

DISASTER/HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

BEFORE: Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf!

Visit these websites to prepare:

www.readyhouston.tx.gov/weather.html
www.hcoem.org
www.quickseries.com/reader
<http://ready-or-not.org/>

Stay informed - AM 740 KTRH is the official news and weather station for Greater Houston. A NOAA weather radio is a very practical item to have at all times.

Prepare your family evacuation plan, including pets, transportation routes, and destination.

Bring in all outside furniture, decorations, garbage cans and basketball goal systems. If you have a pool, you can drop your pool furniture there - do not drain the pool.

If you or a family member has special health care needs, register **now** by dialing 2-1-1.

Cell phone availability may be limited or non-existent, however, text messaging usually works, please text family members as needed.

Keep your insurance up to date. Take photos of each wall of each room in your house and keep on a flash drive in your waterproof bag or container. In this same container keep a portable hard drive with all of your recent computer backups. For other important information to keep in this portable container, see Family Disaster Supplies Kit near the end of this report.

- Cover your windows with pre-cut plywood - DO NOT TAPE YOUR WINDOWS
- Fill your bathtub(s) with water to use for cleaning and flushing toilets
- Keep your gas tank of your vehicle at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full at all times.
- Keep your emergency supplies kit, including water, and copies of important documents in a waterproof, portable container, in an easily accessible location
- Purchase a fire extinguisher (B/C multi-purpose) - know how to use it ahead of time
- Prepare for your pet(s) - they are not allowed in shelters

DURING:

- Keep your emergency weather radio on, listening for instructions from authorities.
- If you have not evacuated, stay indoors and away from windows and glass doors.
- Notify your out-of-area contacts of your decision and location.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace exterior doors.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- Do not be fooled by a lull in the storm-it could be the eye of the storm.

AFTER:

- Be aware of flooding and tornadoes. Keep your emergency weather radio on.
- Stay off the streets. If you must go out, avoid fallen objects.
- Stay out of the flood waters, if possible.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Leave your home immediately if you smell gas, hear hissing or if your home looks like it may collapse.
- Use the phone only to report life-threatening emergencies.

If you evacuated, do not return to your home until local authorities say it is safe.

- When it is safe to return, enter your home with caution, be aware that insects and animals are driven to high ground by the floodwaters.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until officials say it is safe.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home, when the rain has ended.

After Disaster: Trash/Garbage Pickup

Post Recovery Authorities will prioritize all trash pickup. Do not contact the HOA office. Trash days are normally Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Do not consolidate debris piles. Separate as follows:

1. Household garbage
2. Vegetation - tree limbs, branches - cut to three foot sections
3. Bagged yard waste: leaves and twigs
4. Fencing, roofing, siding, ruined furniture, broken glass and mirrors (try to put glass in boxes so workers do not get cut).
5. White goods, which are appliances: washer, dryer, refrigerator, hot water heater, microwave, stove and oven.

FAMILY DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

- First Aid kit and First Aid manual - learn First Aid, be prepared
- Flashlight(s) and plenty of extra batteries - You could be without electricity for weeks; several 12-hour lightsticks, rain ponchos, nitrile gloves, whistle
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Important papers: (keep in portable, waterproof container)

- ◆Driver's license, credit cards, and plenty of cash in small bills
- ◆Social Security card; work id badge
- ◆Birth certificate(s), marriage license, International papers
- ◆Insurance policies, wills and deeds, proof of residence(utility bill)
- ◆Recent photo, name and age of each family member
- ◆External hard drive with recent download, flash drive with photos of home
- ◆Paper with your contacts names and phone numbers
- ◆Text with family members as cell phone calls may not be available
- ◆Supply of prescription medications for each member of your family
- ◆Write down each family member's prescriptions, when to

take, dosage, Physician and Pharmacy

- Extra set of car keys; matches in waterproof container; lantern flashlight with batteries
- Special needs items such as diapers, formula, hearing aids and extra batteries, spare eyeglasses and other items for specific personal needs
- Three gallons of water per person, (for drinking), for a minimum of three days, count on as many as 15 days or more. [Note: 4 cartons of 24 count, 16 oz bottles for one person, this would be a 3 day supply.]
- Cooler(s) with ice; several plastic tarps
- Three-day supply of nonperishable food, minimum for each family member
- Kitchen tools: mechanical can opener, utensils, paper ware, trash bags
- Complete change of clothes for each family member
- Sanitation and other personal hygiene products: toilet paper, soap, toothbrushes and paste, moisture/diaper wipes
- Entertainment: playing cards, books, paints, brushes and paper, colored pencils, crayons and coloring books -- conserve batteries for flashlights, radio and other essentials

Don't forget to plan for your pet(s)

(mostly for dogs, but do not forget your cats, bunnies, birds, hamsters and others).

- Vaccination information, medical records, and medications (in waterproof bag, labeled, to take with you)
- Food and water bowls, as well as plenty of food and fresh water for each pet.
- Comfortable collar with ID tags and rabies vaccine tag
- Favorite toys and bedding and blanket(s); crate and carrier (crates that collapse are great for travel), safety restraints for the car.

- Poop bags, leashes, and a towel to dry dog's paws as the walking area may be in standing water.
- Your pet may become anxious; try to keep it calm with talking softly and petting with soft, long strokes.
- for your cats: kitty litter, box, scoop and bags