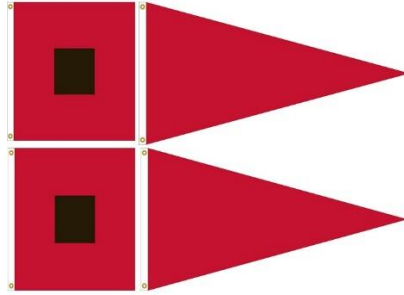


My Hurricane Plan



A hurricane preparedness guide

for the residents of

Whispering Ridge Homeowners Association, Lake Wales, Florida

Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days!

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Overview

This is an unofficial guide to assist you in creating a personal hurricane plan for yourself and the members of your household. The topics covered in this document are suggestions that we feel may help you take care of yourself and your family.

Your Board of Directors and management company strongly suggest that every resident in our community have his or her own personal hurricane plan and it should include a checklist of items to perform before, during and after a hurricane hits the area.

Evacuation preparations should begin before hurricane season each year. Decide on where and how you will evacuate. If you are planning to evacuate, leave early. There will probably be heavy traffic on the roadways and travel time can become 5 times longer than usual. If you are choosing to evacuate by flying out of the area, be prepared for long lines and wait times, and possibly cancelled flights. If traveling by car, know that when crosswinds become unsafe, bridges will be closed to all vehicular traffic so plan your route. Know your destination but have a plan B in the event the storm track changes. Lake Wales is located in the middle of Florida with approximately 70 miles to either coast. By carefully watching storm updates, it should allow you to make decisions on where you should go to evacuate.

At some point, it will be unsafe for you to continue your evacuation movements. Be ready to shelter in place, which means stay put or seek immediate shelter nearby, wherever you are, at the moment that order is issued

Most smartphones are capable of taking videos. Make an 'insurance' video archive of the entire contents of the interior and exterior of your home video or photograph all of your personal belongings, property and pets. Before you begin taping or taking photographs, go around your house and open all drawers, closet doors, kitchen cabinet doors, etc., so you are able to capture on film, all your stored belongings as well. Don't forget to include your garage if you use it for storage. This video archive may become an essential element of a future insurance claim. Take this video with you when you evacuate. You may need it when you are assessing storm damage.

Be prepared when you return, to make a second video or photo archive if there is damage to your personal belongings and property.

For a period of time during the storm, public safety personnel may not be able to respond to an emergency call from you. Once the storm is over, the response times will be much slower than normal. We must all take personal responsibility for our own safety and security during and immediately after a storm.

Emergency Telephone Numbers and Links

CITY		
Emergency (Fire, Police, Ambulance)	9-1-1	
Lake Wales –		
Water & Sewer Emergencies	863-678-4182	https://www.lakewalesfl.gov/
Duke Energy		https://www.duke-energy.com/home
COUNTY		
Polk County Sherriff's Office 1891 Jim Keene Blvd, Winter Haven, FL	863-298-6200	http://www.polksheriff.org/
STATE		
Red Cross Regional Headquarters 3310 W. Main St. Tampa, FL	813-348-4820	Redcross.org
FEMA (Federal Emergency Mgmt Assoc 3300 Chamblee Tucker Rd, Atlanta, GA	770-220-5200	https://www.fema.gov/region-iv-al-fl-ga-ky-ms-nc-sc-tn
Florida Disaster		https://www.floridadisaster.org/
HOSPITALS		
AdventHealth – Lake Wales Med Ctr,	863-676-1433	410 South 11th Street, Lake Wales,
AdventHealth – Heart of FL	863-442-4971	40100 US27, Davenport, FL
Winter Haven Hospital	863-324-4725	6035 Cypress Gardens Blvd
Lakeland regional Medical Center	863-687-1100	1324 Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland, FL
		-
ANIMAL HOSPITALS		
VCA Mountain Lake Cutoff Rd	(863) 215-6004	VCA - Lake Wales
Ridge Veterinary Hospital	(863) 676-8240	https://www.ridgeveterinaryhospital.com/
SPCA of Florida	(407) 351 7722	https://www.spcafloida.org/
MANAGEMENT COMPANY		
Joyce Martelli	Primary	j.martelli@hcmanagement.org
Kimber Cromer	Secondary	k.cromer@hcmanagement.org

