

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES AFTER A HURRICANE

ESSENTIAL THINGS YOU NEED TO DO AND KNOW AFTER THE HURRICANE HAS PASSED



THE PERIOD AFTER A HURRICANE CAN BE EVEN MORE CONFUSING AND DESPERATE THAN BEFORE OR EVEN DURING THE HURRICANE.

YOU NEED TO HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AFTER A HURRICANE TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AND TO RECOVER.

IF YOU EVACUATED

- RETURN HOME ONLY WHEN AUTHORITIES INDICATE THAT IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS.
- BE AWARE OF DOWNED TREES, POWER LINES, AND FALLEN DEBRIS.

INSIDE SAFETY

- ENTER YOUR HOME ONLY WHEN OFFICIALS SAY IT IS SAFE TO DO SO (IF IT HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED).
- STAY OUT OF ANY BUILDING SURROUNDED BY FLOODWATERS.
- USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN ENTERING FLOODED BUILDINGS. TURN OFF ELECTRICITY AT MAIN BREAKER OR FUSE BOX.
- CHECK FOR LOOSE BOARDS AND SLIPPERY FLOORS.
- USE FLASHLIGHTS—NOT LANTERNS, TORCHES, OR MATCHES—TO EXAMINE BUILDINGS. FLAMMABLE GASES MAY BE INSIDE.

OUTSIDE SAFETY

1. DO NOT TO ATTEMPT TO CROSS FLOODWATER. MOVING WATER HAS TREMENDOUS POWER.

2. AVOID WADING IN FLOODWATER, WHICH MAY BE CONTAMINATED WITH OIL, GASOLINE, OR RAW SEWAGE.

3. BEFORE WALKING THROUGH DEBRIS, USE A STICK TO CHECK FOR HIDDEN DANGERS.

4. UNDERGROUND OR DOWNED POWER LINES MAY ELECTRICALLY CHARGE THE WATER.

5. STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES AND REPORT THEM TO 911.

6. STAY AWAY FROM DAMAGED AREAS UNLESS POLICE, FIRE, OR RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE.



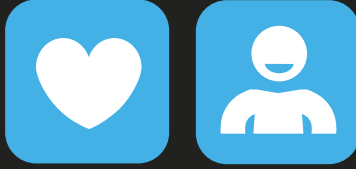
COMMUNICATIONS

- USE LOCAL ALERTS, RADIOS, AND OTHER LOCAL INFORMATION SOURCES, SUCH AS AMERICAN RED CROSS APPS.
- USE TEXT MESSAGING OR SOCIAL MEDIA TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
- USE PHONES ONLY FOR EMERGENCY CALLS.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

- LISTEN FOR NEWS REPORTS TO LEARN WHETHER THE COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY IS SAFE TO DRINK.
- FOLLOW FIVE BASIC STEPS FOR POST-FLOOD BUILDING RESTORATION, INCLUDING (1) AIR OUT, (2) MOVE OUT, (3) TEAR OUT, (4) CLEAN OUT, AND (5) DRY OUT.
- SERVICE DAMAGED SEPTIC TANKS AND LEACHING SYSTEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- DO NOT EAT FOOD FROM A FLOODED GARDEN. WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.
- BE CAREFUL AND WEAR APPROPRIATE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT LIKE GLOVES, SAFETY GLASSES, AND FACE MASKS.
- REMOVE AND REPLACE DRYWALL OR OTHER PANELING THAT WAS UNDERWATER.

CARE FOR LOVED ONES



- LOOK FOR SIGNS OF DEPRESSION OR ANXIETY RELATED TO THIS EXPERIENCE.
- SEEK HELP FROM LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS IF YOU DETECT THESE SIGNS IN YOURSELF OR OTHERS.

INSURANCE



- PHOTOGRAPH DAMAGE TO YOUR PROPERTY AND CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT.
- DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE (E.G., PUTTING A TARP ON A DAMAGED ROOF) THAT INSURANCE MAY NOT COVER.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP. GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN PRIOR A HURRICANE.

BE PREPARED!