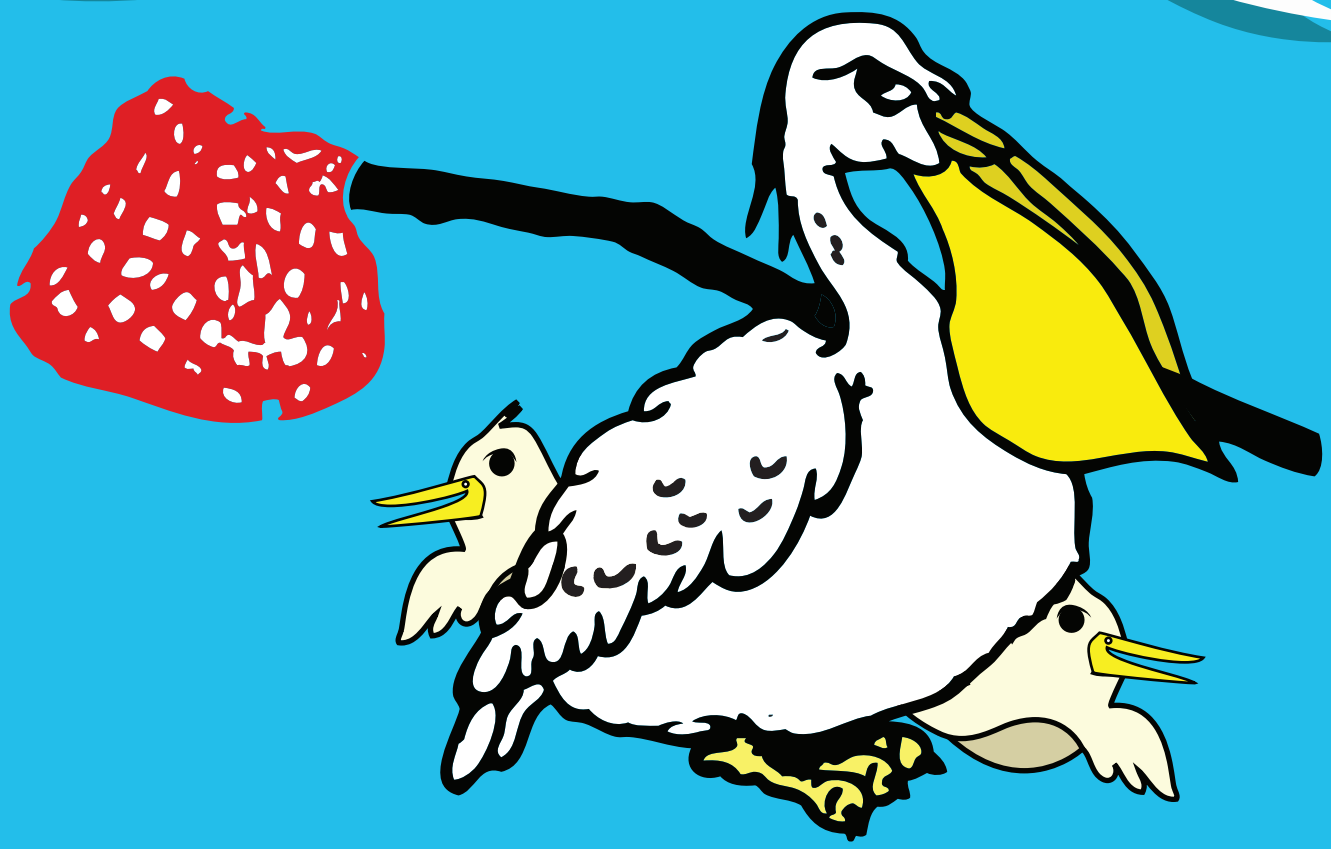
Preparing for Storms in Louisiana



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The University of New Orleans,
Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology
(UNO-CHART)
www.chart.uno.edu

Welcome!

UNO-CHART is a research center at the University of New Orleans. Our purpose is to help communities lower their risk to disasters, like hurricanes. We do this by teaching communities about their level of risk and how to protect themselves from disasters.

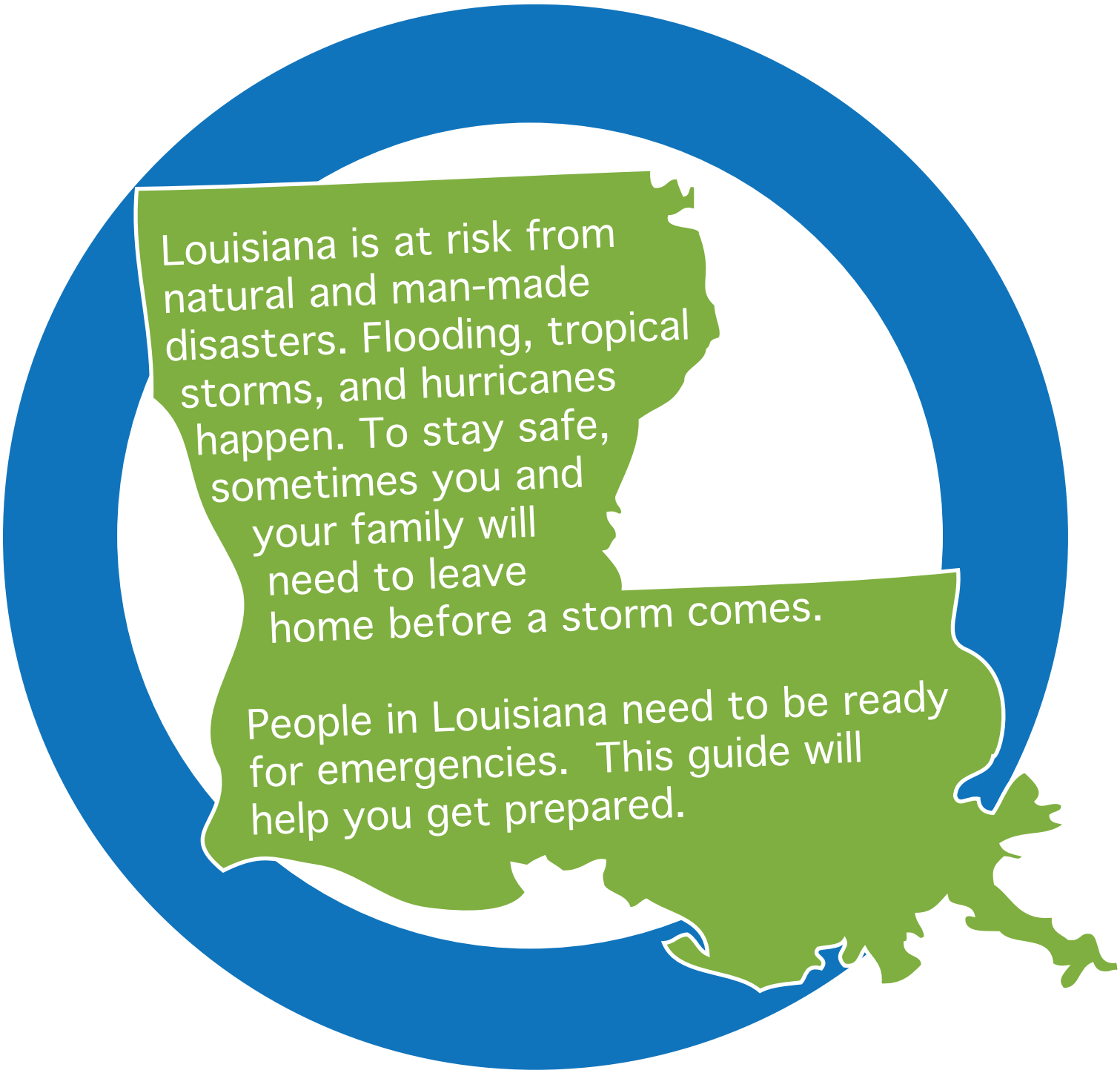
UNO-CHART was created in 2001. It is made up of professors, staff, and graduate research assistants in sociology, political science, public administration, planning, urban studies, engineering, and geography. To learn about our different projects, please see our website at www.chart.uno.edu.

This guide was created as a part of our risk literacy project. This project was designed to teach risk and reading skills together. It was funded as part of a community education and outreach grant from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). We would not have been able to create this manual without the partnership of the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans and the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy.

We hope this guide can help you get prepared!

