

Ridge Baptist Family Hurricane Preparedness

1. Before hurricane season arrives:

- Insure you have proper flood insurance to cover all types of water damage. If unsure, check your policy and call the National Flood Insurance Protection representative at 1-800-638-6620 or go to www.fema.gov
- Make sure your roof is in good condition. Replace missing or broken shingles.
- Insure mobile homes, portable sheds, and similar large items that may be moved by high winds are strapped down or somehow kept from moving.
- Valuables that you would not be taking with you if you evacuated (like electronics, safes, bicycles, power tools, etc.) should be engraved with your name and driver's license number.

2. One or more days before an approaching storm hits:

- For insurance purposes, take pictures or do a video walk-thru inside and outside your home. This documents all your major property in its pre-storm condition. Include pictures of the roof and all major trees.
- Start using up food in your refrigerator/freezer that may go bad after power is lost, unless you are staying home and have a generator to keep it powered.
- Fill gas tanks of all usable vehicles, portable generators, plus any portable gas cans. Check vehicle fluid levels. Check spare tire and tire changing tools.
- Bring inside or tie down loose or light-weight items outdoors, including covers on pools or hot tubs. Breakable items, such as glass-top tables, should be stored. Fill any land-locked boats with water to help hold them down. Remove antennas and turbines from the roof.
- Consider boarding up windows, especially if storm predicted at Cat. 3 or higher.
- Stock up on necessities: prescription medicines, water, non-perishable food, drinking water (one gallon per man per day), toiletries and sanitary items, baby needs, and batteries. Have first aid supplies, a fire extinguisher, a manual can opener, a working flashlight and portable radio. If you plan to use candles or oil lanterns, have matches or lighters, and only use them in rooms where there is someone staying awake to watch them. Have plain, unscented chlorine bleach for disinfecting more water.
- Set refrigerators and freezers to max cool setting to maximize preservation.
- Stock up on propane or charcoal for cooking later on in your yard.
- Prepare for ways to flush your toilets if city water pressure is lost. If you have a swimming pool or hot tub, all you need is a large bucket. If not those, fill your bath tub for this purpose, and fill other large containers with tap water for hand washing/washrag wetting.
- Plan an evacuation route and destination in case you have to leave. Mark this route with highlighter on a map. Have an emergency communication plan and rendezvous point to use if family members get separated.

3. If not staying home, do the following just before leaving:

- NOTE:** Once you decide to leave, go as **soon** as possible, and allow for crowded roads.
- Ensure all appliances are turned off.
- Unplug TVs, computers, and stereos to protect from lightning surges.
- Move anything damageable by water away from windows.
- Turn off water and gas at their outside sources.
- To minimize chances of fire, open the main breaker to kill all power to wiring in the house.
- Hide or lock up valuables you are leaving, such as jewelry or firearms.
- If you have a debit card, consider transferring money from other accounts to it, to maximize your buying power while there is power to some stores.
- Let relatives, close friends, your deacon, or anyone else who might be likely to check on you after the storm is over, know where you are going and how to get hold of you.
- Plan for your pets. Most motels and shelters (including our church if used as one) cannot take pets, so either make arrangements with an animal shelter or have adequate food and water left out for them.
- Lock the house, including windows.

4. If not staying home, items to consider taking with you:

- Prescription medicines, eye glasses.
- First aid supplies, toiletries and sanitary needs (including a roll of bathroom tissue and wet-ones). Also trash bags.
- Baby or elderly needs.
- Water (min 1 gal/person), non-refrigerated food (crackers, beef jerky, peanuts, Spam, etc.), eating utensils, paper plates, paper towels. (Even if going to a shelter, you may get stuck in traffic for a long time.)
- Speaking of stuck in traffic, nature will eventually call. If you have a portable camping toilet and a vehicle large enough to use it in, it could be a HUGE convenience!
- Information, such as ID papers, medical, insurance, or phone #s. Bring any jump drives having critical info.
- Irreplaceable items like family photos, well packed and wrapped in plastic.
- Cots or air mattresses, blankets or sleeping bags, and pillows.
- At least two changes of durable clothing, plus a bath towel. Wear sturdy shoes.
- Rain gear with hood or cap.
- Fully charged cell phone, plus a vehicle DC charger. Bring a fully charged pocket battery backup if you have one.
- Jumper cables, tire repair kit, air pump, small shovel, flares or reflectors.
- Road map, with evacuation route and alternate routes marked.
- One flashlight per person, spare batteries.

- Battery-powered or hand-crank-powered radio.
- Manual can opener and a sharp knife.
- Pictures you took of your home and property, plus a camera (or your phone) to take pictures on your return.
- Have a full set of your keys.
- Cash (including some quarters and one dollar bills), debit/credit cards. Remember that even after power is restored, banks may be closed for a while, and ATMs will run out of cash.
- Games, books, toys, pen & paper, etc. to make the time pass more quickly.
- Wear any medical bracelets or alert tags you have.
- For self-defense, consider pepper spray. If you desire to take a hand gun with you, you may keep it loaded and either in the glove box or under the lid of a center console in your vehicle while in our state. The compartments do not have to be locked, but you must keep them safe from children if traveling with them. If taking weapons outside South Carolina, know the laws in all states you will be traveling through.

5. If staying home:

- Do the second thru fifth steps under 3 above. But if you wish to keep certain items powered as long as possible (such as TV for updates, the fridge to keep items cold as long as possible, etc.), then keep main breaker closed and open all breakers not powering those items. This protects as many things as possible from lightning surges.
- Stay in a safe area, such as an interior, reinforced room, closet or bathroom on the lower floor. If in a low-lying area or are near the coast, you may not be able to stay on a ground-level floor due to flooding or storm surge.
- Keep all windows and doors tightly closed through the storm.
- Avoid using open flames inside a building if there are gas lines inside or near the building.
- Stay inside until "all clear" is announced. Do not go out if the eye passes over you. Do not walk or drive into flooded areas. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- To disinfect water: If water is not clear, pour thru coffee filters or clean white material, and into cooking container. Boil vigorously for 5 minutes. Or: Add 16 drops of plain, unscented chlorine bleach per gallon of water; stir and let stand for 30 minutes. It should have a slight bleach odor. If not, repeat dosage and let stand another 15 minutes. Remember also that even after water pressure is lost you can drain water for drinking stored in your hot water heater thru the drain valve.
- If using a portable generator, do not run it indoors or in a garage to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, consider the effect of the noise on your neighbors if you run it late at night.

6. Important numbers:

-EMERGENCIES: dial 911. Use this only if seconds count; the switch boards will be very busy during/after the storm. If using a cell phone getting a weak signal, dial 211. Your phone will now look for a stronger signal with another carrier to make the 911 call.

- Dorchester County sheriff & EMS dispatch non-emergency --843-873-5111
- Berkeley County sheriff & EMS dispatch non-emergency -----843-554-1028
- Charleston County sheriff & EMS dispatch non-emergency ---843-202-1700
- Summerville Police/Fire Department -----843-875-1650
- American Red Cross Lowcountry Chapter -----843-764-2333
- Public Info Phone System (PIPS) -----866-246-0133
- Dept. Of Transportation (Traffic Info) -----888-877-9151
- SCE&G power outages -----888-333-4465
- Gas leaks -----800-815-0083
- SC Highway Patrol -----843-953-6010
- Summerville Medical Center -----843-832-5000
- Trident Medical Center -----843-797-7000