Florida Emergency Alert System Stations

Florida Emergency Alert System Plan (revised 11/19) = <http://fab.org/eas-plan/>

County	City/Town	Call Sign	Type	Frequency
Polk	Bartow	WWBF	AM	1130
		WBAR	AM	1460
	Frostproof	WFLJ	FM	89.3
	Haines City	WLVF	AM	930
	Lakeland	WONN	AM	1230
		WWAB	AM	1330
		WLKF	AM	1430
		WYFO	FM	91.9
		WPCV	FM	97.5
		WWRZ	FM	98.3
	Lake Wales	WIPC	AM	1280
	Winter Haven	WHNR	AM	1360

NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast continuous weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office.

NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NWR also broadcasts alerts of non-weather emergencies such as national security or public safety threats through the Emergency Alert System.

<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/sites?site=W XK83A> = W XK83A frequency 162.500

Hurricane Terminology and Categories

Stay informed: know the strength and intensity of the approaching storm. Take extra precautions if you find yourself in the right front quadrant of the storm. Tornadoes are spawned in this part of the storm.

Hurricane Watch:

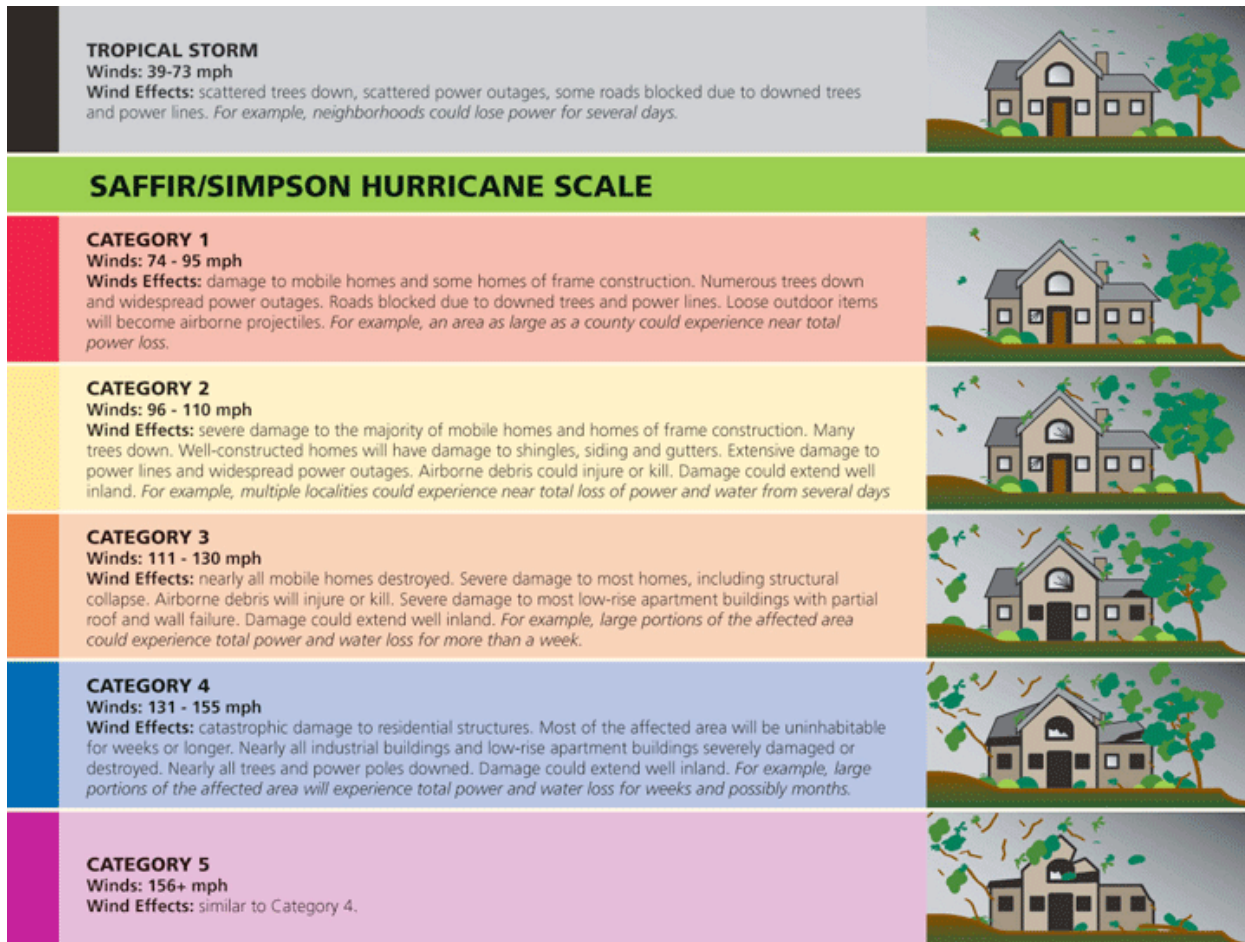
Hurricane conditions are possible within the specified coastal area hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the **hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.**

