

Planning a Hurricane Evacuation

As a hurricane approaches your area, authorities may instruct you and your fellow residents to evacuate. Although leaving your home and many of your treasured possessions behind may be difficult, you should follow these orders to ensure your safety. Unfortunately, the evacuation process can be difficult for those who are unprepared.

By planning ahead and understanding how to evacuate your home in an orderly and efficient manner, you can minimize your risk of delays, damages and injuries. Form an evacuation plan in advance that includes the following steps:



1. Pack an evacuation kit.

This should include drinking water, nonperishable food, cell phones, chargers, flashlights, batteries, medical supplies, cash and important documents (e.g., birth certificates, social security cards, insurance policies).



2. Establish a meeting spot.

If your family is not together at the time of evacuation or are separated during the process, it's invaluable to have a predetermined spot where you plan to rendezvous.



3. Select a reliable contact.

Make plans with a friend or relative who will not be affected by the hurricane and use them as a central point of contact to help your family reunite and keep you updated on the situation.



4. Identify nearby shelters.

Knowing where to find help before a hurricane hits can make all the difference. Research these locations beforehand and let your friends and family know where you plan to go.



5. Research multiple routes.

Once you know where you plan to go, you should compose backup plans for how to get there. Hurricanes may make certain roads or areas impassable, so you must be prepared with alternate routes.



6. Maintain your vehicle.

When evacuation is necessary, car trouble could be catastrophic. Ensure your vehicle is in good working order, its gas tank is full, and you have various essentials available, such as jumper cables.



7. Plan for pets.

If your family includes animals, you should know that many public shelters may not allow them to accompany you. Plan ahead by identifying local organizations that may be able to house your pets temporarily.

Contact Wallace Welch & Willingham
today for additional guidance about hurricane preparedness.

