

Hurricanes and tropical storms – get ready now!

Living in Florida means that we all need to understand and get ready for hurricanes. You cannot stop a hurricane, but you can take steps to protect yourself, your family and your home from the dangers of these powerful storms.

Most disasters happen with little or no warning. Hurricanes are different. Thanks to modern weather forecasting, most of the time you know when a hurricane is getting near the Tampa Bay area. This gives you some time to prepare. Make sure your plan is ready before hurricane season starts. Be ready before a storm gets here.

Hurricane season starts on June 1 and ends on November 30, with the peak of the season from mid-August to late October. Your planning should take place before hurricane season begins. There's no time like NOW to get started!

About tropical storms and hurricanes

Hurricanes can cause tremendous damage, injury and even death. Winds can be more than 155 miles per hour. Hurricanes and tropical storms can also cause tornadoes, create flooding along the coast and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall. Slow-moving storms produce especially heavy rain. Flash floods can occur from the heavy rainfall. Flooding on rivers and streams may continue for several days or more after the storm.

Tropical storms and hurricanes form when several weather conditions happen at the same time. The two basic ingredients are warm Ocean or Gulf water and certain types of wind. Tropical storms and hurricane conditions usually occur between late May and early November.

- **A tropical depression** is a system of clouds and thunderstorms with and maximum sustained winds (lasting at least one minute) that are at least 38 miles per hour (mph).
- **A tropical storm** is a system of strong thunderstorms with surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph. On average, about ten tropical storms develop each hurricane season. About half of them strengthen into hurricanes.
- **A hurricane** is an intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

Hurricane hazards

- **Storm surge** is a large wall of sea water pushed up onto the land by hurricane and tropical storm winds. A storm surge can be 25 feet high and 50 to 100 miles wide. Because the Gulf of Mexico is shallow storm surge could be very bad in Pinellas County. In a Category 5 hurricane, we could have a 24-foot storm surge. This would temporarily create two island areas in our county. Water from the Gulf and Tampa Bay would cover the rest of the county.
- **Hurricane winds**, 74 mph or more, can destroy buildings and mobile homes. In a hurricane, street signs, roofing material, siding and items left outside become flying missiles. In extreme storms (such as Katrina), the wind alone can cause tremendous devastation, as trees and power lines are blown down and weak parts of homes and buildings collapse or are destroyed.
- **Tornadoes:** As a hurricane moves onto land it can cause tornadoes without warning. This adds to the dangers of a hurricane.
- **Inland Flooding:** Storm surge has the highest potential to cause hurricane-related deaths. However, more people die from inland flooding caused by tropical storms or hurricanes. This type of flooding can happen hundreds of miles from the coast. This means that a community not normally affected by hurricane winds could still be in great danger from the storm. Flash floods, a very fast rise in water levels, can occur quickly due to intense rainfall. Longer term flooding on rivers and streams can go on for many days after the storm.

Measuring a hurricane's strength

There are five categories to measure the strength of hurricanes. This is called the Saffir-Simpson Scale. Katrina was a Category 3 hurricane when it made landfall in Louisiana. Information below lists each storm category and gives examples of damage.

Tropical Storm Winds 39-73 miles per hour (mph)

Category 1 Hurricane Winds 74-95 mph

- **Damage:** No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage signs. Some coastal flooding and minor damage to docks and piers.

Category 2 Hurricane Winds 96-110 mph

- **Damage:** Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.

Category 3 Hurricane Winds 111-130 mph

- **Damage:** Some structural damage to small homes and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures. Larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

Category 4 Hurricane Winds 131-155 mph

- **Damage:** More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

Category 5 Hurricane Winds 156 mph and up

- **Damage:** Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.

Watches and warnings

Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch

- **What it means:** Hurricane or tropical storm conditions could happen in the area of the watch, usually within 36 hours. During a watch, you should prepare your home and review your plan for evacuating (leaving the area). A tropical storm or hurricane warning could be announced after a watch. This watch should initiate your family's disaster plan.

Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning

- **What it means:** Officials expect tropical storm or hurricane conditions in the area of the warning within 24 hours or less. This is time for you to finish getting ready and then leave the area if directed by local officials.

