

HURRICANE CHECKLIST

2026 / Escambia County & Santa Rosa County

Prepare before a storm threatens. Keep this checklist with your emergency kit. Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1 through November 30.

BUILD A 7-DAY SUPPLY KIT

- ☐ **Water:** Store 1 gallon per person per day. For 7 days, plan on 7 gallons per person, plus water for pets and extra needs.
- ☐ **Food:** Pack at least 7 days of shelf-stable food, a manual can opener and special dietary supplies.
- ☐ **Health:** Prepare prescription medicines, essential medical supplies and a first-aid kit. Plan ahead for powered medical equipment.
- ☐ **Light & information:** Flashlights, spare batteries and a battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA Weather Radio.
- ☐ **Power:** Phone chargers and charged portable battery packs.
- ☐ **Documents & money:** Cash, identification, insurance information and important records in a waterproof container.
- ☐ **Daily needs:** Hygiene items, trash bags, infant supplies and items for household accessibility needs.

INCLUDE YOUR PETS

- ☐ Pack food, water, medications, carriers, leashes and veterinary records.
- ☐ Choose a destination that accepts your animals. Check county shelter requirements before leaving.
- ☐ Listener tip: refresh the litter box before a possible outage.

MAKE AN EVACUATION PLAN

- ☐ Look up your evacuation zone by address. Choose a safe destination and a backup.
- ☐ Arrange transportation and help for anyone who needs extra assistance.
- ☐ Consider your home's safety. Mobile homes, unsafe structures and flood-prone locations may require evacuation.
- ☐ Pack a go-bag: medicines, identification, essential documents, chargers and clothing.
- ☐ Share your plan with an out-of-town contact.
- ☐ **Follow official evacuation orders.** Leave as directed before hazardous weather makes travel unsafe.

PREPARE HOME & VEHICLE

- ☐ Bring in or secure patio furniture, grills, decorations and trash cans.
- ☐ Clear gutters and drains. Address dangerous tree limbs before the storm.
- ☐ Keep your vehicle fueled. Charge phones, lights and battery packs.
- ☐ Finish laundry and dishes. Save contacts and emergency information for offline use.
- ☐ Sign up for Alert Escambia or AlertSantaRosa. Confirm shelter openings with your county.

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During and after the storm: follow county instructions, monitor official forecasts and use backup power safely. For a life-threatening emergency, call 911.

GENERATOR SAFETY

- ☐ **Outside only:** More than 20 feet from doors, windows and vents. Direct exhaust away from your home and nearby buildings.
- ☐ Never operate in a home, garage, shed or enclosed space, even with doors open.
- ☐ Use battery-powered or battery-backup carbon monoxide alarms.
- ☐ Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling.
- ☐ Never plug a generator into a household wall outlet. Follow manufacturer instructions.

FOOD SAFETY IN AN OUTAGE

- ☐ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- ☐ **Refrigerator:** Food generally stays safe up to 4 hours without power. Discard refrigerated perishables after 4 hours.
- ☐ **Freezer:** About 48 hours if full, or 24 hours if half full, with the door closed.
- ☐ Never taste food to decide if it is safe. Use the FoodSafety.gov outage chart for individual items.

TRAVEL & RECOVERY

- ☐ Never drive through flooded roads or around barricades. Stay out of floodwater.
- ☐ Return home only as local officials direct. Continue checking alerts and road closures.
- ☐ Assess cleanup hazards before starting. Document damage when safe and contact your insurer for claim instructions.
- ☐ Check on neighbors when conditions allow.

OUR HOUSEHOLD PLAN

Evacuation zone: _____

Destination: _____

Backup destination: _____

Out-of-town contact: _____

Contact phone: _____

Pet destination: _____

Help / transport contact: _____

Household size: _____ x 7 gallons

Water goal: _____ gallons + pets / extra needs

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - SAVE THESE BEFORE A STORM

Escambia emergency information & alerts: myescambia.com/our-services/public-safety/beready

Santa Rosa emergency information & alerts: santarosa.fl.gov/974/Emergency-Management

Local forecasts: NWS Mobile/Pensacola: weather.gov/mob

Florida supply checklist & planning: floridadisaster.org/planprepare

Power outage food safety chart: foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts/food-safety-during-power-outage

Full guide: catcountry987.com/featured-events/hurricane-tips-2026/

Safety sources: Florida Division of Emergency Management; National Weather Service; CDC carbon monoxide guidance; CPSC generator safety; FoodSafety.gov. Shelter availability and evacuation instructions change with each emergency.