Hurricane Warning:

Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning. Hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the **hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.**

Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings:

Take these alerts seriously. Although tropical storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, they often bring life-threatening flooding and dangerous winds. Take precautions!



Insure your home for hurricane damage

It is important that you maintain adequate insurance on your home. Here is a sample list of things to speak to your agent about so that you have a full understanding of what your home policy covers.

You should reassess each year, especially if you have done improvements that will need to be covered in the event of damage (examples: fence installs, additions, screened lanais, etc.)

- Am I covered for wind damage?
- Do I have replacement cost coverage for the contents of my house?
- Do I have enough coverage to replace my entire structure? (review annually)
- Do I have insurance with a large national insurance company that is financially strong and capable of paying my claim in the case of a major hurricane?
- Is my landscaping insured?
- Is my exterior paint covered?
- Do I have mold coverage?
- Is my walkway and foundation insured?
- If I own a rental unit in West Spring Ridge, do I have business interruption insurance to cover loss of rental income so I can continue to pay the mortgage?
- Do I have water seepage coverage? This covers water damage caused by wind driven rain or water entering from a source other than an opening in the building (for example through scenes or around window frames).
- Do I have additions, alterations, improvements and betterments coverage? This covers upgrades you have made to your home, as well as real property added by the owner. This endorsement is often available with **all risk coverage**, without water seepage exclusion.
- Do I have coverage for **specialty services** such as:
 - Drying in? The process of placing tops over holes in the roof and boarding up blown out doors and windows.
 - Drying out? The process of removing wet wallboard and carpeting to retard mold growth.
 - Cleaning up and removing building debris?
 - Tree experts?



Pre-storm - *Make sure your home can weather the storm.*

Prepare the outside of your house for a hurricane.

It's a good idea to plan ahead at the beginning of hurricane season, by taking a look around your house to see what may need to be done.

- Do not trim trees once a hurricane watch or warning has been issued. Do not take your trash to the curb or to landfills during a hurricane watch or warning unless specifically instructed to. Services may be temporarily halted, and facilities may close early for storm preparation.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts if you have them.
- Make sure your trees and shrubbery are trimmed and dead leaves are removed well in advance of the storm. If a dead tree falls on your car, that will result in a homeowner policy claim. That claim will jack up your annual premium.
- Prepare to cover all windows and door openings with panels, shutters or other shielding materials such as plywood¹. Keep reading for information on how to protect your windows.
- Bring lawn furniture and other loose objects such as garbage cans and garden tools, birdfeeders and birdbaths, solar lights and garden statues inside. They can become dangerous projectiles during high winds and could possibly break windows on your house or your neighbor's house.
- If you have a boat, trailer or other recreational equipment, plan to move it to a designated safe place. Use tiedowns if necessary to anchor items to the ground.
- Keep an ample supply of rolled plastic to cover broken windows, tarps and duct tape and roofing nails. These items will be almost impossible to obtain immediately after storm when you need them the most².