Short-Term Watch or Warning

- **What it means:** This provides information about hurricane threats, such as floods and tornadoes. These watches or warnings may be issued for a period as short as an hour and may only apply to small areas. Follow instructions, such as getting to a secure room in the event of a tornado warning, and be prepared to leave the area in a hurry if directed to do so by local officials.

Flood Watch

- **What it means:** There is the possibility of flooding in the area of the watch. If you live in the flood watch area, continue with getting ready for the storm and possible flooding, keep informed and be ready to act if officials issue a warning or you see flooding.

Flood or Flash Flood Warning

- **What it means:** This type of warning is issued for specific communities, rivers, streams or areas where flooding is very near or has already begun. If you live in the warning area, be ready to evacuate immediately.

BEFORE hurricane season

Hurricane season starts on June 1 and ends on November 30, with the peak of the season from mid-August to late October. Your planning should take place before hurricane season begins. Do not wait until a tropical storm or hurricane is near. When word of a watch or warning gets out to the public, time and supplies run very short. **Start planning now.**

To begin, answer these two questions.

1. Do you live in a mobile home? Yes No

If yes, you must leave if an evacuation order is issued – even if your home is not in an evacuation area.

2. Do you live in an evacuation zone? Yes No **Evacuation level for your home:** _____

There are five evacuation levels in Pinellas County. They match the five categories of hurricanes. To find your evacuation level, visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency or call (727) 453-3150 and enter in your phone number to find out your evacuation level.

You should also be able to answer the following questions before hurricane season begins:

- What are the hurricane hazards in your community?
- What do the hurricane hazards mean to you and your family?
- What actions should you and your family take to be prepared?

Planning for your children

Include your children in planning as much as possible. Ask them for their ideas about what to put in the family disaster supply kit, for example. Or let them put together their own supply kit.

After a disaster, children need to hear that it's normal and "okay" to feel frightened. Your children's fears come from their very active imaginations – and you should take their feelings seriously. Your words and actions can provide comfort to a child who feels afraid. When talking to your children, be sure to give an honest and realistic picture of what is happening or what is going to happen. **After a disaster, children fear that:**

- They will be separated from you family and left alone;
- The disaster will happen again; or
- Someone will be injured or killed.

It's important to realize that you don't have to "fix" how your children feel after a disaster. Instead, concentrate on helping them understand and deal with what happened. Healing takes time for everyone, but some children may need professional help. If signs of stress don't let up after a few weeks, or if they get worse, consider talking to a mental health professional who works with children. In time and with help, your children will learn that life goes on.

Planning for your pets:

Do not leave your pets at home if you must evacuate. Take your pets with you. Frightened animals can slip out through open doors or broken windows. Your pets can't fend for themselves and likely will die from exposure, drowning, starvation, predators or contaminated food or water – or they may be run over.

If you are unable to take your pets with you in an evacuation, make plans for their care well before hurricane season begins. Animal shelters, such as County Animal Services, the Humane Society and the SPCA cannot accept your pets.

Check ahead for boarding kennels in non-evacuation zones. Check www.petswelcome.com to find hotels that are pet-friendly and kennels. Find a friend who lives out of the evacuation zone that will be able to take care of your pets if you are unable to do so.

Most public shelters do not accept pets. However, the county will open three **pet-friendly shelters:**

1. Thurgood Marshall Middle School in St. Petersburg
2. Oak Grove Middle School in Clearwater
3. Dunedin Middle School in Dunedin

Space in these pet-friendly shelters is limited and pre-registration is required. You can pre-register online at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/Handbook/pet_preparedness.htm or call (727) 582-2150.

Prepare a pet disaster supplies kit. Include two weeks' worth of food and water, a manual can opener, collar and leash, current photos and description of pet, any medications with dispensing instructions, medical records along with veterinarian's name, feeding and water bowls, favorite toys and blanket, cat litter, scoop, liners and pan, grooming items and plastic bags to handle waste.

Make sure your pet has proper identification. This means having a collar tag or microchip implant. Remember: A collar tag is your pet's ticket home.

After the storm, do not take your pet outdoors until the authorities tell you it's safe to do so. Downed power lines, debris, reptiles and rodents brought in with high water and stray animals may harm your pet. The loss of familiar scents and landmarks might confuse your pet.