Sincerely,

Monica Farris
Director
UNO-CHART



Preparing for Storms in Louisiana

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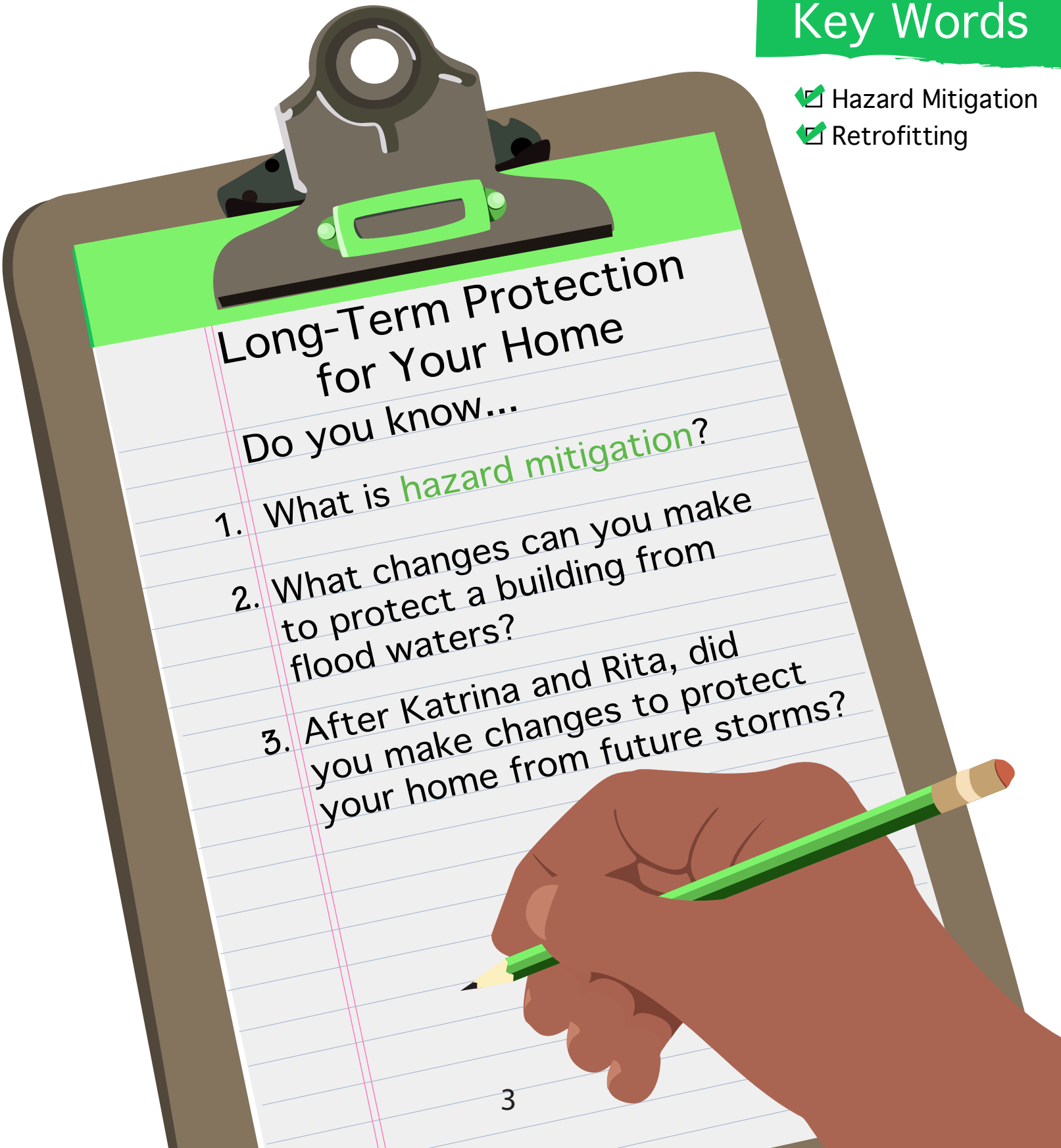
Long-Term Protection for Your Home

Key Words

- ☑ Hazard Mitigation
- ☑ Retrofitting



Things to Know...

Hazard Mitigation is taking steps to lower the long-term risk to people and property from floods, hurricanes, and other disasters.

Retrofitting is making changes to an existing building to make it safer and stronger. It can be done in many different ways.

Fast Fact:
Only flood insurance covers flood damage. Homeowners and renters can get flood insurance.

To find out more, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531.

Different Ways to Retrofit a Building

Type of Change	Description of Change
Dry Floodproofing	Sealing your building to keep flood water out.
Elevation	Raising the lowest floor of your building above the flood level.
Levees and Floodwalls	Building a levee or floodwall around your building to keep water away.
Relocation	Moving your building to a safer spot.
Wet Floodproofing	During a flood, water can enter below the raised living areas and not cause damage to the structure.

Fast Fact:

Elevating houses is a common way people retrofitted their houses after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Things to Remember...

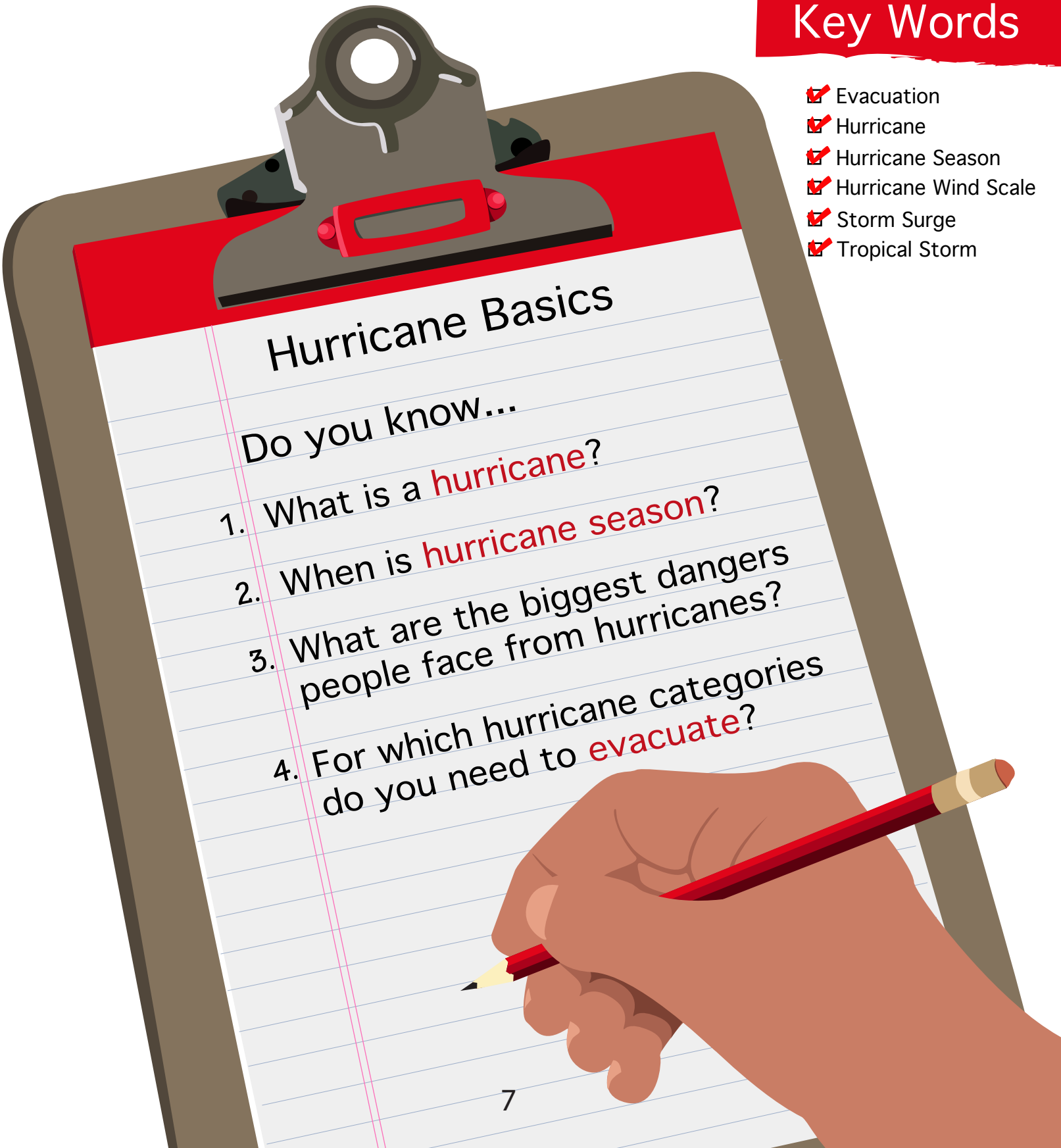
1. Hazard mitigation involves taking steps to reduce long-term risk to dangers caused by flooding, fires, and other disasters.

2. Retrofitting allows people to use new technology to add extra protection to their buildings and homes.

Hurricane Basics

Key Words

- ☑ Evacuation
- ☑ Hurricane
- ☑ Hurricane Season
- ☑ Hurricane Wind Scale
- ☑ Storm Surge
- ☑ Tropical Storm



Things to Know...

Tropical Storms:

- Have wind speeds of 30 to 73 miles per hour (mph).
- Have heavy rains that can cause flooding.
- Have high winds that can cause property damage.

