



**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR
DISASTER?**

**HURRICANE
SEASON 2024**

**IMPORTANT
PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY**

FMO

Stay Safe During Hurricane Season

We can't control the storms that come our way,
but we can control how we navigate through them

FMO cares about our members and want you to stay safe during the hurricane season. We hope you find the following information useful in helping to prepare for, stay safe from and recover from a hurricane.

The threat of hurricanes is very real for Florida during the six-month long Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 until November 30. The peak of hurricane season occurs between mid-August and late October, when the waters in the equatorial Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico have warmed enough to help support the development of tropical waves.

A common misconception in Florida is that there are parts of the state that do not get hurricanes. Since 1850, all of Florida's coastline has been impacted by at least one hurricane. With its long coastline and location, Florida frequently finds itself in the path of these intense storms. The southeast coastline is extremely susceptible

to a land-falling hurricane, followed by the panhandle. Areas around Tampa, Jacksonville and the Big Bend do not have as high of a risk of a direct strike from a hurricane but are still susceptible to a landfall each year. Even if the hurricane makes landfall elsewhere in the state, the impacts can be felt hundreds of miles away.

Tropical Depression - A tropical cyclone in which the maximum 1-minute sustained surface wind is 33 knots (38 mph) or less.>

Tropical Storm - A tropical cyclone in which the maximum 1-minute sustained surface wind ranges from 34 to 63 knots (39 to 73 mph) inclusive.

Hurricane - A tropical cyclone in the Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, or eastern Pacific in which the maximum 1-minute sustained surface wind is 64 knots (74 mph) or greater.

Prepare Before the Storm

STOCKPILE THE BEST FOOD

While severe storms do the most damage, even the smallest tropical storm can knock out power for days. You're inside, sheltered from the storm, but have no electricity to cook dinner or run your refrigerator. That's when you start to break out the nonperishable food items.

Nonperishables are crucial supplies for enduring a lengthy power outage. When you make your grocery list, remember who will be sheltering in place with you. The list should reflect foods your family eats on a regular basis. Don't forget about food allergies, and remember pets, as well.

When living in a hurricane prone area, it's even more crucial to keep nonperishable food items stocked well before a storm hits. The FDA recommends that they be shelf-stable and don't need to be refrigerated or cooked. An unopened refrigerator and freezer can usually keep food safe to consume for up to four hours. The foods in the freezer are typically safe for 48 hours if it is full or 24 hours if the freezer is half-full. As the storm approaches, inventory your pantry and eat what you have in the fridge first so it doesn't go to waste.

Here's a shopping list to help you prepare for hurricanes and the power outages they often bring. Many of the food items listed below can be eaten without the use of an electric stove, oven or other appliances.

Beverages

Water: A gallon per person is enough for seven days. If bottles are an option, purchase eight 16-oz. bottles per person — or 56 bottles per person for seven days.

Juice: Canned, boxed or plastic filled.

Milk: Powdered or shelf-stable, in single-serving boxes.

Caffeine: Canned coffee or energy drinks.

Snacks

Crackers for snacking with cheese and meats right after the power goes out.

Fruit: canned fruits, applesauce.

Healthy Snacks: granola bars, trail mix, rice cakes, dried fruit.

Comfort food: Pop-tarts, doughnuts, sweets.

Meals

Canned soups, chili, veggies, stew.

Cereal: can be eaten dry or mixed with milk.

Preserved meats: beef jerky that is high-protein, low-carb; canned tuna, chicken, Spam.

Condiments

Small jar of mayonnaise, to make chicken or tuna salad.

Ketchup, mustard, individual packets



Preparing Before the Storm People with Disabilities

People with Disabilities

Disability intersects every demographic group—there are people with disabilities of all ages, races, genders or national origin. And disabilities can impact a person in a variety of ways—both visible and invisible. For people with disabilities and their families, it is important to consider individual circumstances and needs to effectively prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Get Informed

Know what disasters could affect your area, which ones could call for an evacuation and when to shelter in place.

Keep a NOAA Weather Radio tuned to your local emergency station and monitor TV and radio. Follow mobile alerts and warnings about severe weather in your area.

