

## Emergency Preparedness

The key to successfully weathering a hurricane or tropical storm is being prepared. Here is what you should do:

- Know the warning signals and where shelters are located.
- Always have a home survival kit ready, with the following basic items:
  - Portable radio
  - Extra batteries
  - Flashlight
  - Candles
  - Manual can opener
  - Matches or lighter
  - First aid kit and special medications
  - Five-day supply of non-perishable, ready-to-eat food
  - Ice chest and blue-ice packs
  - Containers of water (minimum 2 quarts per person per day)
  - Sleeping bags or blankets
  - Change of clothing for each family member
  - Camp stove, lantern, and fuel
  - Masking tape for windows
  - Personal hygiene, sanitary supplies, and diapers
- Tie down or store all loose objects.
- Store all propane tanks.
- Bring all potted plants into the house.
- Remove and store patio furniture.
- Throw deck furniture into the pool.
- Unplug electric appliances you may not need or use.
- Shutter/board all windows and glass doors.
- Wedge sliding doors at the top.
- Assemble insurance documents and place in waterproof containers.
- Secure elevators on the top floor of your condominium.
- Fill up the gas tank of your car.
- Care for pets.

For further information, check your telephone directories for numbers National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other Civil and Defense Forces advice.

### Private Generators

Storms sometimes cause power failures. Here are some actions you should take ahead of time:

- In situations where you want to connect the generator to the household electrical system, ensure that the residence is DISCONNECTED from the utility's electrical system at the point where the electric lines feed into

the meter. A special switch should be installed at the point where the generator and the electric utility serves power to the residence. This type of switch eliminates the possibility of two sources supplying power to the house at the same time. The switch should be installed by a qualified electrician. If the generator is improperly connected, the possibility exists that the power will feed back into the lines and endanger the lives of your neighbors as well as utility repair crews trying to restore power, who may not realize the lines are energized.

- Be sure the generator's capacity is adequate to meet household load. To avoid possible damage to the appliances or generator, consider using only those appliances that do not exceed the generator's capacity.
- Generators should be properly grounded in accordance with the instruction manual.
- Ventilation of the generator's exhaust and cooling systems must be well-designed to minimize the impact of noise, dangerous fumes and overheating.
- Reserve fuel must be stored in a safe place away from the generator or any other equipment that may ignite the fuel, using containers designed for fuel storage. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, call the Trouble Dispatcher at your utility.

These are just general guidelines, and residents should seek proper advice and assistance from the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (B.E.C.).