Hurricanes:

- Are stronger than tropical storms.
- Have wind speeds over 74 mph.
- Have high winds that create damage and storm surges.
- Have heavy rains and storm surges that cause flooding.
- May weaken as they travel over land.
- Can change directions at the last minute.
- Can damage large areas.

Storm Surges:

- Are a large dome of water pushed on land by a hurricane.
- Can be 50 to 100 miles wide.
- Get bigger when hurricanes are stronger.
- Can cause flooding because tides are higher.
- Are the biggest danger to life and property on the coast.

Hurricane Season for Louisiana:

- June 1 through November 30.
- Most hurricanes happen between mid-August and October.

Evacuation:

- Leaving home to find shelter in a safe place before a storm.
- Can involve going to a stronger building or a different area.

Hurricane Wind Scale:

The hurricane wind scale uses wind speeds to place hurricanes into groups or categories. The faster the wind moves, the more damage a hurricane can cause.

See the tear out Hurricane Fact Sheet on page 39.

Know When to Evacuate:

- If you live in a mobile home, evacuate for Category 1.
- If you live on the coast, evacuate for Category 2.
- If you live inland, evacuate for Category 3.

Fast Fact:

Local governments announce mandatory evacuations when everyone MUST leave the area.

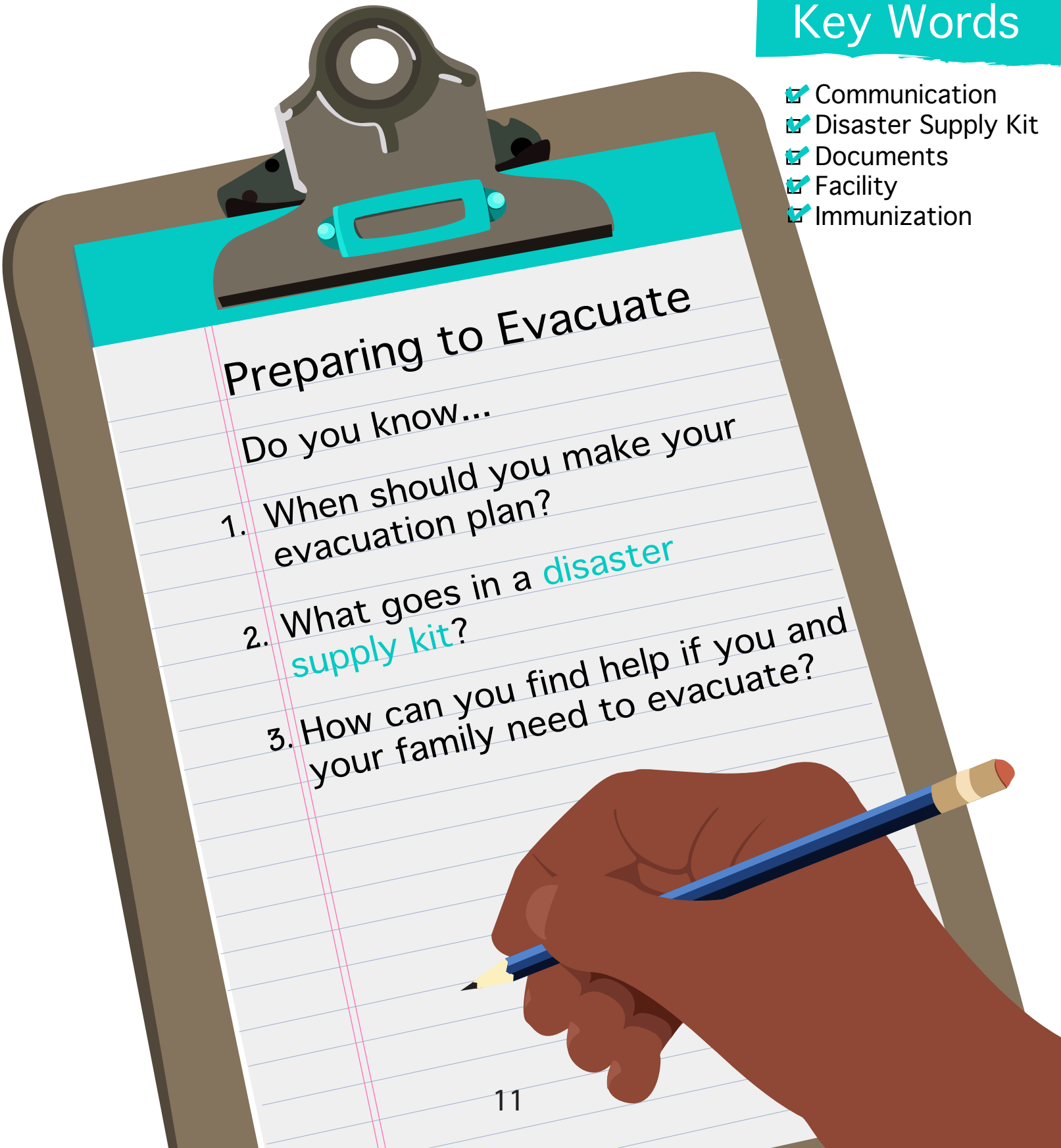
Things to Remember...

1. Hurricanes can be dangerous and cause a lot of damage.
2. For coastal communities, the storm surge causes the greatest property damage and loss of life.
3. Hurricane season lasts from June 1st until November 30th every year.
4. Hurricanes are grouped according to wind speed with the fastest wind speeds causing the most damage.
5. For strong hurricanes, people need to evacuate and find a safe place to wait out the storm.

Preparing to Evacuate

Key Words

- ☑ Communication
- ☑ Disaster Supply Kit
- ☑ Documents
- ☑ Facility
- ☑ Immunization



Things to Know...

Prepare for Hurricane Season:

1. Begin to prepare before hurricane season starts on June 1.
2. Have a family meeting early to make your evacuation plan.
3. Have everyone know the plan and your family's contact phone number.
4. Buy food, bottled water, and other emergency supplies before hurricane season begins.
5. Trim trees and bushes away from the roof and windows.
6. Cut and label plywood to cover windows.
7. If you rent, talk to your landlord about protecting your home from a storm.
8. Gather important documents and phone numbers.
9. Create your disaster supply kit.
10. Start saving money for evacuation housing, food, and gas expenses.

Have a Family Meeting:

It is important to create your plan with your family because everyone needs to know this plan. This will help you remember each person's special needs, especially children, elderly, and pets.

If you take care of an elderly person, bring them to the meeting and know who will be responsible for them. It is easier to act during an emergency when everyone knows the plan.

1. Create your evacuation plan as a family.
2. Think about the special needs of children, elderly, and pets.
3. Decide who is responsible for the elderly who live alone.
4. Talk about preparing the home.
5. Create a disaster supply kit.
6. Start to identify important documents.

See the tear out Family Meeting Discussion Guide on page 41.

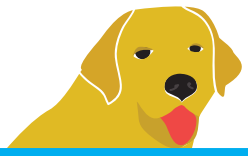
If you live in a mobile home, on the coast, near water, or in a weak building, you may need two parts to your evacuation plan. The first part would be an evacuation to a safer place in your community.

Plan when you will go, what you will bring (clothes, food, water, bedding, medicine), and how you will get there.

The second part of your plan kicks in during an evacuation of the area. If the hurricane is really big, you will need a different place to go that is not inside the hurricane cone.

Remember to:

1. Have everyone in your family know your hurricane evacuation plan.
2. Share your plan with neighbors and friends.
3. Tell friends and family where you will evacuate, how to call you while you are gone, and how to call you after the disaster.



Pet Evacuation

Always include your pets in your evacuation plan. Before hurricane season begins, contact places on your evacuation route. Ask if they allow pets and ask for restrictions on animal types, weight limits, cages, and immunizations. If you are staying with someone you know, talk about your pets' needs.

If you want to evacuate but have no place to go with your pets, call your parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (on page 40) for a list of shelters that allow pets.

Call the Humane Society of Louisiana at 1 888 648 6263 to find pet shelters.

Fast Fact:
Some hotels waive pet restrictions during evacuations.

Plan for Your Pets:

1. Call the place where you plan to stay to see if you can bring your pet.
2. Not all shelters allow pets. Call the Humane Society of Louisiana or your parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to find a shelter for you and your pets.
3. Create a disaster supply kit for your pet. Include written instructions on how to care for your pet.
4. Keep all medical papers and proof of immunizations with your pet.
5. Write your emergency contact information on your pet's carrier.

See the tear out Disaster Supplies Check List on page 43.

The Cost of Evacuation

Evacuation is expensive. Plan ahead to know how much money you will need while you are gone. Start saving money early because you never know when a storm may come or how long you may be gone.

If you drive, evacuation means a very long trip for your car.

- Keep your car in good running order.
- Keep the gas tank full when a storm is in the Gulf.
- Keep an extra gas can and extra water in your car.

