

Before the Hurricane

Pay attention to instructions from public officials and the media.

»» Gather important documents including insurance policies, health cards, list of medications, birth certificates, list of important phone numbers and your FPL account number – and put them in a waterproof container.

»» Prepare enough food, water and supplies to be -sufficient for up to 14 days including bottled water, non-perishable food, non-electric can opener, radio, flashlights, batteries, matches or lighter, medications and prescriptions, personal hygiene supplies, baby supplies, pet food, sunscreen, insect repellent, tarp, clothing, blankets, pillows and items for entertainment.

»» Obtain cash or travelers checks in case banks are closed and ATMs are not working.

»» Fill up your car with gas.

»» Fill propane tanks if you plan to use a grill for cooking.

»» Charge your cell phone and obtain a car charger.

»» To prepare for the loss of running water and electricity, turn refrigerators and freezers to their coldest settings to help keep your food fresh; consider making blocks of ice and storing them in coolers; sanitize the bathtub and fill it with water.

»» Secure and prepare your home by storing objects from your yard inside, fastening doors and windows, covering valuables and furniture with plastic and move away from windows, and turn off and unplug any non-essential electrical equipment, including pool equipment.

After the Hurricane

»» Do not travel until it is safe to do so. Stay away from flooded and debris-laden areas because they may be hiding downed lines, and do not venture out in the dark because you might not see hazards such as downed power lines.

»» Stay far away from downed power lines and anything that may be in contact with a downed power line. Call 911 and FPL at 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243) to report downed power lines or other dangerous or hazardous conditions involving FPL poles, wires or transformers.

»» Avoid driving in damaged areas. You might interfere with rescue or restoration efforts, as well as jeopardize your own safety.

»» Should your power go out, disconnect appliances that are still plugged in and turn off all wall switches, or turn off your main breaker. Remember, never stand in water while operating switches or unplugging any electrical device.

»» Be cautious when using a grill, portable stove or other emergency cooking devices.

»» If you use a portable generator, run it outside and connect appliances or equipment directly to it. Get more generator safety tips.

»» If your home has water damage from leaks or flooding, water may come into contact with electrical wiring.

»» When resetting circuit breakers, wear dry, rubber-soled shoes and stand on something dry and non-conductive, such as a dry piece of wood or wooden furniture.

»» If you have any doubts about your home's electrical system or are unsure of how to proceed, call a professional, licensed electrician.

»» Make emergency repairs, such as those to prevent looting or further damage, only when it is safe to do so.