



HARRIS COUNTY CITIZEN CORPS OFFERS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS

With the first named storm (Hurricane Alex) behind us, Harris County Citizen Corps would like to remind you, your family and friends to be prepared for hurricane season. We encourage you to pass this message on those who need it.

By taking a few simple precautions, you can help ensure you and your loved ones make it safely through a disaster.

There are three steps that are critical to do to prepare: Have a Plan, Make a Kit and Be Informed.

HAVE A PLAN

- If you plan to stay, have plenty supplies, find a safe room in your home, plan for power outages and be sure to notify friends and relatives of your plans to stay.
- Make sure to discuss your evacuation plans with your family, friends and relatives. Know contact information for your family members, friends and anyone else you may need to contact.
- Learn evacuation routes from your area. Plan for traffic, so expect delays and longer drive times.
- Make a checklist of what you need to do and make sure to review prior to the storm's arrival.
- Learn places to stay between your home and your destination, just in case you have to stop or detour.
- Make plans for what you are going to do with your pets and livestock.
- If you have a car, keep at least a half tank of gas at all times.
- Make sure to properly prepare your home or business. Protect windows, bring any outdoor objects inside and turn off utilities if instructed.

MAKE A KIT

- Have enough supplies to last for a week.
- Make sure to have enough water- one gallon daily per person.
- Pack canned foods, juices, food for infants, cooking tools, fuel and any food for pets.
- Have any medications, personal hygiene items, toilet paper, cleanup supplies, etc.
- Keep fully charged cell phones with chargers and extra batteries.
- Make sure to have a battery operated radio and flashlight with extra batteries.
- Have extra clothing, rain gear, blankets, pillows and sleeping bags.
- Keep any important documents, including photo IDs, driver license, proof of residence, account information, and any insurance papers you may need to process insurance claims.
- Have cash, including small bills.

BE INFORMED

- Be familiar with any hurricane terms. A **hurricane watch** means a hurricane is possible in your area. A **hurricane warning** is when a hurricane is expected in your area.
- Hurricanes are classified into **five categories** based on wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. **Category three** and **higher** hurricanes are considered major hurricanes. **Category one** and **two** are dangerous but not as destructive.

- Be aware of possible **flooding**. Excessive rain can trigger landslides or mud slides. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall. Flooding on rivers and streams may persist for several days or more after the storm.
- Learn about the emergency plans established in your area by your state and local government. Listen to any instructions given by local emergency management officials.

For additional information log on to the Harris County Citizen Corps web site at www.harriscountycitizencorps.com.

Visit the following web sites for more information about how to prepare for a hurricane:

National Hurricane Center - www.nhc.noaa.gov.

Ready.gov - www.ready.gov.

American Red Cross - www.redcross.org.

Ready Houston TX – Regional Preparedness – www.readyhouston.tx.gov

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