Walk your pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home. Don't let your pets roam alone outdoors. A frightened or confused animal could easily get lost. Don't let your pet drink or eat food from outside that may have become contaminated.

Make arrangements for your pet(s) in advance. Take them with you if you must leave your home. It will help with your peace of mind, knowing that your beloved pets are safe with you.

BEFORE the storm

When a tropical storm or hurricane WATCH is issued

At this point, the leading edge of the storm is probably 24 to 36 hours away.

Now is the time to:

- Stay tuned to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for updates and official bulletins.
- Check your hurricane supplies/survival kit.
- Contact family members to coordinate plans.
- Turn refrigerator/freezer to coldest settings.
- Charge up all cell phones and portable phones
- Install shutters or pre-cut plywood to protect your windows.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Bring in light objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys and lawn furniture.
- Fill your fuel tanks early: Automobile, propane, etc.
- Place valuables in waterproof containers or plastic bags.
- Get extra cash. ATMs may not work after a storm has passed.
- Water service could be disrupted after a hurricane strikes. Freeze water in plastic jugs. Fill your emergency water containers now
- Sewer services could be disrupted in the event of a hurricane. Keep five-gallon buckets, with tight-fitting lids, for use as emergency toilets. Line each bucket with a heavy-duty plastic bag.

When a tropical storm or hurricane WARNING is issued

At this point, the leading edge of the storm is 24 hours away, or less.

Now is the time to:

- Listen closely to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins and evacuation orders.
- Complete any last-minute preparation activities around your home.
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary use later on.
- Clear your yard of loose objects such as hoses, BBQ grills and lawn chairs and secure them inside.
- Move valuables and electrical equipment away from windows. Cover them with plastic bags or tarps
- Follow instructions issued by local officials.
- Be ready to go and leave immediately if you are instructed to do so

You must leave if you...

- Live in a mobile home. They are unsafe in high winds – no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- Live in the evacuation zone(s) that will be affected by the storm

When an EVACUATION ORDER is issued

Now is the time to

- Find out if the evacuation order includes your evacuation zone. If it does, you will probably have eight hours before it is time to leave.
- If you live in a mobile home, you must evacuate – no matter where your home is located.

If the evacuation order applies to you

- Leave early for your pre-planned destination. Traffic will be very heavy.
- Take your pets with you. Leaving them behind is likely to result in their being injured, lost or killed
- Call friends/relatives outside the area and let them know your evacuation destination.
- Close and lock all windows and doors tightly.
- Put your disaster supplies kit(s), including a copy of your family disaster plan, in your car.
- Turn off electricity, water and gas.
- Get to a safe area before you are cut off by traffic jams, high winds or flood water.
- Evacuate quickly, and safely

What to take if you have to go to a public shelter:

Use a public shelter only if you have no other place to go. Shelters are crowded, noisy and offer no privacy. If possible, try to go somewhere else – perhaps to the home of a friend or family member outside the evacuation area.

- Your disaster supply kit
- Folding chairs, cots, pillows and blankets
- Special dietary needs
- Your medications
- Baby supplies (if applicable)
- Books, puzzles or quiet games to pass the time
- Do NOT take jewelry or other valuables,
- Do NOT take pets – unless you've pre-registered and are going to a pet-friendly shelter
- Do NOT take firearms, illegal drugs or alcohol

If the evacuation order does not apply to you:

- Stay at home if you have NOT been ordered to leave and if you are able to stay inside a well constructed building.
 - Move your supplies and survival kit to a **safe room**.
 - Make sure your safe room has a good, solid door and few – if any – windows.
 - In a one-story house, an ideal safe room is in the center of the house and has no windows.
 - In a two-story house, go to an first-floor room such as a bathroom, closet or under the stairs
 - In a multiple-story building, go to the first or second floor. Seek safety in halls or rooms away from windows.
 - Decide what you will do if winds become strong enough to produce deadly missiles and structural failure.
 - Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly garage doors.
 - Stay inside, away from windows and doors – even if they are covered.
 - Stay indoors – off the roads – until officials give the “all clear”
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AFTER the storm

