Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

Preparing Your Family

☐ Check your disaster supplies and replace or restock items as needed.
☐ Talk with members of your family and create an evacuation plan.
☐ Make sure you know where the closest local shelter is located.
☐ Put together an emergency supply kit that includes the following:
  ☐ Water: at least a three-day supply; one gallon per person per day
  ☐ Food: at least a three-day supply of nonperishable, easy-to-prepare foods, such as cereal or crackers, and canned goods
  ☐ Can opener
  ☐ Flashlights and extra batteries (count on the power being out for at least a day or two)
  ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
  ☐ First aid kit
  ☐ Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
  ☐ Sanitation and personal hygiene items, including toilet paper
  ☐ Cellphone with charger
  ☐ Extra cash (remember that ATMs won’t work)
  ☐ Emergency blankets
  ☐ Map(s) of the area
  ☐ If needed, baby (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers) and pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
  ☐ Extra set of car keys and house keys
  ☐ Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
  ☐ Rain gear
  ☐ If you have children, computer games will operate for only a limited amount of time. Consider packing board games, a deck of cards, arts and crafts supplies, and crayons.
  ☐ If you need to leave your home, be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.

Preparing Your Home

☐ Bring in or secure anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
☐ Close your windows and doors. If needed or advised to do so, windows and doors can be boarded up with plywood.
☐ Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting, and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
☐ Turn off all propane tanks
☐ Fill your car’s gas tank.

General Safety Information

☐ Drive only if necessary.
☐ Keep far away from loose or dangling power lines, and report them immediately to the power company.
☐ Stay out of any building that has water around it.
☐ Use flashlights in the dark; avoid using candles.
☐ Before preparing food or drinking tap water, make sure it is not contaminated.
☐ Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
☐ Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

Hurricanes are serious business. There is no harm in being overly cautious. In most cases where a hurricane is concerned, it truly is better to be safe than sorry.