

HURRICANE READINESS

If you are under a hurricane watch or warning, here are some basic steps to take to prepare for the storm:

- Be prepared to turn off electrical power in the case of standing water, fallen power lines, or evacuation. Secure structurally unstable building materials.
- Buy a fire extinguisher, and make sure your family knows where it is and how to use it.
- Locate and secure your important papers.
- Post emergency phone numbers at every phone and on the refrigerator.
- Inform local authorities about any special needs, i.e., elderly or bedridden people, or anyone with a disability.
- Make plans to ensure your pets' safety at floridadisaster.org/planprepare/pet-plan.

Emergency Supplies

You should stock your home with supplies that may be needed during the emergency period. A detailed checklist may be found on page 13. You can find more information on emergency plans and supply kits at ready.gov.

Preparing to Evacuate

The National Weather Service will issue a hurricane watch when there is a threat to

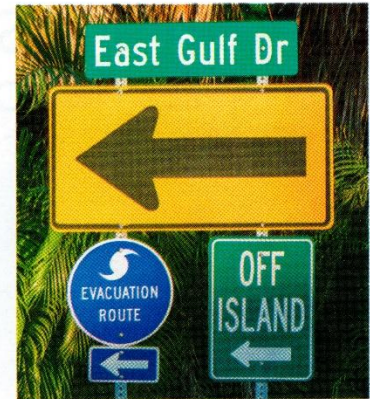
coastal areas of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.

When a hurricane watch is issued, you should do the following:

- Fill your automobile's gas tank.
- If no vehicle is available, arrange with friends or family for transportation.
- Fill your clean water containers.
- Listen to the radio or television for weather updates.
- Secure any items outside that could damage property in a storm, such as bicycles, grills, propane tanks, etc.
- Cover windows and doors with plywood or boards. Officials no longer advise taping windows.
- Put livestock and family pets in a safe area.
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water and ice as a supply for washing.
- Adjust the thermostat on refrigerators and freezers to the coolest possible temperature.

If Ordered to Evacuate

Because of the destructive power of a hurricane, you should never ignore an evacuation order. Be aware that most shelters and some hotels do not accept pets. If a



hurricane warning is issued for your area or you are directed by authorities to evacuate:

- Take only essential items.
- If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water.
- Make sure your automobile's emergency kit is ready.
- Follow the designated evacuation routes—others may be blocked—and expect heavy traffic.

If Ordered NOT to Evacuate

The great majority of injuries during a hurricane are cuts caused by flying glass or debris.

- Monitor the radio or television for weather conditions.
- Do not go outside, even if the weather appears to have calmed—the calm "eye" of the storm can pass quickly, leaving you outside when strong winds resume.
- Stay away from all windows and exterior doors, seeking shelter in a bathroom or basement.