

Church Preparation for Hurricanes

- All trained ERT members are asked to be on standby for activation within our conference.
- Inform congregation members to prepare a disaster kit.
- Set up system to check on homebound members, elderly or those with chronic illnesses in your congregation.
- Make sure you have important and/or costly items up out of low areas.
- Make sure your electronics are safe from power surges.
- Make sure you back up all important church files including congregational lists.
- Gather all your insurance information/documentation.
 - Consider taking photos /videos of your church building/grounds for documentation of current building status
- Gather food pantry items to support Disaster Recovery Centers that will be established.
- Make sure flood buckets are secured and available at the various churches that are storing them.
- Make sure all storm drains are cleared from leaves and keep checking them as the winds increase and the waters come. They must be kept clear for proper drainage.

Things congregations can do to serve their communities should localized flooding occur:

- Identify how your congregation will make decisions about what support to offer. (Decision makers could be: Ad Board President, Mission Groups, Trustees, Pastor?)
- Be in conversation with first responders in your congregation, or by calling your local Emergency Management Agency (often the fire marshal) to see how your congregation might support efforts.
- Offer hospitality to first responders in the form of water, food, or space for staging.
- Offer hospitality to those who may be temporarily evacuated from their homes. Such hospitality might be in the form of emergency shelter space, phones, computers, people to listen.
- Please inform us of any significant impact in your area. Such impact might include evacuation of multiple families for several days, destruction or extensive damages to multiple houses or to churches, etc.
- Remember, of course, that our concern is for all who struggle, not just for members of our own congregations.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- [Water](#), one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- [Food](#), at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, extra batteries for both
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle, to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to [shelter-in-place](#)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties, for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to [turn off utilities](#)
- Manual can-opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone, with chargers, inverter or solar charger