Download the FEMA App and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

Make a Plan

In the event of a disaster could you make it on your own for several days? After a disaster you may not have access to a medical facility or even a drugstore. It is crucial to plan for your daily needs and know what you would do if they became limited or unavailable. Additional planning steps include:

Create a support network of people who can help you in a disaster. Keep a contact list in a watertight container in your emergency kit or on your electronic devices.

Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supplies. You may want to consider giving a trusted member a key to your house or apartment.

Plan ahead for accessible transportation that you may need for evacuation or getting around during or after disaster. Check with local transit providers as well as with your emergency management agency to identify appropriate accessible options.

Many city and county emergency management agencies maintain voluntary registries for people with disabilities to self-identify in order to receive targeted assistance during emergencies and disasters. Contact your local emergency management office to find out more. If you are on dialysis or other life-sustaining medical treatment know the location and availability of more than one facility that can help you.

If you use medical equipment in your home that requires electricity, talk to your doctor or health care provider about what you may be able to do to keep it running during a power outage. You can also ask your power provider to put you on a list for priority power restoration.

About half of all Americans take a prescription medicine every day. An emergency can make it difficult for them to refill their prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency. Wear medical alert tags or bracelets. Also add pertinent medical information to your electronic devices.

If you have a communication disability, consider carrying printed cards or storing information on your devices to inform first responders and others how to communicate with you.

If you use assistive technologies, plan how you will evacuate with the devices or how you will replace equipment if lost or destroyed.

Locate and access your electronic health records from a variety of sources by using the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' online tool.

Plan for children and adults who may have difficulty in unfamiliar or chaotic environments. Consider your service or support animal or pets and plan for food, water and supplies. If you need to evacuate, you will need to know whether your shelter allows pets or not, since some shelters only allow service or support animals.

Keep a list of the nearest medical facilities, local hospitals and nearest transportation.

Build a Kit

In addition to having your basic survival supplies, an emergency kit should have items to meet your individual needs in various emergencies. Consider the items you use every day and which ones you may need to add to your kit.

Tips for Medications

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about how you can create an emergency supply of medicines.

Keep a list of your prescription medicines. Include information about your diagnosis, dosage, frequency, medical supply needs and allergies.

.....**DISABILITIES Continued on next page**

DISABILITIES Continued

Store extra nonprescription drugs, like pain and fever relievers, antihistamines and antidiarrheal medicines.

Have a cooler and chemical ice packs available to chill medicines that need to be refrigerated.

Tips for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Weather radio (with text display and a flashing alert)
- Extra hearing-aid batteries
- Pen and paper (in case you have to communicate with someone who does not know sign language)
- Battery operated lantern to enable communication

by sign language or lip reading, especially when the electricity is out and it is dark.

Tips for People Who are Blind or Have Low Vision

Mark emergency supplies with Braille labels or large print. Keep a list of your emergency supplies and where you bought them on a portable flash drive or make an audio file that is kept in a safe place where you can access it.

Keep communication devices for your particular needs, such as a Braille or deaf-blind communications device as part of your emergency supply kit.

Tips for People with Speech Disability

If you use an augmentative communications device or other assistive technologies, plan how you will evacuate with the devices or how you will replace equipment if it is lost or destroyed. Keep model information and note where the equipment came from (Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, etc.).

Plan how you will communicate with others if your equipment is not working, including laminated cards with phrases and/or pictogram.

Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities

Keep handheld electronic devices charged and loaded with videos and activities.

Purchase spare chargers for electronic devices and keep them charged.

Include sheets and twine or a small pop-up tent (to decrease visual stimulation in a busy room or to provide instant privacy).

Consider a pair of noise-canceling headphones to decrease auditory stimuli.

.....**DISABILITIES Continued on next page**



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DISABILITIES Continued

Tips for People with a Mobility Disability

If you use a power wheelchair have a lightweight manual chair available as a backup if possible.

Show others how to assemble, disassemble and operate your wheelchair.

Purchase an extra battery for a power wheelchair or other battery-operated medical or assistive technology devices. If you cannot purchase an extra battery, find out what agencies, organizations or local charitable groups can help you buy one. Keep extra batteries charged at all times.

Consider keeping a patch kit or can of sealant for flat tires and/or extra inner tube if wheelchair or scooter is not puncture proof.