Have Enough Money to:

1. Fill your gas tank 4 times.
2. Pay for 3 nights at a hotel. ($80-$120/night.)
3. Eat 3 meals a day at a restaurant for 3 days.

Sample Cost: A New Orleans family of four evacuates to a Shreveport hotel for 3 days. The cost is around $750.00

Fast Fact:
Avoiding traffic by leaving early can cut gas costs in half. If you cannot leave early, plan to spend $0.50/mile on gas.

Driving from New Orleans, LA

City	Avg Time	Evac Time	Miles	Avg Price*	Evac Price*
Alexandria, LA	3.5 hrs	12 hrs	220	$105	$205
Atlanta, GA	7.5 hrs	30 hrs	480	220	440
Baton Rouge, LA	1.5 hrs	8 hrs	80	40	75
Birmingham, AL	5 hrs	20 hrs	340	160	320
Dallas, TX	8.5 hrs	34 hrs	520	245	485
Houston, TX	5.5 hrs	22 hrs	350	165	325
Jackson, MS	3 hrs	24 hrs	190	95	190
Memphis, TN	6 hrs	24 hrs	400	185	370
Shreveport, LA	5.5 hrs	20 hrs	340	160	320

Driving from Lake Charles, LA

City	Avg Time	Evac Time	Miles	Avg Price*	Evac Price*
Alexandria, LA	2.5 hrs	10 hrs	160	$75	$150
Austin, TX	5 hrs	20 hrs	300	140	280
Baton Rouge, LA	2.5 hrs	10 hrs	130	60	120
Dallas, TX	6 hrs	24 hrs	350	170	335
Houston, TX	2.5 hrs	10 hrs	145	70	135
Jackson, MS	5 hrs	20 hrs	300	140	280
Lafayette, LA	1.5 hrs	8 hrs	75	35	70
San Antonio, TX	5.5 hrs	22 hrs	340	160	320
Shreveport, LA	3.5 hrs	14 hrs	185	90	175

*Round trip based on a gas price of $3.50 per gallon for a car that travels 15 miles per gallon.

The Cost of Food

Average Price of a Meal:

Fast Food and Diners	$	$5-15/person
Chain Restaurants	$$	$15-25/person
Fine Dining	$$$	$25-50/person

Ways to Save:

- Evacuate with food that may spoil if left home.
- Shop at grocery stores.
- Cook your own meals.

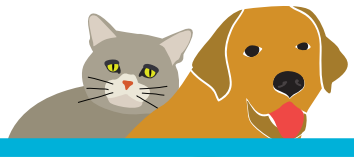
Fast Fact:
If you stay in a hotel, reserving a room with a microwave and refrigerator can cut food costs.

Disaster Supply Kit

Create your own disaster supply kit before hurricane season. It can be a few bags or a box that has everything your family will need in a disaster.

See the tear out Disaster Supplies Check List on page 43.

- You need 3 days of supplies for every family member.
- Pack canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and high energy snacks such as peanut butter and crackers.
- Put each person's items in their own backpack or bag. The group supplies can be in their own bag or box.
- Make a list of special items that must be packed right before you leave, such as a favorite toy or medications taken every day.



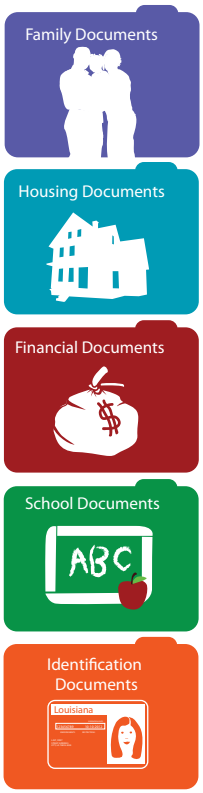
Remember Your Pets:

- They will need at least three days of supplies just like you. Bring their medicines and medical records.
- Many places require proof of immunizations or they will not allow your pets.
- Get a pet carrier large enough for your pet to completely turn around inside and lie down. Write your name, phone number, address, and an emergency contact on the carrier.
- Talk with your vet to learn about any special needs your pet may have during an evacuation.

Important Documents

Documents are important papers that prove who we are, where we were born, what we own, where we live, where we work, and more.

It may be impossible to replace some documents if they are destroyed.



1. Pack documents in a waterproof container.

2. Pack original documents and copies.

3. Use a computer to scan documents and save them to a disk, flash drive, or the internet. Go to the library if you need a scanner or help to do this.

4. If your documents are not in your home, take them with you when you evacuate.

See the tear out Document Check List on page 45.

Communication

Sometimes during disasters people get lost or separated. During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many people were separated and sent to different shelters in different states. Know your important numbers because cell phones can be lost or stop working.

Stay in communication during a disaster:

1. Choose someone who lives in a different state as your family's contact person.

2. Everyone needs to know the contact person's phone number. When people reach safety, they should call the contact person to tell them where they are.

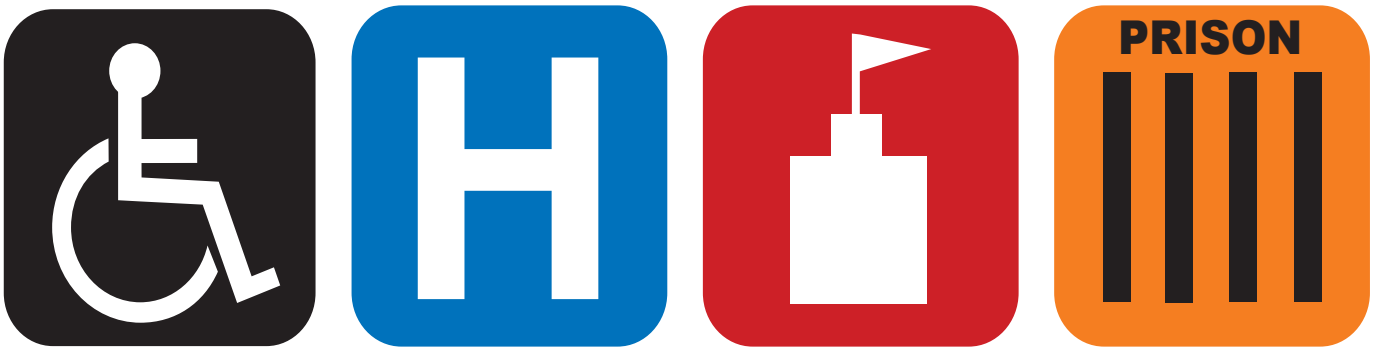
3. Take important numbers with you. Make sure each family member has a copy of the numbers in case you become separated.

4. You can also type the list and email it to yourself and a family member or friend. If you do not know how to do this, go to the library and ask someone for help.

See the tear out Contact Sheet on page 46.

Family in Facilities

You may have family in a facility such as a nursing home, hospital, school, assisted living facility, or prison.



If you have family in a facility:

1. Know the facility's evacuation plan.

2. Know if the facility will evacuate your family member. Plan ahead with the facility if you want to evacuate your relative.

3. Write down the contact information to the place your family member will be during an evacuation.

4. If possible, your family member should know your family's contact phone number. They should call when they are safe.

5. List your family's contact person as an emergency contact with your relative's nursing home, hospital, or assisted living facility.

