

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE HURRICANE:

Wash ALL dirty laundry
Completely clean your home
Change linens on all beds
Balance bank statements
Pay all credit card bills & estimated taxes
Be sure everyone in your family carries detailed identification & medical information at all times
Keep current photos of all family members & pets on hand in case of emergency
Pack one duffle/person in case of evacuation
Store all prescription medicines; eyeglasses, contact lenses, pet meds; checkbooks and passports in a watertight container
Scan and/or store all insurance policies, HUD statements, title insurance (home), car titles and pet records (licenses & vaccinations) in a watertight container
Refill all prescriptions in advance

24 HOURS BEFORE THE STORM:

Turn icemaker "off" & empty ice tray
Pre-cook ALL meat, fish & poultry
Crank-up the freezer & refrigerator settings to coldest setting
Crank-up HVAC to cool home (IMPORTANT: turn AC off when power goes off)
Securely LOCK all doors & windows
Pull blinds down to keep your home cool
Fill bathtubs with water. NOT FOR DRINKING!
Fill gallon jugs with water for toilet flushing
Limit waste water use until given the "all-clear" by local utility company
Run dishwasher & washer/dryer 1 last time
CHARGE all mobile phones, tablets, laptop computers & external battery packs
Back up files to the Cloud or to an external hard-drive (keep in watertight container)
Put computer/laptop in dishwasher & lock
Fill several thermoses with coffee
Tell out-of-town friends & family where you will be during the hurricane, as well as your back-up plans (i.e.: evacuate)
Tell family & friends to limit calls/ texts
Clear all voicemail & all deleted voicemail messages from your mobile phone
Put hurricane supplies in one place (off the floor)

DAY OF THE STORM:

Pull car into garage as far as possible
Lock garage from the inside by closing safety latch & put lift on "manual" setting
Turn off hot water heater & circuits

Unplug ALL small appliances

Put dry towels & bath mats on the floor surrounding all windows & doors
Tightly close all interior doors
Put mobile devices on LOW BATTERY mode
Leave your mobile devices ON at all times
Pick a place where everyone will remain for the duration of the storm
Have a "backup" location where everyone goes in case the windows blow
If you do move into the "backup" room, take a headcount
Lock all exterior doors & put key in close proximity to the door
Discuss evacuation routes in advance
Flying debris? Evacuate immediately!
Wear long pants, sneakers & socks (NO shorts & NO flip-flops)
Everyone should have a raincoat, rubber boots, umbrella and flashlight/headlamp readily available in case of emergency
Keep passport, driver's license/identification, cash and credit/debit/ATM cards together in a handbag or Ziploc bag and place next to your raincoat for quick retrieval
Turn off TV & unplug until power is stable
Turn HVAC & corresponding circuits OFF. (Air handler first followed by condenser)

AFTER THE STORM:

Reset HVAC system by turning air handler & condenser circuits OFF for 10 minutes before turning back on
Change air filters & reset temperature to normal
Run 2 full cycles in clothes washer & dishwasher to ensure water is clean
Run 2 or 3 full ice maker cycles
Reset refrigerator/freezer to normal
Report all damages to insurance company
Replenish all supplies after the storm
Remove batteries from all flashlights, radios & fans when not in use

PET OWNERS:

Pet food, meds & anti-anxiety pills stored in watertight container (2-week supply)
Copy of all current vaccines & licenses
Secure animals in crates with toys & long-lasting rawhide bones during & after storm
ALWAYS secure pets with harness & leash
Microchip all pets & have current ID on collar
Puppy "pee-pee" pads
Collapsible pet cages (essential for shelter)