

# AFTER THE STORM

## **STAY SAFE AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED**

Getting through a hurricane is always dangerous, and certainly far from fun. It's natural to feel a great sense of relief when the storm moves away from our area or altogether dissipates. That feeling of relief, however, shouldn't diminish our sense of caution, because many dangers will remain even after a hurricane has passed by.

Downed power lines, broken water, sewer or gas lines, clogged roadways and dangling tree limbs are just a few of the lingering hazards that must be dealt with after a hurricane has moved through the area. So, in addition to making a plan in advance for how your family will prepare for a hurricane and weather the storm once it arrives, you should also create a family plan for safely navigating your way back to normal life after the weather threat has ended.

Here are several tips to consider to keep you and your family safe during the cleanup and recovery period following any major storm:

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- Avoid driving until authorities clear roadways of debris and downed power lines.
- Don't drive through standing water. You could be stranded, injured or swept away by flash-flood waters.
- Watch out for downed power lines. Stay away from them, and report them to authorities.
- Be on the lookout for other broken utility lines — water, sewer and gas lines in particular, but also phone, cable and other service hook-ups. Report these kinds of problems to authorities as well.
- Never try to touch or move downed lines or repair broken electric or gas connections.
- Be careful not to accidentally set fires, and quickly report any fires you do notice. Fires spread rapidly during emergency situations when decreased water pressure and transportation problems may hinder firefighters.
- Be extremely careful clearing storm debris, which may camouflage downed power lines, serve as hiding places for wild animals, or be contaminated with raw sewage or other hazards.

