



Relation

Hurricane Florence: Are You Ready?

Before the storm, there are some things you should do to protect your family and property:

Protect and prevent. Protect your home by covering windows with plywood or shutters. Bring all outside items inside, such as grills and patio furniture, and disassemble play sets. These can become projectiles in high winds. Move cars, trucks, boats and other vehicles into the garage.

Clear the way. Check around your property and cut down dead or dying trees, or hanging limbs that are near the home and could damage your property if they fall in a storm.

Inventory what you've got. You don't want to wait until a catastrophe hits to try and remember all your possessions. For faster claim settlement, create an inventory now of your household items. Consider photographing or videotaping them, and safe keep inventory information outside the home, such as a safe deposit box.

Plan right should there be no light. Strong winds can bring down power lines, so be prepared for a potential outage. Assemble an emergency kit that includes flashlight, battery-operated radio and extra batteries.

Be street smart. A power outage can also take down traffic lights, so take extra precautions if you must drive after a major storm. Note that in a four-way uncontrolled intersection (when signals are not working), yield right of way to the car on the right.

Drive to stay safe. It's best to stay off the road if possible during or immediately after heavy rain. Driving through high water can short your car's electrical system, or cause you to lose control of the vehicle. The depth of standing water in the roadway is not always apparent from the driver's seat.

Stay charged and ready to go. Keep your cell phone fully charged; rarely are cell towers downed in a storm. However, they do suffer damage and can become over-taxed, resulting in dropped calls or even an inability to establish a connection. Normally, the text function of your cell phone will still allow a message to pass through. But have patience, as it may take longer than usual for it to go through. Here's a tip: if during a storm your cell phone runs out of juice, you can recharge it in your car with an adapter.

Generate safety. If you have a generator, make sure it is well vented and grounded.

Claims—what we're here for:

Keep a copy of your policy handy and our phone number, 704-688-1228 or 800-456-1696 or email us at insurance@relationinsurance.com.

Our *Relation Storm Team* will be available from 7am to 7pm beginning Thursday 9/13 through Monday 9/17 including the weekend to take your calls or respond to emails to assist you in reporting claims.

We have also attached direct claims reporting information for our major insurance carriers to this announcement.