



## Plan for an Evacuation & Emergency Kit\*

Prepare for an evacuation in advance so you are ready. A low-rise hotel, motel, or a friend's or relative's home outside the stormy area are a few possible places to go. Owners must know where to go if a disaster should strike. Remember, mobile homes and factory-built or prefabricated homes are unsafe in hurricane conditions, no matter how firmly they may be attached to the ground. High-rise apartments and condominiums must also be evacuated because they are susceptible to conditions that may cause fires during high winds, when it's impossible to get emergency help. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations. Here's what to do:

- Make a list of important phone numbers and pack it in your emergency kit (see list below).
- Plan your route and an alternate – and have a current paper map of the route on hand. Notify family and friends of your plans.
- If you need special consideration to evacuate (because of age, physical abilities, disabilities, medical needs, etc.) register in advance with your county's civil defense and office of emergency management.
- Discuss emergency plans with your HOA representative and your physician if you receive home health care or depend upon electric life-support equipment. Make arrangements with a hospital if necessary.

If an evacuation order comes, often from officials, and/or the governor, remain calm, put your emergency plan into action, and ready your family and home. Here are some tips.

- Check your zone number. Evacuation orders will be broadcast using that number/letter. In Southwest Florida, Naples is in evacuation **Zone "A."** Zone "A" is most vulnerable to hurricanes and will be first to be impacted by a land-falling storm. Evacuation is often required for any named storm coming from the Gulf and it also may be necessary for exiting storms. Potentially fatal storm surge and large, crashing waves are the most extreme dangers.
- Red Cross shelters will be open for people with nowhere else to go. Don't head to a shelter until the Red Cross has announced that it's open.
- Prepare emergency water storage. Sterilize bathtubs, jugs, cooking utensils, and containers. Scrub thoroughly, sponge with bleach, rinse, and let dry; fill with water.
- Leave early to avoid traffic or early flooding.
- Turn off electricity, water, and gas before you leave.
- Unplug major appliances.

- Remember your emergency kit. Pack supplies in your vehicle and leave immediately on your preplanned route.
- Clear any loose objects around the building.
- Close all windows and doors and close hurricane shutters.
- Store documents and valuables in a waterproof container and security in the highest possible spot.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting, opening only when necessary.
- Freeze water in plastic jugs and containers and use them to fill empty spaces between refrigerator contents to keep food cold.

**Emergency Kit Considerations for an evacuation:**

- First aid kit and essential medications (2-week supply)
- At least one gallon of water per person, per-day
- Protective clothing, rainwear
- Bedding or sleeping bag
- Battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled
- Cash (ATM's may not be working)
- Road atlas or paper maps
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family emergency contact information
- Copies of personal documents

\*source redcross.org (@Publix.com/publix-storm-basics)