

# Shoredailynews.com Hurricane Checklist

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## In advance:

- Have an evacuation plan in place. Decide where you will go. Going to a friend or relative's house on high ground is best. Public shelters should be chosen only if there are no other options.
- Prepare in advance. Make sure you have plywood to cover windows and doors, lumber to hurricane proof your garage door, a portable radio with extra batteries, containers for water, non perishable food for three days for each person in the household, a flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit, an emergency blanket, tools for emergency repairs, a 7 day supply of medicine, pet food and supplies, and copies of important personal documents. Having a supply of blue tarps might enable you to cover any holes in the roof after the storm and prevent further damage.
- Put together a plan to protect your pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Find a safe place for your pet to ride out the storm and make sure you leave food and water.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure you are covered. Insurance companies often require you to be insured 90 days in advance of a storm. Also many companies have hurricane deductibles. **If you live in a flood zone standard homeowners policies do not cover flood damage. Separate insurance must be obtained through the Federal Flood Insurance Plan to cover your home and property. Know in advance what is and isn't covered.**
- If you have a boat, plan what you will do. Boats that can be trailered should be pulled out of the water 48 hours in advance of the expected arrival of the storm. If you are in a marina, make sure you add additional lines along with chafing protection, add fenders, remove electronics, make sure batteries are charged and bilge pumps are working properly. Close seacocks, except those used to drain cockpit. Plug exhausts to prevent water from entering . Make sure the boat is completely secure.

- Sailboaters should remove all sails to reduce windage exposure. Prepare early, at least 48 hours before the expected arrival of the storm. Check your insurance coverage. You will have other things to worry about as the storm approaches and this can be done well in advance.

**Hurricane Watch: A Hurricane Watch is issued by the National Weather Service when a storm poses a threat within 48 hours. You should use this time to begin and complete the following preparations:**

- Listen to WESR 103.3 for all of the latest local storm information. WESR will be on the air before, during and after the storm to keep you abreast of what is happening on the Eastern Shore and to give you emergency information that could help save your life and property.
- Fill your cars up with gasoline.
- Get extra cash. ATM machines may be out of service following the storms and credit card machines may not work.
- If you live in a flood zone or the road to your property is prone to flooding, move your automobiles to high, safe ground to ride out the storm.
- As the storm approaches: Cover exterior doors and windows with plywood or close storm shutters. Fill clean containers with water. Fill bathtubs with water. If you plan to evacuate, pack clothing for at least three days. Make sure you bring along any medicines. If you're taking your pet to a relative's house make sure you have food. Remove all loose objects from your yard and make sure all lawn furniture etc. is safely stored indoors. Turn your refrigerators and freezers on their coldest setting.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service when hurricane force winds are expected within 36 hours.

- Check your emergency supplies. Make sure you have a portable radio, extra batteries, a flashlight and extra batteries.
- Listen to WESR 103.3 for information on the approaching storm. If that's not possible make sure you have a NOAA weather radio.
- **Shut off LP gas at the tank. Make sure your LP tank is secure and attached to prevent floating away in a flood zone. Turn off electricity at the main breaker.**
- Make last minute preparations and if you plan to evacuate, do so well in advance of the storm. WESR will have information on shelters and will let you know when you need to be in a safe place before the storm hits.
- **If you live in a mobile home, or in a flood zone on either the bay or sea sides, a home with large trees in the yard, you will need to leave during the storm. During Hurricane Floyd the only fatality on the Eastern Shore occurred when a tree fell on a mobile home killing a man inside.**
- Remember, you may be without power for an extended period of time after the storm. Cell phones and computers may be rendered useless until power is restored. A portable radio and extra batteries could very easily become your source of important information. Tune to WESR for emergency information.
- **Do not try to drive or "sight see" during or immediately after a storm. Falling trees, flying debris and downed power lines can kill you.**

## After the storm

- If you depend on the internet for information be aware that chances are electricity will be off and it will be unavailable.
- Continue listening to WESR 103.3 for important local news updates.
- Do not drive the roads until given the OK to do so by the County Emergency Service Director.
- Do not return home until instructed to do so.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them if possible to the power company.
- Make emergency repairs to your home as soon as possible.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed .
- If electricity has been off more than 10 hours, avoid eating refrigerated food.
- **If you have a portable generator, do not run it indoors.**
- Use flashlights after dark. Do not use candles.
- Watch your animals closely. Do not allow them outside unleashed.
- Do not use tap water until you're sure it is not contaminated.
- Take pictures of any damage for the insurance company.
- **Before you turn on your electricity, either turn off major appliances at the breaker or unplug them. After turning on the main breaker, slowly restore these to service by switching breakers or plugging in.**
- Let your family know you're safe. After the storm contact relatives as soon as possible.

**Listen to WESR 103.3 for full coverage and important local information before, during and after the storm.**

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