Are You Ready for a Storm?
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Hurricane season is officially June 1 through the last day of November. Even without a hurricane, we could have some weather that keeps us inside for days or without electricity for several hours.

Here are some basic tips to help you prepare for rough weather or get through the aftermath:

- Review the evacuation plan with your family.
- Fuel the car and have cash on hand.
- Store 1 gallon/person/day of water. Store enough for at least 3 days.
- Store a 3-day supply of non-perishable food. Foods should need little or no energy to keep or prepare.
- Include a variety of foods in the kit to maintain nutritional needs.
- Buy or create 2 first aid kits—one for home and one for the car.
- Store non-prescription drugs including pain relief, stomach medicine and poison response drugs.
- Refill prescription drugs if you can.
- Locate important papers such as insurance, birth/death certificates, bank account and credit card information, etc. Place these in waterproof containers.
- Store time-passers such as books, puzzles, paper, pens, and playing cards.
- Store stress reduction supplies like family pictures, comfort food, and spiritual reading materials.
- Household bleach can be used to kill germs and sanitize water. Use 16 drops of bleach per gallon of water—stir and let stand for 30 minutes.
- Guard against food spoilage. Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings and open only when necessary.
- Keep a hand-operated can opener, pair of scissors and disposable utensils in your kit.
- Bring in outdoor furniture and remove items from the yard that could become flying objects.
- Board up or shutter large windows. Tape exposed glass. Draw drapes across windows and brace garage doors.
- Make arrangements for the safety of your boats, RVs etc.
- Be aware of tornado watches and warnings.
- During times of extreme weather, stay indoors, in an inside room away from doors and windows.
- Without taking unnecessary risks, protect your property from damage. Temporary repairs can reduce your losses.

If you must evacuate:
- Turn off gas, water and electricity in your home.
- Leave early in daylight if possible and plan a route to safety before you leave. Always have an alternative.
- Do not travel farther than necessary.
• Make arrangements for the safety of your house pets.
• Keep important papers with you at all times.
• Do not plan to return until local officials have given the authorization.
• Do not use water until it has been deemed safe.

Remember, this is a difficult time for all involved—family members, employers, local officials, etc. People must be respectful and above all, patient.