

Park Place

Block Captain Neighborhood Watch Program

Hurricane Car Readiness & Safety Tips

Most people don't think about their car when preparing for hurricane season, but your car may just be your key to safety.

If a hurricane is severe enough, you may need to use your car to get to a safer place. Make sure your car is ready for a hurricane or a possible evacuation and that you understand how to drive in severe storm conditions.

Make sure you have a full tank of gas a day or two before a storm arrives.

Store a crate of emergency supplies in your trunk:

- ☑ a first aid kit
- ☑ duct tape
- ☑ jumper cables for a dead battery
- ☑ one or two blankets and slickers or raincoats
- ☑ a powerful flashlight, preferably with red flasher on it
- ☑ bottled water (5 bottles per person)
- ☑ some sealed, shelf-stable food (like energy bars) with several for each person
- ☑ some basic tools like screwdrivers (Phillips & flat), pliers, vice grips and a hammer
- ☑ a couple of brightly colored cloths to tie on your rearview mirror to signal for help if you need it

Make sure you have a good spare tire.

If you're evacuating, bring your (fully charged) cell phone and car charger.

If you're evacuating or returning home after a hurricane, avoid driving through water.

The average car can be swept off the road by as little as 12" of moving water. According to the National Hurricane Center, more than half of all hurricane deaths in the last 30 years have resulted from inland flooding. Of those deaths, one in four was someone who drowned in her car. Find an alternate route.

If your vehicle stalls in deep water, you may need to restart the engine to make it to safety.

Please know, however, that restarting may cause severe damage to your engine. If you can't restart your vehicle and you become trapped in rising water, IMMEDIATELY ABANDON IT FOR HIGHER GROUND. If you're unable to get out of the vehicle safely, call 911 or get help from a passerby or someone standing on higher ground.

After you and your vehicle are out of deep water and in a safe area, while moving depress your brakes lightly several times to help dry them out.

Finally, if you're evacuating and leaving your car behind, remove all valuables and be sure your car is not left in a low-lying area prone to flooding. Rising water can seep in and damage your vehicle.