



# Prep Tip<sup>of the</sup> Week

## How to Prepare Homes and Property

**Consider storing important documents.** After a disaster, important documents may be difficult to locate or damaged. Consider storing important documents such as advance medical directives, insurance policies, passports, social security cards and birth certificates in a water-tight container. You can also scan important documents to your secured email or cloud storage for future access.

**Prepare a go kit for service animals or pets.** Keep a picture of you and your pets in your animal's go kit. Include a bowl, food, water, treats, pet bedding, medicine, leash/collar and toys.

**Ensure your vehicle is prepared.** Always have your gas tank at least half full. Ensure your vehicle insurance policy is updated. Disasters can happen at any time, place a go kit in your car with non-perishable food, extra water, change of clothing, blanket, cell phone charger, a whistle and flashlight. Make sure your kit is light enough to carry in the event you need to abandon your vehicle.

**If you are sheltering-in-place.** Pre-identify a room in your home that can be used to shelter-in-place. Choose a room with limited or no windows and place your go kit in the room for easy access during an emergency. As you prepare, consider joining with family, friends or neighbors, preparation can be a shared responsibility and less costly. Practice your plan and communicate regularly, this will reduce anxiety and fear in the event of a disaster.

**Boaters in the Territory.** Inspect boats for leaks and damages, conduct radio and communication equipment checks, and ensure emergency devices such as flares and floating devices are secured and accessible. Identify a safe-haven to secure your boat and never remain on your boat during a storm. Remember to always use a three-point mooring system and ensure vessels are secured to nearby trees ONLY when necessary, utilizing proper chaffing material on all lines.

**Inspect your home.** Make sure that your house number is clearly displayed to ensure emergency services can easily find you. Inspect and repair windows and doors that are damaged. Consider covering windows with plywood or shutters. Secure loose gutters and downspouts. Keep trees well-trimmed. Secure outdoor furniture, playground equipment and anything that may become airborne.



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