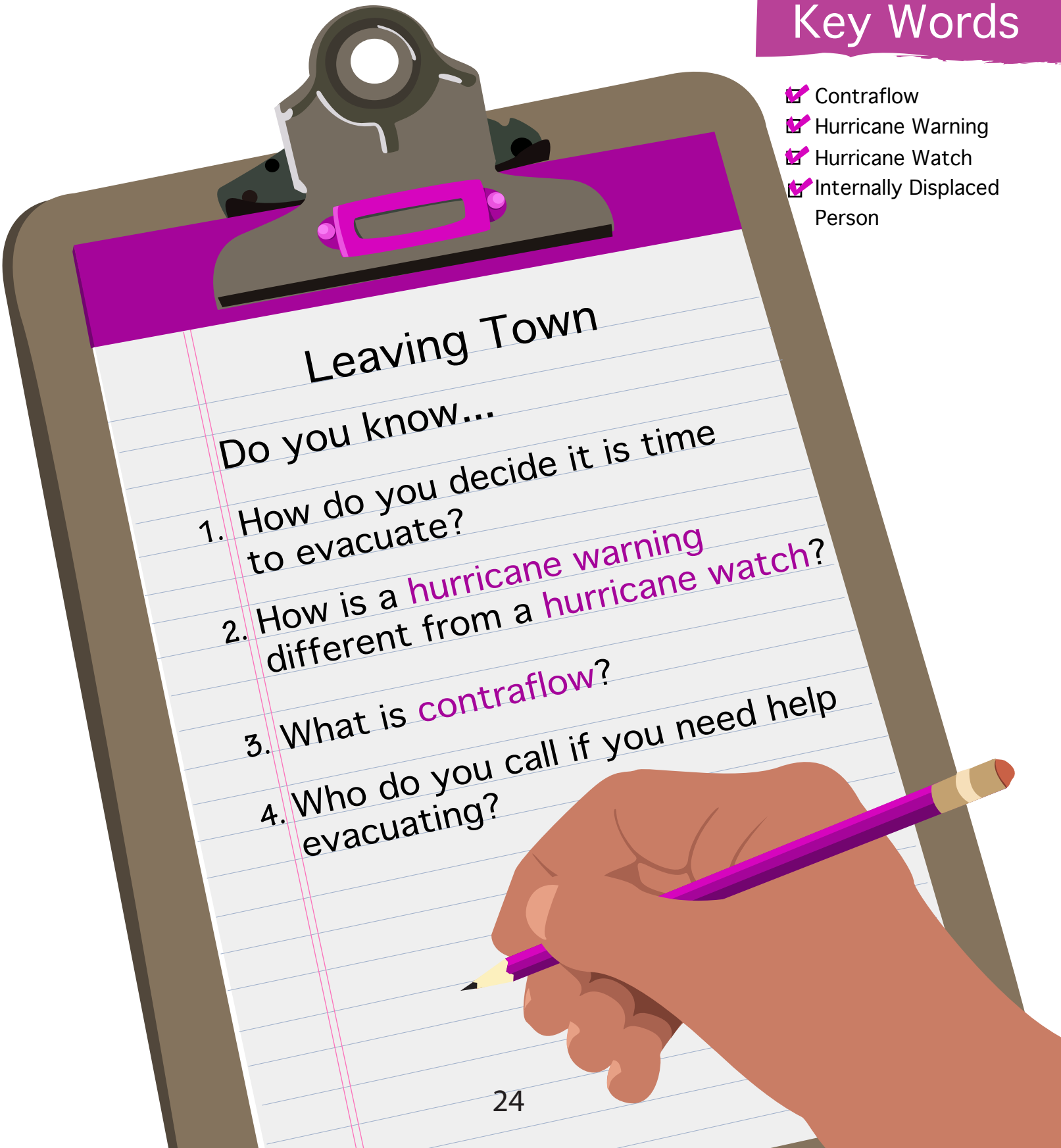
Things to Remember...

1. Make your evacuation plan and get ready before hurricane season starts on June 1st.
2. Plan for your pets, family members, and the elderly, who will depend on you in a disaster.
3. Save money to cover the cost of evacuation.
4. Create a disaster supply kit and gather important documents and phone numbers.
5. Prepare your home by trimming tree branches and bushes away from the roof and windows or contact your landlord to have this done.

Leaving Town

Key Words

- ☑ Contraflow
- ☑ Hurricane Warning
- ☑ Hurricane Watch
- ☑ Internally Displaced Person



Things to Know...

Hurricane Watch:

A hurricane watch is a type of weather watch. The National Weather Service puts a watch into place when dangerous weather conditions are possible within the next 36 hours. Watch TV news channels or listen to the radio to learn when and where watches are active. Only the areas in danger are placed under the watch.

If a watch is in your area:

1. Listen to the radio or watch TV for updates on the storm.
2. Fill cars with gas even if you do not plan to evacuate.
3. Check mobile home tie downs.
4. Prepare to cover windows and doors with plywood or shutters.
5. Check batteries.
6. Have canned food, first aid kit, drinking water, and medicines on hand.
7. Prepare to bring inside light-weight objects like garbage cans or lawn furniture that could blow away.
8. Have extra money on hand if possible.

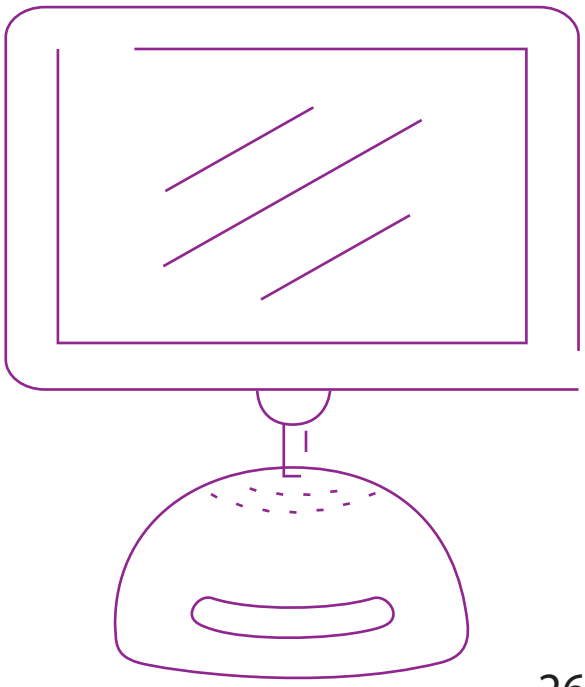
Hurricane Warning:

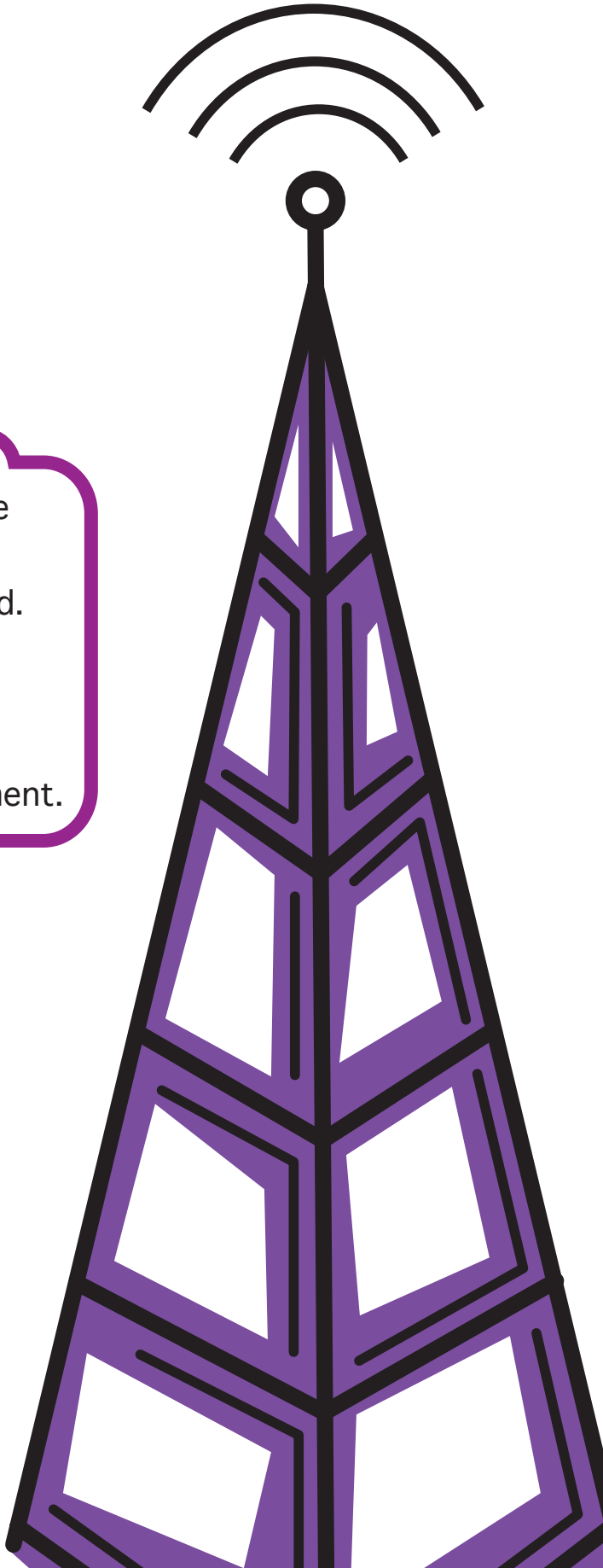
A hurricane warning is similar to a hurricane watch. There are two main differences between watches and warnings. When a hurricane warning is issued, the dangerous weather conditions are expected within 24 hours.

While a watch means dangerous weather could happen, a warning means dangerous weather will happen.

If a warning is in your area:

1. Listen to the radio or watch TV for the storm's progress.
2. Cover windows and doors with plywood.
3. Bring light-weight objects inside.
4. Evacuate mobile homes.
5. Follow instructions from local government.





Contraflow

Contraflow is when both sides of the interstate are used for drivers to evacuate an area.

You cannot enter some cities from the interstate during contraflow.

Some interstate exits will close. You must stay on the interstate until you reach a major city such as Baton Rouge, LA or Jackson, MS.

Have a full tank of gas because you will have to travel a long distance before you can stop for gas.

Look for signs and directions.

