

# GENERAL POST-STORM SAFETY

- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio and TV stations for instructions.
- If you evacuate, return home only when local officials tell you it is safe to do so and be sure to have identification.
- Use flashlights in the dark; do not use candles.
- Roads may be closed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, turn around and go another way!
- Avoid weakened bridges and washed out roads. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- Stay away from flood waters and stay on firm ground. Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Check gas, water and electrical appliances for damage.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- Be especially cautious if using a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them to the power company, police or fire department.
- Enter your home or any building with caution.
- Wear sturdy shoes and do not enter if there is water around the building.
- If you feel a building is not safe, do not enter and call your contractor or engineer.
- Look for fire hazards such as flooded electrical circuits or submerged furnaces and appliances.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a hissing noise, open a window and leave quickly. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.
- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or frayed wires, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
- Check for sewage and water line damage. If you think sewage lines are damaged, don't use toilets, and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, don't use tap water, and call the water company.
- Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes that may have entered the building with flood waters.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.

## Hurricane Tips

Get a French press coffee maker. It doesn't need electricity so if you've got a gas stove (or gas grill), you can boil water and you've got coffee.

Always buy a gas grill with a side burner. It proves invaluable for heating water for coffee, soups and warming baby bottles. One note of caution: Use only in a well-ventilated area outdoors.

Use your dishwasher to store important papers. Dishwashers have a watertight seal, so if there's water damage to your house your documents will stay dry. Make sure to remove your documents before using the dishwasher.

# SECURE YOUR HOME

## BLUE ROOF PROGRAM

The Army Corps of Engineers implements the blue roof program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Operation Blue Roof provides homeowners with free temporary blue plastic roof coverings for eligible homes damaged by a hurricane. This program allows victims back into their homes so that they can return to their routines as quickly as possible. It also greatly reduces the need for more expensive temporary housing. After a hurricane, registration sites will be established in the county. Registrants must fill out an application and sign a right-of-entry form. The Corps will employ contractors to install plastic sheeting on homes of pre-qualified applicants. The sheeting is for free-standing homes, not apartments or commercial establishments. The sheeting cannot be installed on tile or flat roofs. No individual tarps will be available for distribution at the registration sites.



### TOLL FREE NUMBER

**1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258)**

## SECURE EXPOSED POOLS

### (CODE MAY VARY IN YOUR MUNICIPALITY)

The Palm Beach County Code Enforcement Division will issue a fine if a swimming pool is not secure or if a fence or screen enclosure around the pool was knocked down by a hurricane. To temporarily cordon off the pool area, property owners can use orange plastic construction fencing supported by stakes or steel rods (rebar) driven into the ground. Rope or plastic tape is not adequate. Temporary barriers must be at least four feet high with no holes or gaps wider than four inches. County code requires barriers around all swimming pools; failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per day. For more information, contact Code Enforcement at 561-233-5500.

## REPAIR WINDOWS

### (CODE MAY VARY IN YOUR MUNICIPALITY)

Repair broken windows as soon as possible after a hurricane. According to County code, glass is required in all windows. Immediately after a hurricane, Code Enforcement will allow ample time for residents to repair broken windows.



## GENERAL PURPOSE TARPS

Heavy gauge and extra-heavy gauge polyethylene waterproof tarps are available from hardware stores. They have sewn-in edges for extra strength and rust-proof aluminum grommets. These blue tarps can be used temporarily on a damaged roof but cannot be relied upon to provide protection during a hurricane.