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EDITION



THE MOVE LIVE LOVE TX TEAM™ | CB&A REALTORS

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Your Plan to Protect Your Home, Family, and Future.

Essential Handbook for Galveston, Houston, and North Houston

PREPARE • PROTECT • RECOVER TOGETHER

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POWERED BY CB&A, REALTORS

Welcome

A Letter from The Move Live Love TX Team™



Dear Homeowners,

As we enter hurricane season, it's crucial to be prepared. At The Move Live Love TX Team, and long time residents, we understand the unique challenges that homeowners in Galveston, Houston, and North Houston face during these unpredictable times. Our goal is to equip you with the essential resources and knowledge that will help you navigate the complexities of hurricane preparedness. This comprehensive guide has been meticulously crafted to offer you step-by-step instructions and vital information to ensure your safety and the safety of your loved ones.

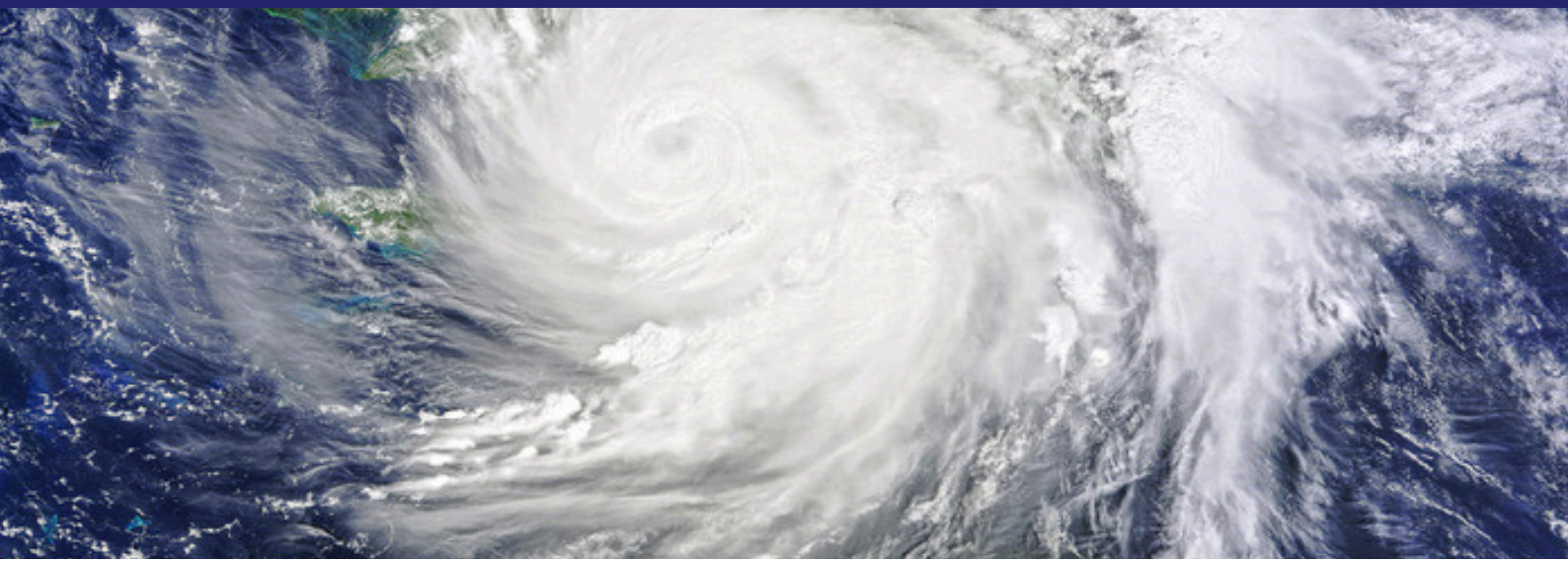
From understanding hurricane categories to creating an effective evacuation plan, we have included everything you need in this handbook. We encourage you to take the time to read through each section, discuss the information with your family, and prepare your home and emergency kits accordingly. Remember, being proactive is the key to staying safe.