Swimming Pools

- Drain swimming pools 6 to 12 inch to allow for possible heavy rainfall – do not drain completely!
- Shock the pool by adding additional chlorine to the water
- Disconnect power to your pump but do not wrap it in plastic. If there is flooding, water will collect in the plastic and when the pump.
- Stock up on chlorine to keep your pool water clean. In the event of a prolonged power outage you will not be able to run the filter.
- Use your own discretion about throwing outdoor furniture into the pool to prevent it from blowing away. If it sinks to the bottom, you risk damaging pools finish. Do not throw in any metal furniture that is subject to rust.
- If you use a pool company to service your pool, find out from them at the beginning of the hurricane season what to expect for service (draining excess water from pools, testing and treating water, etc.)

¹ Windows are particularly vulnerable to breakage during high winds. After a storm, it may be difficult to obtain services of a glass specialist. To mitigate the interior damage caused by rain and mold when windows are broken, be sure to store sufficient amount of plastic and duct tape to temporarily cover your broken windows, while you're waiting for glass repairs.

² After a storm, it may take considerable time for you to obtain the services of a contractor to replace damaged shingles and siding. If your roof shingles a damaged or missing, that area of your roof must be covered with a tarp immediately, in order to prevent rain from damaging your ceilings. If possible, keep a roll of tarpaper and/or several packages of plastic tarps and roofing nails. Check the thickness of your roof (number of layers of shingles) when selecting the appropriate size roofing nails for this purpose.

DYI - Making fitted plywood Hurricane Shutters.

Securing your homes' windows does not need to break the bank. You can make fitted window coverings that will help protect your home and its possessions.

- Take the interior dimensions of the height and width of each window. Cut plywood to fit.
- Use [hurricane clips](#) and attach on each side of window – no more than 24 inches apart.
- Name or number each window for quicker installation
- Purchase and install [drawer handles](#) to help you with lifting plywood sheets. They can be removed and placed in plastic bags or Tupperware containers along with the hurricane clips to make storing them easier.
- Watch this video that shows how to do it. [Fitted Plywood Hurricane Window Shutters](#)



Installing Aluminum or Polycarbonate Shutters

Here is a video from Lowes that shows how to measure and install this type of shutter.

[Metal Storm Shutter Installation](#)



Having your Hurricane Shutters installed by a Contractor

There are a handful of local companies that can install Accordion and Rolldown shutters in addition to the more typical Metal and Polycarbonate shutters. Check [Yellow Pages](#) or go to Angie's List to see a list of local contractors.

You should always look up and check to see what a contractor's ratings is by visiting the [Better Business Bureau](#) **BEFORE** doing business with them.

Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan

If you are Evacuating

- Know how to turn off the main water supply valve at the street. If you use a turnkey, keep that tool in your vehicle if you leave.
- If you have a large propane tank, know how to turn the tank valve off.
- If you have an outdoor barbecue grill, know how to turn off the propane tank valve and plan for a place to store it inside your garage or house
- Lock all doors and windows and take small valuables with you
- Notify your alarm company of your plans
- Notify a close neighbor that is staying so we can account for all residents after the storm subsides.
- During hurricane season, designate a friend or family member who lives out of state to be your family's **single point of contact**. That way, they can inform all your loved ones that you are safe and are accounted for after the storm has passed.



If you are **evacuating by air travel**, be prepared for delays, airport closings, full or canceled flights. Have a backup plan in place!!

If you are **evacuating outside of the area by car**, bring maps! Hurricanes are very unpredictable. If you drive out, the storm could change direction and you could be driving into the path of the storm. Be prepared to redirect your evacuation. Remember, the later you leave, the more likely you will encounter long delays and traffic jams. Leave early and have a backup plan.



- Decide ahead of time where to go if you are told to evacuate. Due to the unpredictability of storm tracks, choose several places; a friend's or relative's home in another town, a motel, or as a last resort a Red Cross shelter
- Keep handy the telephone number of these places as well as a roadmap. You may need to take alternate routes if major roads are closed or clogged.
- Listen to the radio for regular updates
- Plan to take these items with you when you are evacuating:
 - Pack a suitcase of valued photos and other irreplaceable memorabilia to take with you
 - Prescription medication and medical supplies
 - Bedding and clothing including sleeping bags and pillows
 - Bottled water battery-operated radio and extra batteries, first-aid kit, flashlight
 - Maps
 - Documents including driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.

