



## Personal Risk Services

# Hurricane Evacuation Checklist

Evacuations are sometimes necessary in coastal areas that are at high risk for severe damage from a looming hurricane or tropical storm. Whether the evacuation is mandatory or voluntary, it should be taken seriously every time and you should be prepared for each instance. Below are a few tips to prepare yourself for an evacuation:

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood. Create a family emergency plan to decide these steps and locations before a disaster.
- Have an out-of-state contact to relay information to your family and friends about your own location and situation.
- If you have a car, keep a full tank of gas if an evacuation seems possible. Always keep a half tank of gas in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages.
- Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion, delay, and the chance of separation during the evacuation.
- Become familiar with several alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas. Pay attention to public safety officials to avoid these areas.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government to ensure your safety.
- Take an emergency supply kit.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Have a plan on how you will take care of your pets in case of an emergency evacuation.

### If time allows:

- Call or email the out-of-state contact in your family communications plan. Tell them where you are going.
- Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
- Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding.
- If there is damage to your home and/or you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a cap.
- Check with neighbors who may need help.

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