Keep an extra mobility device such as a cane or walker if you use one.

Keep a portable air pump for wheelchair tires.

If you use a seat cushion to protect your skin or maintain your balance and you must evacuate, consider keeping an extra cushion on hand.

Communicate with neighbors who can assist you if you need to evacuate the building.

Tips for Individuals with Alzheimer's and Related Dementia

Do not leave the person alone. Even those who are not

prone to wandering away may do so in unfamiliar environments or situations.

If evacuating, help manage the change in environment by bringing a pillow and blanket or other comforting items they can hold onto.

When at a shelter, try to stay away from exits and choose a quiet corner.

If there is an episode of agitation, respond to the emotions being expressed. For example, say "You're frightened and want to go home. It's ok. I'm right here with you."

Additional Items

- Several days' supply of prescription medicines
- A list of all medications, dosage and any allergies
- Extra eyeglasses, contacts, hearing aids and batteries
- A backup supply of oxygen
- A list of the style and serial number of medical devices (include special instructions for operating your equipment if needed)
- Copies of insurance and Medicare cards
- Contact information for doctors, relatives or friends who should be notified if you are hurt
- Pet food, extra water, collar with ID tag, medical records and other supplies for your service or support animal

Prepare Your Pets for Disasters

Your pets are an important member of your family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan. To prepare for the unexpected follow these tips with your pets in mind:

- Make a plan.
- Build an emergency kit.
- Stay informed.

Make a Plan

If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency. If local officials ask you to evacuate, that means your pet should evacuate too. If you leave your pets behind, they may end up lost, injured or worse.

Things to include in your plan:

- Have an evacuation plan for your pet. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.

- Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is avail-

able to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

- Have your pet microchipped. Make sure to keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.

- Contact your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get additional advice and information if you're unsure how to care for your pet in case of an emergency.

Build a Kit for Your Pet

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, such as food and water. Have two kits, one larger kit if you are sheltering in place and one lightweight version for if you need to evacuate. Review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Here are some items you may want to include in an emergency kit for your pet:

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PETS Continued

- **Food.** Keep several days' supply of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

Water. Store a water bowl and several days' supply of water.

- **Medicine.** Keep an extra supply of the medicine your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

- **First aid kit.** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs.

- **Collar with ID tag and a harness or leash.** Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag. Have copies of your pet's registration information and other relevant documents in a waterproof container and available electronically.

- **Traveling bag,** crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet.

- **Grooming items.** Pet shampoo, conditioner and other items, in case your pet needs some cleaning up. Sanitation needs. Include pet litter and litter box (if appropriate), newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.

- **A picture of you and your pet together.** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.

- **Familiar items.** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Tips for Large Animals

If you have pets such as horses, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.

In addition to the tips above:

- Ensure all animals have some form of identification.
- Evacuate animals earlier, whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.

- Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers.

- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.

- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to a barn or turn them loose outside.

Stay Informed

Being prepared and staying informed of current conditions. Here are some ways you can stay informed:

- Pay attention to wireless emergency alerts for local alerts and warnings sent by state and local public safety officials.

- Listen to local officials when told to evacuate or shelter in place.

- Download the FEMA app and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service, for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster.

Preparing an Emergency Food Supply

Preparing an emergency food supply doesn't have to be expensive or time-consuming. It can actually be accomplished gradually, over the course of your routine shopping trips. The fact is, you may already have a supply of canned and packaged goods that can serve as a start to accumulating an emergency food supply.

When preparing an emergency food supply, there are a few things to keep in mind. While you may never need that much, the Red Cross recommends a two-week supply of emergency food. You'll also want to keep in mind the food needs of the various members of your family. This includes adults, children, toddlers and babies and even pets. Make note of any allergies that may impact consumption.

While foods should be high in calories and nutrition, you'll also want to include foods the family enjoys. Choose foods that do not require refrigeration, water

or special preparation. Foods that require limited or no cooking are best. Keep in mind that in an emergency situation where power is out and food and water is limited, there will be other challenges as well. Try to keep meal preparation simple and choose foods accordingly.

When preparing an emergency food supply, special attention should be paid to expiration dates. Use older foods in your normal daily food preparation and replace with foods with an extended expiration date. Rotate your stock of emergency foods regularly, keeping emergency foods within expiration or "best used by" dates.

