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## BUILD YOUR DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

### WATER

- Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation / sanitation).
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household.

### FOOD

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- High-energy foods: peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- Food for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets

### TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Battery-operated radio or TV and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Fully charged cell phone and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Insect repellent
- Aluminum foil, plastic storage containers
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil, needles, thread and medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench (to turn off household utilities and water)
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting
- Map of area (for locating shelters)

### SANITATION

- Toilet paper, towelettes, soap, liquid detergent, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)

### CLOTHING AND BEDDING

- Extra clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, rain gear, hat and sunglasses
- Blankets or sleeping bags

### DOCUMENTS

Keep records in a waterproof, portable container:

- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Passports, Social Security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers and companies, credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

### SPECIAL NEEDS ITEMS

- Formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk
- Medications, prescription drugs, denture needs, contact lenses and supplies, extra eyeglasses

### CREATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

This list will help family members re-connect if separated during a disaster:

- List all phone numbers for family members: work, school, home and cell.
- Designate a contact person for family members to check in with if they can't reach each other. It's ideal if your contact person lives outside your area because after a disaster it's often easier to call outside than locally.
- Each family member and the contact person should keep a copy of the list at home, work and in their cars.

# Are You Ready for HURRICANE SEASON?

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## WHAT TO DO NOW

- Decide where you plan to go if you are requested to evacuate. You may go to a hotel or motel, stay with friends or relatives in a safe location or go to a Red Cross shelter.
- Put together your disaster supplies kit as recommended in this guide. Do it now. If you wait until a storm approaches, stores may be out of needed items.
- Create your Emergency Contact List as recommended in this guide.
- Plan for pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. To make arrangements for your pet, contact your vet, local SPCA or Humane Society.

## AS THE STORM APPROACHES

- Monitor TV and radio for the latest storm developments. Hurricanes are unpredictable.
- Have your car ready. Fill it up and check oil, water and maintenance.
- Check your emergency evacuation supplies.
- Make sure you have some cash on hand. Power could be out for days and ATM machines won't work.
- Board up or put storm shutters on windows.
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer controls to the coldest settings.
- Fill empty freezer spaces with reusable ice containers, or fill empty milk containers about four-fifths full of water, cap the containers loosely and place in empty space.
- If food in freezer does defrost, use it within one or two days. Never refreeze food that has thawed completely.
- Clear your yard of loose objects, bicycles, lawn furniture, trash cans, etc.
- Secure your boat.
- Leave swimming pools filled. Super-chlorinate the water and cover pump and filtration systems and intakes.

## IF YOU STAY HOME

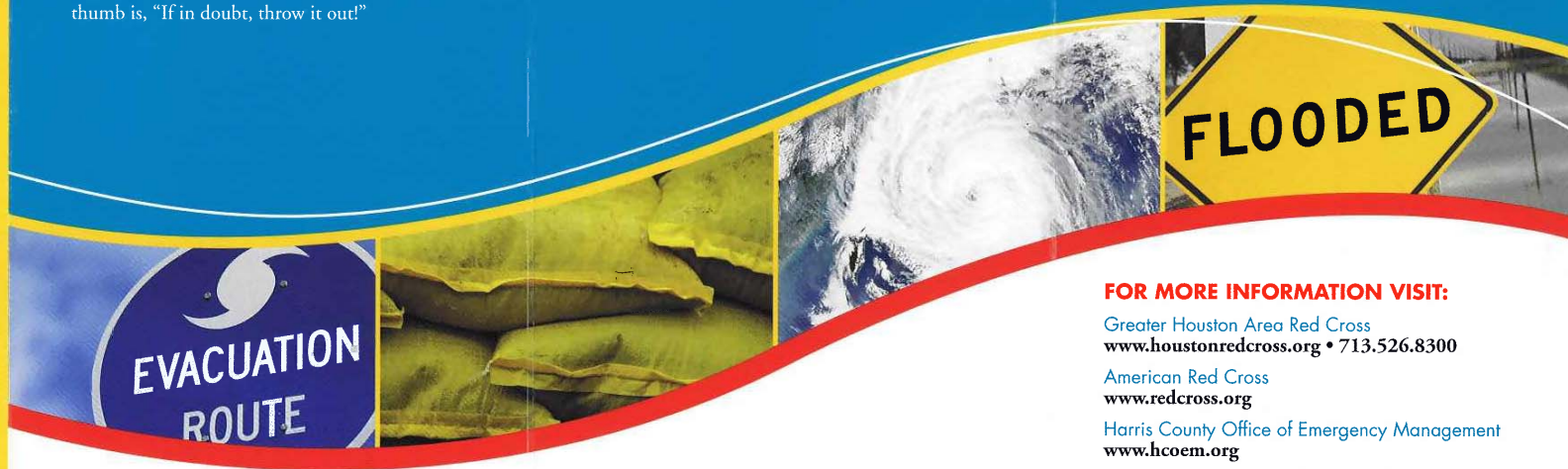
- Obtain and mark clean containers for storing water for drinking. Each person should have food and water for a minimum of 72 hours. Store water in the bathtub for flushing toilets.
- Have a week's supply of non-perishable foods. Have a manual can opener.
- Stay inside, away from windows.
- Wait for official word that the danger is over before going outside. Don't be fooled by the storm's calm eye.
- If the power goes out, keep spoiling and thawing of food to a minimum, by opening the refrigerator or freezer as seldom as possible. Food will stay frozen for up to 48 hours if a freezer is full and tightly packed and the door is kept closed. Food in a partly filled freezer may keep for 24 hours.
- How do you tell if food has gone bad? The rule of thumb is, "If in doubt, throw it out!"

## IF YOU MUST EVACUATE

- Leaving early will shorten your travel time. Leaving later may not allow you enough time to reach safe shelter.
- Pack necessities: plenty of water and non-perishable food, Disaster Supplies Kit, Emergency Contact List, proof of residency, cash, extra clothing and sleeping bags or bedding.
- Bring games, puzzles and books to keep children entertained.
- Turn off water and electricity at the main valve, breakers or fuses.
- Turn off propane gas tanks that serve individual appliances like a stove or grill. Do not turn off natural gas unless local officials advise to do so.
- If bringing pets, pack pet food, carriers for each, vaccination records, any medications, and strong leashes.

## AFTER A STORM

- If you evacuated, have valid identification. You will not be allowed back into your area unless you can show proof of residency.
- When re-entering your home, proceed with caution.
- Be cautious with fires. Do not strike matches until you are certain there are no gas leaks.
- If at home, stay there and avoid sightseeing, which can impede emergency and recovery response from officials.
- If a power outage occurs, turn off or disconnect all motor-driven appliances and fixtures to avoid damage from sudden surges when power is restored. It's safer to use flashlights than candles.
- Beware of snakes, insects and animals driven to higher ground.
- Avoid downed or dangling utility wires.



Before anything else, **PREPARATION** is the key to success.

*Alexander Graham Bell*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

Greater Houston Area Red Cross  
[www.houstonredcross.org](http://www.houstonredcross.org) • 713.526.8300

American Red Cross  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Harris County Office of Emergency Management  
[www.hcoem.org](http://www.hcoem.org)

Governor's Division of Emergency Management  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
[www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/index.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/index.htm)

National Weather Service  
[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)