



## HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE HURRICANE?

Only Mother Nature knows when a hurricane will strike. You can help minimize the disruption a hurricane causes by having a plan in place. There are a number of things you can do to prepare for a hurricane, according to FEMA and Ready.gov, including:

- **Stock up on emergency supplies.** Have a week's supply of water, plenty of nonperishable food items and refill necessary prescriptions for family members, including pets.
- **Create an evacuation route for all family members.** Identify two meeting places: one right outside your home and another outside the neighborhood in case access to your home is cut off. Make sure everyone knows the address and phone number of the second meeting place.
- Identify the location of **community shelters**.
- **Fill vehicles' gas tanks** and make sure to have a **car charger for cell phones**.
- **Learn the elevation level of your property** and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property may be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding occur.
- **Cover all of your home's windows.** Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Be sure **trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed** so they are more wind resistant.
- **Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.**
- **Reinforce your garage doors;** if wind enters a garage, it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
- **Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans** and anything else that is not tied down.
- **Install a generator** for emergencies.
- **If in a high-rise building,** be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.