

STORM RESPONSE TIPS

Once hurricane watch is issued

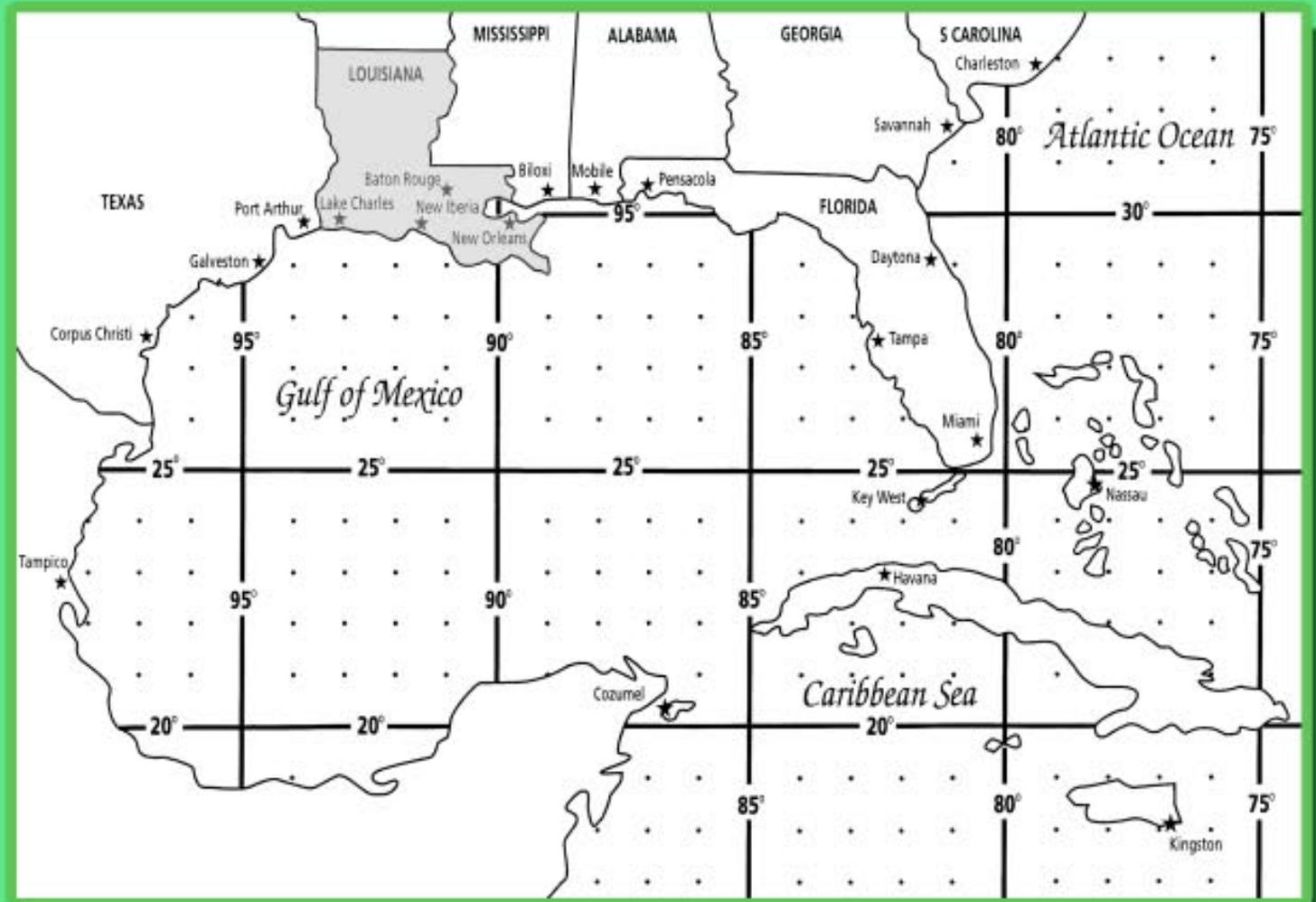
- Listen for news updates on TV or radio.
- Plot hurricane path on the map provided.
- Plan proposed evacuation route.
- Fuel your vehicle, get extra cash.
- Take inventory of food, batteries, flashlights, radios.
- Freeze water in plastic jugs and fill containers.
- Secure any outside equipment.
- Contact family members.

In an evacuation order

- Determine if the order applies to your area.
- Plan to leave early.
- Protect any valuable electrical equipment by using plastic bags and placing items in closets or cabinets.
- Secure windows and doors.
- Turn off water and gas services at meter and electricity at breaker box.

Following a storm

- If you have evacuated, re-enter your home with caution.
- Assume all power lines are hot. Notify BECi immediately if you spot downed lines.
- If your home has been flooded, do not turn on lights or appliances. Turn your main breaker off and contact BECi.
- If your power is off, contact your neighbor to determine if the outage has been reported. If not, notify BECi.
- Be prepared for delays when contacting BECi or other emergency response officials following a major storm.
- Preserve your food items with dry ice and blankets for insulation around your freezer. Do not open your freezer, if possible.



A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 miles an hour and dangerously high tides and waves. Actions for protection of life and property should begin immediately when the warning is issued.

How to check your food

Here are some tips on how to manage your food and provisions should you lose power:

- Open your freezer as little as possible. A full freezer can keep food frozen up to 72 hours. A half-full freezer can keep food frozen up to 24 hours after the power goes out.
- Keep your freezer full by using empty milk cartons filled with water to create more ice.
- Should the power stay off for several days, dry ice can preserve the food in your freezer.
- Check your food immediately after losing power. Remember that the quality of your food could be affected.
- If food is still firm in the center and has ice crystals on it, it can be safely re-frozen.
- If the food has thawed, but is still cold to the touch, you should cook the food before re-freezing it.
- Any foods that have reached room temperature for more than two hours should be thrown out.

Hurricane Categories

- Category 1..... Winds 74-95 mph
- Category 2..... Winds 96-110 mph
- Category 3..... Winds 111-130 mph
- Category 4..... Winds 131-155 mph
- Category 5..... Winds 156 mph or more

Hurricane season is here... Are you ready?

Hurricane season begins June 1 and continues through Nov. 30. Many of us don't start preparing for a hurricane until we know a storm is in the Gulf, but now is the time to make preparations for you and your family.

The following checklist can help you get ready for the storm:

- Do you have a plan in place to survive a hurricane?
- Do you have an emergency supply kit for your home and car?
- Are your homeowner's and flood insurance policies in order?
- Have you planned your evacuation?
- Do you have a plan for turning off your utilities?
- Do you have a plan to secure the house, outdoor items and boat?
- Do you have copies of your insurance policies, important documents and other valuables in a safe place?
- Do you have an inventory and detailed description of your property?
- Has your roof been inspected within the last 6 months?
- Have you had routine maintenance on your trees and shrubs around the house?
- Have you had routine maintenance on your car and are the tires, including the spare, in good condition?
- Do you have a plan to address the "special needs" of family members?
- Have you decided what you will do with your pets?
- Have you budgeted for the additional expenses to prepare your home, buy supplies and evacuate?

Hurricane Tracking Chart



**Large Enough to Serve,
Small Enough to Care**