



## Hurricanes | Before Hazard Preparation Checklist

### What Can I Do Before a Hurricane?

- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio to ensure you receive critical warning information.
- Register for CT Alert.
- Talk to your insurance agent about purchasing flood insurance.
- Plan how you and your family will safely evacuate if an evacuation is ordered, and inform all family members of this plan.
- Plan how you will communicate with family and friends if telephone or Internet systems are down.
- Make a 72-hour emergency kit.
- Plan what you will do to protect or evacuate your pets and/or farm animals.
- Make a list of items to bring inside in the event of a storm.
- Install permanent hurricane shutters or buy the materials required to board up windows and doors.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- Keep insurance policies, important documents, and other valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Learn how to turn off your utilities.

#### **If a hurricane watch or warning is issued:**

- Monitor conditions using a NOAA Weather Radio or your preferred local news source.
- Heed the advice of the governor or local emergency management officials.
- Prepare your property for high winds. Bring in or secure items that can be picked up by the wind and secure doors and windows with shutters or boards.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Stock up on prescription medications.
- If you are in a mobile home, check the tie-downs.
- Check your Disaster Supply Kit and replace or restock items as needed.
- Ensure that you have working flashlights and batteries.
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting to prepare for power outages.
- Keep important documents and valuables in a safe deposit box or in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities. Close propane tank valves.
- Unplug small appliances that may be affected by power surges.
- Review your evacuation plan, and ensure your planned route is the same as what is currently recommended.
- If you think an evacuation might be ordered and you have large or numerous animals, consider evacuating them as soon as you are aware of impending danger.
- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows, skylights, and doors, even if they are covered. A small interior room without windows on the first floor is usually the safest place.
- Store drinking water in clean plastic bottles and pots and pans. Fill bathtubs and sinks with water to use for flushing the toilet and washing floors and clothing (but not for drinking).