

# Core Disaster Checklist: Mitigation Planning for Houses & Mobile Homes

The following checklists provide guidance during mitigation (no imminent threat of a disaster exists) and preparedness (a disaster's advanced warning is in effect).

## MITIGATION

### House Maintenance

Semi-annually (Mar/Apr and Aug/Sep), perform the following applicable tasks:

- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts; clear clogged areas and/or debris.
- Secure and reinforce roof, windows and/or doors (including garage doors).
- Learn how and when to turn off gas, water and electricity.
- Buy at least one generator. Have enough gas for seven (7) days of use available.
- Follow requirements and build with flood proof/resistant materials whenever possible.
- Install sewer backflow valves.
- For non-hurricane-rated windows and doors, have plywood, etc. with appropriate fasteners ready to put up in the case of a warning.
- Check all plumbing for leaks and have them repaired by a plumber.
- Fix dripping faucets.
- Insulate water pipes to reduce heat loss and prevent them from breaking.
- If possible, retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
- Choose appliances that are more energy and water efficient.
- Purchase a low-volume toilet.
- Replace showerheads with an ultra-low-flow version.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors specifically designed to reflect heat back outside.
- Insulate your home to keep energy in and heat out.
- Install an attic ventilator/fan to regulate the heat levels to clear out hot air.

### Mobile Homes & RVs

Follow these steps to reduce possible damage caused by the mobile home/RV:

- Check tie-downs - make sure straps are tight, properly aligned and not at an angle.
- Verify that ground anchors and stabilizer plates have been installed properly.
- Replace straps or ground anchors that show signs of corrosion or damage.
- Be sure support piers are in contact with the frame.

### Tree Risk

At a minimum, one should focus on basic tree care semi-annually:

- In March/April, remove any dead limbs, branches, bushes, etc. This is also ahead of hurricane season.
- In August, do another check of your trees and bushes. This allows focus after wet summers to determine major needs, also getting them done before the height of hurricane season.
- Do not wait until a storm watch or warning to perform this work. Debris pickup may not happen in time, allowing your debris to possibly cause further damage during a storm.

## PREPAREDNESS

### Prepare the Interior

- Recheck your storm kit(s), including kits for loved ones and important documents.
- Order any prescriptions about to run out in the next month.
- Backup computers and digital devices to the cloud or external drives in your kit.
- Make sure your cell phones, computers and tablets are fully charged.
  - Keep them plugged into a wall socket or other non-battery source as much as possible.
  - If power goes out, unplug your phone and use it intermittently.
  - If there is more than one cell phone in the house, use one at a time to communicate.
- Buy ice for coolers.
- Clean bathtub(s) and other large containers and fill with water.
- Secure large or heavy items in the case of flooding.
- Be sure appliances, electrical switch boxes, outlets and other electrical equipment are well above potential flood levels.
- Secure or move vehicles inside garages or other secure facilities away from evacuation zones.
- Check your gas tank and make sure you're at a full tank.
- Send a test communication to activate your communication plan.

### Prepare the Exterior

- Remember the ABCS:
  - A**nchor the roof
  - B**race entry and garage doors
  - C**over windows
  - Determine/Prep the **S**afe room
- Make sure all tools are put away safely and stored.
- Bring decorations, pots and planters inside.
- Make sure outdoor furniture is either brought inside or secured safely outside.
- Have a ladder readily available in the case of needing to fix a bad leak, etc.
- Make sure your generator(s) are near an exit and ready to be moved outside quickly.
  - Make sure you have enough gas for seven (7) days.
- Elevate your utilities and raise electrical components.
- For a tropical system, if needed, put up your shutters securely.

***DRG Sections to Review: Community Resources > Natural Disasters > Mitigation and Preparedness sections (pg 10 Community Version), as well as Planning sections in Catastrophic Loss of Life & Catastrophic Widespread Loss***