

# Apartments & Condominiums

## Apartment and condominium residents should be advised to:

- ▶ Select a building captain who has knowledge of hurricane preparedness and who will instruct residents on how to prepare for the storm.
- ▶ If the building is located within an ordered evacuation zone, residents will be asked to evacuate, either to another location of their choice or to a Red Cross shelter, with no exceptions.
- ▶ Close and lock all windows, sliding glass doors and shutters.
- ▶ Shades, blinds and drapes should be drawn closed across the windows.
- ▶ If possible, folded towels should be placed on window sills and inside bottom of doors leading outdoors to absorb any leaking water.
- ▶ Patio doors should be wedged to prevent them from being blown off.
- ▶ All shutters must be closed tightly against the wall to prevent them from being blown off by the wind.
- ▶ Remove all loose items from terrace or patio (hanging plants, lawn chairs, etc.).
- ▶ Remove fragile objects from wall shelves as there will be some vibrations during the storm. Valuable items should be stored in a safe area (e.g., closet) and off the floor.
- ▶ Outdoor furniture should not be placed in a swimming pool since it could be damaged while in the pool or cause damage if blown out of the pool by high wind.
- ▶ Locate the exit stairway nearest to them and count the number of steps from their door to the exit in case the lights are out in the hallway.
- ▶ Check and close all faucets; unplug electrical items from wall outlets and disconnect television antennas from the sets.
- ▶ Stay in the apartment/condominium in a room with few or no windows.
- ▶ Determine a location outside of the building for members of their family to meet if asked to evacuate.

## Apartment and condominium building managers located within areas not ordered to evacuate should be advised to:

- ▶ Establish a building security detail to coordinate hurricane preparedness activities for multiple tenant buildings.
- ▶ Locate a safe area for residents to congregate. Instruct them to stay away from windows, sliding glass doors. Make provisions for sheltering other people who might be trapped when the evacuation routes are closed by the storm.
- ▶ Make sure the emergency generator is operating, if there is one.
- ▶ Bring all fire extinguishers indoors.
- ▶ Check first aid kits.
- ▶ Have access to tools and materials that might be needed for repairs.
- ▶ Secure grounds by setting up guidelines for safety of cars and recreational equipment.
- ▶ Lower and secure television antennas on the roof to prevent damage. Television antennas are often electrically charged and should be allowed to "bleed off" by disconnecting television sets early on in the building preparations.