Non-Perishable Foods to Keep in Your Pantry

Non-perishable foods that are perfect for an emergency supply are foods high in protein and energy. They are

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SUPPLY Continued

usually found in cans, jars, boxes, bags and/or packets and should be easy to prepare. A list of sample non-perishable foods may include:

Peanut butter. This may be as close to the perfect emergency food as possible. Peanut butter has a long shelf life, is resealable and contains high amounts of protein. It also can be consumed in a variety of easy ways, including on crackers, bread and straight out of the jar.

Canned fish. A variety of canned fish can be eaten directly out of the can with little to no preparation. This variety includes tuna, salmon, sardines and others. Canned fish can have a shelf life of up to two years. There are also sealed packet options; however, they have a shorter shelf life.

Canned meats. Like canned fish, canned meats can be consumed directly from the can with no preparation. Your local grocery store is likely stocked with canned meats, including chicken, turkey and even sausages and sliced beef. Many of these meats are available in sealed packets as well, but also have a shorter shelf life.

Canned vegetables. Choose from a variety of vegetables to suit your tastes and nutritional needs. Select peas, carrots, corn, green beans, asparagus and others, or include some cans of mixed vegetables to simplify your stock.

Soups and chili. Soups are a great way to add variety to an emergency food supply. The choice is almost endless, ranging from simple stocks and broths to chicken noodle and vegetables and beef varieties. Chili is also a nice option, especially for those who live in cooler climates.

Nuts, trail mix and granola bars. These foods are a terrific way to add protein, fiber and variety to an emergency food diet. Nuts, in particular, are a superb source of protein.

Crackers and dry cereals. While dry cereals and crackers can be a challenge to store, they are valuable in an emergency food supply. They can be consumed separately or used with other ingredients to create more imaginative meals.

Dried fruits. From raisins to apricots, bananas and apple chips, dried fruits are a superb way to add flavor and serve as a treat. Dried fruits, when properly stored, are long-lasting and a great source of energy.

Powdered products. Any emergency food supply can benefit from a variety of powdered food products available. These include powdered milk, eggs, and instant potatoes.

With a little imagination, one can create a surprising menu using non-perishable food items packed with vitamins, energy, and nutrients.

All About Hurricanes Crossword

DOWN:

1. maps

2. pray

4. shelter

5. wind

7. arlene

8. tropical

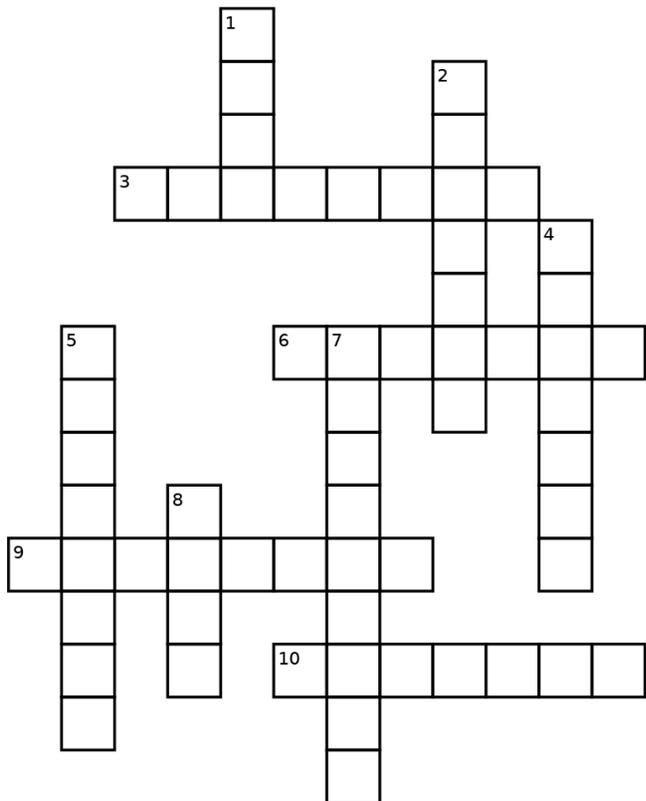
DOWN:

3. radio

6. water

9. evacuate

10. cash



Be prepared

Documentation

Before a catastrophic storm, for insurance purposes, video the contents of your home, backyard, storage facility, office, garage, etc. Record and take pictures of the serial numbers of large items like TVs, computers, etc. Take a video of your vehicles, lawnmower, deep freeze, fridge and contents. Save and copy the video and photographs on a USB, DVD or external hard drive, labeled and in a protected container for easy access to take with you should you need to evacuate.