We are here for you, committed to supporting our community. Together, we can work towards ensuring that everyone is ready to face the storm, no matter its intensity. Stay safe and be prepared!

Sincerely,
Peter & Vicky

Hurricane Categories

Understanding the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale Explained



The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale** categorizes hurricanes based on their sustained wind speeds and potential damage. This scale ranges from Category 1 to Category 5, with each category indicating increasing severity and risk.

- **Category 1**: Winds between 74-95 mph cause minimal damage, primarily to unanchored mobile homes, trees, and power lines.
- **Category 2**: Winds of 96-110 mph can lead to moderate damage, with the potential for serious damage to homes and increased risk of flooding.
- **Category 3**: Winds of 111-129 mph signify major hurricanes capable of causing devastating damage to buildings, uprooting trees, and creating dangerous flooding conditions.
- **Category 4**: Winds reach 130-156 mph, leading to catastrophic destruction, particularly to well-built homes, with most of the frame structures being severely damaged.
- **Category 5**: Winds exceeding 157 mph result in total destruction. The impact on infrastructure, homes, and the environment is devastating, necessitating extensive recovery efforts. Understanding these categories is vital for preparedness and response planning.

Evacuation

Essential steps to ensure your safety and preparedness



During a hurricane, **timely evacuation** is crucial to ensure the safety of you and your family. It is essential to be aware of your designated evacuation zones. If you live in a low-lying area or near the coast, heed the warnings issued by local authorities. Flooding is a major concern during hurricanes, and even Category 1 storms can cause significant water damage. Always have a **preparedness plan** in place, knowing when and how to leave your home.

Before an evacuation order is issued, gather all necessary supplies, including food, water, medications, and important documents. Familiarize yourself with the evacuation routes provided by local emergency services. Keep in mind that traffic can be heavy during evacuations, so leave as early as possible. If your community has special provisions for those with disabilities or the elderly, arrange for assistance ahead of time. Once evacuated, stay tuned to local news for updates on the storm and when it is safe to return.

Remember, your safety is the top priority; don't wait until it's too late to act.

Evacuation Routes and Zones







Understanding your zone is critical for effective hurricane preparedness. Each evacuation zone is designated to ensure the safety of residents, allowing for organized and timely evacuations. Familiarize yourself with your specific zone and the recommended evacuation routes to minimize confusion during an emergency. Local authorities will issue alerts and instructions based on the severity of the storm, advising which zones need to evacuate first.

It's important to have a plan in place that includes the quickest routes out of your area and alternative roads in case of heavy traffic or roadblocks. Stay informed by monitoring local news and updates from emergency management agencies.

Additionally, making a checklist of items to gather before leaving can streamline your evacuation process. Ensure that all family members and pets are aware of the escape routes and meeting points.

Supply Checklist

Key Items to Pack for Your Hurrican Go-Bag



When preparing for a hurricane, having a well-stocked **go-bag** is essential. This bag should contain all the necessary items for you and your family to stay safe during the storm and its aftermath. Begin with water – ensure you have at least one gallon per person per day for a minimum of three days. Non-perishable food is vital; pack items such as canned goods, granola bars, and dried fruits that are easy to carry and require no cooking. Don’t forget a manual can opener.

Additionally, include a flashlight with extra batteries, a first-aid kit, any necessary medications, and personal hygiene items. Important documents, such as identification and insurance papers, should also be packed in a waterproof container. For families, remember to include comfort items for children and pets, like toys or a favorite blanket. Finally, consider essential tools like a multi-tool or a whistle for signaling.

Preparing your go-bag ahead of time can make a significant difference in your safety and comfort during a hurricane event.

Family Plan

Steps to Communicate and Establish Meeting Points



Creating a family **Emergency Plan** before hurricane season can make a stressful situation far more manageable. Start by talking through the plan with everyone in your household so each person understands what to do if a storm threatens or if you become separated. Choose a primary meeting place, whether that's a neighbor's home, a nearby park, or another familiar location, and designate an out-of-town contact who can serve as a communication relay if local phone lines are overwhelmed.

Make sure everyone has access to important phone numbers, including emergency contacts and local services, and don't forget to account for family members with special needs, pets, or young children who may need extra support.

