

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Mission Statement

Protect and preserve the lives and property of the citizens of Dougherty County from Natural and Manmade disaster

Your Family Hurricane Plan Checklist

I. BE PREPARED BEFORE THE HURRICANE

- Know the storm surge history and elevation of your area (Emergency Management and National Weather Service officials can help supply this information).
- Learn a safe primary and alternate route inland.
- If your plan calls for evacuation, decide ahead of time where you are going and know what you should bring with you.
- Inventory your property...with video equipment if possible...and review your insurance policies to ensure adequate coverage is provided. Remember, flood insurance must be in effect before a storm enters the Gulf of Mexico.
- Review needs and working condition of emergency equipment, such as first aid kit, flashlights, battery-powered radios, non-perishable food, water containers for 2 weeks supply, camping stove with fuel and plywood and plastics necessary to properly secure your home.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall against the house.
- Make arrangements for pets ahead of time. They are not allowed in shelters.
- Keep and store all legal documents in one easily moved, secure container or safe. Make an inventory of documents, photos, and other irreplaceable articles that need to be taken in case of an evacuation.

II. WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

Note: A **WATCH** means hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to the watch area within 36 hours.

- Frequently monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or hurricane hotline telephone numbers for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or plywood.
- Check food and water supplies (have clean, airtight containers on hand to store at least two weeks of drinking water. Figure 14 gallons per person. Stock up on can provisions. Get camping stove with fuel.
- Keep a small cooler with frozen gel packs handy for packing refrigerated items.
- Check prescription medicines -- obtain at least 10 days to 2 weeks supply.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights, and lanterns and check for ample first aid supplies.
- Store and secure outdoor lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, potted plants, etc.
- Have extra supply of cash on hand.

III. WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED

Note: A **WARNING** means sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected in the warned area within 24 hours or less.

- ☛ Closely monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or hurricane hotline telephone numbers for official bulletins.

- ☛ Follow instructions issued by local officials. **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO.**

- ☛ Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, filling up water containers, etc.

- ☛ Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.

- ☛ If evacuating, disconnect utilities...phone, gas, electricity...as a precaution to prevent further damage.

- ☛ If evacuating, leave early and if possible, during daylight hours.

- ☛ Leave all mobile homes in any case.

- ☛ Notify neighbors and family members outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.

Plan to evacuate if you...

- ☛ Live in a mobile home. Do not stay in a mobile home under any circumstances.

- ☛ Live on the coastline or on an offshore island, or live near a river or in a flood plain.

- ☛ Live in a high-rise building. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.

If you are evacuating...

- ☛ Stay with friends or relatives or at a low-rise inland hotel/motel outside of flood zones. Leave early to avoid heavy traffic, roads blocked by early flood waters, and bridges impassable due to high winds.

- ☛ Put food and water out for pet if you cannot take it with you. Public shelters do not allow pets nor do

most hotels/motels.

- ☛ Hurricane shelters will be available for people who have no other place to go. Shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable, with no privacy and no electricity. Do not leave your home for a shelter until government officials announce on radio and/or TV that a particular shelter is open.

- ☛ Disconnect all utilities and appliances that use them.

- ☛ Turn main switch for electricity to off.

What to bring to a shelter...

- ☛ First-aid kit, medicines, baby food and diapers, cards, games, books, toiletries, battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, blankets or sleeping bags, identification, valuable papers (insurance), and cash.

If you are staying home...

Reminder! Only stay in a home if you have not been ordered to leave. If you ARE told to leave, DO SO IMMEDIATELY.

- ☛ Store water. Fill sterilized jugs and bottles with 2 weeks supply of drinking water. Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.

- ☛ Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.

- ☛ Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.

- ☛ Turn off propane tanks.

- ☛ Unplug small appliances.

- ☛ Stay inside your home at all times.

If winds become strong...

- ☛ Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small ground floor, interior room, closet, or hallway. Take a battery-powered radio, a NOAA Weather Radio, and a flashlight with you.

- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.

- If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and the areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of a building.

- Be alert for tornadoes which often are spawned by hurricanes. Also, if the "EYE" of the hurricane should pass over your area, be aware that the improved weather conditions are only temporary and that the storm conditions will return with winds coming from the opposite direction sometimes in a period of just a few minutes.

IV. After the storm passes...

- Stay in your protected area until announcements are made on the radio or TV that the dangerous winds have passed.

- If you have evacuated, do not return home until officials announce your area is ready. Remember, proof of residency may be required in order to re-enter the evacuation areas.

- Be aware of the surroundings when returning as extreme damage could render a familiar landscape unrecognizable.

- If your home or building has structural damage, do not enter until it is checked by officials.

- Beware of outdoor hazards such as downed power lines and any water they may be lying in, poisonous snakes driven from their dens by high water, weakened bridges, washed out roads, weakened limbs on trees, and/or damaged overhanging structures.

- Do not use the telephone unless absolutely necessary. The system is usually jammed with calls during and after a hurricane.

- Guard against spoiled food. Use dry or canned food. Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated with flood waters.

- When cutting up fallen trees, use caution, especially if you use a chain saw. Serious injuries can occur when these powerful machines snap back or when the chain breaks.

- Notify your insurance agent about damage to your house. Take video or still pictures of damaged property. Keep records of your clean up cost.

Suggested Emergency Supply Kit

Can You Go It Alone for Three Days?

The first 72 hours after a major emergency or disaster are critical. Electricity, gas, water, and telephones may not be working. In addition, public safety services such as police and fire departments will be busy handling serious crises. You should be prepared to be self-sufficient — able to live without running water, electricity and/or gas, and telephones — for at least three days following a major emergency. To do so, keep on hand in a central location the following:

Essentials:

- Water — 1 gallon per person per day (a week's supply of water is preferable)
- Water purification kit
- First aid kit, freshly stocked
- First aid book
- Food
- Can opener (non-electric)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Portable radio, flashlight and spare batteries
- Essential medications
- Extra pair of eyeglasses
- Extra pair of house and car keys
- Fire extinguisher — A-B-C type
- Food, water and restraint (leash or carrier) for pets
- Cash and change

Baby supplies: formula, bottle, pacifier, soap and baby powder, clothing, blankets, baby wipes, disposable diapers, canned food and juices

Sanitation Supplies:

- Large plastic trash bags for waste; tarps and rain ponchos
- Large trash cans
- Bar soap and liquid detergent
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine hygiene supplies
- Toilet paper

Household bleach

Safety and Comfort:

- Sturdy shoes
- Heavy gloves for clearing debris
- Candles and matches
- Light sticks
- Change of clothing

- Knife or razor blades
- Garden hose for siphoning and firefighting
- Tent

Communication kit: paper, pens, stamps

Cooking:

- Plastic knives, forks, spoons
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper towels
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil

Camping stove for outdoor cooking (caution: before using fire to cook, make sure there are no gas leaks; never use charcoal indoors)

Tools and Supplies:

- Axe, shovel, broom
 - Adjustable wrench for turning off gas
 - Tool kit including a screwdriver, pliers and a hammer
 - Coil of ½ " rope
 - Plastic tape, staple gun and sheeting for window replacement
 - Bicycle
- City map