Evacuation Planning

Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes, emergency shelters and protocols specific to your area. If a mandatory evacuation order is issued for your area, we highly recommend that you leave as early as possible. Highways and roads leading out of town will be extremely crowded in the hours leading up to the storm. Visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/shelters/> to find the nearest shelter.

Home Fortification

Home fortification is essential for protecting your home during hurricanes. You can reinforce doors with deadbolts or hurricane-resistant models, strengthen your home's windows with storm shutters or impact-resistant glass and secure your roof with hurricane straps.

It's important to also seal any gaps or cracks around doors and windows to prevent water infiltration and inspect your roof for loose or damaged shingles and have them repaired promptly. These measures will enhance your home's resilience and reduce the risk of damage during severe storms.

Property Cleanup

Before a hurricane strikes, it's crucial to clear your home's outdoor areas of potential projectiles. You can do this by trimming tree branches that hang over your home, removing any dead or weak trees that could fall and cause damage and securing outdoor furniture, grills and other loose objects by either storing them indoors or firmly anchoring them to the ground. If possible, park vehicles inside the garage to protect them from flying debris.

Backup Power and Utilities

Power outages are common during hurricanes. Invest in a reliable generator to use as a backup power source to keep your essential appliances running. Ensure that your generator is properly installed and maintained, have an adequate supply of fuel and test the generator before a storm. Always run generators outside and away from windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide from entering your home.

Additionally, you must familiarize yourself with how to safely shut off your home's utilities, such as electricity and water. Turning off utilities can prevent potential hazards like electrical fires, especially if you need to evacuate.

HURRICANE SEASON 2024

NOAA National Weather Service forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, predicts an 85% chance of an above-normal season, a 10% chance of a near-normal season and a 5% chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 8 to 13 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 4 to 7 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). Forecasters have a 70% confidence in these ranges.

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is expected to have above-normal activity due to a confluence of factors, including near-record warm ocean temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, development of La Nina conditions in the Pacific, reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear, all of which tend to favor tropical storm formation.

NOAA 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook - Season probability: 85% Above normal, 10% Near normal; 5% Below normal. Named storms: 7-25; Hurricanes: 8-13; Major hurricanes: 4-7. Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter. May 2024.

"With another active hurricane season approaching, NOAA's commitment to keeping every American informed with life-saving information is unwavering," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "AI-enabled language translations and a new depiction of inland wind threats in the forecast cone are just two examples of the proactive steps our agency is taking to meet our mission of saving lives and protecting property."

"Severe weather and emergencies can happen at any moment, which is why individuals and communities need to be prepared today," said FEMA Deputy Administrator Erik A. Hooks. "Already, we are seeing storms move across the country that can bring additional hazards like tornadoes, flooding and hail. Taking a proactive approach to our increasingly challenging climate landscape today can make a difference in how people can recover tomorrow."

2024 Atlantic hurricane Season Names: Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Francine, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Milton, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie and

William. Names provided by the World Meteorological Organization. Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_atlantic on X.

A summary graphic showing an alphabetical list of the 2024 Atlantic tropical cyclone names as selected by the World Meteorological Organization. The official start of the Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 and runs through November 30. (Spanish version) (Image credit: NOAA)



As one of the strongest El Ninos ever observed nears its end, NOAA scientists predict a quick transition to La Nina conditions, which are conducive to Atlantic hurricane activity because La Nina tends to lessen wind shear in the tropics. At the same time, abundant oceanic heat content in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea creates more energy to fuel storm development.