If you evacuate to a shelter

- Only do so as a last resort
- Try to eat a meal before entering the shelter
- Take pillows, blankets and other supplies
- Check to make sure the shelter is open – all shelters do not open at the same time

If you are going to a shelter, plan to take these items with you. Just a reminder, shelters DO NOT accept pets, so make plans early for your pets.

- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows
- Battery powered radio and extra batteries for it
- Baby food and diapers
- Cards, games and books
- First Aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Important documents (insurance cards and phone numbers, family records, etc)
- Prescription medication
- Photo identification
- Toiletries

If you are staying - Prepare the Inside of your house for a hurricane

Household readiness Checklist

- Prepare your safe room. A safe room is a windowless room (bathroom/closet) inside your house where you and your family can escape the danger of wind-borne projectiles during hurricanes or tornadoes. Stock it with a battery-powered TV and/or radio with spare batteries, sleeping bags, pillows, chairs, snacks & drinking water and games for children
- Wash and dry all soiled laundry in your home
- Shower or bathe. It may be a few days before you can do that again. If you leave, pack a towel, washcloth, soap and a dishpan for sponge bathing if necessary
- Fill your bathtub with water you may need to use this to flush your toilet
- Check your supply of batteries, hurricane lantern fuel, canned food, first-aid supplies, drinking water (bottled are safest) and medications.
- Fuel and service your family vehicles. Get in the habit of installing replacement windshield wipers in June, before each hurricane season. Keep a siphon in the car in case you need to draw gas from your car tank to fill the tank on your generator, power saw, etc.
- Fill the cooler in your car to the top with ice, the day before storm is expected to hit and place bottled water inside.
- Keep a roadmap, fire extinguisher, jumper cables and toiletries in your vehicle.
- Comfort your pets during a storm. They are sensitive to sounds, scents and changes in barometric pressure. Make sure if they take medication for anxiety, that you fill prescriptions ahead of time. They can become agitated and confused. Keep your pets indoors after a storm. Reptiles that normally live in low areas will seek higher ground during and after storm and may pose a threat to animals.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting
- Lower the temperature setting on your air conditioner, if you plan to stay
- Plan to take your computers and drive rapid in plastic. You can easily replace your screen, mouse and keyboard later, if necessary
- If you are planning to leave, make sure you clean out all perishables from your refrigerator/freezer in time for them to be picked up with your outgoing trash and leave the door ajar.
- Freeze water in plastic jugs to help keep freezer cold when power goes out.
- Freeze bottles of drinking water. You can use them to keep food cold and drink them once defrosted.
- Stock up on jugs of bottled water – at least seven gallons per person – one gallon per person per day.
- Fill bathtub with water for non-drinking use (washing dishes and flushing toilet, personal hygiene and washing hair).
- Fill washing machine with ice and place water bottles inside to chill and keep cold

- If you have French doors, plan to move a bureau in front of them to prevent them from blowing open
- Charge up your cell phone and have a car adapter available. Check all battery-operated TVs, radios, flashlights and lanterns. Make sure they are in good working order with fresh batteries.

If you need to leave in a hurry have these items ready and available.

- Keep some bubble wrap in case you decide at the last minute to pack fragile mementos such as an old mantel clock, your favorite teapot, your favorite painting, etc.
- Keep a suitcase packed with old photo albums, family pictures and other irreplaceable memorabilia during the hurricane season. You will not want to deal with these things at the last minute and you will regret leaving them behind, in a worst-case scenario.
- Keep a couple of footlockers handy. Yes, the type you used in scouts now come with handles or rollers so they are easy to maneuver from your home to your vehicle.
- If you have to leave your home, know which major appliances to unplug, to protect them from surges of power. Know how to turn off the electricity main circuit breaker.

Pet Safety and Preparation

Your pet should be part of your family plan. If you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse.

