



## TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### Hurricane Awareness Week: Evacuating Is the Smartest Move

AUSTIN – When a hurricane threatens your area, evacuating is the smartest move. These storms are highly unpredictable and can strengthen rapidly in a matter of hours. Prepare and make your evacuation plans well in advance. Review this checklist before you leave.

- To protect your home, whether you are staying or going, put up shutters or plywood on all windows and openings. Winds are stronger at higher elevations, and high-rise apartments or condos.
- Move patio furniture, hanging plants and gas grills inside. If your home is vulnerable to rising water, move valuables and furniture to a higher level.
- Notify relatives and friends about evacuation plans and confirm reservations if planning to stay at a hotel.
- Be familiar with other places to stay between your home and destination should roads become clogged. Do not ride out a hurricane in a car. Know where emergency shelters are along the route.
- Turn off electricity at the main circuit breaker or fuse box to protect appliances from power surges and reduce the risk of live dangling wires after the storm.
- Make a final walk-through inspection of the home before closing the door.
- Your emergency preparedness kit should include radio and flashlight with extra batteries, extra eye glasses, medications and special products for babies and elderly family members, bottled water, non-perishable food, dry clothes, bedding and important documents in waterproof containers.
- Do not try to tow a trailer or boat in high winds. It is too hazardous.

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For more information, contact TDEM Public Information at 512.424.2138 or visit TDEM's Web site: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).