

## **PREPARATION**

**Preparing for the possible land fall of a hurricane should be an ongoing process. Being prepared is the key to a successful outcome of an approaching or impacting system in the area. An approaching system can cause the evacuation of millions of people as it moves up the coast before making a direct impact on an area. Whether you decide to remain or evacuate, there are specific things you can do to prepare.**

### **Before Hurricane Season Starts:**

- **Write a Family Disaster Plan and review with family members**
- **Discuss possible hazards with family members**
- **Gather all important papers and identification**
- **Itemize property – make a list or take photos or a video**
- **Plan your evacuation route and possible destinations**
- **Prepare a Disaster Survival Kit – food, candles, water, medication**
- **Plan to protect windows, doors and vessels**
- **Make plans to take care of pets – do not leave them behind to fend for themselves and shelters do not take pets**

### **Watch Phase:**

- **Activate your Family Disaster Plan – identify things that may require additional time such as securing a vessel**
- **Check your Disaster Survival Kit**
- **Get a supply of medication**
- **Gather important papers and information**
- **Review your evacuation route and destination – confirm reservations**
- **Fill your vehicle(s) with fuel**
- **Monitor weather information**

### **Warning Phase:**

- **Use your Family Disaster Plan**
- **Ready your Disaster Supply Kit for use – if you evacuate take the kit with you – food, water and medication can be used if you are stopped in traffic**
- **Secure your vessel**
- **Have cash and credit cards**
- **Move or secure items inside the garage or house**
- **Cover windows – tape does not protect windows**
- **Place vehicles to be left behind inside the garage**
- **Take care of your pets**
- **Turn off gas, electricity and water**
- **Lock doors and windows before leaving**
- **Confirm reservations**
- **Provide Security/relatives with your destination information**
- **Monitor weather information**