

After the Storm

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions. Don't return until it is safe to do so. A list of emergency manager contacts is included in the back of this guide.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- Avoid flood waters. It takes less than a foot of flowing water to knock over a pedestrian and just a few feet of water to float a vehicle. Alligators, fire ants and snakes can also be found in flood waters.
- Photograph the damage to your property in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Make sure to inspect your home after a hurricane. Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property, (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof); work with your insurance company to schedule permanent repairs.
- Continue listening to local news for updated information and instructions. Consult the web sites and social media of your local office of emergency management, or call for more information.
- Do not use water that could be contaminated to drink, wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice or make baby formula. Use only bottled, boiled or treated water until you know that the water is safe.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines. Report them immediately to the power company. Check for gas leaks. If you smell or hear gas leaking leave immediately and call the gas company or fire department.
- Wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and boots, and be cautious.
- DO NOT run generators indoors but only in well ventilated outdoor areas. Many deaths after the storm are due to carbon monoxide poisoning due to improper use of generators.
- Do not use open flames indoors. Be extremely cautious if using candles. Many fires have resulted due to candles getting knocked over.
- Listen for instructions on debris clean up and pick up for your community. You may be instructed to sort the debris and put by curb side.
- Be careful of over-exertion. There is typically a jump in heart attacks post storm due to the physical and mental stress of the disaster.
- Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly. Make sure they are well and taken care of.

