

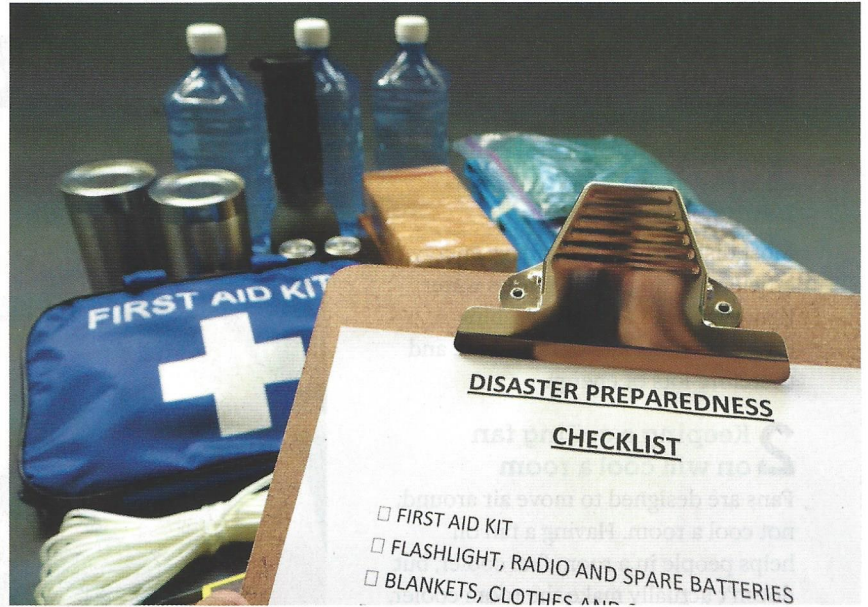
# Hurricane preparedness

## What to do before, during and after a storm

**B**eing prepared for hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, is more important than ever. Here are some suggestions to help your household prepare for and handle storms and power outages.

### Before

- Make sure your car's gas tank is full and you have some cash
- Secure loose items outside your home
- Charge cordless devices and cell phones
- Decide where you would go in case you are told to evacuate
- Monitor media for the location of evacuation shelters
- Communicate your plan to others close to you
- Have these supplies on hand:
  - Bottled water: seven gallons per person
  - Food: at least a one-week supply of non-perishable items
  - Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and extra batteries
  - Flashlight with extra batteries, prescription medication
  - Cell phone with wall charger, car charger or solar charger
  - Manual can opener, cooler and ice, infant formula and diapers
  - Toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, plastic utensils, paper napkins, garbage bags
  - Blankets or sleeping bags, pet carrier, pet food and extra water for pets
  - Important documents, identification, bank account records and insurance policies in a waterproof, portable container



### When the power goes out

- Report your outage by calling (800) 682-5309
- Visit [bemc.org](http://bemc.org) and click on the outage map to track outages and restoration in your area
- Limit the number of times you open the refrigerator
- Place frequently used refrigerated items in a cooler with ice
- Close blinds and curtains to help keep your home cool
- Use non-essential battery-powered items, such as phones, only as needed
- If you use a generator, follow the safety guidelines closely

### When power is restored

- Go room to room and turn off lights and appliances that were on when the power went out
- Discard any spoiled food
- Set all your clocks to the proper time
- Take photos of any damage and report it to your insurance company
- Check on your neighbors
- Stay away from downed power lines
- If you are driving and come to an intersection where the stoplight is out, always yield to the car on your right

More information on storm preparedness is available at [bemc.org](http://bemc.org).