- Listen to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for bulletins and information on returning home.
 - Wait until officials declare your area safe before returning home.
 - Stay off the roads if possible. Emergency vehicles have first priority.
 - If you left your home, you will probably need identification –such as a driver’s license – to return home
 - If you did not evacuate, wait until officials declare your area safe before you go outside.
 - Do not try to drive across flowing water. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Two feet of water will carry away most cars. Many people have been killed or injured driving through flooded roadways or around barricades. Roads are closed for your protection.
 - If you see water flowing across a road, turn around and go another way. Remember this: Turn around, don’t drown.
 - Do not allow children to play in flooded areas. They can drown, pick up harmful germs that cause illness or get injured in areas that look safe – but are not.
 - Don’t go near standing water. It may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
 - Have professionals check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
 - Use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles and other open flames indoors.
 - Use tap water for drinking and cooking only when local officials say it is safe to do so.
 - Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
 - Be patient. It may take three days or longer for emergency workers to reach your neighborhood.
 - If your home has lost power it may take a month for power to be restored
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Creating your family disaster plan

This section is for your family’s personal information and plan. Take time to complete this plan, and then make copies so each family member has easy access to this information at home, work, school, etc. Also place one copy in each family vehicle. Send a copy of your plan to an out-of-state friend or family member, too, if you’re able to do so.

Gather information.

- Identify risks. What type of disasters could occur in your community? How will you respond?
- Check your insurance coverage. Flood damage, for example, is not covered by your homeowner’s insurance policy. You need to purchase it ahead of time. After recent storms, many renters discovered that their property was not covered by their landlord’s property insurance. A renter’s insurance policy is a good investment.

Meet with your family to create a disaster plan.

- Discuss your plan with your family. Pick two places to meet:
 1. A spot outside your home for an emergency, such as fire
 2. A place away from your neighborhood in case you can’t return home
- Choose an out-of-state contact as your “family check-in” for everyone to call if anyone gets separated.
- Discuss what you will do if you are told to evacuate.
- Make sure everyone in your family understands your plan

Implement your plan.

- Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone.
- Install safety equipment in your home, such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Inspect your home for potential hazards (items that can move, fall, break or catch fire) and correct them.
- Learn basic safety measures – CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home. This applies to the whole family.
- Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Keep enough supplies in your home for a minimum of three days.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit.

Practice and maintain your plan.

- Make sure that your family knows meeting places, phone numbers and safety rules.
- Conduct drills. Test your smoke alarms once a month and change the batteries at least once each year.
- Test and re-charge your fire extinguisher(s) according to the instructions that came with it.

Take time to complete this plan with your family.

Make copies so each family member has easy access to this information at home, work, school, etc. Since you and your family are not always together, it is important that everyone know your family's disaster plan. This includes having a complete disaster supply kit that is ready to use as needed.

Our family disaster plan

Entering information here – mostly in question-and-answer form – will make it easier for everyone to follow the plan. Use additional paper if needed. Refer to your plan as a storm begins to near the area.

Preparing for hurricane season

- We know specific hazards in our area – flooding, storm surge, etc.
- We have prepared a disaster supplies kit for family and pets.
- We have posted emergency phone numbers near all phones and programmed numbers into cell phones.
- We know how to secure our home’s doors and windows.
- We have made plans to secure our property.
- We have checked condition of emergency equipment (flashlights, battery-powered radios, etc.)
- Trees and shrubs around our home are well trimmed.
- We know where we will store sprinklers, hoses and yard furniture and ornaments.
- We have cleared loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- We have arranged to secure our boat. (if applicable)
- We’ve prepared a complete home inventory of everything we own and documented valuable items with photos.
 - We’ve mailed or emailed a copy of the inventory and photos to an out-of-town contact.

Our plans for evacuation

Steps we will we take to protect our home if/when we need to evacuate:

Where we'll go if/when we need to evacuate: (name, address, phone number/s):

Public shelter nearest our home (only as a last resort):

Special needs shelter nearest our home:

Special needs shelter registration complete? Yes No (if applicable to your family)

Have we notified family and friends of our plans? Yes No

Their names, addresses, phone numbers

If our family will not need to evacuate

If we do not need to evacuate, what steps will we take to protect our home during a storm?

