



**PHILLIPS HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

**410-798-9030**

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# Severe Weather Checklist

## SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS – IN HOT TEMPERATURES

The Atlantic hurricane season is officially from June 1st to November 30<sup>th</sup>



### GENERAL PREPARATION FOR SEVERE STORMS & POWER OUTAGES:

- Create a written emergency preparedness and action plan for your family and business
- Be sure that you have a call forwarding feature set up, in case you lose landline service; so your calls can be forwarded to a cell phone
- Be sure that you have voicemail feature set up, in case of power outage & answering machines are not functional
- Consider purchasing a stationary emergency generator for your home, have it installed by a professional; prior to a storm (a valuable investment)
- Protect your basement from water damage, consider purchasing battery backup sump pump system
- Install early water systems to help to reduce the risk of water damage from hot water heaters, air conditioners, washers or under sinks
- Fill vehicles with gas
- Get extra cash, to have on hand
- Fill prescriptions – Have enough medications for a 7 day supply and medical items
- Set fridge to maximum cold and keep closed. Have extra freezer packs in freezer already frozen
- Prior to storms, have trees trimmed to lessen flying debris and trees from falling on structures or vehicles
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water
- In the event of a severe storm /major hurricane warning in your area, prepare to secure all windows with 5/8 marine plywood
- Designate a spot, in the hall closet, to keep a bag of clothes for each person in the household. Make sure to include sleeping gear if you plan on going to a temporary shelter
- Park your vehicles in the garage, if available, or be aware of the surroundings above where your car is parked
- In case you are away from home from your home when a storm hits, contact your alarm company to see if they offer flooding monitoring. Also, set up real-time alerts via email and text message about alarm and non-alarm activities

## **BASIC SUPPLIES**

**Drinking Water:** Bottled water is best. You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. A three day supply is recommended. In very hot temperatures, water needs can double. Children, nursing mothers and sick people may need more water.

**Food:** Nonperishable, easy to prepare items, a 2week supply. Choose salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals and canned foods with high liquid content & low sodium. Remember any special dietary needs

### **Basic List:**

- Manual can opener
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Multipurpose tool
- Family and emergency contact information
- Fully charged cell phone & cell phone car charger
- Battery powered AM/FM radio or handcrank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)

### **PETS:**

- Know ahead of time of pet friendly hotels in surrounding areas
- Be sure you have a secure pet carrier or leash for your pet, they may need to be restrained during tense emergency situations.
- Assemble a disaster kit for your pet which includes food, water, medications, veterinary records, litter box, food dishes, and other supplies that may not be available at a later time, and an information sheet with pet's name, medical history, and behavior problems.

## **CAUTION AROUND THE HOUSE**

**Propane:** Turn off propane tanks

**Generator:** Only use a generator in an outdoor, well-ventilated area, and closely follow manufacturer's instructions. Never operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including homes, garages and basements. Generators produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly; a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Do not connect your generator directly to your household wiring. This can back-feed along the power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a qualified licensed electrician. Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Building code states that a generator should be placed 6' away from a window and 3' away from the house.

**Natural gas** leaks and explosions are responsible for a major number of fires following disasters. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off natural gas. Caution: If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

**Water:** Clean bathtub with bleach, fill with water for washing and flushing (not drinking). Cracked pipes may pollute the water supply to your house. It is wise to shut off your water until you hear from authorities that it is safe for drinking. Ensure a supply of water, for cleaning & flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub & other larger containers with water. Once you have a supply of water established, locate the shut-off valve for the water line that enters your house and label this valve with a tag for easy identification. Make sure this valve can be completely shut off. Your valve may be rusted open or it may only partially close. If so, replace it.

**Electrical:** - Turn off utilities, if advised by local officials. Locate your electrical circuit box. For your safety, always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit. Protect your electrical devices against power surges, including your large appliances that continually run; such as your refrigerator. A good electrician can help to eliminate damaging surges by installing a protection device to the main breaker panel of your home; to protect supply circuits throughout the house. Surge protectors may also include protection for power cords, telephone cords, ethernet cords, cable and satellite TV coaxial cables & USB cords. When you are considering the type of protection you need, take notice how your electronic devices are connected. When multiple devices are wired together—in a home theater or computer set-up, for example—surges can potentially shoot from one device to another. Also, be sure that your electrical components are connected to true surge protector, as many power strips have basic surge protection built in; these are typically clearly labeled as such. However, power strips that do *not* provide surge protection are sometimes incorrectly referred to as "surge protectors."

#### **KNOW WHAT YOUR HOME OWNERS INSURANCE COVERS**

- Consider purchasing flood insurance, is your home insured for its full replacement cost? Generally, there is a 30-day waiting period before new policies take effect.
- Be familiar with endorsements and exclusions & what they mean to filing an insurance claim
- Think ahead and take video or photos of your property before a storm.

#### **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS & LINKS:**

BGE: Reporting Outages: 877-778-2222 Emergencies: 800-685-0123

COMCAST: 1-800-XFINITY (934-6489)

VERIZON: 1-800-VERIZON (837-4966)

Police Headquarters - General Information - (410) 222-8050

\*Make sure that your house numbers are clearly visible from the street; so in case of emergency to your home, it can be easily located.

**DRY ICE:** Last 24 hours. Place in freezer 20-30 pounds is adequate. Dry ice from the freezer it will radiate to refrigerator. Caution: Dry ice is 109° below zero. To prevent a burn, only handle with gloves.

**Airgas East:** 410-768-4447

7504 Connelly Dr., Hanover, MD 21076.

**Continental Carbonic:** 410-761-7701

Penrod Ct., Suite J, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

-Maryland Emergency Management Agency (**MEMA**) 410) 517-3600

-National Weather Service: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

-National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington DC: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/forecast.htm>

**-Real-Time Local Storms Summary:** <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/akq/lsr/index.php?wfo=akq>

#### **RECOVERY**

-Before you begin the clean up, take inventory with a camera so you have documentation for any insurance or other damage claims. Save all your receipts.

-Mold can develop very quickly after a flood. Ask a contractor or building inspector to check for mold damage after a flood.

-In the case of a power outage, contact your security system company once your power comes back on; to have your system remotely tested & reset.

**Stay safe this summer!**