

TOWN OF ST. JAMES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & THE ST. JAMES FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUGGESTED DOs AND DON'Ts BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN EVENT

BEFORE

DO:

- Use common sense.
- Sign up for Brunswick County Code Red: www.brunswickcountync.gov/emergency/ems for County Wide alerts.
- Sign up on the Special Needs registry with Brunswick County if necessary: www.brunswickcountync.gov, or call 910-253-5383 to register by phone.
- Insure your POA profile is up to date for TOSJ specific alerts.
- Have an emergency plan. Share it with your family and friends either verbally or by email.
- Plan for your pets. Check pet friendly hotel availability. Bring their current immunization papers, food, and any meds they may be on.
- Pack a Go Bag - details on what to include are listed in the Disaster Preparedness Guide. Add hand sanitizer and masks to your go bag. Put it in your car. Back your car into the garage.
- Pack important papers - insurance documents, passport, etc. Additional guidelines may be found in the Disaster Preparedness Guide.
- Keep your vehicle fuel level topped off. Use caution if storing spare cans of gas.
- Prepare to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 5 -7 days. This includes; food, water, and medicines for you and your pets, oxygen, if necessary, etc. Additional guidelines may be found in the Disaster Preparedness Guide.
- Follow Emergency Personnel directions.
- Store drinking water in disinfected bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking pots.
- Save large plastic bottles, fill them with water and freeze them. Leave room for expansion.
- Turn refrigerator to its coldest setting.
- Keep cell phones fully charged. Consider purchasing an external charger. If you don't have one, purchase a car charger.
- Have cash/coins on hand in the event of power outage- ATMs may not function.
- Keep flashlights and extra batteries for all equipment on hand.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand – know where they are and how to use them.
- Turn off your sprinkler system. If you don't know how, contact your irrigation system provider or landscaper.
- Test your generator – if you have one. Educate yourselves on "back-feeding".
- Secure any yard ornaments, deck, and porch furniture that could become damage-inflicting missiles.
- Check storm drains in and around your area. If you see issues, report to POA.

- Educate yourself on how to secure French doors that may blow open.
- In the event you evacuate, turn off propane and water at the main. If you don't know how, contact your propane provider/water company for instruction.
- Remember the adages - Turn around. Don't drown. Hide from wind. Run from water.
- Check in with your neighbors.

DON'T

- Wait till the last minute to evacuate. The surrounding evacuation routes flood early.

DURING

DO:

- Use common sense.
- Monitor local media. **Remember, social media is not necessarily the best source of information.**
- Stay inside away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.

DON'T:

- Use your generator inside the house or garage.
- Use flaming candles. They are a fire hazard.
- Move barricades on roads that are blocked.
- "Sightsee" during and immediately after a storm. Stay home.
- Grill in your garage.
- Run your car in the garage in the event you need to charge your cell phone.

AFTER

DO:

- Use Common Sense.
- Continue to monitor local media for updates.
- Stay away from disaster areas.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Report them to power company.
- Avoid walking through standing water. Standing water could contain hazardous debris, snakes, and pollutants that could cause infections.

DON'T:

- Attempt to remove heavy debris from your property after the storm.
- Drink or prepare food with tap water if there has been a water main break.
- Sightsee. Keep roadways clear for emergency personnel.
- Drive with excessive speed through the community that could cause wakes that can push water into residents' yards and garages.
- Attempt to return to St. James after an evacuation until verifiable information on state/local road closures/openings is available.