



## Bluffton Township Fire District Public Hurricane Preparedness Information

One of the few costs of living in the most beautiful region of these United States is of course the potential for hurricanes. We here at the Bluffton Township Fire District want to ensure that you are as prepared as possible in the event that Mother Nature sends one of these destructive storms our way. Please take this paperwork and use it to create a plan that is right for you and your family. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us for more information.

1. To begin your preparation we suggest that you build an emergency kit  
We recommend that you include in this kit:
  - a) Regional road maps
  - b) First aid supplies
  - c) NOAA Weather Radio
  - d) Extra charging cords for your essential electronics
  
2. Then create a family communications plan.  
In the event that you must evacuate we recommend that you:
  - a) Share your plan with family members who live elsewhere
  - b) Ensure that everyone in your family locally know who to contact
  - c) Have a backup plan of communication in case you can't reach someone
  
3. Know your home and its surroundings:
  - a) Is your home in a flood zone?
  - b) Are there waterways close to your home that are prone to overflow?
  - c) Is my address clearly visible from the road?
  - d) What evacuation routes are available from my home?
  
4. Have a hurricane evacuation route map and plan your exit route
  
5. Determine where to go when you evacuate
  - a) Family members home far inland
  - b) Hotel in a town far inland  
**Make sure you have reservations BEFORE you leave home**
  - c) Friend's home far inland  
**Make sure they know you are coming and may be there a while**
  - d) Have a backup place to stay in the event that your first choice is unavailable of full
  - e) Do they allow pets? (if you have them) If not, have a plan for each animal in the family

6. Create a plan to secure your home –Who, what, when, where, and how
  - a) Board up windows and doors (5/8” exterior plywood recommended)
  - b) Place sandbags in front of doors and low windows to prevent minor flooding
  - c) Store everything normally in your yard
  
7. Pay attention to weather forecasts daily throughout the hurricane season
  - a) Local news
  - b) [www.blufftonfd.com](http://www.blufftonfd.com)  
click on “PUBLIC RESOURCES” then “Hurricane Central”
  - c) [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) (National Weather Service Website)  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>
  - d) National News
  
8. Maintain your home so that it is always storm ready
  - a) Keep trees and shrubs trimmed and wind resistant
  - b) Keep gutters and downspouts clean and operational at all times
  - c) Make sure that garage doors have locks and reinforcement rods
  - d) Create a plan to secure/store boats, additional cars, and other large items

In the end, know that we will do everything that we can to ensure your safety in any event. But it is critical to our success that you take every opportunity to make certain that you are prepared in the event of a hurricane. Remember, go early and go far when a hurricane threatens.

If you or anyone you know has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lee Levesque, Public Education Officer for the Bluffton Township Fire District at your convenience either by email – [levesque@blufftonfd.com](mailto:levesque@blufftonfd.com) or via phone at (843) 548-4354.