

CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

BE PREPARED FOR ANY TYPE OF EMERGENCY

Do you have a family emergency plan? Local, state and federal officials urge citizens to become better prepared by developing a plan, putting together an emergency supply kit, and learning what to do during natural disasters or any emergency situation.

The Friendswood Office of Emergency Management has many systems to warn citizens of an impending emergency, potential danger, or hazardous conditions. Please look to these warning devices for your information and protection.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

SOCIAL MEDIA

The city utilizes Facebook and Twitter to communicate general announcements, safety tips, and events happening within the city. These tools can provide near instantaneous communications during emergencies, even if you have evacuated your home.

- TWITTER

Follow the city on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/friendswoodcity

- FACEBOOK

Follow the city on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friendswood-City/523955071048983?sk=timeline&ref=page_internal

WARNING SIRENS

A total of seven sirens are installed throughout the city to warn the public in case of a pipeline emergency or other serious emergency. The Outdoor Warning Siren System is tested on the first Friday of every month at noon.

RADIOS AND TELEVISION

- Radio: Friendswood Information Radio 1650 AM or KTRH-740 AM Radio
- Television: City of Friendswood PEG Channel 17 (Comcast Cable) and Channel 99 (ATT Uverse) or any local channel.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Friendswood transitioned to a new community communication system to keep residents informed of emergencies and general communications directly from City officials. This system provides phone calls, text messages, emails, social media updates, a smart phone application, and communications to hearing impaired devices. To register, go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/AAEF81E58748> and enter your contact information. If residents previously registered their contact information, it was automatically transferred into the new system and no further action is required. The system will detect and disregard duplicate information, if you choose to re-register.

POWER OUTAGES

- In the event of a **power outage, do not call 9-1-1.**
Contact your local power provider.
- **Harris County** **CenterPoint** **713-207-2222**
- **Galveston County** **Texas New Mexico Power** **1-888-866-7456**

EXTENDED POWER OUTAGES (MORE THAN 24 HOURS)

Public service announcements (PSAs) will be posted on the doors of City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, and the Public Safety Building (PSB). Check these locations for announcements.

EDUCATIONAL PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

Reference these websites: www.ready.gov; www.redcross.org; www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem; www.gcoem.org; www.hcoem.org.

Friendswood Office of Emergency Management
Phone: 281-996-3335
E-mail: eoc@friendswood.com
City of Friendswood's website: www.friendswood.com

Your Family *Hurricane* Plan Checklist

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

BE PREPARED BEFORE THE HURRICANE

- Know the storm surge history and elevation of the area. (Emergency Management and National Weather Service officials can help supply this information).
- Learn a safe primary and alternate route inland. If you decide to evacuate, decide ahead of time where you are going and know what to bring with you.
- Inventory all property with a camera or video equipment, review all your insurance policies (homeowner's, flood, wind storm). Remember, all policies must be in effect at least 30 days prior to a disaster.
- Assemble an emergency supply Kit
- Check food and water supplies. Have clean, air-tight containers to store at least one week of drinking water – 1 gallon per person per day.
- Stock up on canned and non-perishable food.
- Keep a cooler with frozen gel packs for packing refrigerated items.
- Check prescription medications – obtain at least a 2 weeks supply.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights, and lanterns.
- Check for ample first aid supplies.
- Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit for pets to include a pet carrier and extra food.
- Make plans for your livestock.
- Keep the trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall into your house or power lines.
- Keep and store all legal documents in one secure container or safe which is easily moved. Make an inventory of documents, photos and other irreplaceable items that need to be taken in case of an evacuation.

WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

- A **WATCH** means that hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to the area within 48 hours)
- Monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- Fuel and service all vehicles
 - Prepare to cover windows and door entrances with shutters or plywood.
 - Store and secure outdoor lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects (garbage cans, garden tools, potted plants, etc.).
 - Have an extra supply of cash on hand (ATM's may not be working during a storm or power outage).

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED

A **WARNING** means sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected within 36 hours or less

- Closely monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials.

LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO

- Complete preparation activities – putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, filling up water containers, etc.
- Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.
- If evacuating, turn off and disconnect appliances from outlets (a precaution to prevent further damage). Set AC and heating units to OFF.
- If evacuating, leave early.
- Leave all mobile homes in any case.
- Notify neighbors and family members of evacuation plans.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS WEBSITES

EMERGENCY -- City of Friendswood

• Police/Fire/EMS 9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY – City of Friendswood

• Police 281-996-3300

• Office of Emergency Management 281-996-3335

WEBSITES

Houston/Galveston National Weather Service www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx
National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center www.nhc.noaa.gov
Harris County Office of Homeland Security www.hcoem.org
Galveston County Emergency Management www.gcoem.org
TX Department of Emergency Management www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

Your Family *Hurricane* Plan Checklist

IF YOU ARE EVACUATING

- Stay with friends or relatives or at a low-rise inland hotel/motel outside of flood zones.
- Leave early to avoid heavy traffic, roads blocked by floodwaters, and impassable bridges due to high winds.
- Turn off your electricity at the circuit breaker before evacuating, or if you expect flood water to reach your home.
- Empty food contents from refrigerators and freezers.
- Unplug electrical appliances (computer, TVs, etc.)
- Put up shutters or plywood on windows and doors. Reinforce garage doors.
- Move all patio furniture, hanging plants, gas grills, etc. inside.
- Turn off the gas at each appliance (*Do not turn off gas at the gas meter as the proper pressure needs to be maintained in the gas piping*)
- Shelters will be available for people who have no other place to go. Shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable, with no privacy.

Do not leave home for a shelter until government officials announce on radio and/or TV that a particular shelter is open.

IF YOU ARE STAYING AT HOME

Reminder! Only stay home if a mandatory evacuation order has not been made. If told to leave, DO SO IMMEDIATELY

- Store water. Fill sterilized jugs and bottles with two weeks supply of drinking water (Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes (this can be used for bathing, washing dishes, etc.))
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane tanks
- Unplug small appliances.
- Stay inside the home during the storm.
- ***DO NOT CALL UTILITY COMPANIES WITHIN THE FIRST FEW DAYS FOLLOWING THE STORM TO REPORT OUTAGES. ONLY CALL TO REPORT EMERGENCIES.***

IF WINDS BECOME STRONG...

Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a ground floor, interior room, closet, or hallway. Take a battery-powered radio, a NOAA Weather Radio, and a flashlight.

- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.
- If in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and the areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of a building.

NOTE: Be alert for tornadoes, which often are spawned by hurricanes. Also, if the "EYE" of the hurricane should pass over your area, be aware that the improved weather conditions are only temporary and that the storm conditions will return with winds coming from the opposite direction some times in a period of just a few minutes.

AFTER THE STORM PASSES...

- Stay in protected area until announcements are made on the radio or TV that the dangerous winds have passed.
- If already evacuated, do not return home until officials announce that the area is ready. Remember, proof of residency may be required in order to re-enter the evacuation areas.
- Do not drive through standing or flowing water.
- Avoid creeks, streams and drainage systems.
- Be aware of the surroundings when returning as extreme damage could render a familiar landscape unrecognizable.
- Avoid downed or low hanging power lines even if they appear to be de-energized.
- If water has reached your electrical outlets, contact a licensed electrician before turning on the main circuit breaker. Any submerged appliances or equipment will need to dry for at least one week and be checked by qualified repair personnel prior to being turned on.

Your Family *Hurricane* Plan Checklist

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT **ASSEMBLE PRIOR TO HURRICANE SEASON**

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- Use an easy-to-carry container for the supplies you intend to take with you when evacuating.
- Replace stored food and water every six months to ensure freshness.
- Have a two week supply of all prescription medicines.
- Portable, battery-powered radio or TV with extra batteries.
- Flashlights with extra batteries.
- First aid kit and first aid manual.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Personal identification with photograph.
- Extra set of car keys.
- Matches stored in waterproof container.
- Maps and phone numbers of possible places to go.
- 1 gallon of water per person/per day
- Minimum of a 3 day supply of nonperishable food and water for each person.
- Disposable eating utensils, paper plates, cups, utility knife, plastic re-sealable bags.
- Cooking utensils
- Emergency cooking units (grill or camp stove)
- One complete change of clothing for each family member - sturdy shoes, work boots, raingear, gloves, hat, sunglasses, etc.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Tools - pliers, wrenches, shovels, plastic sheeting, fire extinguisher, tape, etc.
- Extra pet food
- Glasses/contact lenses
- Non-electric can opener
- Soap, shampoo, and toiletries
- Toilet paper and towelettes

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS:

- Will
- Insurance policies
- Contracts
- Deeds
- Stocks/bonds
- Passports
- Social security cards
- Immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household good
- Important telephone numbers; written not just stored on cell phone.
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

FOOD:

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits & vegetables
- Canned juice, milk, and soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- High-energy foods (peanut butter, jelly, salt-free crackers, granola bars, trail mix)
- Comfort foods (hard candy, sweetened cold cereals, candy bars, cookies)
- Instant coffee/tea bags
- Food for infants, the elderly, people on special diets

This emergency supply kit list is adequate for all hazards – hurricanes, floods, or manmade disasters.