

Trinity United Methodist Church

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDELINES

BEFORE THE STORM

- Fuel your car. You will need it to evacuate and pumps don't work without electricity.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools.
- Install your storm shutters or cover windows with plywood and secure all doors.
- Prepare boats as appropriate.
- Turn up refrigerators and freezers to the highest settings.
- Turn off small appliances that are not needed.
- Turn off LP tanks.
- Call an out-of-town friend or relative to let them know of your plans. Then instruct other family members to call that person for information about your family after the storm.
- Fill sinks and bathtubs with water.
- Get an extra supply of cash. Banks and ATMs may not be operational immediately after the storm.

DURING THE STORM

If you stay at home during a hurricane you should take the following precautions in addition to those mentioned on the “Before the Storm” section as the storm approaches:

- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, hallway or basement if available. If you live in a two-story home, choose a room on the first floor.
- Close all interior doors and brace exterior doors if possible.
- Lie on the floor under a table, or another sturdy object. Some protection is afforded by covering with a mattress during the height of the storm.
- If the eye of the storm passes over, it will be calm for a short period of time. **REMAIN INDOORS!** As soon as the eye passes over, winds will increase rapidly to hurricane force from the opposite direction.
- Remain calm. It may take several hours for the storm to pass.

STAY INFORMED

The following radios stations broadcast emergency information. Stay tuned to these stations for breaking news:

- [89.1FM WUFT](#) *Alachua County, Gainesville, University of Florida*
- [97.7FM WRRX Adult/Alternative](#) *Alachua County, Gainesville*
- [103.7FM WRUF Rock](#) *Alachua County, Gainesville*
- [1390AM WAJD](#) *Alachua County, Gainesville*
- [98.5 WKTK](#) and [97.3 WSKY](#) *in Gainesville and Ocala*
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AFTER THE STORM

- Keep listening to your local radio or TV stations for information.
- If you evacuated, return home only when authorities advise that it is safe.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. Immediately following the passage of the storm, debris may be covering roadways making them impassible. Emergency crews will be working to clear roadways but it may take hours or even days to clear them all. Avoid sightseeing. Roads may be closed for your protection so if you encounter a barricade, turn around and go another way.
- Do not drive in flooded areas. Avoid weakened bridges and washed out roadways.
- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from downed power lines.
- Beware of downed power lines. Lines may be charged and dangerous.
- Beware of snakes, insects or animals driven to higher ground by floodwaters.
- Enter your home with extreme caution. Beware of fallen objects or damaged roof and wall sections.
- Remove shutters or plywood and open windows and doors to ventilate or dry your home if necessary.
- Check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage. **Do not** attempt to repair damaged gas or electrical lines. Call a professional.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Avoid using candles or other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight or other battery powered lighting.
- Use the telephone to report emergencies only. This includes cellular phones.
- Be especially cautious when using a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.
- Never connect portable generators to your house. Use them only to run necessary appliances and plug the appliance into the generator

DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

If you plan to stay at home during a hurricane, you should have the following items on hand. It is a good idea to get these items at the beginning of the hurricane season because as a storm approaches, stores become very busy and stock is depleted quickly.

Water

Water should be stored in plastic containers. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break. Store one gallon of water per person per day. It is also a good idea to fill bathtubs and sinks with water for sanitation use. Water purification agents such as bleach should also be on hand.

Food

Store *at least* a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, cooking or preparation. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno.

First Aid Kit

It is a good idea to have two first aid kits, one for your home and the other for your car. Your kit should include things like bandages, scissors, tweezers, soap, latex gloves, lubricant, assorted size safety pins and any non-prescription drugs deemed necessary.

Tools and Other Supplies

You should have a basic tool kit with items you feel are necessary to make temporary repairs after the storm. Some other items you should consider are plastic sheeting, paper plates and plastic utensils, flashlights and a battery operated radio with plenty of spare batteries, non-electric can opener, fire extinguisher, tent, matches, aluminum foil, plastic storage containers, plastic garbage bags, small shovel, insect repellent and personal hygiene items.

Clothing and Bedding

Some clothing and beddings items should be protected by placing them in waterproof boxes, plastic bags or other suitable containers. Include at least one change of clothing and footwear per person. Some items to consider are work boots and gloves, rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, towels, hat, sunglasses.

Special Items

Always remembers family members with special needs. For children you should have plenty of necessary baby formula, diapers, bottles and medications. Adults with medications such as insulin or other prescription drugs should have their prescriptions filled before the storm. Don't forget any denture needs and eyeglasses or contacts. You should also have some form of entertainment for everyone including books for adults. Keep all-important family documents safe and in a waterproof container. Items for consideration to keep safe are wills, insurance policies, bank account numbers, credit cards, a phone book, and a household inventory complete with serial numbers and pictures or video. All of these might come in very handy after the storm.

GOING TO AN EVACUATION SHELTER?

Evacuation Shelters should not be your first option of choice. Hurricane evacuation shelters are provided for public use in the event a hurricane evacuation becomes necessary and *if you have no other place to go.*

Buildings used for evacuation shelters are normally public schools that are staffed by Red Cross volunteers. Shelters are always crowded, usually uncomfortable when the power goes off because there is no ventilation, long lines to use restrooms and to get food, and very noisy making it difficult to rest or sleep. Keep in mind you may have to stay in the shelter for several days.

If you go to a public shelter, you will need to take the following items: A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes, toiletries and personal items, blankets or sleeping bags, identification, and any important papers. Games or toys for children, books for adults, special items for infants or elderly family members, any special dietary needs and non-perishable foods for snacks. Battery operated radio, flashlights and plenty of spare batteries. Prescription medications or any over-the-counter medications you normally take. Remember, alcohol, weapons and pets are not permitted in public shelters.

Evacuating to a relative's or friend's home in a safe area should be considered first.

Do not attempt to stay in your home if you live in a flood-prone area or where you may be subject to storm surge.

It is recommended that other arrangements be made with a relative or friend that lives in a well constructed home, out of the evacuation area, and properly protected to withstand hurricane force winds. You will probably be more comfortable, certainly in a less crowded environment and among friends.

Trinity United Methodist Church is not configured to be a suitable evacuation shelter. The church, however, may be capable of providing disaster recovery services. This information will be available on the Trinity United Methodist Church Information Line.

For information about church activity schedules and disaster recovery services, please call the Information Line (352) 376-6615