

The 2024 hurricane season began today! Please take a few minutes to look over the below list and be prepared for a storm before it arrives.

HURRICANE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

2024 Hurricane Season—June 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024

1. Several days in advance of a hurricane's arrival, remain calm and keep listening to local news (i.e. Bay News 9 on channel 9 if you have Spectrum cable), for weather conditions, evacuation notices and routes, and also the nearest shelter locations.
2. Purchase your needed supplies in advance of the hurricane's arrival date, i.e. gallon-sized bottled water, ice; non-perishable items including: canned food (such as canned tuna, peanut butter, canned meats, canned pastas, canned soups, cat/dog food, etc.); packaged foods (such as bread, crackers, granola bars or protein bars); paper and personal products (such as paper towels, paper plates, napkins, sanitary products, tissues, toilet paper, diapers, etc.); and a manual can opener. Plan to purchase 5-7 days' worth of supplies per person in your household. Purchase extra batteries for your flashlights and any battery-operated radios or other devices. Grocery store shelves become depleted of batteries, water, and non-perishables very soon whenever any tropical storm or hurricane is mentioned in the news. So, make sure you plan ahead.
3. At least 24-48 hours prior to hurricane arrival, obtain necessary prescription medications and other over-the-counter medications and keep them with you in the event of evacuation. Most insurance plans will allow for advance refill of medications in the event of a hurricane, even if you are not quite due for a refill. Make sure of this in advance by calling your health insurance company for instructions.
4. Always keep flashlights and a battery-operated radio/TV handy with extra batteries on hand.

5. ELECTRICITY WILL GO OUT, possibly for several days. A better and safer option than candles is to purchase battery-operated camp lanterns such as those offered at Walmart, Lowe's, Home Depot, and Dick's Sporting Goods.

6. 1-2 days in advance of the hurricane, clean your bathtub thoroughly and fill it with fresh water from the faucet. Ground water sometimes gets contaminated during a hurricane, and/or the local water treatment facility loses the electric power needed to operate their water treatment machinery. If that happens, a "boil water" notice will be issued in order to protect the public from disease-causing pathogens and contamination in the water. If you have no electricity, you will have no way to boil your water. That is why you need to have your bathtub already cleaned and filled with clean water. Make sure in advance that your bathtub's drain stopper is functional. If it is not, you may be able to purchase a stopper at Home Depot, Lowe's, or Ace Hardware.

7. The ATM's will not be working during power outages. You will need to make arrangements for your potential cash needs well in advance of the hurricane's arrival.

8. Fill your vehicle(s) with gas at least 1-2 days before the hurricane's expected arrival. Gas stations may not be operational during a hurricane, or if they are, they may only be able to accept cash payments. Also, always keep a working flashlight and extra batteries in your vehicle compartment .

9. Move all plants, furniture, umbrellas and other items from your patio or front entryway to the indoors at least 1 day prior to hurricane arrival date. During high winds, these items can become projectiles that could cause damage to neighboring structures or to individuals.

10. In the event of power failure, turn off all appliances and keep refrigerator door closed. (Food will stay cool for 24 hours).

11. Keep all windows and doors closed throughout the storm. Do not crack a window or door during the storm. Draw your verticals and blinds closed and close your draperies over the windows to protect from the possibility of shattering glass.

12. Take refuge in a small interior room with no windows or doors during the storm.

13. Take your automobile insurance policy and homeowner's property insurance policy with you if you need to evacuate or to re-locate yourself to a safer location. Many hurricane preparedness

sources recommend taking photos of all furniture, electronics, jewelry, etc., in advance of a hurricane, in order to facilitate claim adjudication by your homeowner's insurance company afterwards.

14. Do not leave pets unattended at your property. There are shelters and kennels that will board your pet(s) in case you are required to evacuate.

15. During Hurricane Irma, which occurred here during the overnight of Sept. 10-11, 2017, the surrounding areas were without power for 4-5 days. Keep this in mind when you are making your preparations and purchasing your supplies.

16. During power outages, traffic lights may not be operational. Treat a non-operational traffic light as if it were a 4-way stop sign. Whoever gets to the intersection first, goes through first, the second arrival person goes through next, etc. Be calm and considerate. Take it slow.

17. Stay away from any downed power lines and report them to your local electric company as soon as possible (Duke Energy 800-228-8485).

18. Make sure you have emergency and utility company phone numbers readily available.

19. The 24/7 on-call phone number for Ameri-Tech Community Management is (727) 726-8000.

20. Information on local shelters, evacuation zones, flood zones, and other emergency information can be found on-line at www.pinellascounty.org Shelters:
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/shelters.htm>.

21. The most important thing to remember is that before, during and after a hurricane...YOU are responsible for your own safety.