



# Hurricane Guide

As a leader in the property management industry, we understand how overwhelming Hurricane Season can be for homeowners. This Hurricane Guide encompasses hurricane preparedness best practices and tips that are sure to help with your family's disaster preparedness plan.





## Before Hurricane Season Best Practices

Consider taking the time to create a detailed emergency plan with your family. Mapping out and researching routes for evacuation ahead of time can give you a clear path to safety in the hectic hours leading up to a storm. Here are a few things to consider compiling:

1. Important addresses and phone numbers
2. Determining a “safe room” in your house
3. Signing up for your community’s warning system
4. Copies of important documents
5. Medical information
5. Evacuation zones/ locations of shelter

## Important Hurricane Related Terms

1. **Hurricane Watch** - Hurricane expected to make landfall in 48 hours. Your preparations should be underway.
2. **Hurricane Warning** - Hurricane expected to make landfall in 24 hours. Your preparations should be rushed to completion.
3. **Storm Surge** - Rapid sea level rise as a result of a storm. 9 out of 10 deaths during a hurricane are a result of storm surges.
4. **Storm Surge Watch** - Possible life-threatening inundation as a result of a storm surge moving inland from the shoreline within a specified area. Generally, within 48 hours.
5. **Storm Surge Warning** - Possible life-threatening inundation as a result of a storm surge moving inland from the shoreline within a specified area. Generally, within 36 hours.



**Quick Tip:** Periodically check news coverage in the days leading up to a storm. Focus your attention on the advice of weather experts and keep an eye out for updates on evacuation zones and water boil advisories for your area.

## Days Leading up to The Storm

In the days leading up to a storm it is best to divide preparation into two categories: gathering supplies and damage avoidance. Below, we have put together a checklist of supplies to gather prior to storm arrival.

### Essential Supplies

- ✓ *Drinking Water – At least one gallon per person per day.*
- ✓ *Food – non-perishables and canned food are ideal.*
- ✓ *First aid kit*
- ✓ *Candles and lighter or matches*
- ✓ *Manual Can/Bottle Opener*
- ✓ *Flash Lights (At Least 2 Heavy-Duty Utility Flashlights)*
- ✓ *(If Applicable) Baby food, diapers, formula*
- ✓ *Medications/Prescriptions (2-week supply)*
- ✓ *Disposable Batteries and Chargers*
- ✓ *Toiletries*
- ✓ *Necessary Tools (Drill, Hammer, etc.)*
- ✓ *Extra Bedding: Blankets, pillows, etc.)*
- ✓ *Charcoal or Propane Grill*
- ✓ *Insurance information*
- ✓ *Disposable plates, utensils, & paper towels*
- ✓ *Battery Powered Radio*

# Property Safety

Keeping your property safe is pivotal to keeping your family safe if you choose to wait out the storm at home. The following tips will help to minimize damage to your home, which will subsequently protect you and your loved ones.



*Bring loose objects that could easily be moved by storm force winds (Planters, Chairs, Tables, etc.) indoors or tie them down with a rope.*



*Remove coconuts from your palms.*



*Bring any construction material into your garage.*



*Lock doors and windows.*



*Put up shutters or board windows with plywood.*



*Reinforce garage door if needed (this is one of the most vulnerable locations of a home during a hurricane).*



*Add sand bags in front of your exterior doors and garage door.*



*Move car into your garage or another secure location.*



## What to Expect from Your Community Association Manager

For Community Association Managers, hurricane preparedness is a year-round responsibility that requires extensive planning and practiced “dry” runs. When a storm is approaching the Community Association Manager should schedule an email updating residents daily on what is being done to prepare the community for the storm. These preparations may include: taking measures to secure all common areas and other community structures (guard gate, clubhouse, etc...), conducting hurricane drills and going over procedures with staff, and re-distributing the hurricane guide to all residents. Ensure your manager has a print out of all resident’s information and a copy of your insurance policies on hand.

Creating a group email between the manager, board members and key vendors early on, will allow each person to communicate via email, with attached pictures, when their part of the hurricane plan has been completed. This email group can then be used post storm for updates. Having these pictures will be key with any insurance claims showing what the property looked like before and after the storm.

An important question arises during hurricane season for homeowners: “How will a hurricane impact my community?” Time-tested methods are at the forefront of our Hurricane preparedness procedures at Castle Group. Our Property Managers are equipped with expertise in how to best prepare your community for an impending storm.



# Important Resources

## Florida

1. **Shelter Status State of Florida** - [www.floridadisaster.org/shelters/summary.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/shelters/summary.htm)
2. **Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities** - [www.apd.myflorida.com/customers/disaster](http://www.apd.myflorida.com/customers/disaster)
3. **Florida 511** (*Traffic updates and road closures*) - [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com)
4. **Florida Highway Patrol** (*Additional traffic updates*) - [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/traffic](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/traffic)

## Texas

1. **Texas 211** (*Shelter, food, and disaster services*) - [www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org)
2. **Drive Texas** (*Traffic updates and road closures*) - [www.drivetexas.org](http://www.drivetexas.org)
3. **Department of Transportation** (*Evacuation routes*) - <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html>

## Federal Resources

1. **Federal Emergency Management Agency** - [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
2. **Department of Homeland Security** - [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)
3. **National Weather Service** (*NOAA Weather Radio*) - [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)
4. **Disability.gov** - [www.disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov)
5. **National Organization on Disability** - [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org)
6. **Ready America** - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

# About Castle Group

Castle Group is the premier choice for property management, specializing in serving the finest residential communities. As part of our full-service management solution, we prepare customized Hurricane Preparedness Plans for each and everyone of our customers.

To learn more about how Castle Group can make a difference in the management of your community contact us at 844-815-5321.