



MSH Insurance
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Newsletter—Fall 2009 Issue

Are you prepared for a Hurricane?

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Water—one gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days for drinking and sanitation
- Food—at least a 3 day supply of non perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and a NOAA Weather radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for canned foods

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON STARTS

1. Plan an evacuation route. Contact the local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter and ask for the community hurricane preparedness plan. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation routes and nearby shelters.
2. Learn safe routes inland. Be ready to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place & have disaster supplies on hand.

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

- Listen to a battery operated radio or TV for hurricane progress reports
- Check emergency supplies
- Fuel car
- Make sure to have a stash of cash-ATM's will most likely be down if the power goes out
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outdoor antennas
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking utensils
- Store valuables and personal papers in a water-proof container on the highest level of your home
- Review evacuation plan
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place. Use rope or chain to secure boat to trailer. Use tie downs to anchor trailer to the ground or house.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

- Listen constantly to a battery operated radio or TV for official instructions

- If in a mobile home check tie downs and evacuate immediately
- Avoid elevators
- If at home-Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames such as candles and kerosene lamps as a source of light
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power surge when electricity is restored
- If officials indicate evacuation is necessary: Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed out bridges
- Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve
- Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going
- If time permits and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet move it to a higher floor
- Take pre-assembled emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
- Lock up home and leave.

Resources

City of Rocky Mount—Emergency Management
www.rockymountnc.gov
National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov
FEMA
www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane

New Vehicle Inspection Date



Vehicle registrations expire at the end of the month. For example, if your registration card shows an expiration date of October 15, 2009, your registration

actually expires on September 30, 2009. State statute allows a 15-day grace period for your registration renewal after expiration, but this does not apply to inspection expiration date.



The sticker in the upper left hand corner of your license plate has either a number or a three digit abbreviation (e.g., 9 or SEP) which is the month your inspection and registration renewal are due.

2010 Census Cautions

With the US Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 US Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 US Census workers will count every person in the US and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data. The big question is-how do you tell the difference between a US Census worker and a con artist?

BBB offers the following advice:

**If a US Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge,

a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. And NEVER invite anyone you don't know into your home.

**Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the US census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or

in person at home. However, they will not contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams im-

Be Cautious about giving info to Census workers

personating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the US Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud visit

www.bbb.org

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