

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Are you prepared for hurricane season?
Don't wait till it is too late
Plan ahead, "Failure to plan is planning to fail".



It is a fact of life along the Mississippi Gulf Coast that living with the threat of hurricanes is an every year challenge. Like so many other events, hurricane threats can become manageable if proper preparations are made. Planning ahead will make the reaction to a threatening storm safer for you and your family.

Hurricane season normally runs from June 1st to November 1st of every year. Although June 1st to November 1st is the recognized seasonal period, hurricanes have been documented in every month of the year except February. The most potential time of the year for hurricanes is August and September. It is easy to see why having a plan in place could reduce the amount of time needed to react to an unexpected situation. Hurricane preparations could reduce the impact of a hurricane to your family.

Here are some hurricane preparedness planning tips:

Create a "disaster supply kit". This kit should include a 3-7 day supply of water, non-perishable food and other necessity items per person. Here are some suggested calculations for food/water amounts and other suggested items:

- Drinking water – Have at least one gallon per person per day for 5 to 7 days (preferably for two weeks). To store, use clean, airtight containers, such as two liter plastic soda containers, but no milk containers. If you use re-useable plastic bottles, change them each month.
- Water for Pets – Have at least a half-gallon per pet per day for 5 to 7 days.
- Food – Have at least enough for three meals per day per person for 5 to 7 days. Food should be nonperishable packaged or canned and should include canned or shelf milk, cereal and snack foods. Foods should meet the dietary needs of infants, the elderly and those with special needs.
- Medication/special needs – Have a 5 to 7 day supply of special items such as food, formula, diapers and wipes for infants and those with special needs; toiletries and extra toilet paper. Have at least a two-week supply of medications.
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Battery operated radio
- Extra clothing for each person
- Whistle (signaling device for emergencies or entrapment)
- Ice chest
- Any other items you may feel is necessary for the safety and comfort of you and your family

The "disaster kit" should be created or inventoried prior to the start of the hurricane season. Items that need to be replaced or added should be included at this time. Survey your potential needs and include within the kit.

EVACUATION:

- Know your evacuation zone. For the City of Gautier the general description for your evacuation zone is as follows:
ZONE A – Land within the City of Gautier that is south of Highway 90
ZONE B – Land within the City of Gautier that is north of Highway 90 but south of Interstate 10
ZONE C – Land within the City of Gautier that is north of Interstate 10
- Take seriously any evacuation notices issued by your local emergency management agency and react as recommended.

- “Get out of harm’s way to play another day”.
- Pre-plan your evacuation route and leave early. A delayed evacuation can create long time traffic congestion.
- Prior to evacuating, fill your fuel tank.
- Pre-plan your destination and inform family members or friends of your final destination.
- Prior to evacuating, disconnect all electrical devices that are not essential. If possible, disconnect power to all portions of the structure that are not necessary for safety or food preservation.
- Make arrangements for your pet. If evacuating to a shelter, ask if the shelter is a pet friendly shelter. Although rules prohibit pets in human shelters, pet sheltering is close to pet friendly shelters. Ask questions about your pets prior to making your plans.

Stay or Go?

Always take the advice of your County Emergency Management Agency to evacuate. But if you elect to stay, here are some safety tips:

- Never use candles or other flame producing devices for emergency illumination. Emergency lighting produced by battery or generator is much safer for you and your family.
- Never leave a room unattended by adult supervision when flame producing devices are being used and children are present.
- Never run a fuel driven generator indoors, under eaves or within 10 feet of combustible surfaces.
- Never connect a fuel driven generator directly to your electrical supply source without professional installation.
- Always uncover protected windows immediately after the storm has passed. This will allow you to have immediate access to your rescue openings (windows) and will allow neighbors to observe a negative event such as a fire.
- Cook projected needed meals prior to the arrival of the storm. This will limit cooking operations during the storm that could create a fire.
- Always monitor the movement and activities of small children.

You should consider any and all documents that are important or may be needed to assist with disaster recovery. Some such papers may be:

Birth certificates
 Passports
 Insurance policies
 Any medical records stored at your home
 Any document that cannot be replaced or may be difficult to replace

Have sufficient cash on hand to last a projected period of time when electrical resources may be non-operational. ATM’s and check verification systems may not be available for use.

REMEMBER: *There will be storm conditions that will probably restrict your access to emergency services such as police, fire and medical personnel. Emergency services may not respond when weather conditions threaten their safety. Protect your family, prepare to evacuate prior to every storm.*

Hurricane Information:

National Hurricane Center: <http://.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>

One Storm – Hurricane Planning Information: <http://www.onestorm.org/> - (free on-line hurricane planning for your family.)

FEMA Hurricane Information: <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

