

# Park Place

## Block Captain Community Watch Program

### **Hurricane safety tips for your RV!**

Your RV is a valuable asset for you to protect. During hurricane season, it could also be your ticket to safety. Now's the time to make sure your RV is hurricane-ready.

RVs are particularly vulnerable to hurricane-force winds and rain because of their size and high center of gravity. While RVs should not be driven or used as a shelter during severe weather, they can help you and your family evacuate if you need to.

In addition, your RV can serve as cost-effective, temporary living quarters after a storm should your primary residence be damaged or destroyed.

Here are some recommendations about how to prepare your RV for a hurricane or evacuation and some safety reminders about driving in flood-prone areas.

**Prepare an evacuation route well before a storm threatens your area.**

If you're instructed to evacuate your neighborhood, do so without delay.

**Keep emergency supplies in your RV, including a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable foods, and prescription medications.**

**Get a full tank of gas before a storm hits.**

**Check the windshield wipers and tires.**

**Pack sleeping bags and bedding in plastic bags to protect them from moisture.**

**Place your auto and home insurance documents, vehicle registration, title, and other important documents in a waterproof bag and keep them with you.**

**Perform a thorough safety check.**

If you use gas-powered lanterns or cook stoves, be sure to have battery-operated fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to protect you and your family. If you use an electric generator, make sure you have a transfer switch to prevent electrical shocks.

**Empty the holding tanks, turn off the propane cylinders, and cover the regulator.**

**Tie down travel trailers and ensure that the lot the trailer occupies is secure.**

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

**If you have no other reasonable alternative than to drive through standing water, drive slowly and steadily.**

If your RV stalls, 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 RV and you become trapped in rising water, IMMEDIATELY ABANDON IT FOR HIGHER GROUND. If you're unable to get out of the RV safely, call 911 or get help from a passerby or someone standing on higher ground.

And remember, if you're evacuating an area and leaving your RV behind; be sure it's not left in a low-lying area prone to flooding. Rising water can seep in and damage upholstery, carpeting, and electrical systems. We hope these tips help you this hurricane season.