Practice your evacuation routes and run occasional drills so the plan feels familiar instead of chaotic in a real emergency. Review and update your plan regularly as life changes, because the more prepared your family feels ahead of time, the safer and more confident everyone will be when it matters most.

Pet Preparedness

Keeping Your Pets Safe During Hurricane Emergencies



Preparing your pets for a hurricane is as crucial as preparing yourself and your family. **Creating a pet preparedness plan** ensures that your furry friends remain safe and comfortable during emergencies. Start by gathering essential items such as a sturdy pet carrier, leashes, and identification tags that include your contact information. It's also important to stock up on your pet's food and water supplies. Make sure to have at least a week's worth of food and bottled water ready, along with any medications your pets may need.

Additionally, familiarize yourself with pet-friendly evacuation shelters in your area, as not all shelters allow pets. **Consider having a portable pet emergency kit** that includes a first aid kit, grooming supplies, and any necessary documentation like vaccination records. Lastly, practice your pet emergency plan with your pets so they are familiar with the routine.

This preparation will not only help keep your pets safe but also reduce their anxiety during the stressful situation of a hurricane. By being proactive, you ensure that your pet will remain an integral part of your family's emergency response plan.

Pet Evacuation Essentials

Build A Kit For Your Pet

THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN:

☐ Know what to do with your pet during an evacuation. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.

☐ Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

☐ Have copies of your pet's vaccination record, and make sure your pet is microchipped. Keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.

☐ Keep contact information for your local emergency management office or animal control office and shelters on hand in case you become separated from your pet.







Medical Planning

Special Considerations for Your Family’s Health Needs



In the face of a hurricane, **medical planning** becomes a critical component of your overall preparedness strategy. Understanding the specific health needs of your family is essential. Begin by compiling a comprehensive list of prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, and other health supplies necessary for each family member.

Ensure that you keep these items in a clearly labeled, waterproof container that is easily accessible during an evacuation.
It's also important to have a copy of each family member's medical history, including allergies, chronic conditions, and emergency contacts for healthcare providers. This information should be readily available to first responders if needed.

Additionally, consider any special needs for infants, elderly relatives, or those with disabilities. Having specialized equipment, such as mobility aids or oxygen supplies, is crucial to their safety and well-being. Finally, create a plan for how to communicate with your healthcare providers during and after the storm; this might include knowing where to find temporary medical facilities in your area.

Preparing in advance can significantly improve your family's resilience in the face of unexpected health challenges during a hurricane.

Flood Safety

Understanding How to Stay Safe During Flooding Events



Flooding is one of the most common and dangerous natural disasters that can occur during a hurricane. Understanding how to stay safe during these events is crucial for homeowners in Galveston, Houston, and North Houston. When a flood warning is issued, it is essential to take immediate action.

First and foremost, you should **evacuate to higher ground** if instructed to do so by local authorities. Staying informed about your area's flood risks is vital; keep an eye on local news reports and weather alerts.

Create an emergency plan for your family that includes an evacuation route, meeting points, and communication strategies.

Always have an emergency kit ready, packed with essential items such as water, food, flashlights, and medical supplies. Pay attention to flood-prone areas and **avoid driving through flooded roads, as just a small amount of water can sweep your vehicle away.**

Remember, your safety is the top priority. After a flood, assess the damage carefully and report any hazards to local officials to ensure a safe environment for you and your neighbors.

Storm Tracking

Key Resources for Effective Hurricane Preparedness



Knowing how to track a storm empowers **proactive decision-making**. Staying updated with official weather alerts is the first step. Make sure to identify your local emergency management agency, which plays a crucial role in disseminating vital information during emergencies.

Downloading weather apps can provide real-time updates right to your mobile device. Additionally, signing up for local alerts ensures you receive timely notifications about your specific area.

Finally, tuning into local news broadcasts can offer detailed coverage and insights that may not be available through alerts alone. By utilizing these resources, you can make informed choices regarding your safety and the well-being of your loved ones as a storm approaches.

