

Volunteer Emergency Relief - VER

Hurricanes - How to be Prepared

Through this guide, **VER – Volunteer Emergency Relief** offers the community some important guidelines for family planning for the hurricane season that takes place every year from June 1st to November 30th.

Useful Websites and Phones:

- 1) Emergency - 911.
- 2) Florida Emergency Operations Centers: http://www.floridadisaster.org/fl_county_em.asp; (800) 342-3557.
- 3) Have a contingency plan. Visit <http://flgetaplan.com/>.
- 4) Watch for alerts from local authorities. Visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org>.
- 5) Know in advance the evacuation areas by county on the site http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/county_list.htm# or call (850)921-0217
- 6) Public Shelters - <http://floridadisaster.org/shelters/>.
- 7) By phone (800) 342-3557, get more information during an emergency (such as closed lanes, evacuation alerts, available shelters, etc.).
- 8) Animal shelters - <http://floridadisaster.org/shelters/>.
- 9) Assistance of the Brazilian Consulate in Miami - www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/; (http://miami.itamaraty.gov.br/ptbr/preparativos_para_a_temporada_de_furacoes.xml); (305) 8016201/ (305) 801-6202;
- 10) People Location - www.safeandwell.org.
- 11) If you need to leave your home - <http://www.FloridaEvacuates.com>
- 12) Guidelines for preparation - <http://www.readysouthflorida.org>
- 13) Highway Police - <http://www.flhsmv.gov>
- 14) Weather forecast and storm information - <http://www.noaa.gov>; <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/>
- 15) Flight information - www.miami-airport.com.
- 16) Red Cross - <http://www.redcross.org>.
- 17) Salvation Army - Florida: (813) 962-6611 <http://www.salvationarmyflorida.org/>;
- 18) FPL - Florida Power & Light – (800) 468-8243 (toll free) - (305) 442-8770 / (954) 797-5000 711(hearing problems) - <http://www.fpl.com/customer/wors/landing.s.html>

Important Notes

Even if in some years the hurricane season has been quiet in your area, it is not possible to safely predict that the same will happen the following season. It is therefore necessary to be prepared, always.

The secret is planning early. It is recommended that this plan be ready and executed as early as the first week of May. It is strongly recommended to develop a preventive plan for you and your

family, since local authorities will not always be able to serve everyone in a short period of time. Don't wait for the hurricane to arrive to have a plan.

Important recommendations

Before hurricane arrival:

- Have an emergency kit (below we inform you what to include in the "kit").
- In advance, check the validity and coverage of your insurance policy. See if it covers exterior and interior property damage.
- Take photos of your home. You may need it in case of any damage.
- Speak in advance with relatives or friends who are not on the hurricane's route about the possibility of staying with them, in case your residence is in the evacuation area.
- Permanently follow local news or register for hurricane or tropical storm alerts.
- Obey the instructions of the authorities, transmitted via radio/TV/newspapers/internet.
- Keep your family informed of all events and instructions.
- In case of hurricane warning, keep money and documents packed in plastic bags or zip look, to avoid possible damage caused by water and excess moisture.
- In case of hurricane warnings, keep the bathtub and other containers for use during and after a storm full of water.
- Comply with evacuation requirements.
- If your home is in a risk zone and you must leave, it does not mean that you are required to travel to another state. It is important to know the possible route of the hurricane and remember that the roads may be congested, gas stations without enough fuel, among other difficulties. Therefore, seek shelter, whenever possible, in the homes of friends or relatives in the region, if they reside in danger-free areas, or seek, in advance, information on official shelters.
- Find out in advance about the public shelters closest to your home, through the <http://floridadisaster.org/shelters/>;
- Provide, in advance, a place to leave pets (domestic animals are not allowed in red cross shelters, nor in most shelters of other institutions).
- It is advisable to have a canvas available if there is any damage to the roof.
- Fill your vehicle's fuel tank.
- If possible, purchase a petrol generator. Important note: Be very careful when handling the generator and fuel. Never use the generator indoors. Always keep it outdoors.
- Remove all trash from the residence and garden, as well as chairs and tables from the patios.

During the hurricane:

- Follow, by radio or television, weather information and instructions from public safety officers.
- Try not to leave the house during the storm, even if your residence is located outside the evacuation zone.
- If your residence is in a flood area, take every possible care with the electricity.

After the hurricane:

- Only leave the shelter (in case of evacuation) or your home (if not evacuated) when the authorities expressly allow it. Officials say most accidents occur shortly after the hurricane, by electric shocks, floods, or debris accidents, and not during the storm's passage.
- Do not move through flooded areas. There is the possibility of contracting diseases and being contaminated, in addition to the danger of ruptured electrical cables being in contact with water, which can cause a fatal accident.
- Check the conditions of your home and make sure there are no risks to the safety of residents. Check for gas leaks or other hazards; if any damage has occurred, contact your insurer as soon as possible.
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills and grills inside your home.
- Keep an eye on information, by radio or television, about weather conditions and instructions from public safety officers.

Emergency "Kit"**Provide enough for the period of 15 days:**

- One gallon of water per person per day (1 gallon = 3.78 liters).
- Non-perishable foods (canned foods, cereals, milk powder, etc.).
- Manual can opener.
- Portable radio or TV (battery).
- Extra batteries.
- Lantern, candles, matches, and lighters.
- Medicines - Note: If you are under medical treatment, stock up on extra medicine.
- Sunscreen and repellent.
- Toiletries.
- Disposable utensils (plates, cutlery, glasses).
- Medicines and first aid kits (include: aspirin, muscle pain creams, dressing material, analgesics, etc.).
- Extra batteries for mobile devices.
- Have a printed list with important phone numbers and contacts.

NOTE: KEEP YOUR EMERGENCY KIT READY AND IN A PLACE OF EASY ACCESS.

Complementary "Kit":

- Originals and copies of important documents, such as identity cards, insurance policies, deed of property and inventory of assets (photos or video), mortgage or contracts, bank account, telephone booklet, among others (keep the documents in plastic bags (zip lock) to protect them from water and moisture).
- Cash, checks, and credit cards.
- Bed linen if you must go to shelters.

Tourists

In the event of a hurricane, contact your hotel management for information on local evacuation plans. In addition, there is a specific Miami-Dade County telephone line for tourists: (305) 468-5900. In general, hotels are required to have their own evacuation plan and have partnerships with hotel establishments outside the risk areas to house guests.

Assistance from the Brazilian Consulate General in Miami

- On the Website of the Consulate General (http://miami.itamaraty.gov.br/ptbr/preparativos_para_a_temporada_de_furacoes.xml), you will find all information about the assistance network available to the population in Florida, as well as steps to be taken in case of hurricanes.
- In the event of a hurricane, the Consulate General will operate on emergency duty, through the following telephone numbers: (305) 8016201/ (305) 801-6202.
- After the hurricane passes, with the possibility of the operation of the Consulate General's office, emergency cases will be attended, also by telephone: (305) 285-6251/ (305) 2856258/ (305) 285-6208;
- In the event of total collapse of communications with Miami, the Consular Assistance Program in Brasilia will also be available, through the following telephone number: + 55 61 9976-8205.
- If necessary, the Consulate General will set up a team focused on locating Brazilians and possible contact with their families in Brazil; the team's contacts will then be informed to the community through the Consulate General's website and other media.