This hurricane season also features the potential for an above-normal west African monsoon, which can produce African easterly waves that seed some of the strongest and longer-lived Atlantic storms. Finally, light trade winds allow hurricanes to grow in strength without the disruption of strong wind shear, and also minimize ocean cooling. Human-caused climate change is warming our ocean globally and in the Atlantic basin, and melting ice on land, leading to sea level rise, which increases the risk of storm surge. Sea level rise represents a clear human influence on the damage potential from a given hurricane.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit – Tear this page out and place where it’s easy to find

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

- ✓ A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:
- ✓ Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ✓ Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Extra batteries
- ✓ Whistle (to signal for help)
- ✓ Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- ✓ Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- ✓ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ✓ Manual can opener (for food)
- ✓ Local maps
- ✓ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- ✓ Additional Emergency Supplies

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- ✓ Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- ✓ Prescription medications. About half of all Americans take a prescription medicine every day. An emergency can make it difficult for them to refill their prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency.
- ✓ Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- ✓ Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- ✓ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ✓ Cash or traveler's checks
- ✓ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- ✓ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ✓ Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ Matches in a waterproof container
- ✓ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ✓ Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- ✓ Paper and pencil
- ✓ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday: Frequently Asked Questions for Consumers

1. What happens during the 2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday?

During the 2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, you may purchase qualifying items related to disaster preparedness exempt from sales tax.

There will be two, separate, two-week holiday periods this year. The first **begins on Saturday, June 1, 2024, and ends on Friday, June 14, 2024.** The second holiday period **begins on Saturday, August 24, 2024, and ends on Friday, September 6, 2024.**

A list of items that are exempt from tax during the sales tax holiday is provided in [Tax Information Publication \(TIP\) No. 24A01-04](#). These include:

- A portable generator used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage with a sales price of \$3,000 or less
- A tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting with a sales price of \$100 or less
- An item normally sold as, or generally advertised as, a ground anchor system or tie-down kit with a sales price of \$100 or less
- A smoke detector or smoke alarm with a sales price of \$70 or less
- A fire extinguisher with a sales price of \$70 or less
- A carbon monoxide detector with a sales price of \$70 or less
- A nonelectric food storage cooler with a sales price of \$60 or less
- A portable power bank with a sales price of \$60 or less
- A gas or diesel fuel tank with a sales price of \$50 or less
- A portable self-powered radio*, two-way radio, or weather-band radio with a sales price of \$50 or less
- A package of AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries, with a sales price of \$50 or less
- A portable self-powered light source* (powered by battery, solar, hand-crank, or gas) with a sales price of \$40 or less
 - Flashlights
 - Lanterns
 - Candles
- Reusable ice (ice packs) with a sales price of \$20 or less

** Eligible light sources and radios qualify for the exemption, even if electrical cords are included in the purchase.*

- Supplies necessary for the evacuation of household pets. For purposes of this exemption, necessary supplies means the noncommercial purchase of:
 - Bags of dry cat or dog food weighing 50 or fewer pounds and with a sales price of \$100 or less per bag
 - Portable kennels or pet carriers with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
 - Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less
 - Pet beds with a sales price of \$40 or less per item
 - Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds and with a sales price of \$25 or less per item
 - Leashes, collars, and muzzles with a sales price of \$20 or less per item
 - Pet pads with a sales price of \$20 or less per box or package
 - Manual can openers with a sales price of \$15 or less per item
 - Collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls with a sales price of \$15 or less per item
 - Cat litter pans with a sales price of \$15 or less per item
 - Pet waste disposal bags with a sales price of \$15 or less per package
 - Hamster or rabbit substrate with a sales price of \$15 or less per package
 - Cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food with a sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch or the equivalent if sold in a box or case

2. Is there a limit on the number of qualifying items that can be purchased exempt during the sales tax holiday?

No, there is no limit on the number of qualifying items that can be purchased tax-exempt.

3. What types of items are not exempt?

The 2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday does not apply to:

- Sales in a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment, or airport
- Commercial purchases of eligible pet evacuation supplies
- The rental or repair or any of the qualifying items listed above

4. If I buy a package or set of items that contains both taxable and tax-exempt items during 2024 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, how is sales tax calculated?

If a tax-exempt item is sold in a package or set with a taxable item, sales tax must be calculated on the sales price of the package or set.

For example, four AA rechargeable batteries are sold in a package that includes a battery charger for \$35. Although the batteries would qualify for the exemption if sold separately during the tax holiday, the battery charger does not qualify. The full sales price of \$35 is taxable.

