

# AFTER THE STORM

- Follow instructions issued by local officials.
- Listen to local media for reentry information and do not go into unsafe areas.
- Relief supplies and other aid will be arriving as quickly as possible, but it may take several days.
- Try to remain calm, patient and understanding.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Do not sight see!
- Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons.
- Check for natural gas and/or bottled gas leaks.
- Stay away from all downed power lines and nearby water puddles.
- Carefully remove fallen trees and limbs because they might be entangled with fallen power lines.
- Find the fire extinguisher before turning on the power.
- Check all electronic equipment for water damage. If you are uncertain, throw the item away.
- Resist the urge to get up on a ladder to take a closer look at your damaged roof. Leave that to a professional.
- Make sure all electrical outlets and appliances are dry and free of water before using them.
- Do not connect generators to your house wiring!

## Storm essentials & supplies

Post hurricane safety can be just as important as hurricane preparedness. After the hurricane, many dangers will exist that you need to be aware of as you clean up your damaged property.

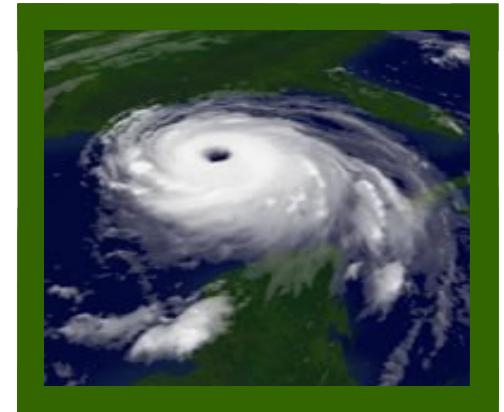
Also important are the supplies and tools that you should have on hand to do your clean-up work. The following items are readily available at any building supply store, although availability will change rapidly when a hurricane nears.

- Nylon Clear Tarp (16' x 20')
- Fiberglass Window Screen
- Plastic Trash Bags (50 ea. 33 gal)
- Visqueen (20' x 100' roll, 6 mil thick)
- 30 lb. Felt Roofing Paper (1 roll)
- 7/8 ' Button Cap Fasteners (5 lb.)
- Nylon Utility Rope (3/8" x 20')
- Nails (1 lb. ea. 6D, 8D, 10D common)
- Spray Paint (to ID your house)
- 1 3/8" x 8 ' lattice (battens to hold down tarps and Visqueen)
- Duct Tape (1 roll)
- Bungee Cords (varied uses)
- Extension ladder (to reach)
- Hand Saw (8 or 10 point)
- Limb Saw (pruning saw)
- Claw Hammer
- Screw Drivers (combination set)
- Vice Grips
- Utility Box Knife
- Shovel
- Push Broom
- Cotton Work Gloves

Remember, power tools may be useless for several days after the storm!

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# BOCA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT



360 E Railroad Ave  
Boca Grande, FL 33921

941 964-2908



## Hurricane Season

### If Disaster Strikes...

- Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action.

### Check for Injuries

- Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.

### Listen to your battery powered radio for news and instructions.

- Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

### Animals/Insects/Rodents

- Beware of wild animals that might be dangerous. Fire ants, bees, wasps, snakes, rodents and other animals will be seeking high ground. They can create health and safety hazards.
- Be careful of domestic animals, even ones you know. They may be frightened or injured and more dangerous than you expect.

### Clothing & Furniture Preservation

- Take down wet draperies and spread to dry.
- Take furniture outside to dry, but don't put it in the sun. Put under a covered patio or tarp.
- Elevate wet upholstered furniture if it is resting on carpet.
- Hang comforters and blankets out to dry.
- Dry pillows outdoors, but not in direct sunlight.

## Water Precautions

After a natural disaster, damaged water pipes can cause pressure to drop, possibly letting in contaminated ground water. The concern with the water is bacterial contamination.

- Disinfect any tap water you use for anything, including for your pets. Boil it for at least ten minutes, or use chemicals: eight drops of chlorine bleach (without scent or other additives) or tincture of iodine per gallon. Let the water sit at least 10 minutes before drinking.
- If you wash dishes in tap water, rinse them in extra-chlorinated water. Use about 15 drops of chlorine on the dishes to keep them clean until next use.
- Showering or bathing in tap water is fine. If you cut yourself shaving, apply an antibiotic cream.

## Food safety rules

Without refrigeration, items such as fresh milk, custards and creamed foods, cream cheese, cheese spread and cottage cheese, hamburger, pork, fish and poultry spoil rapidly and should be discarded if they have been without cooling for several hours.

- Clean out the refrigerator if power has been off for more than two days. Throw away perishables. Wipe the interior with baking soda and water.
- Fill your freezer with plastic jugs of water. A full freezer stays cold longer.
- Keep the freezer door closed as much as possible. Foods will stay frozen longer.
- Refreezing partially thawed food is risky. Generally, if the foods still contain ice crystals, they're OK to refreeze, though their quality may suffer.
- Dry ice keeps food frozen for approximately 1 to 4 days.
- Without air conditioning, food waste will start to smell rapidly. Use small plastic garbage bags and tie or seal and place in a larger bag or can outdoors.

## Makeshift Kitchen & Power Substitutes

A garage, carport or roofed patio would be an ideal spot for a temporary kitchen. This is what you'll need:

- A surface to prepare food. A small table or improvised table.
- A large cooler and bags of ice to keep food fresh. Buy only the amount of fresh food your family can consume in one meal. Rely on canned foods for safety's sake.
- Use a charcoal or propane grill or a camp stove for cooking. Do not bring these grills inside, a fire could start or fumes could generate.
- Use kitchen cabinets or sturdy boxes for storage.
- For lighting use fuel-based lanterns or candles.

## Generator Safety

- Never run your generator inside your home or garage or in any other enclosed space.
- If a generator is connected to the house wiring, the home must have a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician.

For more information , call the:

Boca Grande Fire  
Department  
(941) 964-2908

