

Tis The Season: Hurricane Season that is!

Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage; preparing in advance, and having a plan can greatly reduce your risk and subsequent losses.

- Stock up and make accessible an Emergency Supply Kit.
- Non-perishable foods.
- Water.
- Battery-powered or crank radio – The American Red Cross makes an excellent one.
- Fully charged cell phone and / or battery backup.
- Flashlight(s) and extra batteries.
- Copies of prescription medications and first aid supplies.
- Bedding and clothing.
- Copies of important documents such as: driver's license, proof of residency, insurance documents, computer files etc.... Keep these in a secure and discrete location to protect your privacy!
- Have an electrician elevate electrical panels to a safe height.
- If you live in a hurricane zone prepare a written crisis management plan.

Once a hurricane watch or warning is issued, leaders should initiate immediate action to safeguard lives and church property.

- Establish emergency shutdown procedures for the building and equipment. Know how to shut off gas, power / electricity and water main.
- Provide periodic instruction and training on your emergency response plan.
- Evacuate as soon as officials announce! Wasting time can lead to being stranded and may cost lives!
- Prepare your building. Cover all windows with storm shutters and / or plywood.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture and decorations.
- Ensure a large supply of water for sanitary purposes. Filling bathtubs with water before you leave might provide a supply when you return.
- Consider installing backflow valves to prevent water backup.
- Make sure gutters remain free from debris to ensure proper runoff of rainfall.
- Make sure you have adequate insurance coverage!

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Linda Senez, CPCU
Insurance Board Representative
410-409-5154 Cell / 443-345-1055 Office
InsuranceBoard@senezins.com