

# Hurricane Safety

**Prevent fires, electrical shock and carbon monoxide poisoning when coping with a disaster.**

- **Use caution with cooking appliances.**

*Do not use a charcoal or propane grill, hibachi or camping stove inside the home. This could pose a carbon monoxide or an explosion hazard.*

- **Use generators outdoors only.**

*Generators and other fuel powered machines should be used outside the home & not near any openings such as windows or doors. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.*

- **Remember Water and Electricity Do Not Mix!**

*Watch for downed wires. All downed wires should be considered "live" & can severely injure you. Be sure to explain this to children.*

*Do not venture into a flooded basement. If the outlets or the fuse box in the basement are under water, it could electrically charge the water and electrocute you. Flooded water may contain untreated sewage and cause serious health problems.*

*If you fill the bathtub with water "just in case", be sure to keep all electrical appliances at a safe distance.*



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## **FireFACTORS**

**Office of the State Fire Marshal • Department of Fire Services**  
P.O. Box 1025 State Road Stow, MA 01775 (978) 567-3300 [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)

- **Give your smoke & Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms fresh batteries.**

*Working smoke & CO alarms can double your family's chances of surviving a disaster & avoiding a tragedy. Make sure your smoke & CO alarms have fresh batteries.*

- **Use flashlights and battery-operated candles if the power goes out.**

*Use flashlights or battery-operated candles if the power goes out. Candle fires have turned deadly during power outages when smoke alarms also may not work. Make sure to have plenty of extra batteries in case of prolonged power outages.*

- **Gas Safety**

*Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak (it smells like rotten eggs), leave the house immediately, leaving the door open. Call the fire department from your cell phone or a neighbor's house.*

*Never strike a match. Any size flame or spark can cause an explosion.*

- **Calling for Help**

*Charge up your cell phone battery in advance. Fire alarm boxes may not work if the power is out. Do not be afraid to call for help in an emergency or if you think you may be in trouble.*

*Avoid non-emergency calls to police and fire departments.*

- **Make and practice a home escape plan, with two ways out & an outside meeting place.**

*Teach your home's escape plan & meeting place to your family & guests. If you are visiting friends or relatives, ask about the escape plan & meeting place for their house.*

- **Flooding Safety.**

*If you live near the coast or in an area prone to flooding, be prepared to move to a safer location if necessary. Be alert to your local fire, police or emergency management departments for evacuation warnings. A battery powered radio & spare batteries are important to get information about the changing events during & after a hurricane.*

- **Prepare an Emergency Kit**

*Make an emergency kit including a 3-day supply of water & non-perishable food, a first aid kit, a battery powered or hand cranked radio, flashlight & extra*