## **Hurricane Preparation Checklists**

## Survival Kit

When preparing for any disaster, it's a good idea to create a "Survival Kit"; a group of items ready for use should a disaster occur. A kit should include:

- □ Canned or other non-perishable food
- □ Non-electric can opener
- □ First aid kit and manual
- □ Portable radio and/or television
- □ Flashlights, lanterns and extra batteries
- □ Water in non-breakable containers
- Prescription medicines as needed
- □ Extra clothing and blankets
- Emergency cash and credit cards



## Steps to Take

Before During After

- Know the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning. A hurricane watch means that a hurricane may occur in the next 24 to 36 hours. A hurricane warning means the hurricane will probably strike within the next 24 hours!
- □ Prepare a survival kit (see above).
- Plan an evacuation route in advance of the storm if in a flood prone area.
- Close storm shutters and board up windows if practicable.
- Stock up on drinking water and non- perishable goods.
- Review how to shut off utilities in an emergency, with all family members.
- Secure all lightweight outdoor objects or move them inside.
- Fuel your car in case you must leave immediately.

- Listen to the radio, TV or favorite weather app for important storm information and instructions.
- When power goes out, refrain from using candles or open flames for light. (That's what batteries and flashlights or electric lanterns are for)
- If at home, stay inside and away from all windows, skylights and glass doors. **Do not go outside**, even if the weather appears to have calmed. The "eye" of the storm can pass quickly, leaving you outside when strong winds resume.
- If you must evacuate, leave as soon as possible and tell someone outside of the storm area where you will be.

- Stay tuned to the radio, television or on-line. If you had to evacuate, return home only after authorities have advised it's safe to do so.
- Beware and check for gas leaks or electrical system damage.
- Make temporary repairs, including securing your home from further damage, such as water damage or mold.
- As soon as sunny weather returns, open windows and doors to dry things out.
- Add fans and keep sump pumps clean and operating.
- Use a mild bleach solution to clean up areas that have gotten wet to inhibit mold growth.
- When you venture out, avoid downed power lines, and be wary of large puddles. They might be hiding downed power lines.

