

YOUR DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Steps to create a family disaster plan:

- ✓ Buy a weather radio. Test it weekly.
- ✓ Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
- ✓ Identify a safe room in your home or that of a neighbor.
- ✓ Plan escape routes from your home and places to meet.
- ✓ Have an out-of-town contact.
- ✓ Have a plan for your pets.
- ✓ Make sure children understand how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.
- ✓ Check your insurance coverage. Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners' insurance.
- ✓ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a disaster supply kit that should include:
 - A three-day supply of food and water, a change of clothing, a blanket or sleeping bag for each person, and a first aid kit that includes medications.
 - Emergency tools: Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries, work gloves, and a fire extinguisher.
 - Important family documents in a fire and waterproof container, and extra sets of keys, credit card, and cash.
- ✓ Replace batteries in your smoke detector and in your weather radio every spring and fall.
- ✓ Take first aid, CPR, and disaster preparedness classes through your local American Red Cross chapter.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HURRICANE WATCH & A HURRICANE WARNING:

A HURRICANE WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated.

A HURRICANE WARNING issued for your region indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should start the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

Saffir-Simpson Scale:

- TROPICAL STORM
 - Winds 39-73 mph
- CATEGORY 1 HURRICANE
 - Winds 74-95 mph
 - No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes.
- CATEGORY 2 HURRICANE
 - Winds 96-110 mph
 - Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Some trees blown down.
- CATEGORY 3 HURRICANE
 - Winds 111-130 mph
 - Some structural damage to small homes. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed.
- CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE
 - Winds 131-155 mph
 - Wall failures in homes and complete roof structures on small homes. Total destruction of mobile homes. Trees, shrubs and signs all blown down.
- CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE
 - Winds 156 mph +
 - Complete roof failure on homes and buildings. Some complete building failures.