

IMPORTANT TIPS

- Use your phone to take pictures and a video of the exterior and interior of your home. Don't forget to include your attic, shed, garage, backyard, front lawn, and fencing. Take pictures of valuables and important documents (e.g., kesuba, birth certificates, marriage certificate). Store them on the cloud and send them securely to an out-of-state friend or family member
- Top off your vehicles and generator with gas
- Make sure all loose outdoor items and furniture are properly stored
- Clean and clear debris from gutters and awnings
- Secure and turn off the propane tank
- Turn off the circuit breaker for your pools' electrical system. Keep your pool mostly full of water
- Keep your generator outside at least 20 feet away from windows and doors and protected from moisture
- Review generator instructions and test the generator
- Close all interior doors in your home to maintain your roof's structural integrity by compartmentalizing the hurricane's pressure on your home
- Board up and secure windows, doors and shutters
- Move as much furniture and items off the first floor as possible. Store them on a second floor or attic
- Store valuable items in a waterproof container in your dishwasher, washer, dryer, or oven. Make sure the circuit breaker is turned off to the appliance you choose to store your items in and post a reminder sign.

PURCHASE

- Adequate food, water, and supplies for one week for your family and pets
- Flashlights and batteries
- A First Aid kit. (If unavailable, create one from first aid items already in your home)
- A phone that does not require electricity
- Large quantities of disposable paper goods
- Books, games, and toys for children

COMMUNICATE

- Clearly explain the hurricane and its' impact to your children to reduce anxiety and fear
- Speak with your rabbi to discuss potential Shabbos related issues (e.g., leaving a radio or device on for emergency notifications, appropriate circumstances to break Shabbos)
- Get contact information of your nearest neighbors and store it in your cell phone
- Check on elderly, ill, and disabled neighbors
- If you stored your car, speak with neighbors. Find out if they have a car available. This will enable you to react immediately if emergency driving is required
- Listen for emergency evacuation broadcasts on NOAA radio or online
- Download hurricane, shelter finder, and First Aid apps. Enroll in Facebook's Safety Check

DO'S

- Print this checklist!**
- Create a family emergency plan that consists of
 - the most practical protected shelter area in your home
 - primary and secondary emergency escape routes
 - how to respond if family members become separated (e.g., a reunification point, and a designated family member to contact, outside of the hurricane area)
 - closest emergency shelter addresses and contact information
 - thoroughly review the family emergency plan with all family members
- Prepare an emergency kit that includes
 - adequate food and water supply for a week for people and pets
 - cash in small bills
 - originals and copies of important documents including your kesuba, driver's license, social security card, health insurance card, credit cards, prescription medications list with dosage amounts
 - protective rain gear and shoes
 - prescription medicines
 - a First Aid kit
 - a whistle
 - maps
 - a multipurpose tool with pliers and screwdrivers
 - tissues/paper towels

- a notepad and pen
- a tire repair kit
- an extra set of home, car, and office keys
- a tallis, tefillin, and a siddur
- Ensure you have a minimum of a one-week supply of all prescription medications needed
- Charge your phone. If you have old ones that still function charge them to use as backups
- If you have a 2-way radio, charge it/replace batteries and arrange to leave one with your nearest neighbor
- Set the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest possible settings
- Fill plastic bottles, containers and bathtubs with water
- Store household chemicals on high shelves far from potential flooding
- Unplug small appliances
- Use low voltage lamps
- Prepare a fire extinguisher and review instructions on how to use it
- Store emergency rope ladders in upstairs bedrooms
- Store an ax or similar tool in your attic
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities
- Only go outside once authorities have notified everyone that it is safe to do so

DON'TS

- Use lights unless needed
- Use candles as light sources. For Shabbos candle lighting, consider using tea lights only
- Stand in front of windows
- Plug a generator into a wall outlet
- Assume that the hurricane has ended if there is lull in the storm

IF YOU LOSE POWER

- Turn off all major appliances and some lights
- Check to see if your home or cell phone has service
- Use your cell phone to report your power outage to your local power company
- Notify your family and friends

IF YOU MUST GO OUTDOORS

- Remember that six inches of fast-flowing water can knock you over and two feet will float a car
- Watch for fallen limbs, debris, and downed power lines
- If possible, limit contact with floodwater since it may contain electricity from live wires, sewage contamination, animals, or insects
- If you are caught on a flooded road with rapidly rising waters, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground

Please note this checklist is not a complete guide on all preventative safety tips to use before and during a hurricane. Most important, during an emergency, try to stay calm and trust your instincts.

Frank Storch is available to assist you with the below circumstances. Contact him at 410-340-1000, if necessary.

If you are unable to fill your prescriptions and do not have enough of a supply. (Baltimore Hatzalah members are scheduled to leave Baltimore on Motzei Shabbos and can attempt to bring filled prescriptions down with them).

If you are experiencing a true life or death emergency on Shabbos or during the hurricane and you can't reach anyone by dialing 911

If phone lines are busy and you are having difficulty making important phone calls (out-of-state calls are may not be affected and assistance can be provided to contact the person you are trying to reach).

Please share this checklist with anyone staying in homes in areas affected by Hurricane Irma!