

STORM PREP GEAR

If a storm is heading your way, it is important to know how to use emergency gear, such as a chain saw and generator.

CHAIN SAW

Before operating a chain saw, read the owner's manual to understand the controls and safety features. If you do not know how or are unsure of how to operate a chain saw, have someone that knows how to use one operate it.

- 1 Place the chain saw on the ground and push the chain brake forward until it engages
- 2 Pull the start/choke control to the ON position to adjust the choke
- 3 Pull the starting handle until the saw fires
- 4 Push the choke and pull again to activate the throttle
- 5 Squeeze the throttle to make your cut, cutting away from the bar tip
- 6 Turn off the ignition switch to stop the chain saw

GENERATOR

Make sure you know your generator's wattage capacity and the wattage of the appliances you want to provide power. Place the generator in a vented secure area away from windows and doors.

- 1 Read detailed instructions on using your transfer switch properly
- 2 Connect the generator cord to the transfer switch or inlet box
- 3 Turn all circuit breakers in the transfer switch to the off position
- 4 Start the generator to let it warm up and flip the main breakers in the transfer switch to the Generator position
- 5 Turn on the circuits you wish to power, one at a time
- 6 When your power is restored, turn the main breakers in the transfer switch back to Utility Power, turn on any circuits that were turned off, and turn off the generator



WEATHERING THE STORM

WHAT TO DO BEFORE,
DURING, AND AFTER A STORM

Provided as a Community Service By

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BEFORE A STORM



A storm can wreck havoc on your life in an instant, potentially leaving you with unforeseen damage and unanticipated repair costs.

Maintaining a storm preparedness kit can help you plan for the unexpected. Use this checklist to create a weather-ready kit in the event of a storm or other disaster.

WEATHER-READY CHECKLIST

- Establish a communication plan. During a storm your phone may not work to notify family members. Establish a meeting place and a plan for how you will communicate.
- Make advance plans for pets. Not all public shelters or hotels allow animals.
- Create a Storm Survival Kit with basic necessities that you can tailor to your family's specific needs, including:
 - ➔ One gallon of water per person, per day
 - ➔ Ready-to-eat, non perishable foods
 - ➔ Manual can opener
 - ➔ Battery powered or hand crank weather radio with extra batteries
 - ➔ Flashlight and whistle
 - ➔ First aid kit
 - ➔ Filter mask or extra cotton shirt to filter air
 - ➔ Wipes and garbage bags
 - ➔ Wrench or pliers
 - ➔ Plastic sheeting and duct tape
 - ➔ Prescription medications
 - ➔ Infant formula and diapers
 - ➔ Extra pet food
 - ➔ Extra keys to home, safety deposit box, and car
- Make copies of important family documents and paperwork and store in a portable, waterproof bag or container. Documents should include:
 - ➔ Photocopies of driver's license or photo ID
 - ➔ Emergency contact list
 - ➔ Health, home, and auto insurance policies
 - ➔ Bank account information with account numbers and passwords
 - ➔ Photocopies of birth certificates, passports, wills
- If you know a storm is headed your way, fill up your gas tank in case you must evacuate
- Move any outside furniture indoors and pick up any loose items in the yard
- Keep cash on hand in case the power is out and ATMs are not working



DURING A STORM

Howling winds, tornado warnings, and hailing or incessant rain can cause panic. These home safety tips can help ease your mind when riding out a storm in your house.

- ⚡ Stay indoors and away from windows, skylights, and glass doors
- ⚡ Find an interior room, such as a closet, or bathroom in case of a tornado
- ⚡ If your house begins to flood, turn off the electricity at the main breaker
- ⚡ If you lose power, turn off major appliances such as the air conditioner and water heater to help reduce damage
- ⚡ Beware of lightning, stay away from electrical equipment
- ⚡ Do not go outside, during the eye of a hurricane there is a short period of calm, but when the other side of the eye passes over wind speeds rapidly return to hurricane force levels

AFTER A STORM

After a storm has passed, many homeowners are eager to go outside to assess the extent of damages to their homes. However, it is dangerous to go outside immediately after a storm to survey damages due to the likelihood of downed power lines or unstable trees.

Keep these suggestions in mind for helping you and your loved ones stay safe after a storm.

- Call 911 only for life-threatening situations
- Call utility companies immediately to report hazards, such as broken gas or water mains, downed power lines, or overturned gas tanks
- Keep watch for weakened roads, bridges, or tree limbs that could collapse unexpectedly
- Check your refrigerator and trash spoiled food
- Get a claim started as soon as possible with your insurance company
- Photograph and take notes of all damages and make any necessary temporary repairs
- If you have any questions about an insurance claim, call Burnett, P.A.'s Florida storm lawyers