Are important papers copied and placed in a waterproof, safe place? Yes No

Location:

We have identified a “safe room” in our home. Yes No

Location:

Our pets

Name/type of pet(s)

We have prepared a disaster supplies kit for our pet(s). Yes No

What will we do with our pet(s)...

▪ If we do not have to evacuate?

▪ If we evacuate?

Emergency information

This is part of your family disaster plan, but you should also keep copies near the phone and in purses, briefcases, backpacks, etc. Program important numbers into cell phones.

Emergency numbers

Sheriff/Police Emergency (911) _____

Sheriff/Police Non-Emergency _____

Fire Department _____

County Emergency Management _____

County Health Department Pinellas County Health Department: 727-824-6900

Poison Control Center **1-800-222-1222**

Other _____

Our family

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Family telephone numbers

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Friends and neighbors

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Out-of-town contacts

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Meeting points

1. Outside our home _____

2. Away from home _____

Medical information

Name _____ Allergies _____ Medical Conditions _____

Name _____ Allergies _____ Medical Conditions _____

Name _____ Allergies _____ Medical Conditions _____

Name _____ Allergies _____ Medical Conditions _____

Name _____ Allergies _____ Medical Conditions _____

Health providers

Doctor _____ Number _____

Doctor _____ Number _____

Doctor _____ Number _____

Doctor _____ Number _____

Doctor _____

Number _____

Dentist _____

Number _____

Pharmacy _____

Number _____

Vet _____

Number _____

Medications

Name _____ Medication Name, Strength, Dosage _____

Name _____ Medication Name, Strength, Dosage _____

Name _____ Medication Name, Strength, Dosage _____

Name _____ Medication Name, Strength, Dosage _____

Name _____ Medication Name, Strength, Dosage _____

Name _____ Medication Name, Strength, Dosage _____

Insurance – home, car, boat

Coverage Type _____ Company Name _____ Policy# _____

Date Issued _____ Expiration Date _____ Other Info _____

Agent's Name _____ Contact Information _____

Coverage Type _____ Company Name _____ Policy# _____

Date Issued _____ Expiration Date _____ Other Info _____

Agent's Name _____ Contact Information _____

Disaster supplies

You should keep basic items on hand for your home in case of an emergency: water, food, medical and first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies and special items. You also need to have supplies for individuals with special needs, for children and for pets. Keep items that you would need in an easy-to carry container – ideas: a large, covered trash container, a large ice chest, a camping backpack or a duffle bag.

Food and water

You should have at least a three-day supply. Recent experience with hurricanes has shown that it's probably a good idea to have at least seven days' worth of emergency supplies. After a major storm passes, it may be several days before grocery stores can restock and get back to normal. You'll want to have enough food and supplies to keep going until roads are clear and shelves are full.

Water. At least one gallon of water per person, per day.

- A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day and will use two gallons of water for food preparation and sanitation. Hot weather and intense physical activity (such as storm clean-up) can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, elderly and ill people need more.

Food. Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food – seven days' supply is best.

- Select food that does not have to be refrigerated or cooked – ready-to-eat items are best.
- Select food items that are compact and lightweight.
- Go easy on salty foods such as pretzels and chips. They will make you thirsty.

Some ideas:

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Canned juice and other canned drinks
- High-energy foods
- Comfort foods and snacks
- Food for infants
- Food for individuals with special needs
- Pedialyte (to restore hydration if needed)
- Disposable cups, plates, plastic utensils, paper towels
- Non-electric can opener
- Utility knife
- Remember family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons

Emergency supplies

- This disaster preparedness guide, including your family disaster plan
- Cash or traveler's checks, coins
- Map of the area
- Battery-operated radio, extra batteries
- Flashlight(s), extra batteries
- A non-portable, plug-in-the-wall telephone
- Fire extinguisher
- Pliers
- Ice chest
- Pet supplies
- Can of spray paint
- Signal flares
- Whistle
- Wrench to shut off household water and/or gas
- Tent
- Plastic sheeting
- Plastic shortage containers
- Plastic bucket with tight-sealing lid
- Plastic garbage bags and ties for sanitation
- Infant supplies – formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications, pacifiers, toys, etc.
- Tape – duct & masking tape (Note: Taping your windows in advance of a storm is a waste of time!)
- Towels
- Candles
- Lighter
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Paper/pencil
- Rope
- Medicine dropper
- Aluminum foil
- Toilet paper, moist towelettes, paper towels
- Soap, liquid detergent, shampoo
- Hand sanitizer gel
- Disinfectant
- Unscented household chlorine bleach
- Feminine supplies
- Adult hygiene items (Depends, etc.)
- Scissors
- Personal hygiene items