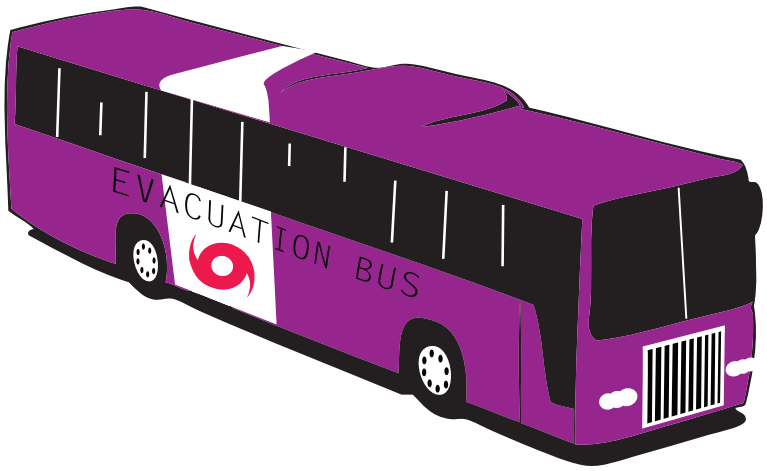
Fast Fact:
During contraflow, it can take 4 times as long to reach your destination.

Gas stations run out of gas when too many people fill up their tanks in 1 day.

Parish Assistance for Evacuation

If you cannot evacuate on your own, your local government will help you. Parish assistance for evacuation is only for people who cannot evacuate on their own. This includes people without transportation and people with medical needs.

Call your parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) (on page 40) or your local sheriff's office to learn about government assistance for evacuation in your area. You do not have to wait until a storm to register.



Fast Fact:
Call your parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness if you have transportation but need a list of shelters. Call the Humane Society of Louisiana for shelters that allow pets.

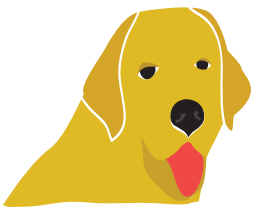
If you evacuate to a different city and need help:

1. If it is an emergency, call 911.
2. If you need a shelter, call the sheriff's office.
3. If you do not know what number to call, listen to the radio. Radio stations announce hotline numbers with shelter locations and which shelters allow pets.

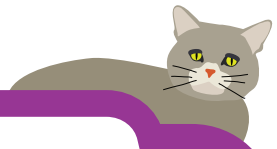
What to Bring to a Shelter

At a shelter you will need everything on the Disaster Supplies Check List (on page 43). While it is not necessary, food and water are good to have. Bring any special foods your family may require.

Shelter for Your Pets:



For health reasons, human shelters do not allow pets, but some have pet shelters next to them. This allows owners to be close to their pets without breaking health code laws. Call the Humane Society of Louisiana at 1-888-648-6263 to find pet shelters.



Fast Fact:

The law says that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has to evacuate pets. That does not mean you can take your pet with you anywhere you go. It means the government has to keep your pet safe during an emergency. A service animal, such as a seeing-eye dog, can stay with the owner at any shelter.

Know Your Rights

If you have to evacuate, you are an internally displaced person* (IDP). An internally displaced person is someone forced to leave their home and go to another area in their country because of a war or natural disaster.

IDPs have the right:

1. To be protected from acts of violence.
2. To food, water, shelter, clothing, medical services, and sanitation.
3. To remain together as a family, especially those with children.
4. To keep your property.
5. To be treated equally and fairly without discrimination.
6. To equal access to all shelters and evacuation programs, even if disabled.

Fast Fact:
During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there were not enough supplies for everyone. Bring all medicines and supplies you need.

*According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

If You Stay

You might stay if your local government has not declared a mandatory evacuation. A mandatory evacuation means everyone must leave the area.

- Keep an axe in your attic.
- To keep food fresh, turn the refrigerator to the coldest setting and only open it if you have to.
- Be prepared to turn off utilities (gas, water, electricity) if told to by your local government.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water. This water will allow you to flush toilets and wash up if the water is shut off.

Fast Fact:

If you plan to stay, think about buying a generator. Even in a minor hurricane, electricity can be out for a week or more.

If winds become strong:

1. Stay away from all windows, doors, and glass.
2. Close, lock, and brace all doors that lead outside.
3. Close all doors inside.
4. Stay on the first floor.
5. Stay in a small room in the middle of the building without windows such as a closet, bathroom, or hallway.
6. Lie under a table or a sturdy object.

If People Stay with You

Family or friends may stay with you if:

- You live away from the hurricane's path.
- It is a small hurricane AND you live in a strong building.

Before a hurricane approaches:

- Go over the Disaster Supplies Check List (on page 45), and discuss what you can provide and what they should bring.
- Create a back up plan in case everyone has to evacuate.

Know how many people will be coming.

- Do you need a generator?
- Does anyone have special needs?
- Will you need to baby proof a room?
- Do you have space for pets?
- Can everyone climb stairs?
- Does anyone have allergies?

Make a back up evacuation plan. Know:

- When you will leave.
- Where you will go.
- How everyone will get there safely.
- What you will bring.

Things to Remember...

1. A watch means dangerous weather could happen, and a warning means dangerous weather will happen.

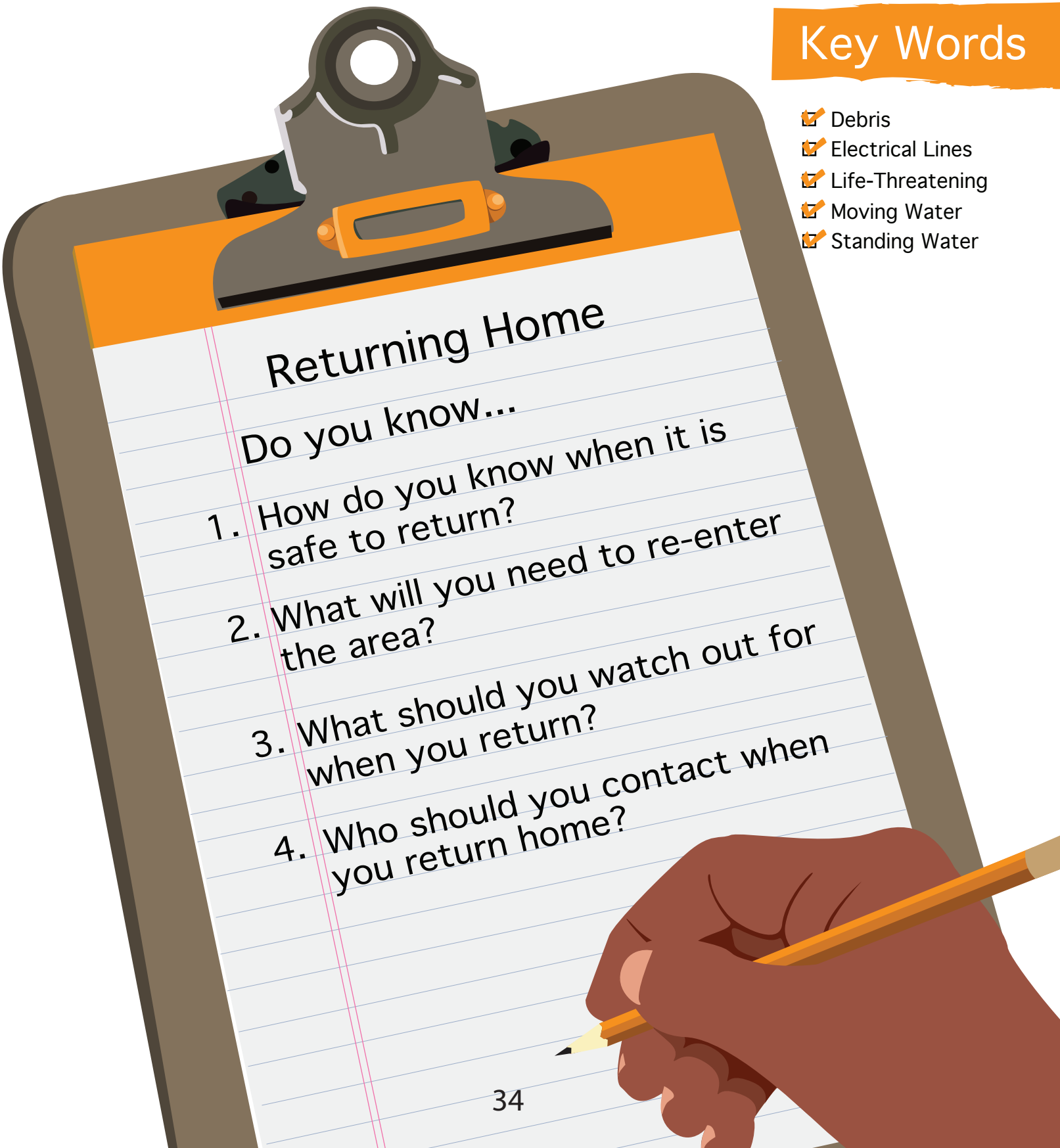
2. Only stay in your home during a hurricane if a mandatory evacuation is NOT ordered.

3. If you need help to evacuate, call your parish's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness or sheriff's office to register for assistance in your parish.

