



## Hurricane Preparedness

The Rollins Employee Relief Fund encourages all who live in areas susceptible to oceanic storms to be prepared. The best way to recover from any storm is proper preparation. Take charge of the storm by preparing in advance. Ensure assets are protected with insurance at all times. Have an emergency plan in place for your family and pets.

### Plan, Protect, Recover, Replenish

**Make an emergency plan** for your family. Then make sure everyone understands the plan. Setting a plan in advance will help you move to the next step should conditions worsen. Planning in advance will also reduce fear in children as they are part of the planning and understand what the extra excitement is about and why. Remember to include your pets in the planning process. This ensures your pets are not forgotten during a time of stress and confusion. Be sure to notify extended family of the plan as well.

**Know your evacuation routes.** As part of the emergency plan, you need to know where you will stay during the storm, when to move to another area of the home or at what point to evacuate the home. If evacuation is necessary, know your destination in advance. This will also help you know which route you will take and how much time you need to evacuate. Remember an approaching storm requires more time because everyone else is also preparing. Be sure to account for that extra time with preparations and evacuation.

**Sign up for trusted alerts and warnings** or find a trusted radio station to keep you informed. During a hurricane you will need access to timely, reliable information. Identify multiple methods to get this information in advance. Download the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) App on your phone or tablet to receive alerts from The National Weather Service.

**Check your insurance policy.** Know what coverages you have prior to hurricane season and make appropriate changes as needed. Keep in mind, it is too late to add insurance once the storm is in the forecast. Keep a copy of your home inventory, including pictures, to help with any recovery should items be damaged or destroyed. Check out the RERF Insurance Resource for a home inventory example. <https://www.rollinsrelief.org/resources/>

**Build an Emergency Kit.** During a hurricane anything can happen. Remember, first responders will not be able to help until the storm has passed. Have supplies ready for any type of disaster.

Please see the list on the following page for important items to add to your emergency kit.

**Invest in a generator.** If a hurricane is approaching, generators are one of the first items stores sell out of. Plan to purchase a generator in advance. It is better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it. Remember generators are gas powered and cannot be in use inside the home. The generator is for after the storm passes when and where it can operate safely.

**General Hurricane Knowledge.** It is important to know your storm terms, so you understand when an alert comes through.

*Tropical Depression* – Cyclones with winds of less than 38 mph.

*Tropical Storms* – Storms that vary in wind speeds between 39-73 mph.

*Hurricane* – Oceanic storm with winds 74 mph or greater.

*Tropical Storm Watch* – Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area specified.

*Hurricane Watch* – Hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area. They are typically issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

*Tropical Storm Warning* – Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.

*Hurricane Warning* – Hurricane conditions are expected within a specified area. A Warning is typically issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of the storm.

*Eye* – Center of the storm with calmer or clear conditions.

*Eye Wall* – Surrounding the eye, contains the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.

*Rain Bands* – Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind, and tornadoes.

*Storm Surge* – Ocean water swelling as a result of a landfalling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland. An often underestimated and deadly oceanic event.

*Hurricane Season* – June 1 through November 30 or anytime conditions are right.

## RERF Resource



## Important Checklists

### Basic Hurricane Kit (Emergency Kit)

- Non-perishable food (enough for 3 days)
- Bottled Water (enough to last 3 days) (1 Gal per person per day)
- Coolers and ice or ice packs for when electricity is lost
- Mess Kits, paper cups, plates, disposable utensils, paper towels
- Extra cell phone battery or charger
- Battery powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Basic First Aid Kit
- Signal flare
- Medication Prescription and Non-Prescription
- Prescription eyeglasses
- Whistle to signal for help
- Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Personal hygiene items, moist towelettes, soap, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- Fire Extinguisher (ABC type)
- Matches in waterproof container and/or lighter
- Manual can opener
- Pet or baby items as needed (food, water, diapers, toys)
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents. (Have cash on hand if electricity goes out bank cards do not work)
- Books, magazines, or games to pass the time
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Extra set of clothing and shoes for each person

### Prior to Hurricane

- Have emergency plan in place.
- Clean out drains and gutters to keep them from flooding when heavy rains start.
- Lift expensive items off floor or move to second level of home (TV's, Computers, Stereo, etc.).
- Board up or tape windows to prevent broken glass.
- Locate important documents and put them in waterproof container.

- Put prescription medications and eyeglasses in waterproof containers.
- Wrap and secure precious heirlooms/valuables in waterproof container and move to second level of home or attic to avoid water damage.
- Fill up your vehicles gas tanks with fuel, have extra fuel on hand if you have a generator.
- Store outdoor items securely.
- Charge your devices.
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water (or containers of water) so you can flush toilets and use for washing.
- Always evacuate if directed by authorities.
- Turn temperature down on refrigerator and freezer – if power goes out this will allow food to stay colder longer.
- Reinforce garage doors.

### During and immediately after the Hurricane

- Stay indoors.
- Avoid elevators.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines.
- Stay alert.
- Unplug appliances if you lose power. This will prevent power surges and damage to your appliances.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads or washed-out bridges.
- If you have evacuated, do not return until it is safe.

### Replenish Kit

- Restock kit after each storm.
- Rotate and replace stored food and water every six months to keep fresh.
- Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. (Replace batteries if needed, update clothing, phone chargers, etc.).

**RERF Tip:** It is important to create a family plan. The plan includes a kit of supplies that you can take with you if you are forced to evacuate. This kit is also useful if you are able to stay in your home, but are still affected by the storm, such as through the loss of power. Hurricanes cause wide-spread panic. People rush around to get the supplies they need. Having a kit made in advance alleviates all that stress in an already chaotic situation. Remember to create your kit in a “go bag” in case the circumstance changes to evacuation instead of weathering the storm.