

Getting Ready for this Summer's

TROPICAL STORM SEASON

Blueline





TROPICAL STORM SEASON:

June 1st — November 30th



Tropical storm season is upon us, but it's not too late to get prepared.

Have a Family Plan

Early planning is essential to protecting your family, business, and property. Be sure to discuss evacuation plans with your family, friends, and neighbors. Review your plans from time to time. Below are some recommended steps to take while preparing for tropical storm season.

- Start by putting together an Emergency Supply Kit (see page 3.)
- If you choose to evacuate make a to-do list and review it before you leave.

Note: Kingsbridge area is 100 feet above sea level and 50 miles from the coast bringing it outside storm surge risk. It is possibly safer for you to stay in your home in the event of a tropical storm than to evacuate.

- Ensure that you and your family members have backup methods for getting in contact

with one another. Remember that phone service may be disrupted. Have a backup plan such as an assigned meeting place, using pagers, e-mail, or any other technology that does not depend on phone service. Be sure to write down any contact information that is typically stored on electronic devices.

- If you plan to stay in a hotel or motel, be sure to make early reservations 2 weeks in advance and confirm them before you leave.
- Learn the evacuation routes from your area. Plan for delays and traffic.
- Call 2-1-1 to find out if you reside in an evacuation area or if you need transportation.
- Have a plan for your pets and/or livestock.
- Be sure to check all your options. It may be the safest and most comfortable option to just stay home and wait out the storm.
- You might want to consider getting a generator for your refrigerator, small fan, or



Storm Tip: Be sure to keep your home stocked with non-perishable food items. When dangerous storms approach food supplies will be limited.

light. Generators can cost at this time around \$500 - \$700 and can even double or triple after a major tropical storm.

Have an Emergency Kit Ready

Keeping emergency supplies on hand will save trouble in any hazard or emergency. Your emergency supply kit should include:

- Non-perishable foods
- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Cash (ATMs may be unavailable due to power outage or excessive storm damage).
- First-aid kit
- Prescription medication and copies of important prescription documents.
- Special medical items such as eyeglasses and assisted hearing devices.
- Personal hygiene products such as toilet paper, soap, and toothpaste.
- Photo ID or driver's license
- Copies of important documents, records, and information used to file insurance claims should be stored in waterproof containers.
- Battery-operated radio, flashlight, batteries, NOAA weather radio.
- Road maps
- List of phone numbers for family and friends
- Blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags.
- Pet supplies
- If you have a baby be sure to include formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications, baby wipes, and diaper rash ointment.
- If you have accessibility, functional, or special health care needs you may require additional items than listed here.
- If you would like additional information on assembling your emergency kit please visit www.ready.gov/kit

Preparing your Home

Below are some steps you can take now to prepare your property before a storm:

- Find out the elevation of your property. You can view the floodplains map for your area here: www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/map-service-center
- Review your insurance coverage. Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover flood damages. Learn about the national flood insurance program by visiting: www.floodsmart.gov
- Find out if your home meets the current building code requirements for high winds. Structures that meet current provisions have a better chance surviving violent windstorms.
- Install commercial shutters or prepare 5/8 inch plywood panels to your windows.
- Garage doors are frequently the first feature in a home to fail. Reinforce garage doors so that they are able to withstand high winds.
- Unless you live inside an evacuation zone or in a mobile home, designate an interior room with no windows or an external property as the "safe room."
- Review your property to ensure that none of the trees and landscaping become a wind hazard. Be sure to trim all dead wood, and weak branches from all trees. Certain trees and bushes are vulnerable to high winds and any dead tree near a home is a hazard.

- Consider using landscaping materials other than gravel or rocks.

Evacuation Preparation

Below are some important steps to take should you choose to evacuate.

- Be sure to install shutters or plywood on windows and openings. Remember winds are stronger at higher elevations like high-rises.
- Move outside items such as patio furniture, plants, and grills to safety.
- If your home is in a floodplain, be sure to move all valuable items and furniture to a higher level for protection.
- Turn off electricity at the main circuit breaker or fuse box to protect appliances from power surges and reduce the risk from live dangling wires after a storm.
- If your house is supplied with propane or natural gas, turn it off at the meter or tank.
- Remove perishable items from your refrigerator and freezer if you evacuate.
- Make a final walk-through inspection before closing the door.

