**Hurricane Preparedness Task List**

**Know Your Flood Risk**

Navigate to this web link and follow the directions below: <https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>

**Step 1:** Click OK on the Welcome Screen.

**Step 2:** Enter your address, click on the search icon, and wait for the layers to load.

**Step 3:** Note the color of the shading for your areas: none, light orange, or blue.

**Step 4:** If you live in a blue-shaded area, note your zone and elevation (EL).

If you are in an area with no shading, you have minimum flood risk. If you are in a light orange-shaded area, you have a 0.2% annual chance of flood hazard (500-year flood zone) so you still have a minimum flood risk. However, if you are in a blue-shaded area, you have at least a 1% annual chance of flood hazard (100-year flood zone). That means that you have at least a 26% chance of having a flood affect your home during the life of your 30-year mortgage. Keep in mind that FEMA uses historic data so your current flood risk may be different than what is currently projected on the map shown. Make sure to write this information down in your Hurricane Plan.

**Insurance check-up**

After you complete the “Know Your Flood Risk” task above, you should do an insurance check-up. If your home is in an unshaded or light orange-shaded area, you qualify for a preferred risk policy (PRP), which is a low-cost flood policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). If you are in a blue-shade area, you need flood insurance as you have at least a 26% chance of a flood taking place during your 30-year mortgage. In addition to flood insurance, you should review your homeowner or renter policy. Contact your insurance company today to find out what your policy includes and your coverage options. Use the list as a guide: <https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/ready_document-and-insure-your-property.pdf>

Once your policies are up-to-date, print the pertinent items for your Hurricane Plan binder or folder on your computer.

**Document your valuables**

If you have damage from a storm and/or flooding, you'll want to have images to show your insurance company of your affected property and belongings. Go around your house (inside and outside) to take photos from several angles and in every room. Make sure to get photos of your more costly and valuable items, like TVs, computers, furniture and your car. Once you've taken the photos, you can either have them printed for your Hurricane Plan binder or you can save them electronically to your Hurricane Plan folder on your computer.

**Protect your windows and doors**

Whether you have accordion shutters on your home, or you use aluminum or plywood, you want to make sure that you have everything you need to protect your windows and doors before a hurricane is approaching. Do an inventory of your shutter supplies. If you have accordion shutters, check that they are working properly and not rusty. If you have aluminum shutters, make sure that you have all of the items needed for putting them up, such as wing nuts and a wing nut drill attachment or mallet. To cover your windows with plywood, check that you have the necessary screws (tapcons) to attach them to your home.

**Create a pet plan**

You'll want enough food, water, and supplies for your pets and animals for several days. Make sure that you have enough pet carriers for each pet If you have to evacuate. Make sure that you have any pet medications that you may need. Print photos of your pets in the event that they get lost in the storm and keep them to your Hurricane Plan Binder. For more info regarding preparing your animals (including livestock if you have livestock where you live) visit <https://www.ready.gov/pets>.

**Know Your evacuation route**

Determine your evacuation route in case you need to evacuate. Navigate to this web link and follow the instructions below: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disaster-preparedness-maps/>

**Step 1**: Scroll to the section on the page titled Evacuation Route and Zone Maps.

**Step 2**: Find your county listed in the section below that title.

**Step 3**: Open the PDF for your county and print it.

**Your transportation**

If you have a vehicle(s), plan how to protect it during a storm, including figuring out where you could park on higher ground where you live and away from wind shear. Don’t forget to fill up your gas tank before the lines get long. If you take a bus, sign up for alerts regarding routes. As a reminder, never walk or drive on flooded roads or through floodwaters. For more info visit <https://www.fdot.gov/emergencymanagement/documents.shtm>.

**Prepare for your medical needs**

You should have at least a two-week supply of prescription medication or other medication and any necessary medical devices you need.

According to [FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2019/05/052919-hurricane-preparedness.pr.html), if you are eligible for a Special Needs Shelter, your kit should include the following: a list of medications and dosage, a 30-day supply of medications, vital medical equipment for those who may be electrically or oxygen dependent, back-up energy sources for essential medical equipment, any special dietary needs or food, as well as personal information including photo ID, insurance card, emergency contacts, and your primary care providers contact information.

Include any important paperwork such as a copy of your medical history, a list of your medications, and contact information for your primary care providers in your Hurricane Plan binder or folder on your computer.

**Prepare for power outages - before, during and after a storm**

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages> for guidelines on how to prepare NOW for potential power outages, how to survive DURING a power outage, and how to be safe AFTER a power outage. This site includes a printable power outage information sheet, information for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, and information about food safety, generator safety, and dealing with extreme temperatures.

If you have a generator, make sure that it is working properly. Remember, never run your generator indoors, in a garage, or near windows.

**Protect your home and yard**

Prepare your home's exterior for a storm in advance. Make sure that your trees are trimmed long before a storm is approaching. Declutter drains and gutters. Consider getting supplies such as sandbags to protect your doors from flood waters and tarps and rope for protecting damaged roofs. When a storm is approaching, pick up any items surrounding your home that could become a dangerous projectile. Just because an item is heavy to you doesn't mean that it can't be uplifted by hurricane force winds. Find more information at <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/preparing-trees-for-hurricanes.html>

**Sign up for alerts**

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/alerts> to learn about warning alerts from public safety officials and how to get them.

Individuals in Florida can visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/info> and click on "Mobile Apps" for the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network, Florida 511 traffic, FEMA, Red Cross, Byte to Bites food distribution location, Everbridge, and Gas Buddy apps.

FAU students and staff can sign up for the FAU Alert notification system at <https://www.fau.edu/emergency/universityalerts.php>

**Gather your Important documents**

Having access to personal, financial, insurance, medical and other records in case of emergency or during disaster recovery is crucial. Gather your household's vital records (such as birth certificates, driver's licenses, adoption papers, Social Security cards, citizenship papers, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, child custody papers, current military IDs, your pet's vaccination and medical records) and insurance policies and put them in a safe location. Property records, medical information, estate planning documents, and financial records need to be accessible and secure. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness> for more information.