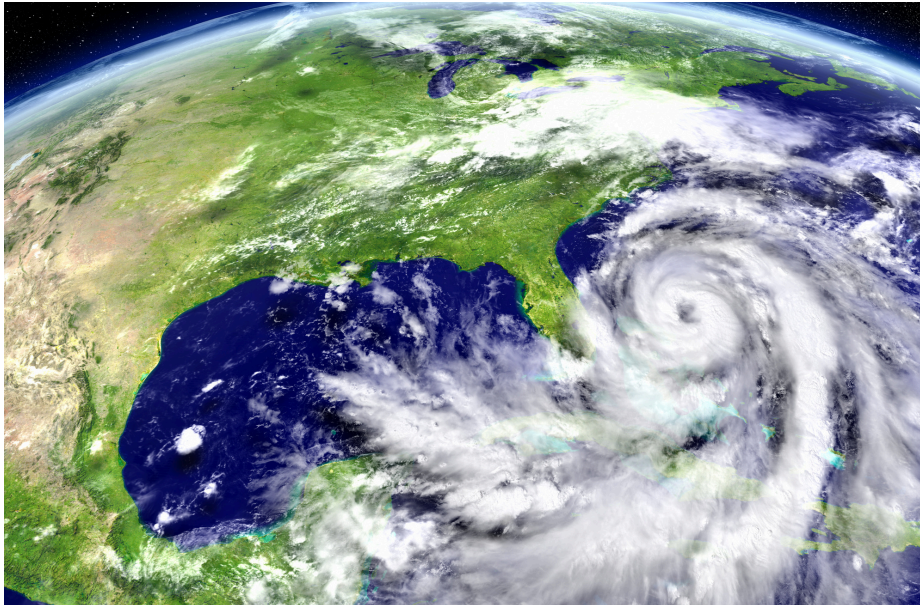


# Emergency Preparedness:

Are You Ready?



## PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

*Jackie Silveri*

As the beautiful summer days stretch through August and September, it is crucial for households to prioritize emergency preparedness for their family. On average, there are six major hurricanes each year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These powerful storms can bring devastating winds, heavy rainfall, and significant flooding, making it imperative for families to have a well-thought-out plan in place.

Are You Ready?

Emergency Preparedness is a very important process that everyone should be doing to insure they have fully planned for a catastrophic disaster. While many disasters are due to Mother Nature such as hurricanes, floods, or tornadoes – other disasters are of the manmade kind and include shootings or other catastrophic events.

**Jackie Silveri is Director of Marketing for Eastern Diversified Services, Inc. – Property Restoration. Her professional marketing background includes 20 years in AEC, with over 10 years specific to restoration. In addition to her marketing accreditations, she holds multiple certifications from OSHA and FEMA.**

## STATISTICS:

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Strongest hurricane in the Atlantic was Wilma in 2005
- Largest hurricane by diameter in recorded history was Sandy in 2012
- Deadliest hurricane in US history was Galveston in 1900 (8,000 people died)
- Longest hurricane was John in 1994 (lasted 31 days)
- Most costly hurricane season was 2017 with almost 300 billion dollars in damages
- Lightening is very rare in hurricanes
- Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends around November 30
- The word Hurricane comes from the Taino word hurican, who was the Carib Indian god of evil
- 40% of hurricanes in America hit Florida

### States With Most Hurricanes:

1. Florida
2. Texas
3. Louisiana
4. North Carolina
5. South Carolina
6. Alabama
7. Georgia
8. New York
9. Mississippi
10. Virginia

With hurricane season well underway, it is imperative for families to have some plans in place before a storm arrives. With that said, planning for the potential of losing power for extended periods of time, or even having to immediately evacuate your home makes planning crucial.

FEMA urges everyone to learn more about hurricanes and other weather hazards and prepare ahead of time, so that if state and local authorities announce evacuations, you and your family will have a plan of where you will go and will have the supplies you need.

What can you do? Be Aware and Prepare. There are dozens of emergency supply checklists you can view with a simple google search. Choose one that works best for you and your living situation.

Coordinate all of your supplies in one location – in a central part of your home that you can easily access if you needed to leave in a hurry. Some people choose a foyer closet or even collecting everything into a few plastic totes that would fit in your car if you were evacuated.



Food and water will not stay fresh forever so plan to roll over the supplies from your emergency kit on a regular basis. Example – Plan to rotate the canned food and water supplies every 6 months so your emergency kits don't end up with a bunch of expired goods. This holds true for batteries as well. Be mindful of the shelf life of the items you are storing. Put a reminder note in your calendar to check expiration dates and change out the supplies.

Communication with your family members is crucial! Often times, following a major storm, cell phone towers may be down or it may be very difficult to reach loved ones by phone. Within your home, everyone should know where the emergency supplies are located and how quickly you can transport your supplies to a vehicle or even to higher ground in the case of severe flooding.





One other important item to consider is the people you live with – do you have a baby that may have special feeding needs such as formula? What about an older adult or a disabled individual? Do you have medication needs to consider? These are all questions to ask and contemplate what options will work best for you and your family during an emergency situation.

A friend of mine was recently in the path of a hurricane. She said that prior to the hurricane, she felt she had prepared well; having purchased canned goods and water, and had some money ready for emergency cash. She said she felt prepared; but when the storm hit .... She realized she was not. In the end, all was fine but her lessons learned included that she should have had more cash on hand, and she did not collect all of her important documents – such as birth certificates, car titles, etc.

The best time to plan for an emergency is long before it actually happens! Have your supplies ready, listen closely to weather updates. Those cell phone warnings we all get ..... Take them seriously!

Whether you live in an area known for extreme storms or not, being prepared for any emergency situation that could affect your home or your family is crucial. Be ready so you will not be scrambling to secure food, water, and other necessary supplies at the last minute.

By understanding the risks and taking proactive steps, such as securing homes, assembling emergency kits, and developing clear communication strategies, we can protect our loved ones and minimize the impact of these natural disasters.

Are You Ready?



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**800-295-3636**