



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
Public Information Office
Sally Shutt, Communications Manager
910-437-1921
sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us

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Prepare of Emergency Kits Before Hurricane Arrives

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – With the approach of Hurricane Irene, Cumberland County Emergency Management advises everyone to review their personal emergency plans and make sure that their emergency kits are well stocked.

For planning purposes, and to aid your own sense of self sufficiency, Emergency Management recommends setting aside adequate supplies to support each occupant of your household for a minimum of 72 hours. This means having water, food, and emergency supplies stockpiled for each member of your family. It is a good idea to store your supplies in a backpack or duffel bag so that if you are forced to evacuate your residence, you can take these items with you to a shelter area.

Items you should stockpile are:

Water: At least one gallon per person per day. Also have boxed, bottled, powdered juice and drink mixes; boxed, powdered, canned milk; breakfast drinks, soda.

Food: Ready-to-eat (non-perishable). If you cannot open the container with a bottle opener, manual can opener, pull ring, by twisting or unwrapping, then do not buy it for your stockpile. Include: canned fruit, vegetables, soup, pudding, potted meats, stew, hash, tuna; produce (potatoes, thick skinned fruit); baby formula and food (pre-mixed only); instant hot cereals; bread products; granola bars; complete pancake mix; crackers; graham crackers; cookies; and miscellaneous food items such as pet food, mustard and ketchup, peanut butter, jelly, ground and instant coffee, hot cocoa/chocolate mix, tea bags, cooking oil.

Communications, Lighting, Safety Items: Battery operated radio/TV; flashlights; extra batteries; lantern and fuel; matches; fire extinguisher; work gloves; shovel.

Clothing and Bedding: One complete change of clothing for each person (suitable for the season); extra socks, underwear; outer-wear (rain gear, poncho, sweater, jacket or coat); pillows; sleeping bag or two blankets per person.

Personal Hygiene Items: Soap; toothpaste; toothbrush; dental floss; washcloth; towel; shaving kit; hair care items; sanitary napkins/tampons; diapers.

Miscellaneous Items: First aid supplies, including prescription medications; charcoal/lighter fluid; hand can opener; baby wipes; toilet paper; paper towels; trash bags; disposable plates/bowls and silverware.

One miscellaneous item often overlooked is cash. ATMs are convenient, but in the case of a power outage they are inaccessible; and so are check approval agencies accessed through telephone lines. Set aside a realistic (for your situation) amount of cash to facilitate purchase of critically needed items.

You should add to this list as you deem necessary. But remember, the intent is to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours after a storm or other disaster. Preparedness begins at home.

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During a storm watch

- Stay tuned to your local radio or TV station.
- Fill fuel tank in car.
- Secure watercraft.
- Refill prescription medicine.
- Make sure radios and flashlights have fresh batteries.
- Keep an extra set of fresh batteries.
- Secure lawn furniture.
- Tape, board or shutter windows.
- Clean rain gutters and downspouts.

During a storm warning

- Stay tuned to your local radio or TV station.
- Move valuables to upper floors.
- Fill bathtub, fill containers with drinking water.
- Turn up refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Fill coolers with ice.
- Use phone for emergency calls only.
- Stay indoors and away from windows.
- Unplug nonessential appliances.

During an evacuation

- Shut off water and electricity at mains.
- Take important papers and essential valuables.
- Lock the house.
- Follow evacuation procedures.
- Listen to the car radio during evacuation.

After the storm

- Check for gas leaks upon returning home.
- Report utility damage.
- Discard spoiled food and water.
- Assess damages.

If you have a loss...

- Take steps to control the damage.
- Move property out of harm's way.
- Contact your insurance agent to report the loss.

For more information, visit the Emergency Management web site at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/emergency_mgmt/storm_preparation.aspx.

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