



Malteser International

Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS



BEFORE A HURRICANE

- Plan for both evacuation to a safer area or hibernation in your home; take the safer option according to your location and follow advices/orders from the authorities.
- Have knowledge of the closest government-designated shelter and of your evacuation routes.
- Know and monitor the early warning systems available (on radio, TV, internet, cell phone)
- Identify high and low risk areas in your house/garden (flooding, wind damage, falling/flying trees, poles, signs and other debris).
- Secure your possession/house against high winds: garden/patio tables & chairs and other outdoor furniture, motorbikes, bicycles, signs, fences, doors, gates, external lights; rain gutters, trim dead branches from nearby trees etc....
- If your house has no shutters, plan to tape or board your windows to prevent shattering, secure your doors against high winds.
- Store food, water, medical supplies and other basic commodities before the hurricane (to last up to 3 days).
- Ensure your pets are safe and restrained if need be (leash, carrier), ensure they will also have sufficient pet food & water.
- Ensure your vehicle is fueled-up and your evacuation carry-on emergency kit ready in case you need to leave (keep it light: ID, small valuables, cell-phone, radio, flashlight, spare batteries, maps, whistle, energy food & water, small first-aid kit, essential medicines, prescription glasses, adequate clothing and shoes).

DURING A HURRICANE

- Do not venture outside during a hurricane.
- Stay away from the windows and remain in rooms on the downwind side of the storm.
- Listen to the radio (battery powered in case of power outages), television, and internet services/apps to get up-to-date information on the path of the hurricane.
- If the weather becomes suddenly calm, that could mean the eye of the hurricane is moving through but the hurricane is not over. Remain inside until authorities announce it's safe to go out.
- To help reduce fear and anxiety, remain active while waiting out the hurricane: Organize games for children and adults, assign responsibilities and tasks to keep everyone busy.
- Secure your pets and try to ensure they do not panic. If a pet escapes or is unaccounted for during the storm do not go out to try to rescue it.

AFTER THE HURRICANE

- Wait until the authorities announce the "all clear" via loud-speakers/radio/TV/online before venturing out of or returning to your home.
- Watch out for and report downed power-lines & cables, hanging debris, flooding, gas/water leaks, dangerous road sections.
- Drive carefully, no disaster sight-seeing, do not block the path of emergency vehicles.

More information on **Malteser International Americas**, our disaster relief efforts, and how we are empowering people to live lives with dignity, please visit orderofmaltarelief.org.