

2020 August Hurricane Briefing

First and foremost: The 3 Ps, Planning, Preparation, Practice. Hopefully you have finished all three of these at this point. If not look over the June and July Connections for my writings on them. It's never too late to start! This month I'm going to give you helping hints I have picked up after 37 hurricane seasons.

Communication's: Make sure you have both a electronic and physical list of important numbers and addresses and a contact list of your families and friends and important numbers, save all your electronic records to the cloud and a physical hard disk or storage device. Keep family and friends informed of what is happening and be sure to tell them that communications many be down for a while during or after a storm. This way if a tower goes down in the middle of a call, they wont worry.

Protecting valuable stuff at home: Inventory your property. Take lots of pictures and send them off to the cloud or on thumb drives. The irreplaceable stuff, photo albums, valuable papers, books family treasures place in the black with yellow top storage bins, (BJs, Home Depot, Lowe's) no bigger than you can handle. Pile them on a table or boxes not higher than 3, with heavy boxes on the bottom. Label the boxes with tape and felt marker as to contents. Go to Harbor Freight and get water proof tarps and rope to cover the boxes and secure the tarp. That way even with a leaky roof these items will be hopefully safe from water damage. Tie down outside stuff with more of the cheap rope from Harbor Freight. Take pictures of your cars, home, boat, RV and house interior for insurance. Ensure you pets have electronic chips.

Collect and store your hurricane supplies in one location. Don't forget that manual can opener and lots of trash bags.

Pack a "Go Bag" for each family member and the pets in case you need to leave in a hurry.

Freeze drinking water in Gallon or smaller containers. They will help keep stuff cold and give you a cool drink. Warm Gatorade tastes bad. Have matches or a couple of lighters for the propane stove. Lots of batteries and a head lamp. Order 10,000 milliamp rechargeable batteries for your cell phones and laptop. Brands Mart had good deals on them. Bug repellent is nice. Fill up cars with gas. Get a couple of plug in the wall emergency lights that come on when the power goes off they can be useful year round.

If you are going to leave or be evacuated make sure the plan is set now.

Try to maintain your sense of calm and humor. During Hurricane Katrina there was a huge crash and the sound of splintering wood. The kids come running in from the back room, Mom, Dad the neighbors shed blew down, knocked over our fence and got caught in Mom's new clothes line, it was so exciting!

Best wishes. August-September is the height of Hurricane season. Be safe out there.