

Hurricane Season Checklist

Instructions

Copy and paste this document into your own document so that you can edit it as needed.

General Prep

Task	Status	Notes
Make a list of emergency contacts	Not started ▾	Emergency contacts can include family, friends, and neighbors. Consider a list for both local and out-of-state contacts. Share info with your friends and check in with people you might be hitting up for sheltering.
Check in with local friends, fam, & close neighbors	Not started ▾	Exchange contact information and hurricane plans – also think through things you might be able to share if needed.
Exchange keys	Not started ▾	Make sure a few trusted friends/fam can enter your house in an emergency. You may also want to leave a lockbox with a key.
Set aside cash	Not started ▾	Build up a cash reserve - try to put aside at least \$400 (small bills if possible); ATMs etc might be down if the power is out
Document your property	Not started ▾	Take photographs/video of your home to document items that can be replaced by insurance. Remember to open closets and drawers - you want to document all contents that could be damaged.
Scan/upload/organize electronic docs or take photos	Not started ▾	Lease, house deeds, proof of homeowner's/renter's insurance, car title, copy of car registration & insurance cards, passport, birth certificate, social security card, green card, naturalization papers, visas, proof of residence, proof of employment, pay stubs, health insurance & prescription information, COVID vaccination card, tax forms, and any other legal paperwork or court documents.

		<p>Pet vaccine records</p> <p>Store your Louisiana license digitally through LA Wallet app (also has options for car registration, Medicaid card, and vaccinations)</p>
Buy insurance + Keep track of all your insurance policy numbers and have a general understanding	Not started ▾	<p>Have homeowners/renters' and home/renter's flood insurance policies.</p> <p>Note: flood insurance is separate from your homeowner's or renter's insurance and requires a 30-day waiting period. Check your policy limits, co-pays, deductibles, and where to call with any claims.</p>

Shelter in Place

In advance		
Task	Status	Notes
Decide where you will stay	Not started ▾	<p>Think through hurricane categories and at what point you would decide to leave or stay. Consider your tolerance of heat and how secure your home is and its elevation, history of street flooding, etc.</p> <p>If you have friends/family in a more secure place, consider sheltering together there.</p>
Gather supplies	Not started ▾	<p>Flashlights/headlamps, candles/battery operated or solar lights, solar fan, batteries, radio (battery or solar powered), solar chargers, tools (lighters/matches, screwdriver, hammer, ax), knife, rope, bungee cords, duct tape, gas for generator, lawn items (rakes, bags, etc.), tarps, etc.</p> <p>First aid supplies, meds.</p> <p>Cards, books, puzzles, etc.</p>
Charge electronics	Not started ▾	<p>Make sure everything is fully charged.</p> <p>Purchase external battery pack, car</p>

In advance		
Task	Status	Notes
		charger, car power inverters. Make sure you have cords. Label things beforehand to make them easier to grab.
Clean out freezer	Not started ▾	Start eating out of your freezer. If power goes out for long enough, your food will spoil and make for a gnarly return
Once a hurricane is identified		
Clear & clean up	Not started ▾	Remove obstacles that might be trip hazards in the dark. Wash dishes, clean the sink, take out the garbage, get rid of food waste, and wipe things down while you still have water & power to minimize smells (remember that garbage pickup will likely be delayed).
Do laundry	Not started ▾	You'll be sweating and may not be able to wash clothes for a while.
Clean out your washer	Not started ▾	Can double as an extra cooler - fill with ice for drinks.
Fill freezer bags with water	Not started ▾	Extra ice packs and will keep the fridge cooler for longer if power goes out. Also can be used as extra drinking water.
Fill bathtub with water	Not started ▾	To use for flushing toilets if needed.
Turn down A/C, close blinds/curtains	Not started ▾	Get the house as cool as possible before power goes out.
Turn down fridge/freezer	Not started ▾	Put on the lowest setting to keep things cold for longer. Minimize opening the door and put things you'll need easy access to in a cooler.
Get your hurricane party supplies	Not started ▾	<p>Non-perishable food and water for each individual in the household (including pets) for at least three days.</p> <p>Paper plates & cups, trashbags, glowsticks, BBQ supplies.</p> <p>Liquor, wine, instant coffee, snacks.</p>

