

Gear Roundup:

Next level hurricane preparedness

Stock the pantry, gas up the vehicles, stockpile batteries, amass bottled water and board up the windows — but don't stop there to ensure you are prepared for a hurricane...

With the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season officially underway, there's no time to lose. Last year, hurricanes wreaked \$183 million in damages and claimed many lives. Hurricanes can and do have a very real and decidedly negative impact on our life — even for those living miles inland. The series of historic storms our nation experienced in recent years, which demolished homes, personal property and lives, not to mention exhausting governmental resources, are case in point.

With this in mind, it's imperative those in "at-risk" areas do not get complacent and cover just the bare necessities like batteries and canned goods. Don't wait until a storm is impending to seek out the provisions you need.

CableOrganizer.com offers these "next level" hurricane preparedness tips:

•Case Study. To safeguard important documents, data, and valuables, seek watertight, dust proof, chemical resistant, and corrosion proof storage containers. Many sturdy cases are on the market, including the popular Pelican Protector Case™ that is made of Ultra High Impact structural copolymer, making it particularly strong and durable.

•Gear Fear. Sensitive computer or other equipment can be packed into copolymer protector cases in high density foam or padded dividers that will shield against impact, shock or vibration. Easy-to-open ABS latches seal these cases tightly, which can also include an automatic purge valve for atmospheric pressure equalization to ensure even the most sensitive equipment remains safe.

•Achieve Lift-Off: With a hurricane comes

water, which all too often seeps indoors creating a flood situation. In a flood, cables, power adapters, power strips, hubs, modems and other small devices are at great risk. Readily lift these items off the floor and put safely out of harm's way with cable management products such as the Cable-Safe™ Complete Cable Manager — an extremely effective and inexpensive way to loop, tie and hang cabling and wiring off the floor.

•Get Attached. Assure bookshelves and cabinets over five feet in height, particularly those that are top-heavy, are secured to the wall with the appropriate mount or fastener to ensure they do not fall over during the chaos of a hurricane. If not secured, such bookshelves and cabinets can topple and not only damage whatever it contained, but also deliver a crushing blow to whoever may be on the receiving end.

•Take the Edge Off. Ensure you have corrugated cardboard and heavy-duty tape on hand to wrap anything that breaks during a storm and creates a sharp edge, such as broken or cracked glass, brittle plastic casings or other materials that may break and produce a sharp or rough edge. Doing so will protect yourself and others from accidental lacerations, which can be dire when seeking medical attention is not an immediate possibility. Sharp edge protection is also important after the storm, especially when placing broken items in a trash container.

•Power Hour. As a storm approaches, power outages are not uncommon. And, after a storm passes, electricity may not be available for hours, days, or even weeks. Living without electric power is challenging, but if you are prepared with a generator appropriate for home use, you don't have to suffer through dark nights or food supplies without refrigera-

tion. "Briggs and Stratton Storm Ready Kit" is one good option, as it includes a 25-foot panel extension cord that is rated at 30 amps, two quarts of SAE 30 engine oil to keep your generator purring, and two packets of fuel stabilizer. There is also a large storage cover made of nylon with a drawstring bottom to protect the generator when not in use.

•Strike the Right "Cord." You don't want to run a generator with a tangled maze of extension cords, opting instead for a heavy gauge 30 amp cord to ensure safety. Some generator kits such as include such cords but, for those that don't, it's important that you source one. The top pick would be one that works with all generators that are a 120/240 volt, 30 amp outlet design, and that provide two sets of 120 volt outlets from a single 240 volt receptacle. Using power cords that are not properly rated can result in fires or electric shock. So, be prepared to distribute generator-driven power safely to critical electric appliances and devices.

•Dire Wire. Of course, with any exposed wiring and power cords and cabling comes safety risks. Poised and ready to trip all who pass, exposed power cords, cables and wires are far than an unsightly. Fortunately, "surface raceways" made of durable PVC are a readily available to organize and protect electrical cords that run along the

floor or on the wall. "Cord protector" wire cover systems are another great way to keep from tripping on loose cables and cords running across a walkway. Cord protectors cover, hide, and protect cords and cables while keeping floors clear and safe. They also lie flat, and stay flat, and are decidedly easy to install.

"Much is said about hurricane preparedness, which can truly make all the difference in sustaining oneself during, and recovering after, a storm," notes *CableOrganizer.com* CEO Paul Holstein. "While it's of utmost importance to have the fundamentals in place relative to food, water, medication, communication and transportation, there are a number of other important factors to consider when safeguarding the homestead."

"Every household has stacks of important papers that are difficult, in some cases virtually impossible, to replace, such as insurance policies, medical records, birth certificates, legal documents, passports, computer data, automobile and home ownership documents," says Holstein.

"Jewelry, medications, and other valuable items also require waterproof, secure protection, and those who own such items would be well-served by ensuring they are safe and secure — during a hurricane or any other disaster, those natural and otherwise."