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SAFETY TIPS:

HIGH WIND SAFETY ACTIONS - *before hurricane season*

- * Find out if your home meets current building code requirements for high-winds. Experts agree that structures built to meet or exceed current building code high-wind provisions have a much better chance of surviving violent windstorms.
- * Protect all windows by installing commercial shutters or preparing 5/8 inch plywood panels.
- * Garage doors are frequently the first feature in a home to fail. Reinforce all garage doors so that they are able to withstand high winds.
- * If you do not live in an evacuation zone or a mobile home, designate an interior room with no windows or external doors as a "Safe Room".
- * Before hurricane season, assess your property to ensure that landscaping and trees do not become a wind hazard.
- * Trim dead wood and weak / overhanging branches from all trees.
- * Consider landscaping materials other than gravel/rock.

HIGH WIND SAFETY ACTIONS - *as a hurricane approaches*

- * No mobile / manufactured home is safe in hurricane force winds. Those residents should evacuate to a safer structure once local officials issue a hurricane evacuation order for their community.
- * Once a hurricane warning is issued, install your window shutters or plywood panels.
- * When a hurricane warning is issued for your community, secure or bring

inside all lawn furniture and other outside objects that could become a projectile in high winds.

* Listen carefully for safety instructions from local officials, and go to your designated "Safe Room" when directed to do so.

* Monitor NOAA Weather Radio.

* Do not leave your "Safe Room" until directed to do so by local officials, even if it appears that the winds calmed. Remember that there is little to no wind in the eye of a hurricane.

Storm Surge Safety Actions:

EVACUATION INFORMATION

Minimize the distance you must travel to reach a safe location; the further you drive the higher the likelihood of encountering traffic congestion and other problems on the roadways.

Select the nearest possible evacuation destination, preferably within your local area, and map out your route. Do not get on the road without a planned route, or a place to go.

Choose the home of the closest friend or relative outside a designated evacuation zone and discuss your plan with them before hurricane season.

You may also choose a hotel/motel outside of the vulnerable area.

If neither of these options is available, consider the closest possible public shelter, preferably within your local area.

Use the evacuation routes designated by authorities and, if possible, become familiar with your route by driving it before an evacuation order is issued. Contact your local emergency management office to register or get information regarding anyone in your household whom may require special assistance in order to evacuate. Prepare a separate pet plan, most public shelters do not accept pets.

Prepare your home prior to leaving by boarding up doors and windows, securing or moving indoors all yard objects, and turning off all utilities. Before leaving, fill your car with gas and withdraw extra money from the ATM.

Take all prescription medicines and special medical items, such as glasses

and diapers.

If your family evacuation plan includes an RV, boat or trailer, leave early. Do not wait until the evacuation order or exodus is well underway to start your trip.

If you live in an evacuation zone and are ordered to evacuate by state or local officials, do so as quickly as possible. Do not wait or delay your departure, to do so will only increase your chances of being stuck in traffic, or even worse, not being able to get out at all.

Expect traffic congestion and delays during evacuations. Expect and plan for significantly longer travel times than normal to reach your family's intended destination.

Stay tuned to a local radio or television station and listen carefully for any advisories or specific instructions from local officials. Monitor your NOAA Weather Radio.

Tornadoes

Tornado Safety Actions – *Homes*

- * Monitor NOAA Weather Radio.
- * When a tornado watch is issued, be prepared to take action.
- * When a tornado warning is issued, or a tornado is imminent, move to a small interior room away from windows.
- * Consider constructing a tornado safe room in or adjacent to your home.

Tornado Safety Actions - *Mobile and Manufactured Homes*

- * Monitor NOAA Weather Radio.
- * Have a plan of where to go during a tornado threat-a nearby pre-identified safe structure within walking distance.
- * When a tornado watch is issued, be prepared to take action.
- * When conditions warrant, move to the pre-identified safe structure.
- * If you live in a mobile or manufactured home park, get together with other residents and the park owner/manager to designate safe shelter areas in the park or community.

Tornado Safety Actions - *Offices, Condominiums and Hotels*

- * Monitor NOAA Weather Radio.
- * When action is required, take shelter in an interior hallway on a lower floor, closet or small room.
- * As a last resort, get under heavy furniture, away from windows.

Inland Flooding

What can you do?

- * When you hear hurricane, think inland flooding.
- * Determine whether you live in a potential flood zone.
- * If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- * Keep abreast of road conditions through the news media.
- * Move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.
- * Do not attempt to cross flowing water. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- * Develop a flood emergency action plan.
- * Have flood insurance. Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.

The National Flood Insurance Program, is a pre-disaster flood mitigation and insurance protection program. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners.

Top Safety Tips for a Blackout

- * Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles!
- * Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- * Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- * Do not run a generator inside a home or garage.
- * If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.
- * Listen to local radio and television for updated information.

How To Prepare Before a Blackout Happens

Assemble essential supplies, including:

- *Flashlight
- * Batteries
- * Portable radio
- * at least one gallon of water
- * a small supply of food.
- * Due to the extreme risk of fire, do not use candles during a power outage.

Using a Generator

If you are considering obtaining a generator, get advice from a licensed professional, such as an electrician. Make sure the generator is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories or a similar organization. Some municipalities, Air Quality Districts, or states have "air quality permit" requirements. A licensed electrician will be able to give you more information on these matters. Always plan to keep the generator outdoors -- never operate it inside, including the basement or garage. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Connecting a cord from the generator to a point on the permanent wiring system and back-feeding power to your home is an unsafe method to supply a building during a power outage

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