Clothing and bedding

Be sure that your disaster supply kit includes at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy shoes, work boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hats | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets and sleeping bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-sleeved shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra prescription glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact lenses and supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |

Medical and first aid supplies

Assemble first aid kits containing these items – one for your home and one for each car. Keep a three-day (minimum) supply of each person's medications and include in the kit. You can assemble the kits yourself or buy them from your local chapter of the American Red Cross or a local retail store.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors (small) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Denture needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several two-inch sterile gauze pads | <input type="checkbox"/> Cold pack. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several four-inch sterile gauze pads | <input type="checkbox"/> At least two tongue depressors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several two-inch sterile roller bandages | <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several three-inch sterile roller bandages | <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-diarrhea medication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several triangular bandages | <input type="checkbox"/> Antacid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least two pairs latex gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Laxative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleansing agent, soap and moistened towelettes | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic ointment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum jelly or other lubricant | <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted sizes of safety pins | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syrup of Ipecac - use to induce vomiting if advised by your local Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222 connects you with the Poison Control Center) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activated charcoal (used if advised by the Poison Control Center) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Items unique to your family _____ | |

Documents

Keep copies of records in waterproof containers, such as sealable sandwich bags.

- A copy of your family disaster plan
- Official photo ID for everyone in your family – rescue workers may need to see this before allowing you to return to your home after evacuation
- Driver's license
- Car registration information
- Wills and living wills
- Insurance policies and other insurance paperwork
- List of important phone numbers
- Contracts, deeds, titles, legal documents, stocks and bonds
- Mortgage information
- Social Security cards
- Passports
- Immunization records
- Proof of employment/income
- Bank information, loan numbers, etc.
- Credit card numbers, company names and telephone numbers
- Inventory (with photos) of valuable household goods
- Family records – birth, marriage, death certificates
- Current photographs of family members and pets
- Pets' veterinary and shot records, name and phone number of veterinarian, photo of pets
- Documents unique to your family _____

Special needs

Supplies to consider for those in your family with special medical needs:

- For those on respirators, oxygen or other electric-dependent medical equipment – make arrangements in advance with your physician or check with your oxygen supplier about emergency plans.
- Minimum two-week stock of disposable supplies (dressings, nasal cannulas, suction catheters, etc.)
- Two-week supply of medications – prescription and non-prescription
- Electrical back-up and power cord for medical equipment and electric wheelchairs, etc.
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Extra eyeglasses
- Extra batteries for hearing aids and communication devices
- List of prescriptions and “hard copy” of prescriptions for emergency refills
- Medical insurance information

Our children

Assemble a kit for your children, including:

- A few favorite books, crayons, coloring books and paper
- Puzzles, a board game, deck of cards
- A couple of favorite small toys, such as dolls or action figures, stuffed animals
- Favorite blanket, pillow
- Pictures of family and pets
- Other special items that will comfort children

Our pets:

Assemble a disaster kit for your pet. These items will be useful if you need to evacuate (with your pets, of course) or if you stay at home:

- Plenty of food and water (at least two weeks’ worth)
- Shot records
- Medications and medical records
- Veterinarian’s name and contact information
- Manual can opener (if you use canned pet food)
- Sturdy carrier
- Collars with tags, leashes and a muzzle, if necessary.
- Microchip records
- Litter, pan and scoop for cats, rabbits and other animals that use them.
- Trash bags and small plastic bags to handle waste
- Feeding and water bowls
- Bed or blanket
- Grooming items
- Toys, blanket and other comfort items.
- Photos and description of your pet.
- Pet first aid kit. You can buy this at a pet store or through a local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Notes
