

# Tropical STORM

## DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DANGERS OF TROPICAL STORMS

If given a choice between facing a tropical storm and facing a full-fledged hurricane, most people would choose the tropical storm, but that doesn't mean the dangers of tropical storms should be underestimated.

In the last few years, tropical storms have brought heavy rains, flooding and in some locations, tornado-like wind damage. Clearly, being prepared to safely face an approaching tropical storm is just as important as being prepared for a hurricane.

Tropical storms also give your family an opportunity to practice your Family Disaster Plan "in real life." No one should take chances with last-minute preparations during bad weather. In the days before the tropical storm makes landfall, however, your family should conduct preparation drills to make sure your emergency plans are complete and to verify each family member knows what to do in emergency situations.

Consider including these activities in your tropical storm preparations as "drills" for future hurricanes:

## SECURE YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY

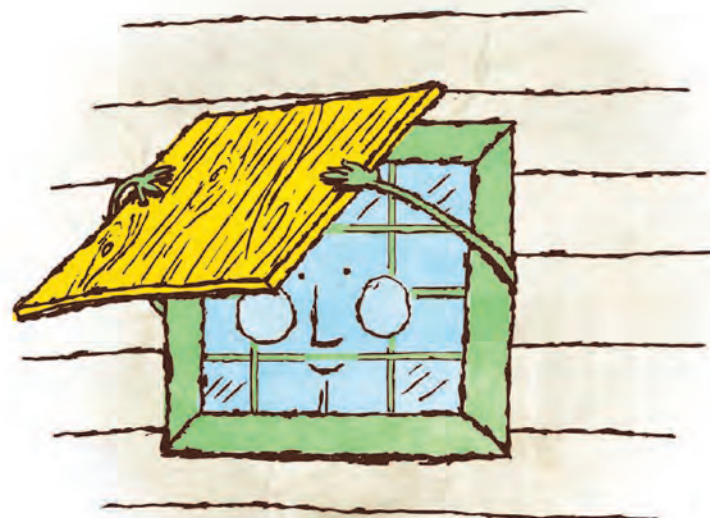
The most susceptible areas of your home are the exterior windows, large window areas, garage doors and roof and gable ends. If hurricane winds enter any of these openings, increased internal pressure and uplifting on walls and roof supports can cause damage. Look for and address any potential danger areas early in the season, so you can be ready to take action quickly when a storm approaches.

### EXTERIOR WINDOWS

The most secure coverings for windows are shutters. If there are no shutters on your home, temporary coverings can be made of 5/8" plywood that must be installed with a 4" overlap on all sides. The plywood should be bolted to the house. This procedure will ensure it will stay in place and not become detached during a hurricane.

### LARGE WINDOWS AND GLASS DOORS

Reinforcement of plywood over large windows and glass doors can



be accomplished by bolting a two-by-four support beam across the plywood and angling another two-by-four beam from that beam to an anchor that has been firmly set in the ground.

### GARAGE DOORS

Garage doors can be reinforced by adding horizontal bracing to each panel at its weakest point. Kits are available at your local home improvement center.

### ROOF GABLE ENDS

Hurricane force winds can cause damage by literally lifting off the roof when entering unsecured openings of roof gable ends. Use the same temporary shutter procedures for exterior windows to cover the openings in this area.

### ROOF PROTECTION

Hurricane straps, when installed correctly, can increase the strength of your roof against the uplifting forces of hurricane winds by 50 to 75 percent. They are galvanized metal bracing materials designed to hold the roof joist to the top plate and reinforce the bonding strength beyond that of regular nails. Retrofitting your home with these straps is not considered a "do-it-yourself" project, and a professional contractor or carpenter should be contracted.

### WIND-BLOWN DEBRIS

Check around the yard for loose objects, such as toys, gardening tools, barbecue equipment, lawn chairs and other items that could cause damage if blown around. Have a "cleanup drill" to practice gathering these items quickly and putting them in a safe location.