Your preparedness directly impacts your ability to respond effectively in a critical situation. Always stay vigilant and informed.

QR Resources

Quick Access to Vital Information for Homeowners



CenterPoint Outage Tracker

Houston TranStar

Hurricane Resource Hub

FEMA App

KPRC Storm Tracker App

Insurance

How to Safeguard Your Home and Assets Effectively



Understanding your **insurance coverage** is a vital part of **Hurricane preparedness**.

Homeowners should ensure they have a clear policy that covers storm-related damages, including wind, flooding, and other natural disasters. One crucial step is to review your current policy with your insurance agent to understand the specifics of your coverage. Make sure to clarify any limitations or exclusions. It's also essential to consider flood insurance, which is often separate from standard homeowners policies. Depending on your property's location, you may be at a higher risk for flood damage, which necessitates additional coverage.

Documenting your home's contents is another important aspect of preparedness. Take photos or video recordings of your belongings, which can help substantiate claims if damage occurs. Additionally, keep copies of your insurance policy and any home inventory in a safe place, ideally outside of your home or in a waterproof container.

Finally, familiarize yourself with the claims process in advance, so you know what to expect after a storm. Being proactive will allow for a smoother recovery and ensure your financial well-being after a hurricane.

POST-STORM RECOVERY

The Storm Passed. Now What?



Once the winds calm down, the risks are not over. Floodwater, hidden structural damage, power hazards, spoiled food, and contractor scams can create just as many problems after a hurricane as the storm itself.

Use this checklist before jumping back into normal life.

Immediate Safety First

□ Wait for official updates before going outside

Local officials will confirm when roads are safe and evacuation orders are lifted.

□ Avoid floodwater at all costs

Floodwater may contain sewage, chemicals, sharp debris, wildlife, and hidden hazards.

□ Stay far away from downed power lines

Assume every line is live. Keep children and pets away.

□ Use generators safely

Never run a generator inside your home, garage, patio, or near doors/windows. Carbon monoxide can be deadly.

□ Watch for gas leaks

If you smell gas or hear hissing, leave immediately and contact your utility provider.

□ Wear protective gear

Gloves, boots, long sleeves, and masks can help protect against debris, mold, and contaminants.

POST-STORM RECOVERY

The Storm Passed. Now What?

Check Your Home Carefully

□ Walk around the outside first before entering

Look for: roof damage, broken windows, leaning walls, cracked foundation areas, fallen trees or limbs, damaged fences, standing water near electrical systems

□ Check ceilings and walls for water intrusion

□ Look for signs of mold starting

□ Inspect appliances before turning them on

□ If floodwater entered the home, have electrical systems professionally inspected

Food & Water Safety

□ Throw away food that may have spoiled

General rule: Refrigerator without power: about 4 hours, Full freezer unopened: about 48 hours, Half-full freezer: about 24 hours

□ When in doubt, throw it out

□ Do not drink tap water unless local officials confirm it is safe

□ Boil water if advised by authorities

□ Document Damage for Insurance

Before cleaning anything:

□ Take photos of every damaged area

□ Record video walkthroughs

□ Photograph: walls, flooring, ceilings, appliances, furniture, electronics, roof damage, exterior damage, fencing, detached structures

□ Make a written inventory of damaged items

□ Save receipts for emergency purchases and temporary repairs

(You can find this list on the Hurricane Resource Hub for download)

Avoid Contractor Scams

The Storm Passed. Now What?



Unfortunately, storm chasers show up fast.

Be cautious if someone:

- demands full payment upfront
- pressures you to “sign today”
- shows up unsolicited
- has no local references
- cannot provide insurance information
- asks for cash only

Important Reminder

If your home has significant damage, contact your insurance company as soon as possible and document everything before major cleanup begins.

The Move Live Love TX Team

Helping Houston-area families prepare before the storm and recover smarter after it.

When the Storm Passes, We're Still Here.

Storm prep is important, but recovery matters too. If your home has damage, you need trusted people fast.

From cleanup crews and roofers to contractors and other local pros, we have a network of vendors we trust and are happy to help connect you.



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100% Digital — No Paper, No Printing, No Waste.