Returning Home

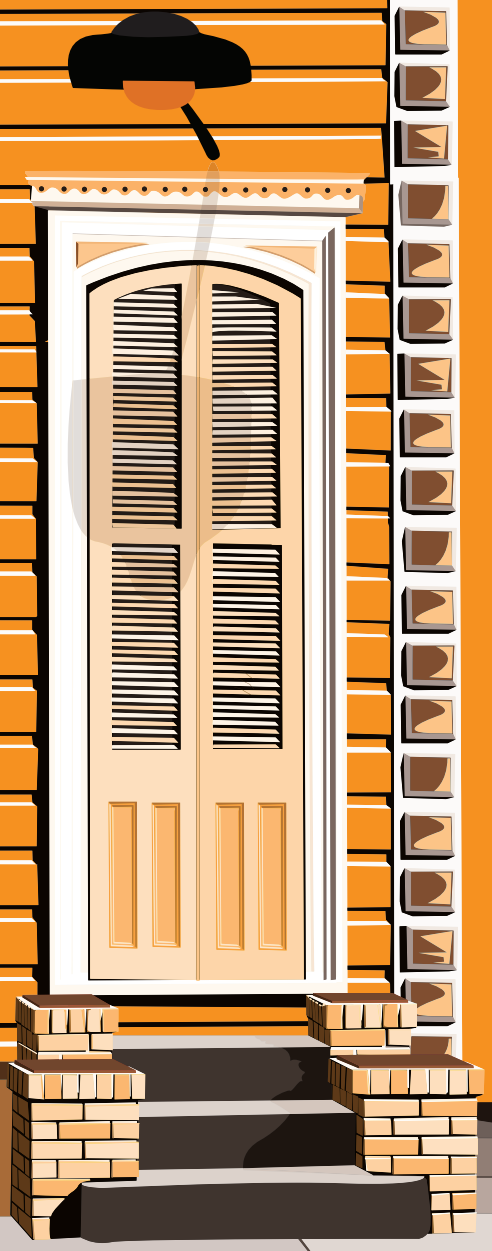
Key Words

- Debris
- Electrical Lines
- Life-Threatening
- Moving Water
- Standing Water



Things to Know...

- Turn around and find another way if a road is closed or flooded.
- Stay on firm ground.
- Stay away from standing and moving water.
- Be careful of downed electrical lines.
- Check appliances and gas, water, and electrical lines for damage.
- Boil tap water until your local government says it is safe.
- Use flashlights, not candles or open flames, to check for damage.
- Only use the phone to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Be careful using a chainsaw to cut trees.
- Call your contact person to let them know you are safe.



Fast Fact:
Water can be dangerous.
6 inches of moving water can knock a person off their feet.
Standing water may be charged from downed power lines.

When You Return:

- Watch for downed electrical lines.
- Watch for tree branches and storm debris.
- Do not drive on flooded roads.

Have 1 of the Following:

- State Issued ID.
- Work ID.
- School ID.

Contact Your:

- Contact Person.
- Job.
- Neighbors.

Fast Fact:

Your local government will announce when it is safe to return.

Things to Remember...

When to Return:

- ☐ Once your local government says it is safe.

What to Bring:

- ☐ Have your photo ID ready to prove where you live.

What to Do:

- ☐ Stay away from standing and moving water.
- ☐ Turn around if roads are closed, blocked, or flooded.
- ☐ Check appliances and gas, water, and electrical lines.
- ☐ Boil tap water until local government says it is safe.
- ☐ Use flashlights to check for damage.
- ☐ Call your family's contact person.

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About the Authors

Kim Mosby is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Orleans. She is a graduate assistant for UNO-CHART and is currently conducting her thesis research on the experiences of African Americans returning to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Juli Van Brunt is a writer and literacy advocate currently pursuing her MFA in playwriting at the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Pamela Jenkins is a professor of Sociology at the University of New Orleans. She is also a founding member of UNO-CHART and is involved in a variety of community education projects.

Hazel Spaulding Parker has worked in the field of education for 20 years as a classroom teacher, a trainer, an instructor and a consultant. She has presented at several state and national conferences and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Petrice Sams-Abiodun is the Executive Director for the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy at Loyola University, where she has an opportunity to combine her research and social justice agendas to address the issue of adult literacy. As a family demographer, her goal is to use research for the development and liberation of traditionally marginalized and oppressed people.

Rachel B. Nicolosi is the Executive Director of the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans. She is originally from Iberville Parish, Louisiana and has resided in New Orleans for the past 16 years. She is a plain language fanatic and holds a Masters Degree in Adult Education with a focus on public policy in adult literacy.

Maggie Olivier is a full-time research associate at UNO-CHART. She received her MA in Sociology from the University of New Orleans with a focus on disaster studies.

Hurricane Fact Sheet

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Wind Speed	74-95 mph	96-110 mph	111-130 mph	131-155 mph	Above 155 mph
Example	1988 Florence	2008 Gustav	1965 Betsy	2005 Katrina	1969 Camille
Storm Surge	4-5 feet	6-8 feet	9-12 feet	13-18 feet	Over 18 feet
Damage	Mobile homes Trees	Mobile homes Trees Roofs Doors Windows	Mobile homes Trees Roofs Doors Windows Small buildings	Mobile homes Trees Roofs Doors Windows Most buildings	Mobile homes Trees Roofs Doors Windows All buildings
Flooding	Some coastal roads flood	Coastal roads flood 2-4 hours before	Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before Destroys small buildings on coast	Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before Major damage to ground floor of all buildings on coast	Coastal roads flood 3-5 hours before Major damage to ground floor of all buildings inland
Evacuate	Mobile homes	Mobile homes and low lying coastal areas	Be ready to evacuate all areas in cone	Evacuate all areas in cone	Evacuate all areas in cone

Parish Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Contact List

Acadia	(337) 783-4357
Allen	(337) 300-9032
Ascension	(225) 621-8360
Assumption	(985) 369-7351
Avoyelles	(318) 240-9160
Beauregard	(337) 460-5442
Bienville	(318) 263-2019
Caddo/Bossier	(318) 425-5351
Calcasieu	(337) 721-3800
Caldwell	(318) 649-3764
Cameron	(337) 775-7048
Catahoula	(318) 744-5697
Claiborne	(318) 927-3575
Concordia	(318) 757-8248
DeSoto	(318) 872-3956
East Baton Rouge	(225) 389-2100
East Carroll	(318) 559-2256
East Feliciana	(225) 683-1014 or (225) 244-5881
Evangeline	(337) 363-3267
Franklin	(318) 435-6247
Grant	(318) 627-3041
Iberia	(337) 369-4427
Iberville	(225) 687-5140
Jackson	(318) 259-2361 ext 204
Jefferson	(504) 349-5360 or (504) 736-6435
Jefferson Davis	(337) 824-3850
Lafayette	(337) 291-5075
Lafourche	(985) 532-8174
LaSalle	(318) 992-0673
Lincoln	(318) 513-6202
Livingston	(225) 686-3066
Madison	(318) 574-6911
Morehouse	(318) 871-3907 or (318) 281-4141
Natchitoches	(318) 357-7802
Orleans	(504) 658-8700 or 311
Ouachita	(318) 322-2641
Plaquemines	(504) 274-2476
Pointe Coupee	(225) 694-3737
Rapides	(318) 445-0396
Red River	(318) 932-5981
Richland	(318) 728-2061
Sabine	(318) 256-2675
St. Bernard	(504) 278-4267
St. Charles	(985) 783-5050
St. Helena	(225) 222-3544
St. James	(225) 562-2364
St. John the Baptist	(985) 652-2222
St. Landry	(337) 948-7177
St. Martin	(337) 394-3071
St. Mary	(337) 828-4100 ext 135
St. Tammany	(985) 898-2359
Tangipahoa	(985) 748-3211
Tensas	(318) 766-3992
Terrebonne	(985) 873-6357
Union	(318) 368-3124
Vermilion	(337) 898-4308
Vernon	(337) 238-0815
Washington	(985) 839-0434
Webster	(318) 846-2454
West Baton Rouge	(225) 346-1577
West Carroll	(318) 428-8020
West Feliciana	(225) 635-6428
Winn	(318) 628-1160

Family Meeting Discussion Guide

Here are a few questions your plan needs to answer.
Who needs to be at the meeting? _____

_____

Evacuation:

1. Where are you going? _____

_____

_____

2. How will you get there? _____

_____

_____

3. Who is going with you?_____

_____

_____

4. When will you leave? _____

_____

_____

5. How will you stay in contact with people while you are gone? _____

_____

_____

Supplies needed:

6. What will you eat while you are gone? _____

_____

_____

7. What clothes and shoes will you bring? _____

_____

_____

8. What special supplies including medicines will your family need?_____

_____

_____

9. What important documents should you bring? _____

_____

_____

10. How much money will you need while you are gone? _____

_____

_____

Work, school, and pets:

11. When do you need to tell your job you want to leave? _____

_____

_____

12. How will you stay in contact with your job while you are gone? _____

_____

_____

13. Do you have a phone number to contact your family's schools? _____

_____

_____

14. What do your pets need? _____

_____

_____

Assign tasks:

15. Who is responsible for the elderly who live alone? _____

_____

_____

16. Who will prepare the home or call the landlord to prepare the home? _____

_____

_____

17. Who will create the disaster supply kit? _____

_____

_____

18. Who will collect important documents? _____

_____

_____

Disaster Supplies Check List

Mark off as you pack each item.