Have a safe place to take your pet

Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets due to health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find a shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research. Said you and all you may think it will boy

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. www.bringfido.com is an excellent that you can use while on the road in the event you need to travel further than anticipated to stay safe and outside of the hurricane zone.
- Ask friends, relatives, or other outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour numbers
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort



Assemble a Portable Pet Supplies Kit

- Medication (stored in a waterproof container) and a first-aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape. Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, bowls, cat litter/PM, and can opener
- Information on schedules, medical conditions behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable

When the Storm Approaches

- Plan ahead to protect your pet
- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets check to be sure you pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moments notice
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and a securely fastened, with up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or tape on the back of your pets ID tag, adding information with indelible pen.

After the Storm Passes

Protecting your home after the hurricane

- Make temporary repairs to protect your home or property from further damage. Couple holes in the roof or walls with plywood in use heavy duty plastic to cover windows
- Before hiring a contractor, verify the contractor's license and insurance company
- Get an estimate first and discuss payment terms get receipts for the labor and materials
- Keep records bills and paid invoices until your insurance representative visits
- price gouging is a significant increase in the cost of goods or services following a disaster and is illegal
- Take photos of damaged areas and possessions
- Stay tuned to local news stations for information about waste collection service. Residents will be notified when normal pickup service resumes, although it may be several weeks before your yard waste is removed
- Keep household garbage separate from other waste material and tied plastic bags and case of a delay and garbage collection
- Play small debris, loose items and household refuse and garbage cans are tied plastic bags
- Keep debris away from fences, mailboxes, power poles, transformers, and any downed electric wires
- Trash and debris will be collected only from curbside of public roadways
- Note: federal disaster assistance may be available

Checklists

List of Important Documents

- Address book with all important phone numbers
- Bank/credit card account numbers and 800 phone numbers
- Driver's license or suitable photo ID person in your car
- Household inventory
- Insurance policies and cards
- List of family physicians and specialty doctors (examples: cardiac, pulmonary, gastroenterologist, etc.)
- List of critical phone numbers
- Make model of medical equipment such as pacemakers
- Photocopies of prescriptions
- Passports, Social Security cards
- Video recordings or pictures of both the interior and exterior of home and garage including all contents (open all cabinets, drawers, and cupboards)

Hurricane supply list for your home/auto

- Battery-powered radio/flashlight
- Candles
- Cash and credit card
- Charcoal and lighter fluid
- Extra batteries
- Fire extinguisher
- Full tank of gas and car
- Masking or duct tape
- Manual can opener
- Nails, rope, lumber
- Needle and thread, safety pins
- Non-electric can opener
- Pad of paper and pencil
- Paper cups, plates, plastic utensils
- Propane gas
- Spare set of car keys
- Scissors
- Tools: Hammer, wrench, pliers
- Tarps/plastic sheeting
- Whistle
- Zip lock bags, gallon, quart, sandwiched size//aluminum foil

Supply list of food

3- Day supply of water and food items

- Baby care items (formula, diapers, baby wipes, bottles, etc.)
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Canned juices
- Cereal
- Canned prepared foods (soups/chili/stews/spaghetti)
- Crackers and cookies
- Coffee and/OR tea
- Dry pasta/rice
- Dried fruits and nuts
- Ice chest and ice
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Pudding/Jello
- Packaged condiments
- Ready-to-eat canned meat/fish (tuna/deviled Ham/Spam/ sardines/Beef)
- Special dietary needs

Personal Hygiene

- Face cloths, towels
- Feminine supplies Plastic garbage bags and ties
- Household bleach
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Soap and liquid detergent
- Soap, shampoo toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, mouthwash)
- Toilet paper, moist towelettes

Clothing and Bedding per Person

- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Change of the warm clothing
- Raingear
- Sturdy shoes or work boots sun hat and work gloves
- Sunscreen and insect repellent

First Aid Kit / Medicines

- Antacids, antidiarrhea wills, laxatives
- Antibiotic cream
- Bandages of assorted sizes
- Latex or sterile gloves
- Nonprescription pain reliever
- prescription medication
- spare eyeglasses
- tweezers

Supplies for pets

- Dry and canned food
- Food bowls
- Leash
- Pet litter and litter box
- Pet medication
- Travel cage

Activities

- Books, games, playing cards
- Crossword puzzles
- Magazines
- Puzzles