

The Extended Leash

ADDITIONAL STORM PREPARATION INFORMATION

Storm Preparation - Family

Have each member of the family pack an overnight bag in case you have to evacuate at the last minute - or in case your home is damaged during the storm and you have to leave afterwards. This can be a part of your regular 72 hour kit, but with warning before the storm, you can check what is packed to be sure you have everything you need.

Stack all your bags together in readiness to throw them in the car and go. If they are all together you can see how big a pile it makes (and if it will all fit in the car) and it ensures that in the excitement of evacuation nothing is left behind.

You may even want to pack the car ahead of the storm while the family is calm and it isn't raining and blowing.

Personal documents –take a copy of your will, home/car insurance documents; photo ID, medical records; and other important documentation.

Create an emergency communication plan - In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.

Have an out-of-state relative or friend serve as the "family contact." - After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

Have cash on hand - If the power goes out the ATM machines will not be working and the banks will not be open.

Medication and First Aid - Make sure each member of your family has any medication they need. When you know that a hurricane is on the way, check prescriptions to make sure you have enough to last throughout a potential emergency. Also have a First Aid kit handy with things like:

Asprin/Tylenol	Band-Aids	Hydrogen Peroxide
Ibuprofen/Alieve	Bandages	Antibacterial ointment
Sinus tablets	Adhesive tape	Q-tips

Toiletries - Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, contact lens solutions, etc. (If you are packing an evacuation kit, pick up sample sizes of these items to save room.) Also pack your spare eyeglasses, diapers, sanitary supplies and a roll of toilet paper.

Clothes - Pack 2 changes of clothes - sturdy, comfortable clothes like jeans and t-shirts and sneakers - and pajamas, socks, and underwear.

Bedding - If you are going to an emergency shelter there may very well be a shortage of blankets and pillows. To save room and to comfort a small child, encourage them to use a favorite stuffed animal as their pillow. Sleeping bags are very handy.

Even if you are riding it out you may want to move the family into an inner hallway or the bathroom for additional protection.

Storm Preparation - Pets

Most of us consider our pets part of our family, so we don't want to forget to take care of them at this time.

Medication - If your pet requires medication make sure you have a sufficient supply on hand.

Food and Water – A 7-day supply of food and bottled drinking water in secure containers. Wet food is considered better & will help prevent dehydration. Pack spare water & food dishes as well.

Comfort Toy - If your pet has a favorite toy keep it near them. If they grow anxious they have that to chew on. Include their favorite blanket as well.

Leash & Collar - In case you have to evacuate before or after the storm, have leashes, collars and tags (ID and/or rabies) handy.

Cat Litter – have plenty of litter & waste containers packed & ready to go.

Photo - Have a recent photo of your pet in case you should get separated. It is much easier to identify a pet from a photo than from a description.

Shelter - If you are evacuating, please take your pets with you. Have the appropriate pet carrier for each pet available. If it is impossible to take your pets with you, please make arrangements for your pet at a kennel, veterinarians, or the local animal shelter. **DO NOT LEAVE PETS HOME ALONE OR TIED UP IN THE YARD!!!**

Storm Preparation - Car

Gas up - Do this well before the storm hits. If evacuating, keep in mind you may be caught in heavy traffic - check the oil, tires, water, spare tire, etc.

Local gas stations may run out of gas two days before the storm, and gas may not be available for several more days after the storms had passed. Gas up early! Keep at least ½ tank in each car until the threat has passed.

Shelter - When putting away the loose items from the yard, leave room in the garage for the car.

Pack - If it looks like you might need to evacuate, pack the car as soon as reasonably possible. This is another thing you don't want to be doing in the rain. If taking a pet with you, get its kennel or cage and supplies packed, too.

Paperwork - Auto club membership, insurance... just in case your house is blown away, take whatever documentation you may need either on your trip or to put in a claim on your car.

Storm Preparation - Yard

Anything loose is going to become a flying projectile, smashing into windows, the car, the roof....secure all that loose stuff!

Trees - Trim any branches that might strike the house when the trees start blowing in a strong wind. Clear out dead wood - it will break off and start flying around dangerously. If you have a tree that could fall on the house you might want to take it down now.

Plants - To protect both the plants and the windows put a plastic sheet down in the bedroom and bring potted plants indoors. The other plants are on their own, but they do pretty well - most of the time.

Tools and Toys - Pick up all rakes, shovels, bicycles... anything you can pick up, so can a hurricane. Put everything in the shed or garage. Don't forget the trashcans.

Windows - Permanent shutters are best, plywood sheets will work. Lacking that, put strips of masking tape on the glass to give it a little more flex. If something breaks the glass the tape will help hold the pieces together rather than letting it shatter and fly into the house. You may also want to cover the windows with blankets to catch flying debris.

Patio furniture - Put the lawn chairs into the shed or garage. If you have a swimming pool you can throw the plastic furniture into the water where it will not fly away and you can retrieve it later.

Small boat - Wedge it into a protected corner of the yard and fill it with water - that will make it too heavy to fly.

Storm Preparation - Computer

Backup - Backup any files you want to keep. Two sets are better than one, then you can keep one with you and keep one to a remote location. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BACKUPS IN THE HOUSE WHEN YOU EVACUATE.** Pack your most important CDs in a carry case and include it in your evacuation kit.

Bag it - Unplug all power cords and put them up on the table. Cover all equipment with heavy-duty trash bags - they won't help if the roof caves in, but for minor leaks it can save your equipment.

Photographs - Photograph all your equipment. If you use a digital camera these photos can be included in your backup CDs.

Server Backup - If you have server space, upload computer photos and information (software and hardware serial numbers) to the server.



The Extended Leash
Professional Pet Sitting for Peace of Mind
713.557.9739

For additional information regarding your disaster plans, please see:
www.theextendedleash.com

