



Active hurricane season ahead: Are you prepared?

This year's forecast of an active hurricane season brings an increased potential for severe storms to hit Atlantic Canada. In hurricane season – and year round – Johnson Insurance and Unifund Assurance Company take all necessary precautions to ensure we are here for our customers.

It is important that home owners in this part of the country prepare for the storm season. Hurricanes are generally forecasted well in advance, so be extra aware this time of year and stay informed of the expected weather conditions. You can always obtain up-to-date information from your local radio or television station, or visit Environment Canada online at www.weatheroffice.gc.ca.

The following are some emergency preparedness tips and information to assist you in the event of a hurricane.

Before a hurricane

- Be sure to trim back dead or weak branches from trees located near your home, outbuildings, parked or stored vehicles, and power lines.
- Store all outdoor objects such as patio and lawn furniture, BBQs, toys, and garden tools; and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Compile an emergency preparedness kit, and store it in an easily accessible area of your home. Include battery-powered or wind-up flashlights and radios – don't forget extra batteries! Bottled water and non-perishable food is also important to include.
- Keep in mind most cordless phones will not work in a power outage. Ensure you have a telephone that does not require electricity to function.
- Fill the gas tank of your car in case of emergencies.
- If your home is located in a low-lying area near the coast, move inland and to a higher elevation if possible. Hurricanes bring strong winds, and they can create tidal waves and storm surges.
- If you have a sump pump, make sure it is in the proper working order as ground water always increases during storms.
- Ensure you have a sufficient supply of charcoal or propane for your BBQ so that you are able to cook and heat food for meals. Remember never to operate your BBQ from inside your home or garage.

During a hurricane

- Stay indoors, unless directed otherwise by the appropriate authorities.
- Stay informed – listen to your local radio or television station for storm updates.
- Avoid using your land line as it is not safe. Use your cellular phone to keep in contact with friends, family or neighbours. Limit phone calls to ensure your battery life will last the duration of the storm.

For more information on hurricane preparation, visit www.johnson.ca, or www.getprepared.gc.ca.

Johnson customers can report claims at 1-888-739-1214.