



Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

ALL-HAZARDS EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

HOW TO STAY PREPARED!

The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season produced a total of 14 named storms, including six hurricanes, two of which became major hurricanes.

Hurricane season is over, but don't empty your box of disaster supplies just yet! It is important to stay prepared for other emergencies, like tornadoes, floods, and power outages.

Make sure you have at least one good flashlight with fresh batteries. Better yet, make sure there's a flashlight on every floor of your house and one for each family member. If you don't have sufficient flashlights or batteries, add them to today's shopping list.

Have a battery-operated radio handy. If you don't already own one, purchase a battery-operated radio and the appropriate batteries. Find a special place for the radio and flashlight, so they will be easy to find during an outage.

Listen to radio reports in emergencies such as a major storm. If your power is out, battery-operated radios are the most reliable way for you to find out information concerning the weather and power outages.

A NOAA Weather Radio, also called an "All Hazards transmitter," sends out weather reports that cannot be heard on regular AM/FM radios. NOAA Weather Radios can be found at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods, and boat and marine accessory stores and their catalogs. They can also be purchased via the Internet from online retailers or directly from manufacturers.

The best reason to get a NOAA Weather Radio is because the National Weather Service will send a warning sound to the weather radio to alert listeners about hazardous weather in their area. This warning sound will activate the radio receiver, even if the audio is turned off. This is especially useful for warnings that occur during the night when most people are asleep.

Keep emergency numbers posted near the telephone. Numbers to keep include your local utility companies, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, locations and telephone numbers to shelters, your doctor and veterinarian's name and phone numbers, and your county emergency management office.

Check the expiration dates of the food and water in your disaster supply kit and replace any old or expired food. Remember to check the expiration date for batteries and medications, as well.

The holiday times increase the likelihood of having a house fire. This is a perfect time of year to make or practice a family fire drill!