

Strays – Approaching storm checklist

You've been warned in advance of a major storm that's approaching your area. Chances are, your family and home will survive it without a problem. Still, you'd like to have a checklist of what you can prepare with the few hours you have. This one might help.

Kinds of "storms" to prepare for

- Weather (thunderstorm, heavy wind, severe cold / heat)
- Earthquake (tremors, aftershocks)
- Water (flooding, mud slide, dam break)
- Terrorist attack (foreign, local riot)
- Solar event (CME, EMP, other)

Plug in the battery chargers

- ___Phone
- ___Radios (ham, FRS, broadcast, etc.)
- ___Lights (headlamp, flashlight, work light)
- ___Computer (laptop, tablet)
- ___Power bank
- ___Tools (drill motor, GPS, etc.)
- ___Other (CPAP, toy, etc.)

Unplug unnecessary appliances

- ___Except as listed here
- ___The fridge is necessary, but the washer, the dryer, and the A/C are not
- ___Limit the amount of house-powered lights
- ___Ensure gas appliances are turned off

Test

- ___Your smoke and CO detectors
- ___Your radios (review frequencies*)
- ___Your generator (not in your garage)

Review locations

- ___Your first-aid supplies
- ___Your food and water supplies
- ___Your important documents and photos
- ___Your GPS coordinates
- ___Your pets

Fill your fuel tanks

- ___Vehicle fuel
- ___Portable propane tanks
- ___Generator fuel
- ___Other (cooking butane, heating kerosene)



Close your fireplace damper

- ___Keeps your home heat from escaping
- ___Ensure it's open if even the smallest ember is alive, however

Special window measures for a hurricane or tornado

- ___Screw sheets of plywood over your windows
- ___Stay away from all windows if possible

Other things to consider

- ___Replace your furnace filter
- ___Ensure all your windows are closed
- ___Pay attention to news (radio, TV, phone, internet) for storm developments
- ___Withdraw a couple hundred dollars of cash

Inform a relative or friend

- ___Email or text a couple of friends or relatives outside your trouble area
- Tell why you believe trouble is on the way
- Give them your location (GPS too)
- Let them know who's with you

Be prepared to evacuate if needed

- ___Know at least two evacuations routes
- ___Review what you'll take with you

Avoid water sources (shower, tub, sink, drains) as much as possible

- They can become an electric shock hazard
- They can become contaminated, depending on the event

* Your frequencies should include your 1) **area** (stake), 2) **city**, 3) **ARES**, 4) **National Simplex**, and 5) popular **repeaters**