

## 2019 TOWNHOMES OF WEST LAKE HURRICANE TIPS

### **Hurricane Season is June 1, 2019 and ends November 30, 2019**

Unlike most natural disasters, with hurricanes we often have at least some early warning: sometimes a few hours or, if we're lucky, a few days. Therefore, it is important to take advantage of that time to consider your options, review your previously prepared safety plans and make final preparations.

Community Manager and the Board will do their best to communicate imminent danger to our neighborhood. However, it is your responsibility to be informed and prepared to evacuate should that be warranted.

To ensure your safety and the safety of your family and property, be sure to follow the Three Ps of Preparation:

### **People and Pets**

**Create an evacuation plan.** Map the safest areas and routes to evacuate. Identify multiple emergency transit routes, in all directions, and a primary and secondary meeting location. Know where your nearest evacuation shelters are located.

**Prepare an easily transportable emergency kit** (see next page)

**Identify an out-of-area contact.** Designate a friend or family in another state who can act as a communication traffic manager and make sure that they have your updated contact list (children's schools, doctor's offices, employer, etc.).

**Educate your family.** Make sure that everyone in your family understands what to do.

**Ensure drinkable water is available.** Fill up bathtubs and sinks if you will not be evacuating. Have plenty of bottled water.

**Fill up the gas tank in case you need to evacuate, as gas stations may be closed.**

### **Property**

**Once a hurricane is on its way, your home:**

- **Install Hurricane Shutters** – Can be installed up to 48 hours in advance of storm
- **Remove ALL items from your lanai, front porch and plant bed areas (bring them inside).**
- **Secure doors and windows.** Close and lock all windows. Close all blinds, curtains and drapes for protection against shattered glass. If you leave, make sure your door is locked.

### **Possessions**

**Protect documentation.** Make copies of all important documents (passports, driver's licenses, birth certificates, financial documentation, vehicle registration and license, property deeds, will, etc.) and keep copies with an out-of-area contact. Be sure to have copies of your insurance policies and their contact phone numbers.

**Create a home inventory.** Create an organized photo catalog of your belongings on your smartphone with available insurance apps.

**Turn off all electronics.** Make sure that circuit breakers are turned off and all home electronics are unplugged to prevent power surge damage.

## 2019 TOWNHOMES OF WEST LAKE HURRICANE TIPS

### DISASTER SAFETY KIT

Everyone living in a hurricane prone region should have a **safety kit** ready. Pre-packaged hurricane preparation kits may be purchased, or you can easily assemble a kit yourself. A safety kit is one of the most essential elements of preparing yourself, your family and your property for a hurricane or other disaster.

Suggested items for your safety kit include:

1. **Water.** Enough to last every member of your family at least three days (One gallon per person per day).
2. **Food.** Dried goods, energy bars, canned goods that do not need heating (Enough for each person to eat for three days). Can opener.
3. **First aid kit.** Include prescription medications, over-the-counter painkillers, rubbing alcohol, eye wash kit and vomit-inducing medication in case of accidental poisoning.
4. **Full tank of gas.** Gas stations may be closed during and after the storm.
5. **Flashlights**
6. **Whistle.** Whistles can be used to signal and direct attention during and after the storm passes.
7. **Battery or crank powered radio.** Listening to weather alerts and directives from authorities may save your life.
8. **Batteries.** Enough to power flashlights and battery operated radios for three days.
9. **Cell phone** with charger and a back-up battery or hand cranked charger
10. **Cash in small bills.** Do not rely on ATMs or credit cards after a hurricane, as power may be down.
11. **Blankets and extra clothing.**
12. **Personal hygiene.** Include toilet paper, hand towels, feminine products, manual toothbrush, toothpaste, wet wipes, hand sanitizer and, if there is a young child, diapers.
13. **Pet supplies.** Food, extra water, crate and bedding if planning to stay in a shelter
14. **Cleaning supplies.** Include disinfectant and garbage bags to manage waste and germs.
15. **Sleeping bags and tent, if you have them.**
16. **Tools.** A small toolbox with essentials and a pair of work gloves

All contents of a hurricane survival kit should be packed neatly into easily accessible waterproof plastic storage bins and should be easily transportable.

## 2019 TOWNHOMES OF WEST LAKE HURRICANE TIPS

### **Other items for consideration:**

- 1- If you are leaving the area for a few days or longer during hurricane season or evacuating for a hurricane, it is wise to shut off the water valve outside your unit.
- 2- Take with you or discard perishable food items in your refrigerator. If the power shuts down for over 24 hours, the food in your refrigerator will go bad. Depending on the length of a power outage, items in the freezer may go bad also.
- 3- Send the Community Manager an email that you are leaving. Be sure emergency contact information is up to date with the management company should we need to reach you.
- 4- If you are evacuating, take your pets with you. This is something to be stressed to all pet owners. You may not be allowed back in the area if the storm causes extensive damage. Pets left behind will have no one to care for them.
- 5- Have all of your insurance paperwork in order. Renters should have their own insurance policy for their belongings. The unit owners are not responsible for tenants' personal property.
- 6- If power is out, all official communication from BOD and Management will be posted on message board at mailboxes.
- 7- Post storm, notify your insurance company if any shingles are missing or if you have other damage.
- 8- For more information, you can call 813/272-5900 or go to the Hillsborough County website - <http://hillsboroughcounty.org/residents/public-safety/emergency-management> . This includes finding the flood zone for your particular home, finding evacuation zones, finding shelters and information to register for alerts. There is also a 2019 Disaster Planning Guide, which you may find useful and can be downloaded.