

Hurricane Safety

Prevent fires, electrical shock and carbon monoxide poisoning when coping with a disaster.



Use caution with cooking appliances

Do not use a charcoal or propane grill, hibachi or camping stove inside the home. This could pose a carbon monoxide or an explosion hazard.

Use generators outdoors only

Generators and other fuel powered machines should be used outside the home, outside the garage, and not near any openings such as windows or doors. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless, invisible and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.

Remember that water and electricity do not mix

- Watch for downed wires. All downed wires should be considered "live" and can severely injure you. Be sure to explain the danger to children.
- Do not venture into a flooded basement. If the outlets or the fuse box in the basement are under water, it could electrically charge the water and electrocute you. Flooded water may contain untreated sewage and cause serious health problems.
- If you fill the bathtub with water "just in case", be sure to keep all electrical appliances at a safe distance.

Give your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms fresh batteries

Working smoke and CO alarms can double the chances of surviving a disaster and avoiding a tragedy. Make sure smoke and CO alarms have fresh batteries, unless they use 10-year non-rechargeable, non-replaceable batteries.

Use flashlights and battery-operated candles if the power goes out

Use flashlights or battery-operated candles if the power goes out. Candle fires have turned deadly during power outages. Make sure to have plenty of extra batteries in case of prolonged power outages.

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FireFactors

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Gas safety

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak (it smells like rotten eggs), go outdoors immediately, leaving the door open. Call the fire department from your cell phone or a neighbor's house.
- Never strike a match and do not touch electrical switches. Any size flame or spark can cause an explosion.

Calling for help

- Charge cell phone batteries in advance. Fire alarm boxes may not work if the power is out. Do not be afraid to call for help in an emergency or if you think you may be in trouble.
- Avoid non-emergency calls to police and fire departments.

Make and practice a home escape plan, with two ways out and an outdoor meeting place

Explain the home's escape plan and meeting place to family and guests. When visiting friends or relatives, ask about the escape plan and meeting place for their house.

Flooding safety

When living near the coast or in an area prone to flooding, be prepared to move to a safer location if necessary. Be alert to your local fire, police or emergency management departments for evacuation warnings. A battery powered radio and spare batteries are important to get information about the changing events during and after a hurricane.

Prepare an emergency kit

Make an emergency kit including a 3-day supply of water and non-perishable food, a first aid kit, a battery powered or hand cranked radio, flashlight and extra batteries.