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## SAFETYTIPS



# GATHER WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SHELTER IN PLACE

- Non-perishable food and water for 4 days (first 96 hours)
- 4+ gallons of water per person
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Matches or lighter
- First aid kit
- Week's supply of prescription medications
- Radio (battery operated or hand crank)
- Books and games



# CLEAN AND SECURE YOUR PROPERTY

- Remove debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Clear debris from catch basins.
- Prune trees and shrubs around your property.
- Bring outdoor furniture and decoration inside.
- Secure or bring garbage bins indoors.



# PREPARE FOR POWER AND WATER OUTAGES

- If you need power for medical equipment, create a Smart911 profile and indicate your needs in the medical section.
- Find out how long medication can be stored at higher temperatures and get specific guidance for any medications that are critical for life.
- Use a thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer so you can know the temperature when power is restored.
- Fill your bathtub with water to clean and flush toilets.
- Turn your fridge to its lowest temperature.
- Take an inventory of needed items that rely on electricity.
- Charge electronic devices.
- Preserve cell phone battery life.
- Stay away from low-hanging or downed power lines.



# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?

- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Spare batteries

- Battery/hand crank-powered radio
- Battery/solar-powered phone charger
- At least three days of food and water



## FOOD AND WATER SAFETY TIPS

- If power is out, keep fridge/freezer doors closed.
- Get rid of food that:
  - Is in an open, damaged or bulging can
  - Has an abnormal smell, color or texture
  - Needs to be refrigerated but has risen over 40 degrees
- Clean off cans that came in contact with flood water (remove label, dip in bleach solution, relabel with permanent marker).
- Ask local officials or listen to news to find out about local water safety. If water is unsafe:
  - Bring water to a rolling boil for one minute before use
  - o Add 1/8 teaspoon of new, unscented bleach to 1 gallon of water and let sit for 30 minutes before use
  - Use water purifying tablets (follow tablet directions)
- Even if partially thawed, you can cook/refreeze food as long as it hasn't risen above 40 degrees.



## FOOD AND WATER SAFETY TIPS

- When it doubt, throw it out! Use the Coin Test to determine whether food in your freezer thawed and is no longer safe to eat:
  - Freeze a glass of water and put a coin on top. Use the coin to determine whether your freezer reached unsafe temperatures.
    - The coin is still at the top, ice remained frozen solid and the food is safe
    - The coin is in the middle, ice partially melted before re-freezing and may be safe to eat
    - The coin is at the bottom, ice completely melted and the food is not safe



# AMOUNT OF WATER IN YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- Your disaster supply kit should have 1 gallon of drinking water per person, per day (for at least four days)
- A family of four should have at least
  12 gallons of water in their supply kit
- In the event of a complete water distribution, additional water may be needed to flush toilets and bathe.



#### **GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS**

Portable generators are a temporary solution to power appliances. It's important to know that portable generators emit carbon monoxide (CO), a poisonous, deadly gas. Use these tips to avoid CO exposure:

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 20 feet (7 meters) from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 20-foot (7 meters) distance from the generator to the building.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down for 15-20 minutes before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.



### GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS: JUST REMBER

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.



FACT: Portable generator exhaust is toxic and deadly. Do not stand or sit downwind of generator exhaust. If you can smell exhaust, you are inhaling it.

### CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY TIPS

- Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of a home.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.



### SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be on every level of the home.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall.
- Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



#### STAY OFF ROADWAYS

We ask the public to stay off the roadways during a storm. Depending on the severity of a storm, public safety agencies stop responding to calls once a storm makes landfall. Please do not do the following:

- Drive around barricades
- Drive on bridges over fast-moving water
- Drive under bridges that can hold water



#### TORNADOES

Hurricanes and tropical storms can produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall.

The majority of tornadoes associated with tropical systems occur in the right front quadrant of the storm.



#### TORNADO SAFETY RULES

**Tornado Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for tornado development. People located in and around the watch area should keep an eye to the sky and listen to their NOAA weather radio all hazards or tune to local broadcast media for further weather information. The watch is intended to give you time to prepare and time to review your safety rules.

**Tornado Warning:** Issued when a developing tornado has been detected by National Weather Service doppler radar or a reliable report of a tornado has been reported. A tornado warning is usually issued for portions of one or two parishes, for an hour or less. The storm could also produce large hail and destructive straight line winds. If the tornado warning includes your neighborhood or work place, you should seek safe shelter immediately.



## SHELTERING FROM A TORNADO

- Move to an interior room with no windows. If you do have a basement, quickly move to your basement and bring emergency supplies.
- No place outside is safe from a tornado, seek inside shelter immediately.
- Top floors of homes and buildings do not protect you from a tornado. Quickly move to the first floor of your home or building.
- Exterior rooms and rooms with windows do not protect you from tornadoes. Quickly move to an interior room with no windows.



#### STAY CONNECTED

- 1. Tune into your trusted local news source.
- 2. Access **Mobile.Weather.Gov** on your mobile phone and get wireless emergency alerts, or text **JPALERT** or **JPNOTICIAS** to **888-777**.
- 3. Receive forecasts information and news on your NOAA weather radio.
- 4. Stay in touch with friends and family and receive updates from **Jefferson Parish Social Media** (@JeffParishGov).
- 5. Access information from Weather.Gov, Ready.Gov and Flash.org.

REMEMBER: WE CAN'T ALERT YOU IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU.