Secure Your Home

Task	Status	Notes
Patch/repair/fortify any openings	Not started ▾	If you've noticed any leaks from windows or your roof, patch them now. If you can't repair them, place a bucket/bowl in this location. If you can, close shutters or use plywood to cover openings if the winds are projected to be strong.
Clean out storm drains	Not started ▾	Check your nearby storm drains and clear out any leaves/trash/debris that might keep the water from draining.
Clean out gutters, downspouts, and remove lawn debris	Not started ▾	Remove leaves and buildup that could prevent water from draining away from your home. Remove branches, mow lawn, and dispose of potential projectiles.
Secure trash & recycling cans	Not started ▾	Tape or tie the lids shut on your cans. Move them to an area (in between houses, in a courtyard) where they are less likely to be blown into the street. Spray paint your address on them in case they get lost.
Secure any outdoor furniture/materials	Not started ▾	Move anything that could become a projectile in high winds inside or to a more secure area (e.g. tables can be flipped upside down and placed next to the house for less wind resistance).
Clean out fridge/freezer	Not started ▾	Eat or toss any perishable products from the fridge/freezer. Wrap any remaining items in plastic bags to minimize drips. Freeze a cup of water & place a coin on top of it in the freezer - if you see that the coin has sunk to the bottom of the cup, you'll know your power went out and you should toss any remaining food.
Secure sandbags	Not started ▾	If you're worried street flooding might enter your home, you can use sandbags or bags of potting soil as a barrier.
Unplug electronics	Not started ▾	Remember to unplug electronics if you're leaving; if staying and charging things, make sure they're plugged into a surge

Task	Status	Notes
		protector.
Secure important items	Not started ▾	Use waterproof storage bins to store valuables, move things off the ground, and use your dishwasher to store items that could be damaged by water. Focus on things that are irreplaceable: art, family photos, important documents, etc.

Car Maintenance

Task	Status	Notes
Do a maintenance check	Not started ▾	Check your tires, get an oil change, get it roadworthy if you need to evacuate.
Car supplies	Not started ▾	Jumper cables or consider getting a portable jump starter (comes with cables & can be used as a backup charger for phones, etc.); spare tire; jack; tire iron; flares; rapid patch; Fix-a-flat; ratchets
Keep your gas tank filled	Not started ▾	During hurricane season, best to keep a full tank so that you don't get stuck in surge pricing and long lines.
Determine if you need to move your car to higher ground	Not started ▾	Consider paying to park it in a covered garage if necessary
Emergency supplies	Not started ▾	Keep some basics in the car in case you need to leave quickly: headlamp, batteries, water, towels, granola bars, peanut butter, change of clothes, empty gas can

Evacuate

Task	Status	Notes
Decide if you'll leave	Not started ▾	What are the projections for the storm?

Task	Status	Notes
		<p>Are folks in your community staying or leaving? Do you have a safe place to evacuate to and reliable transportation? Do you have the funds to evacuate?</p> <p>Considerations: what is the likelihood of flooding? What is the likelihood of an extended power outage? Do you have anyone in your household who is elderly, young, has medical conditions, or will have difficulty with extreme heat? Do you have a safe place to stay in the city and resources to take care of yourself and others?</p> <p>Note: due to climate change, storms have been rapidly intensifying before landfall. If there's a chance a Category 2 could quickly become a Category 3 storm, you may not have time to evacuate safely.</p> <p>There is a City-Assisted Evacuation Plan that is supposed to provide transportation to state shelters in the event of a mandatory evacuation; however, it remains to be seen how it will work in practice. Avoid relying on it if you can.</p>
Decide where you'll go	Not started ▾	<p>Consider the strength, trajectory, and speed of the storm. Determine your best destination and route.</p> <p>Considerations: how many people can you fit in your car and can stay at your destination? Are you bringing pets and are they welcome at your destination?</p>
Final car check	Not started ▾	Top off gas, final maintenance check
Check in with friends/fam	Not started ▾	Update folks on your evacuation plans. Make sure no one who wants to evacuate will be left behind.
Pack up the car	Not started ▾	Grab the essentials/your Grab & Go bag.
Communicate and assist long distance	Not started ▾	Stay in touch with folks who stayed behind. Once you've safely evacuated, you may be able to assist them by

Task	Status	Notes
		boosting requests for aid or bringing supplies with you when you return.
Returning	Not started ▾	<p>Consider when it's safe to return and whether you need to bring supplies (cleaning, fuel, OTC medications, etc.) back with you.</p> <p>Note: if you're a business owner, it's possible to get an emergency placard to return early if there was a mandatory evacuation. Apply here.</p>

Shopping List

Item	Status	Notes
Damp Rid	Buy ▾	
Clorox wipes	Buy ▾	
Vinegar	Buy ▾	To kill mold
Charcoal / baking soda	Buy ▾	Can be used to remove smells
Masks (respirator and non-respirator)	Buy ▾	
Contractor trash bags	Buy ▾	
Gloves: work gloves, rubber gloves, nitrile gloves	Buy ▾	
Grabber	Buy ▾	Can be useful for dealing with trash, post-storm cleanup