Safety Supplies:

- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Aspirin or Tylenol
- ☐ Flashlights
- ☐ Weather radio
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off gas or water lines
- ☐ Whistle to call for help

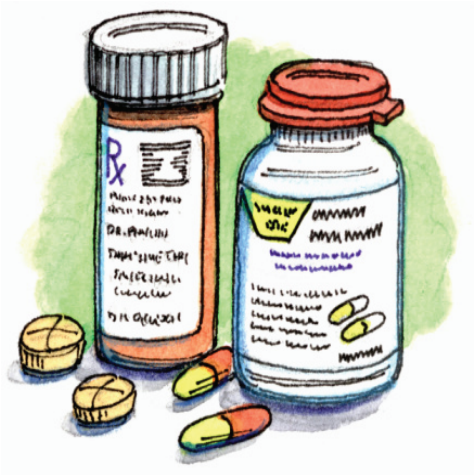
Personal Supplies:

- ☐ Important documents in a waterproof container
- ☐ 3 gallons of water for each person
- ☐ Canned food
- ☐ Can opener
- ☐ Change of clothes and shoes for each person
- ☐ Blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Money

Sanitation Supplies:

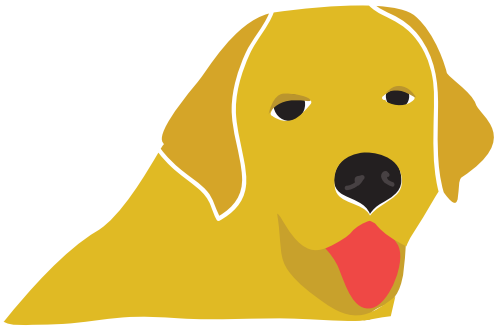
- ☐ Soap, wet wipes, or hand sanitizer
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Tampons or sanitary pads
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Garbage bags

Special Supplies:

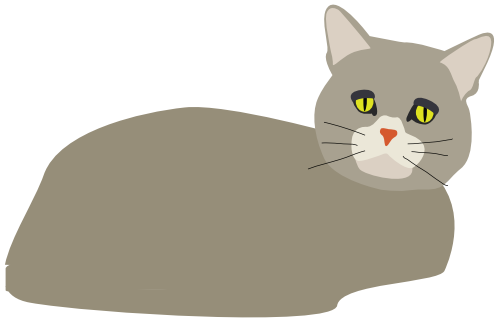


- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Baby formula
- ☐ Diapers
- ☐ Favorite toy
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Games

Pet Supplies:



- ☐ Food in waterproof container
- ☐ Water for three days
- ☐ Food and water bowls
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Medical records and proof of immunizations in waterproof container
- ☐ Written instructions on how to feed and give medicines to your pet
- ☐ Flea and tick prevention medicine
- ☐ Pet first aid book
- ☐ Extra collar with ID tag
- ☐ Extra leash or harness
- ☐ Pet carrier large enough for pet to completely turn around and lie down
  (Write your name, phone number, address, and an emergency contact on carrier.)
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Pet litter/pan
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Bleach (not color safe)



Document Check List

Pack the following documents for each person in your family in a waterproof container.

Family Documents

- ☐ Birth certificates
- ☐ Health insurance policy
- ☐ Health insurance cards
- ☐ Life insurance policy
- ☐ Medicaid or Medicare cards
- ☐ Immunization records
- ☐ Medical records
- ☐ Immunization records for pets

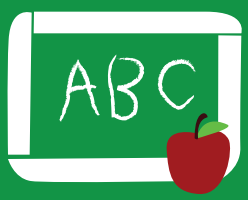
Housing Documents

- ☐ House deed
- ☐ Housing lease
- ☐ House insurance policy
- ☐ Renter's insurance policy
- ☐ Flood insurance policy

Financial Documents

- ☐ Car titles
- ☐ Wills
- ☐ Last bank statement

School Documents



- ☐ Last report card
- ☐ Transcripts

Identification Documents

- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ School or work ID
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Government ID
- ☐ Social security card

Contact Sheet

	Name	Number
Family Contact Person:		
Doctor:		
Pharmacy:		
Job:		
Boss:		
Co-workers:		
School:		
Landlord:		
Mortgage Company: ACCOUNT #		
Electricity Company: ACCOUNT #		
Gas Company: ACCOUNT #		
Water Company: ACCOUNT #		
Cable Company: ACCOUNT #		
Internet Company: ACCOUNT #		
Insurance Company: ACCOUNT #		

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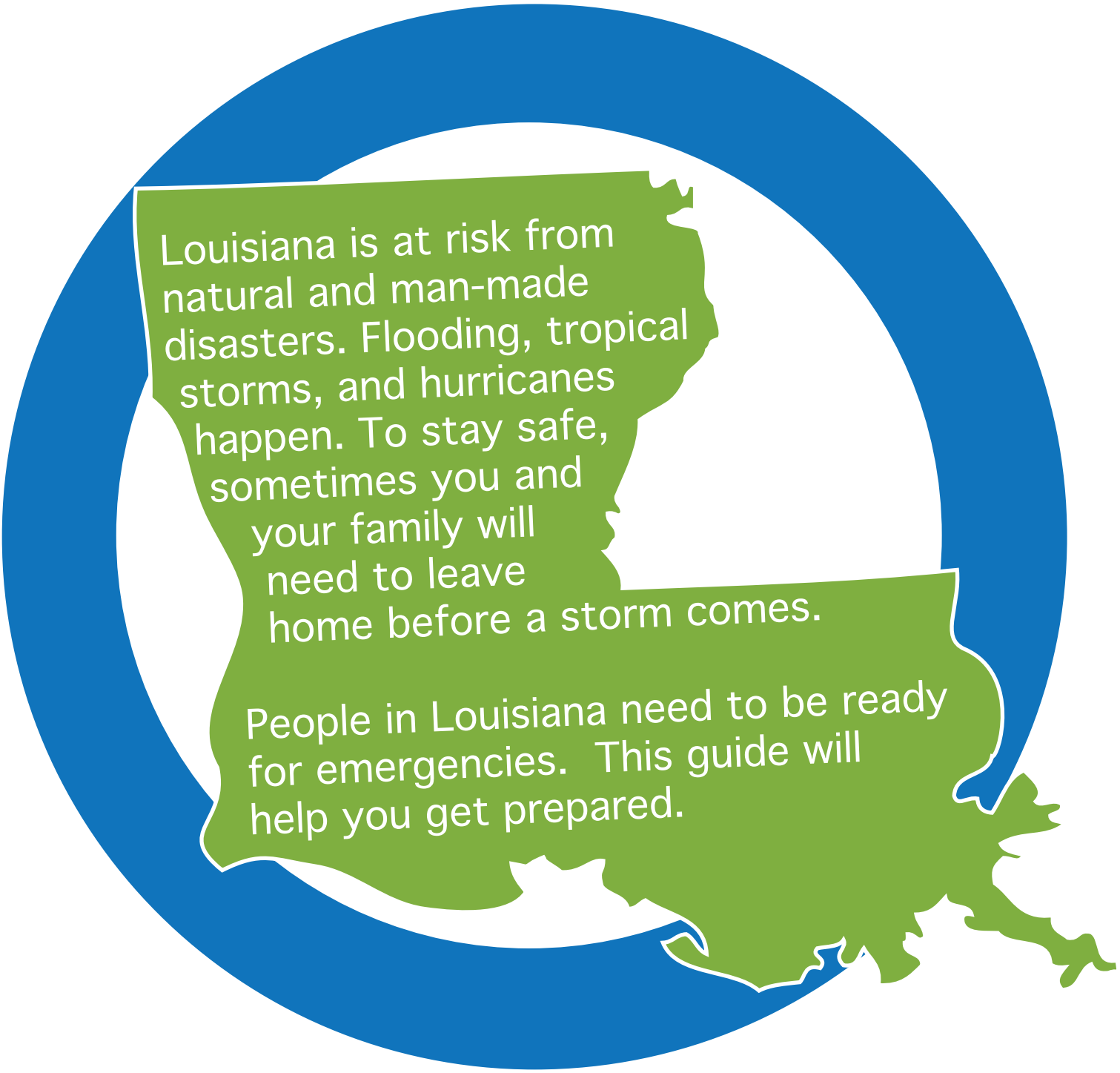

Preparing for Storms in Louisiana