5. If the store is offering a “buy one, get one free” or “buy one, get one for a reduced price” special on lanterns and I purchase a lantern for \$50 and get another for free, will the transaction be tax-free because I am effectively paying \$25 (less than the \$40 maximum) for each lantern?

The total price of items advertised as “buy one, get one free” or “buy one, get one for a reduced price” cannot be averaged for both items to qualify for the exemption. In this case, the total sale of \$50 is taxable.

6. If I purchase a gift card during the sales tax holiday, can I then purchase a qualifying item tax-exempt using the gift card after the tax holiday ends?

No. The purchase of the qualifying item must be made during the sales tax holiday to be tax-exempt. However, when qualifying items are purchased during the tax holiday using a gift card, the items are tax-exempt; it does not matter when the gift card was purchased.

7. If a store issues me a rain check during the sales tax holiday, can I use it after the tax holiday to purchase the item tax-exempt?

No. The purchase of the qualifying item must be made during the sales tax holiday to be tax-exempt. When a rain check is issued, a sale has not occurred. The sale occurs when the rain check is redeemed and the item is purchased.

8. If I place an item on layaway, is it eligible for the tax exemption during the sales tax holiday?

Yes. A layaway is when an item is set aside for a customer who makes a deposit, agrees to pay the balance of the purchase price over a period of time, and receives the merchandise at the end of the payment period. Qualifying items placed on layaway during the sales tax holiday are tax-exempt, even if final payment of the layaway is made after the sales tax holiday. If a customer makes a final payment and takes delivery of the items during the sales tax holiday, the qualifying items are tax-exempt.

9. Does the Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday also apply to items I purchase online?

Yes. Items purchased by mail order, catalog, or online are exempt when the order is accepted by the company during the sales tax holiday for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the tax holiday.

10. Who is responsible for determining which items are exempt and which aren't?

The 2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday is established through the lawmaking authority of the Florida Legislature. Sales tax holidays and the items exempted by the tax holiday must be passed into law by the Legislature.

11. I purchased an exempt item during the sales tax holiday, but the business charged sales tax. How can I get a refund for the tax I paid?

You should take your receipt to the business and request a refund of the tax collected in error. You may provide the business with a copy of [TIP No. 24A01-04](#) or direct the seller to floridarevenue.com for more information.

12. How can I request that a certain type of product be added to the list?

Sales tax holidays and the items exempted by them are passed into law by the Florida Legislature. You may wish to contact your local representative regarding your suggestion. You can find your representative at www.myfloridahouse.gov.

13. I didn't see my question listed here. Where can I find additional information about the 2024 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday?

If you have a question about a specific item that is not listed in [TIP No. 24A01-04](#), contact the Florida Department of Revenue at (850) 488-6800.

14. I heard there were several sales tax holidays this year. Where can I find more information about the other holidays?

House Bill 7073 from the 2024 regular legislative session was signed into law on May 7, 2024. The law contains four tax relief holidays and specifies the time frame for each holiday. For a printable calendar of the tax relief holidays, you can visit our website:

floridarevenue.com/SalesTaxHolidays.

All About Hurricanes

WORD SEARCH

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

W W H E D L P R E P A R E P X
 R I E M B A A L M R L P R A Y
 H U N E B C E N A C I R R U H
 R K V D S I O J T N B J L S Y
 S Q R I D P K O B E P D O O F
 B Y L C I O A O O W R W C E X
 W E T I A R I M M Y I N U V D
 B T R N T T J B K F L E K A D
 K C A E S C S H E L T E R C O
 S H F O R W A R N I N G J U O
 A A F E I A T L A N T I C A L
 F R I K F D J Q C U X A L T F
 E G C S X A A I A B B Z E E L
 Q E M J O Q W R S R E T A W X
 C R B P S G N C H C I E U J W

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. firstaid | 2. shelter | 3. lantern | 4. maps |
| 5. food | 6. cash | 7. radio | 8. flood |
| 9. pray | 10. water | 11. wind | 12. safe |
| 13. atlantic | 14. warning | 15. traffic | 16. charger |
| 17. evacuate | 18. tropical | 19. medicine | 20. prepare |
| 21. hurricane | | | |

