

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Its Hurricane season again! In the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Eastern Pacific regions, Hurricane season starts in June. For the U.S., peak Hurricane threats exist from mid-August to late October, although the official Hurricane season extends through November 30th.

The experts predict an active storm season. With the information provided we anticipate streamlined communication during any threatening storm.

New this season: While the Saffir – Simpson Scale keeps the same wind speed ranges as the original Saffir-Simpson Scale for each of the five hurricane categories, it no longer ties specific storm surge and flooding effects to each category.

Sustained winds range:

- ❖ Category 1 Hurricanes range from 111 to 130 mph.
- ❖ Category 2 Hurricanes range from 131 to 155 mph.
- ❖ Category 3 Hurricanes exceed 155 mph.

If the experts' predictions are correct, we are in for a busy Hurricane season.

- ❖ A **Hurricane watch** indicates Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 36 hours.
- ❖ A **Hurricane warning** indicates Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning, usually within 24 hours.

OUR PRIORITY AT INLAND REMAINS OUR TENANTS AND THEIR SAFETY.

Here are some safety tips from the National Hurricane Center on preparing for a Hurricane:

1. Have some cash and carry your credit cards. Locate a copy of your homeowners' insurance.
2. Identify multiple evacuation routes and know the proper government evacuation routes. The State Department of Transportation web pages provide evacuation routes.
3. Have a place to go. Choose several places, a friend's home in another town, a motel, a shelter.
4. Assemble a disaster supplies kit:
 - i. First Aid Kit and any essential medications.
 - ii. Canned food and manual can opener.
 - iii. At least 3 gallons of water per person.
 - iv. Protective clothing, raingear, bedding, sleeping bags.
 - v. Battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
 - vi. Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
 - vii. Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, natural gas and water, if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you will need a professional to turn them back on).
5. If evacuating, unplug all electrical devices.
6. Secure your home by boarding over windows or putting up Hurricane shutters. If you use boards, purchase pre-cut one-half inch outdoor plywood and drill holes in the plywood ahead of time.
7. If you live in a wooded area, make trees more wind resistant by taking out diseased and damaged limbs, then, strategically removing branches so that wind can blow through.

8. Move to safe shelters. Low-lying areas and mobile homes should be evacuated.
9. Stay informed by monitoring weather advisories on radio and television. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
10. If a Hurricane watch is issued, prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.

In the event of a Hurricane strike, the potential for problems at the shopping center is likely. We, at Inland, have started our Hurricane preparedness at the center, but we are only responsible for the exterior common elements of the center.

1. Remember that the windows, doors and HVAC units are tenant's responsibility. If you decide to use plywood to secure your space, you will be responsible for all damage to the exterior from use of nails, screws, etc.
 - i. If you intend to board up the windows, please do not attach the wood to the metal window frames, instead, attach the wood to the area in which the caulk is on the perimeter of the frame. Another method is to cut the wood ¼ inch longer than the size of the window and to wedge it, by putting the piece of plywood underneath the soffit and wedging it against the sidewalk.
 - ii. If you intend to tape your windows, the tape should be on the inside of the space. Understand that the tape will do little to prevent windows from breaking. This will only minimize damage and injury caused by flying glass and debris, which has to be cleaned up later.
 - iii. Your HVAC technician should check your unit to make sure the panels are properly secured.
2. Please be advised that the shopping center does not carry insurance for the tenants' personal contents. Please keep your insurance policy handy.
3. Outside your store:

If you have pallets or any items that are loosely stored behind or in front of your store, please remove them or store elsewhere.
4. Inside your store:

Remove all items from windowsills or within close proximity.
Close all interior doors.
Turn off all lights and disconnect all electrical equipment and appliances.
Move your merchandise to the middle of the store and raise as much as possible off the floor.
5. Post storm:

If the situation warrants, please do not re-enter the premises unless management authorizes.
Upon being authorized to return to your space, please report all damage to the following:

- ❖ **1-866-541-6688**
- ❖ **hurricanehelp@inlandgroup.com**

If phones are down at one office, the calls will be forwarded to another office and responded to from there. Please keep in mind, that in an area-wide emergency situation, we will have to prioritize calls in order of severity.

While we will attempt to respond as quickly as possible, it may take longer than our normal response time.

Please refer to our webpage, www.inlandgroup.com for more information and links to helpful resources.



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