
Tips on Preparing for a Hurricane

If you live in or near coastal areas and potentially in the path of a Hurricane, take your personal planning and preparations seriously – ensure that your emergency kit is properly stocked and your emergency plan is ready to implement should protective actions become necessary.

The following tips should help keep you and your family safe and make your home and property more resilient from hurricane damage.

Before the Hurricane

- Assemble a disaster preparation kit; see www.fema.gov for tips and checklists
- Know where to evacuate before the storm approaches. Find a friend, family member or lodging located safely outside the storm area
- Plan your evacuation routes now. Make sure you know how long it will take to reach your safe destination and have a backup route in case your primary route is clogged with traffic
- Contact family members and exchange emergency contact information. Let them know your plans. Cellular service may not be available during or after the storm, so you may need to rely on texting

Last Minute Preparations

- Lock all doors and windows. Make sure garage doors are braced and locked
- Close and lock all shutters to protect your windows
- Close the damper if your home has a fireplace
- Tie down and secure all outdoor furniture and yard objects
- Purchase a battery back-up for your mobile phone in the event electrical power is out for an extended period
- Extend the life of your mobile phone's battery by turning off Wi-Fi and background apps. Turning down your screen's brightness will help conserve battery life.

After the Hurricane

- Contact family or emergency contacts. If you have a Facebook account, you may be able to use the Emergency Check-in feature to alert family and friends that you're safe (Facebook will determine what constitutes a disaster worthy of a check-in)
- Before returning to your home, be aware of storm damage to your property. If you have any doubts about your safety, don't enter the home
- Do not enter your home if you smell gas or if your home was damaged by fire
- Watch for fallen objects and downed electrical lines

Report a claim

To report a claim call: **(800) 822-2997** or you may also report a claim online at: <http://qben.com/policyholders/claims/affiliated-agencies-claims/report-a-claim.aspx>

Additional recommendations if your unit is accessible:

- Protect your property to prevent further loss
- If the loss forces you to seek temporary housing, keep a list of additional living expenses such as meals and motel costs
- Keep a list of supplies purchased to make emergency repairs as well as the time spent on them
- Be sure your claims representative has a forwarding address or telephone number