Home Preparedness Checklist for Hurricanes

The following checklist provides guidance for homeowners or renters to help protect their homes through a hurricane. This checklist is designed to be reviewed and utilized for seasonal preparations as well as prior to a hurricane making landfall. For renters, check with the landlord or owner before taking steps.

### Ongoing Preparedness

- Keep gutters clean and clear of debris.
- Regularly inspect roof for damage.
- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Install and maintain fire extinguishers.
- Clear trees and other large vegetation that may fall onto or blow into the house.
- Maintain access to gas shut-off.
- Maintain access to water shut-off.
- Maintain access to electricity panel.
- Gather an emergency supply kit including food, water, and medication.
- Store flashlights and batteries throughout the house and test regularly.
- Assess structural strength of home and roof.

### Prior to Landfall

- Securely board up windows.
- Place sandbags outside doors and ground level windows to protect from flooding.
- Assess and secure roof.
- Clean up small outdoor items such as toys, bicycles, or gardening supplies.
- Secure large outdoor items such as boats, trailers, barbecues, and other items.
- Secure antennas or satellite dishes from roof.
- Secure and empty mailboxes.
- Remove a section of patio screening on either side to allow wind to pass through.
- Turn off all electric or gas equipment or appliances.
- Fill vehicle gas tanks and ensure any necessary portable electronics are fully charged.
- Turn off gas, water, and electric at main valves to home.
- Work with neighbors to prepare the entire area.
- Listen to weather updates and obey all local evacuation orders.
- Establish a family communication plan.
- Identify the closest emergency shelters and prepare supplies to evacuate.

For steps to prepare yourself and your family for a hurricane during this COVID-19 pandemic, refer to the Americas Personal Preparedness Checklist for Hurricane Season During COVID-19.