HOME MATTERS

Loss prevention tips for all your home matters provided by: Huckaby & Associates

The Importance of Being Prepared

From June through November, hurricanes are at their peak. During a hurricane, heavy rains and catastrophic winds barrel through coastal areas and can severely damage or destroy homes and businesses. The best way to minimize damage from a hurricane is to be prepared before one strikes.

PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON

During Hurricane Season:

- Plan evacuation routes and designate a contact person who family members know to call once the storm is over.
- Stock up on items such as bottled water, flashlights, battery-operated radio, nails, tarps and plywood.
- Keep an up-to-date log of all of your possessions with photographs and videos, and review your home insurance policy.

When There's A Hurricane Threat:

- Cover windows and doors and secure outdoor furniture.
- If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Refill your prescriptions, fill up your gas tank and withdraw a week's worth of cash so you are prepared in the event of a power outage.

During a Hurricane:

- Listen to your battery-operated radio for instructions from the local authorities on evacuation and safety guidelines.
- Seek shelter in an interior room away from windows, such as a closet.
- If the electricity goes out, use a flashlight to see; do not use candles.
- If you hear the winds subside, do not assume that the storm is over. The calm may be the eye of the storm, and the worst part may still be coming.

Safety First

After a hurricane is over, stay inside until you hear that an "all clear" notice has been issued. If you were told to evacuate, do not return home until you have been given permission by the authorities.

Additionally, exercise extreme caution when inspecting your home for damage. Do not try to inspect damaged utilities and appliances; contact a professional to do so.

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