HURRICANE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Actions to take before, during and after a storm to protect your family and your home.

BEFORE A HURRICANE

- ❒ Check your marine insurance to determine if you must take action to make any claims valid
- ❒ Ask your marina about their hurricane policies; marinas can order all boats to leave in some states
- ❒ If you plan to move your boat, determine a location
- ❒ Know the storm surge history and elevation of your area
- ❒ Map safe routes inland and determine an evacuation destination
- ❒ Keep an inventory of property on your boat. *(Photograph/video if possible)*. Plan which items to remove and which must stay onboard
- ❒ Keep all legal documents such as registration, insurance policy, marina rental agreement, radio license, etc. in one easily moved, secure container.
- ❒ Make an inventory of documents, photos, and other irreplaceable articles to take with you in an evacuation

WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

A watch means there is a possibility hurricane conditions will strike the watch area within 36 hours

- ❒ Monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or Hurricane Hotline telephone numbers for news of the storm's progress
- ❒ Assemble and check working condition of emergency equipment such as first aid kit, flashlights, and battery-powered radio
- ❒ Move boats on trailers close to house and weight them down. Lash boat securely to trailer/use tie-downs to anchor trailer to ground or house. Let air out of trailer tires.
- ❒ Anchored boats should be tied high, using a half hitch knot *(loop knots slip)*. Anchor rigging should consist of new or good line and chain.
- ❒ Attach extra lines of sufficient length to take care of excessive high water to boats docked at marinas
- ❒ Once your boat is secured, leave and don't return while the wind and waves are up
- ❒ Fuel your car
- ❒ Stock up on canned provisions
- ❒ Check supplies of special medicines and drugs
- ❒ Secure lawn furniture and other loose material outdoors
- ❒ Tape, board, or shutter windows to prevent shattering
- ❒ Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent their lifting from their tracks

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED

A warning means sustained high winds of 74mph or greater are expected in the warning area within 24 hours or less

- ❒ Monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or Hurricane Hotline telephone numbers for official bulletins
- ❒ Follow instructions issued by local officials. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO

If staying home, in a sturdy structure on high ground: *(Note: plan to evacuate if you live on the coastline or on an offshore island, or live near a river or in a flood plain)*

- ❒ Board up garage and porch doors
- ❒ Move valuables to upper floors
- ❒ Bring pets in
- ❒ Fill containers *(bathtubs)* with several days' supply of drinking water *(one gallon per person per day)*
- ❒ Turn up refrigerator to maximum cold and don't open unless necessary
- ❒ Use phone only for emergencies
- ❒ Stay indoors on the downwind side of the house away from windows
- ❒ Beware of the eye of the hurricane
- ❒ Bring in small hand tools to aid you should your home be damaged during the storm

If you are evacuating: *(ALWAYS evacuate if you live in a mobile home)*

- ❒ Leave areas which might be affected by storm tide or a stream flooding
- ❒ Leave early—in daylight if possible
- ❒ Shut off water and electricity at main stations

HURRICANE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED *(CONTINUED)*

- ❒ Take small valuables and papers, but travel light
- ❒ Persons needing special foods or medicines should take them with them
- ❒ Take sufficient money in small bills to defray certain expenses you may incur
- ❒ Leave food and water for pets *(shelters will not take your pets)*
- ❒ Lock up house
- ❒ Notify family members or friends outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans
- ❒ Drive carefully to designated shelter or other evacuation location using recommended evacuation routes

AFTER THE STORM PASSES

- ❒ Stay in your protected area until announcements are made on the radio or TV that the dangerous winds have passed
- ❒ Drive carefully; watch for dangling electrical wires, undermined roads, and flooded low spots
- ❒ Report broken or damaged water, sewer, and electrical lines
- ❒ Use caution re-entering your home.
- ❒ Check for gas leaks
- ❒ Check food and water for spoilage
- ❒ If your home has structural damage, do not enter until it is checked by building officials

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