Preparing your Vehicle

Below is a listing of things to know if you choose to evacuate.

- Fill up with fuel before you leave town. It's a good idea to keep your tank full during

tropical storm season. Failing to do so may leave you stranded.

- Check your vehicle's fluid levels and ensure there is adequate coolant in the radiator.
- Don't forget to check your tires. Check for appropriate pressure as hot road surface can be rough on tires. Verify that your spare tire has air and that you have the appropriate equipment to change your tire. Ensure that you have a jack and lug wrench that fits your vehicle and know where they are inside the vehicle. Your owner's manual should have instructions for changing tires and flats.
- Make sure you carry water and non-perishable food for you and your passengers in case you become stranded.
- If you are stranded do not leave, stay with the vehicle and use emergency flashers. Tie a white cloth on the antenna or door handle and raise the hood.
- Carry a cell phone. You may need assistance. The department of public safety help line is 1-800-525-555 or *DPS (if supported by your wireless carrier).
- Invest in a Ham (Amateur) Radio or short-wave receiver. during emergency conditions cellphone signal maybe congested. For a list of local emergency stations visit:
<http://goo.gl/NxObiP>
- Have a working flashlight and extra batteries in your vehicle.

Source as of 7/28/14: <http://goo.gl/a74mcg>

Residential Notification System

Your District has implemented an instant alert system to notify you quickly during atypical water-supply conditions as well as District works and events. Should you choose to opt-in to this free service the system will send you an email and/or text message notice(s).

What does this mean? In the event of an atypical situation, you will receive a text and/or email specifically explaining the issue. In some cases, you may be advised to minimize the use of water or the sewer system. The District, however, cannot guarantee that it will be able to provide these notices in every instance. The District will also utilize this system to provide notices of important events and construction projects.

What kind of emergencies can occur? While the District does its utmost to maintain the superior integrity of our water supply infrastructure, some inevitable circumstances may arise, such as hurricanes, flooding, power failures, etc...

Should I be alarmed? No. This free notification system simply means the District wants to keep you advised as quickly as possible of any situation or problem.

How can I receive these alerts? You can signup for email and/or text-messages by registering on our online alerts form below:
www.kingsbridgemud.com/residential/alerts

You can also signup for text-message only alerts by texting the word "yes" to [281.769.3226](tel:281.769.3226).

THE FACTS ON LIGHTNING

Myth:

Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact:

Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building alone is hit as often as 100 times every year.

Myth:

If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact:

Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm clouds in the area. "Bolts from the blue" can strike between 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth:

Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact:

Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you,

not the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles, and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

Myth:

A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact:

The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

Myth:

If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact:

Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than electrocuted!



Myth:

As long as you are inside a house, you are 100% safe from lightning.

Fact:

A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come through cracks in the sides of windows.

Myth:

If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

Fact:

Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or life-long injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

Myth:

Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, mp3 players, watches, etc), attract lightning and should be removed.

Fact:

Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Mountains are made of stone but get struck by lightning many times a year. When lightning threatens, take proper protective action immediately by seeking a safe shelter. Don't waste time removing metal. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay away from metal fences, railing, bleachers, etc.

Myth:

If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

Fact:

Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, keep moving toward a safe shelter.

Source as of 7/28/14: <http://goo.gl/fj6LAL>



Board of Directors:

President

Robert Shindler

Vice President

John Buhner

Secretary

Bob Tomlinson

Treasurer/Investment Officer

Carl Peters

Assistant Secretary

Juanita Yarneau

Consultants:

Attorney

Johnson Petrov LLP
johnsonpetrov.com

713-489-8977

Operator

Si Environmental
sienv.com

832-490-1600

Engineer

Miller & Associates

713-977-4700

Bookkeeper

Mclennan & Assoc.

281-920-4000

Tax Assessor

Bob Leared Interests
bli-tax.com

713-932-9011

Communications

Blue Umbrella
blueumbrellaco.com

281-766-4276

Other Contacts:

Trash Pickup

Best Trash

281-313-2378

Gas Leaks

Centerpoint Energy

800-752-8036

Water Leaks

Si Environmental

832-490-1500

Sheriff's Office

Fort Bend

281-342-6116