and important documents.
- **Make a family communications plan.** Identify a friend or relative who lives out-of-state who household members will contact to notify they are safe. Make sure everyone has a cell phone, coins or a prepaid phone card.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Learn the elevation level of your property and whether you are in a flood zone. If there are levees, dams or rivers in your area, be aware of them and whether they pose a hazard for you and your home.
- **Learn evacuation routes for your community.** Determine where you would go and how to get there if you need to evacuate.
- **Make plans to secure your property.** Use permanent storm shutters or board up your windows with marine plywood that has already been cut to fit and be installed. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- **Keep the exterior of your home in good shape.** Trim trees and shrubs so they are wind-resistant. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts. Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations and garbage cans.
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WHAT TO DO: DURING A HURRICANE

If a hurricane is likely to strike near your home, take the following steps:

- **Stay informed of the storm's track.** Watch the Weather Experts or listen to our radio partners for the latest information.
- **Secure your home.** Close storm shutters, secure outdoor objects and turn off propane tanks.
- **Ensure you have a supply of water in case the water is shut off.** Fill the bath tub and other large containers with water.

If you are unable to evacuate during a storm:

- **Go to a wind-safe room.** If you do not have one, then move away from windows and glass doors. Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors. Keep curtains and blinds closed. Avoid elevators.
- **Take refuge.** You can do so in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level of your home. Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
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WHAT TO DO: AFTER A HURRICANE

- **Stay informed.** Use a radio or weather radio to get information. Our weather partners will simulcast coverage when a storm threatens the area.
- **Use your mobile device.** Watch us on your phone, tablet or kindle through the BHTV app.
- **Use flashlights and avoid candles.** Any battery-powered light sources should be turned on outside before entering a building, as the battery could produce a spark that might ignite leaking gas.
- **Do not return home until authorities declare it is safe to do so.** If you have evacuated, only return when notified that it is safe to do so. If you cannot return home and you need shelter, go to your [nearest shelter](#).
- **Be careful when traveling on roads.** Avoid floodwaters, especially when driving. Avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges. Watch out for fallen objects, downed electrical wires and weakened structures.
- **Report safety hazards to authorities if possible.** Dangling or loose power lines should be reported to the power company.
- **Beware of spoiled and contaminated food and water.** Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are sure it is not contaminated. Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- **NEVER use a generator inside a home or enclosed area.** This includes garages, crawl spaces, sheds or similar areas, even if the area has a fan or open doors or windows. Deadly carbon monoxide can build up quickly and can linger for hours.

HURRICANE KIT

Make sure your hurricane kit includes:

- Flashlights & extra bulbs
- Battery-operated radio
- Battery-operated lanterns
- Batteries (in different sizes!)
- Matches
- First aid kit
- Duct tape
- Rain gear
- Clock (wind-up or battery-powered)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Fire extinguisher
- Scissors
- Can Opener
- Clean clothes
- Extra blankets
- Heavy gloves

FOOD AND WATER

Pack non-perishable food for each person for 3-7 days.

- Bottled water (1 gallon/person/day)
- Bottled juice
- **Two coolers:**
One for drinks & one for food
- Canned foods
- Manual can opener
- Dry pet food

HOUSE CHECKLIST

- Remove outdoor items
- Trim dead branches from trees
- Board up windows
- Fill gas tanks and extra containers
- Get extra cash
- Move furniture away from windows
- Store important documents in waterproof containers
- Extra supply of medicines

MEDICAL NEEDS

- Medic-alert tags
- Insect-repellent sprays
- Feminine hygiene items
- Sunscreen
- Soap
- First aid kit
- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Children's medicine
- Bandages
- Adhesive tape
- Antiseptic solution
- Thermometer
- Tweezers

PREPARE YOUR PET

Your pet will need more than a bag of food in a storm.

- Water for your pet for 3-7 days
- Non-perishable food
- Crate/carrier/tank
- Leash (non-extendable)
- Collar and/or harness
- Favorite Toy
- Blanket or pillow
- Clean litter box
- Updated shots and medical records
- Microchip with up-to-date contact info
- Any medications
- Calming aids
- Tags
- Puppy training pads
- Heartworm preventatives
- Rain gear