Hurricane Preparedness Checklist: Home Before Landfall

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Household and plan header

PREP DATE

PREPARED BY

PROPERTY ADDRESS

OCCUPANCY

PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD

PETS OR SERVICE ANIMALS

EVACUATION ZONE AND LOCAL-ORDER NOTES

EVACUATE VERSUS STAY DECISION RECORDED

EVACUATION DESTINATION OR STAY-WITH PLACE

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

HOW THIS HOUSEHOLD GETS HURRICANE ALERTS

☐ Household member present for this review

Risk, alerts, and insurance

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Household knows hurricanes are not only a coastal problem	☐	☐	☐	
Household signed up for community hurricane alerts	☐	☐	☐	
Household can tell a hurricane watch from a hurricane warning	☐	☐	☐	
Evacuation zone for this address is known	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows how to follow NHC and local NWS products	☐	☐	☐	
Homeowners or renters policy reviewed for wind and hurricane, not only flood	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows a standard policy does not cover flood, and a flood policy typically waits 30 days	☐	☐	☐	
Policy numbers and insurer contacts stored where you can reach them after landfall	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows this list is not a wind-mitigation inspection and not an elevation certificate	☐	☐	☐	

Documents and inventory

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Paper copies stored in a waterproof, fire-resistant box or a portable waterproof packet	☐	☐	☐	
Password-protected digital copies stored off-site or in a secure cloud	☐	☐	☐	
ID, passport, and proof-of-address copies packed or stored	☐	☐	☐	

Home, renters, auto, life, and flood policy copies packed or stored	☐	☐	☐	
Deed, lease, or mortgage papers copied	☐	☐	☐	
Medication list and key medical records copied	☐	☐	☐	
Photo or video inventory of rooms and valuables, with written descriptions	☐	☐	☐	
Document packet can be grabbed in minutes if you evacuate	☐	☐	☐	

Go-kit and stay-at-home kit

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Go-kit packed so you can carry 3 days of supplies if you evacuate	☐	☐	☐	
Stay-at-home supplies staged for a long outage if you are not ordered out	☐	☐	☐	
Drinking water staged at one gallon per person per day	☐	☐	☐	
Non-perishable food and a manual can opener staged	☐	☐	☐	
Battery or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio if you have one	☐	☐	☐	
Flashlight and extra batteries staged (not candles as the main light)	☐	☐	☐	
First aid kit staged	☐	☐	☐	
Prescriptions organized and protected for an outage or evacuation	☐	☐	☐	
Cell phone chargers and a backup battery staged	☐	☐	☐	
Cash staged for fuel, food, or a short stay if cards fail	☐	☐	☐	
Sanitation and hygiene supplies staged	☐	☐	☐	
Pet food, water, leash or carrier, and pet-record copies staged	☐	☐	☐	
Kit location is known, and expired food, water, or batteries were replaced	☐	☐	☐	

Evacuate versus stay

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Household has a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter in place	☐	☐	☐	
Where you will go, how you will get there, and where you will stay are written	☐	☐	☐	
Primary and backup evacuation routes known, with no planned shortcuts	☐	☐	☐	
If this is a mobile, manufactured, or RV dwelling, the plan is to leave for a sturdy building	☐	☐	☐	
Interior wind-shelter room practiced: small, windowless, lowest level that is not likely to flood	☐	☐	☐	
Nearby higher-ground place named if flooding is the threat while you stay	☐	☐	☐	
Pets are in the evacuation plan and will not be left behind	☐	☐	☐	
Medications, devices, and access needs listed in both the go plan and the stay plan	☐	☐	☐	

Household practiced the evacuation grab-and-go and the interior-room shelter steps	☐	☐	☐	

Wind, shutters, trees, and yard

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Windows have a protection method: shutters, pre-cut plywood, or existing impact glazing	☐	☐	☐	
Household will not tape windows as wind protection	☐	☐	☐	
Plan to bring outdoor furniture, trash cans, bikes, and toys inside	☐	☐	☐	
Gas grills and propane tanks will be anchored, not left loose in the yard	☐	☐	☐	
Trees close enough to fall on the house were reviewed, trimmed, or scheduled	☐	☐	☐	
Drains, gutters, and downspouts cleared	☐	☐	☐	
Outdoor fuel tanks will be anchored so floodwater or wind cannot pick them up	☐	☐	☐	
If evacuating: unplug small appliances, leave fridge and freezer plugged in, lock up, close shutters	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows this wind list is not a wind-mitigation inspection	☐	☐	☐	

Generator and carbon monoxide

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Household will never run a portable generator indoors, in a garage, basement, crawlspace, or shed	☐	☐	☐	
If used, the generator will sit outdoors at least 20 feet from the house, with exhaust away from openings	☐	☐	☐	
Placement plan keeps the unit off porches and out of carports, and dry in wet weather	☐	☐	☐	
Heavy-duty outdoor-rated cords are staged if appliances will plug into a generator	☐	☐	☐	
Household will never use charcoal indoors, including in a garage with the door open	☐	☐	☐	
Household will not use a gas stove or oven to heat the house	☐	☐	☐	
Working carbon monoxide and smoke alarms on every level, outside sleeping areas, batteries tested	☐	☐	☐	
Generator manual reviewed before the outage, including wet-weather and refuel steps	☐	☐	☐	

Utility shutoff knowledge

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Electrical panel and main disconnect located and reachable	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows to shut individual circuits before the main	☐	☐	☐	
Main house water shutoff found, tagged, and confirmed it will close	☐	☐	☐	
Gas shutoff procedure learned from the gas company for this meter	☐	☐	☐	

Practice did not actually turn the gas off	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows when it would shut utilities, and when it would not	☐	☐	☐	
Plan is to leave the refrigerator and freezer plugged in if you evacuate, and keep doors closed in an outage	☐	☐	☐	
Shutoff tool is at the valve or in the kit	☐	☐	☐	

When a watch or warning is issued

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Household will follow EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local officials first	☐	☐	☐	
Household will evacuate when ordered, and will not drive around barricades	☐	☐	☐	
During a hurricane warning, remaining outdoor prep will be finished, then people will get inside or leave	☐	☐	☐	
If staying, people will take shelter in the interior room or storm shelter and stay away from glass	☐	☐	☐	
Household will not walk, swim, or drive through floodwater	☐	☐	☐	
If trapped by flooding, go to the highest safe level, not a closed attic	☐	☐	☐	
Pets come indoors at the first watch or warning	☐	☐	☐	
If a generator is used later, it stays outdoors at least 20 feet from openings	☐	☐	☐	

Review and sign-off

OPEN ITEMS AND NOTES

GO-KIT AND STAY-KIT STORAGE LOCATIONS

INTERIOR WIND-SHELTER ROOM

NEXT REVIEW DATE

PREP RESULT

SIGNATURE

SECOND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

TIME SIGNED

Reference only. Verify against local codes, a licensed inspector or a qualified contractor.