

## **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS INFO**

Those of you who are new to this area may not be aware that **the time to prepare for the hurricane season is before the hurricane season begins. The months of August and September are when most hurricanes occur here.**

We generally have a major hurricane every ten years hit the coastal area. Hurricane Harvey hit in August 25, 2017.

Resource information can be found at:

1. [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov)
2. [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) – search for Corpus Christi Area – here you can find storm surge info
3. dial 211 for answers to your hurricane questions
4. State of Texas **red code system** – sign up and you can contact red code to get a damage assessment in our area and relatives can call to check on you. You are advised to research on your own.

Once a **Hurricane Watch** is given, you have **48 hours** to get out.

Once a **Hurricane Warning** is issued, you have **36 hours**.

A Category 1 storm does not seem like much wind but a storm surge and tornadoes can complicate matters.

We are generally encouraged to evacuate due to possible week-long+ power losses, heavy water surges, flooding, snakes, mosquitoes etc. These hurricanes generally occur during hot weather and you will most likely be without air conditioning. If you wait too long to evacuate--- be prepared to be in your car up to five to seven hours. TXDOT will set up emergency spots along the official evacuation routes every two miles.

**Preparation needs to be done early.** Some things to do early include:

1. At Walmart you can pick up a manual with information on what to pre-pack such as medications, insurance papers, water, food, money, etc.
2. Make sure you know how to prepare your house for evacuation (shutting off propane/etc.).
3. If you have not already done so, document (via photo or video) all items inside and outside of the home for insurance purposes -take these with you.
4. Check your medications for renewals.
5. Make a list of what you need to pack for an evacuation.
6. Have a plan as to what you would do after the storm if your home has been destroyed/damaged.
7. Make sure you have Wind Storm, Fire-Theft and Flood Insurance if you want insurance to pay for any damage. These insurance policies cannot be obtained once the Hurricane has formed in the Gulf. Generally, there is a 30 day wait for such policies to take effect. If you pay more to obtain

*"replacement value" coverage you will receive just that and not the depreciated value of the losses. Most of us don't have all the purchase information to contest the depreciation set by the insurance company.*

- 8. Check your hurricane shutters to see if they close and lock. Buy plywood now, if needed. Determine now how to nail/screw it on to keep doors and windows sealed.*
- 9. Buy water early – you will probably need it whether you evacuate or not as often city water plants are flooded and safe drinking water is not available..*
- 10. Garage reinforcement should be considered if your garage has windows. Hurricane proof garage doors are recommended.*
- 11. During the months of August and September, keep your car's gas tank full as these are the months this area is likely to see a hurricane. There will be a run on gas once the announcement is made. Once the storm hits, the pumps will probably be shut down.*
- 12. Buy things to clean- up with such as mops, gloves etc.*
- 13. Plan your evacuation route now and let your family and friends know what route you will be taking. Let relatives know now what hotel or house you will be staying at during the hurricane.*
- 14. When you evacuate, take snacks and water in your car for humans and pets as the trip can often take many hours.*
- 15. Purchase some plastic boxes with tops to seal up what needs to be protected should the house be flooded. Prepare a waterproof box to put items in that you will take in your car on your evacuation. Prepare a box of items now that you know will need to be removed from your home.*
- 16. Remember to pack for your pets. Do not leave them behind. Get a pet carrier, meds, leash etc.*
- 17. Have a radio and flash light that is battery operated. Buy extra batteries now and pack it up.*
- 18. Paperwork you need to locate now might include who to contact for insurance claims, your passwords, phone numbers, mailing addresses, check books, computer information. Cell phone charger/phone, computer, clothes, food and water needs to be packed up. If you have your papers in a gun safe, make sure the safe is water-proof.*

**Do what you can now to prepare. Do not wait the hurricane is approaching.**