



**HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS**

2023

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT!

You may need to survive on your own after a disaster. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least seven days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, but it could take days. Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, a week, or even longer. Or you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You probably will not have the opportunity to shop or search for the supplies you need.

- First Aid Kit
- Radio
- Emergency Contact Numbers
- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Manual Can Opener
- Candles
- Matches
- Whistle
- Photo Copies of important documents
- Prescriptions
- Water
- Canned Goods
- Dry Foods
(that do not require refrigeration)



IN CASE OF AN EVACUATION!

If an evacuation is ordered, make sure you have several options and different locations where you can seek refuge. Your evacuation options should include several different places you could stay that are located throughout the region and even out of state. Should a natural disaster suddenly turn for the worse, putting one of your evacuation options in harm's way, you could still have a safe place to go. Be sure to make a list of general population shelters, homes of friends, family or even a private caregiver whose facility you could use in case of a mandatory evacuation. Reach out to family or friends who are unlikely to be evacuated from their homes and obtain their commitment to share their homes with you. This list should also include the emergency contact numbers and addresses for all your evacuation options for easy reference when you need the information most.



BEWARE OF THE SCAMMERS!

After a natural disaster, consumers should be wary of tree service scams, building and home repair scams, disaster relief scams.

Building Repair and Contractors

- Have your insurance company evaluate damage before arranging repairs to ensure that the work will be covered under your policy.
- Get at least three written, itemized estimates or bids on repairs.
- Verify a contractor has a license with local and state licensing boards.
- Ensure the contractor is licensed for the job. Check to see whether a company is properly licensed and whether there are any consumer complaints filed against a licensed contractor at the Department of Professional Business Regulation's website, MyFloridaLicense.com.
- Research the company and its reputation – ask for references.

Charity Scams

- Avoid solicitors that use high-pressure tactics or are hesitant to provide additional information on the charitable organization.
- Be wary of charities with similar sounding names. Some phony charities may attempt to capitalize on disasters by using names similar to legitimate, well-known charities.
- Consider donating to an established disaster-relief charity.
- Contact the Florida Attorney General's Office or the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (1-800-HELP-FLA), the agency that regulates charities, to determine whether the charity you are donating to has any complaints against them.

Tree Service Scams

Watch out for anyone who approaches unsolicited about tree removal.

- Get multiple written estimates and ask whether debris removal is included in the estimate.
- Research the company and its reputation—ask for references. Contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM to check if there are complaints against the company.
- Check for proof of insurance and verify with the insurer that their policy is current. Never pay the full amount up front, and do not make a final payment until you are completely satisfied with the work done.

Disaster Relief Scams

- No state or federal disaster relief agency will call you for your financial information.
- State and federal workers carry identification and will not ask for or accept cash.
- Know that applications for federal FEMA relief programs are free and can be accessed at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1(800) 621-FEMA.
- Be wary of anyone who offers to fill out, assist with or expedite your application as they may be seeking access to your personal information.

Additionally, if you suspect criminal activity such as looting, robbery, or any violent crime, call 911 immediately.