

HURRICANE PREPARATION

Riding Out The Storm Checklist

Emergency management officials recommend that Texas residents who do not live in evacuation zones **stay home** during most tropical storms and hurricanes, with the exception of those with poor health, the elderly, or in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Preparation

- Check your disaster supplies and bring them into a central **"safe room."**
- Install your hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, board up windows and doors (including garage doors) with plywood.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Keep them closed as much as you can so your food will last longer if the power fails.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water for sanitation purposes (e.g. to flush toilets).
- Turn off and secure propane tanks. Place tanks in an easily accessible location, as you may need to use them after the storm to heat canned goods, cook food and boil water.
- If you own a generator, fill gas containers and secure them in a safe, easily accessible location.
- Top off your gas tanks in case of a shortage after the storm.
- Unplug small appliances (lamps and electronics) in rooms you do not plan to use during a storm. This will help protect from damage during power surges when power is restored.
- Charge all cellphones.

During the Storm

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or your local emergency news station for information on the progress of the storm from the National Weather Service.
- Avoid using mobile devices except for emergencies. Consider turning them off to conserve power.
- Stay indoors at all times. Keep away from windows and any glass doors.
- Close all of your interior doors, as well as blinds and curtains.
- Move to an interior room or hallway in lowest level of your home.
- Bring a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector into room or hallway.
- If any damages occur, extinguish candles or other light sources that use flames and generate heat. Immediately switch to flashlights in the dark to avoid harm from potential gas leaks.

Designate a "safe room" in your home.

Select an interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or walk-in closet. In the event that your roof develops a hole or completely blows off, have a mattress readily available in the safe room to function as a barrier against flying debris.