

PRE-HURRICANE CHECKLIST

Use this checklist **2–4 weeks before hurricane season** (June 1) and again when a storm is forecasted.

1. Home & Property Protection

- Install or prepare storm shutters / plywood on all windows and doors (test run)
- Clear gutters and downspouts
- Trim dead tree branches near house
- Secure or bring inside all outdoor furniture, grills, trash cans, potted plants
- Check roof, windows, and garage door for weaknesses
- Elevate critical items off the floor (electronics, important documents, furniture)
- Know your flood zone and evacuation zone (check Hillsborough County site)

2. Supplies & Resources (2–4 Week Stockpile)

- Water: 1 gallon per person per day (minimum 7 days)
- Non-perishable food (canned goods, rice, peanut butter, freeze-dried meals)
- Manual can opener, camp stove + fuel, paper plates/utensils
- First aid kit + 30–90 day prescription medications
- Flashlights, headlamps, batteries, solar lanterns
- Portable generator + fuel (stabilized) or large solar + battery system
- Cash in small bills (\$500–\$1,000+)
- Pet supplies, baby supplies, feminine hygiene, toilet paper

3. Communications & Power (PACE Plan)

- Update and test your **PACE Communications Plan** (phones, Starlink, GMRS radios, ham radio, Garmin inReach)
- Charge all power banks and devices
- Download offline maps (Google Maps + QGIS printouts)
- Test NOAA weather radio and backup batteries
- Set up Meshtastic nodes if using
- Create laminated family contact list with codes

4. Documents & Financial

- Waterproof bag with:
 - Passports, IDs, insurance policies, deeds, medical records
 - Bank account info, credit cards, cash
 - Digital copies on USB + cloud backup
- Take photos of all rooms and valuables for insurance
- Confirm flood and wind insurance is active

5. Vehicle & Evacuation Prep

- Fill gas tanks (keep vehicles above ½ tank)
- Check tires, oil, spare tire, jumper cables
- Load Bug-Out Bags (72-hour minimum)
- Decide **Evacuation Triggers:**
 - Cat 3+ forecast → Prepare to drive to Gainesville / Ocala
 - Cat 4/5 direct hit → Consider flying to Atlanta or further
- Book hotel / family stay early if evacuating

6. Family & Health

- Discuss plan with all family members
- Identify safe room in house (interior, no windows)
- Special needs (elderly, medical devices, infants, pets)
- Charge medical equipment (CPAP, oxygen, etc.)
- Fill prescriptions

72–24 Hours Before Landfall (Final Actions)

- Fill bathtub and extra water containers
- Run final generator / solar test
- Move vehicles to highest ground or garage
- Unplug appliances, turn off propane
- Finalize evacuation decision (bug-in vs drive vs fly)
- Charge every device one last time
- Do a family drill (PACE comms check)