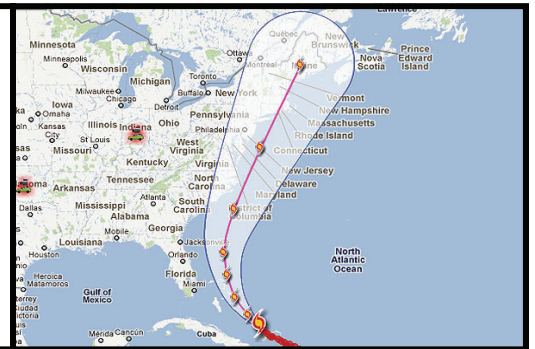




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Lessons Learned from *Hurricane Irene*






Hurricane Irene blew into town on August 27, 2011 leaving many in Central VA unprepared to deal with the damage, chaos and power outages that followed. In the days before and the days after Irene, many lessons have been learned. We wanted to take this time to share with you what we and our clients have gained from this experience so that you will be better prepared for the next storm that comes our way.

Before the Storm-Prepare, Prepare and Prepare Some More

- ✓ Trim trees and secure objects around the outside of your home: lawn furniture, bird feeders, potted plants, etc. Anything that isn't secured to the ground can become a projectile and cause serious damage to your home or your neighbors'.
- ✓ Know where you can take pets in case of an emergency (pet friendly hotel, friend's house, vet). **Becky Meade** suggests "all animals should have a collar with ID on it during bad weather and you might consider micro-chipping all of your animal family members as an extra precaution." Do not leave them home alone-if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your pet.
- ✓ Get some cash before the storm. Many stores (like the Dollar Store) will still take cash if their power is out. If you pay your bills online and lose electric/Internet, you'll also lose the ability to use your online banking. Pay your bills at least 10 days in advance, if you can. You don't want to be late on a payment.
- ✓ Charge up your cell phones and have a car charger available. Even if your power goes out, you'll still have a way to communicate with family and friends.

Stock up on Supplies

If you have a generator, keep as many extension cords on hand as possible and have gas cans filled and ready. One or more box fans for the windows are must haves. Tap lights are a great alternative to easily misplaced flashlights and dangerous candles and can be placed in every room for instant light. Antibacterial wipes are priceless. If you live in the country like we do and lose water when you lose power, paper cups, plates and disposable silverware are a must when you can't wash dishes. Fill up your bathtubs, pots and 5-gallon buckets with water.

⚠ DANGER		
Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES. Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. This is a poison you cannot see or smell.		
		
NEVER use inside a home or garage, EVEN IF doors and windows are open.		Only use OUTSIDE and far away from windows, doors, and vents.

For more info visit
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/portgen.html>

Tips From Our Clients

"I think what Irene taught me was to never discount the importance of good neighbors. My neighbors have offered showers, power for our cell phones, freezer space for our food".

Stephanie Brown

"Over-planning for a storm is much better than under-planning for it. Whatever you see on the TV weather forecast is just an educated guess, so be highly prepared just in case."

"Know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em. We'll stay in our house for a tropical storm or category-one hurricane. Higher than that and we scoot west over the mountains. It's not worth risking your life to tough it out when the odds get heavy."

"Buy that big, strong generator you swore you would buy as you stumbled around your sweaty, candle-filled house the last time. It makes a world of difference; you have lights, fans, and showers, your food is safe, and you can even still do some work. The kids will also have more to do and settle down better."

Doug Hickok

"Once the power went out, it would get pretty boring at night. For a fun break, I used an AC adapter in the car and watched a movie in the driveway with the A/C on." **Joel Ratekin**

"Consider your homeowner's coverage and the weather changes that our area is currently having. You may need to add coverage that you thought you would never need. I know I have a call into my agent to see if I have the coverage I really need with having an earthquake, a hurricane, and lots of water and tree damage in one week." **Becky Meade**

"Don't wait for a hurricane to come - always keep a flashlight and batteries in your home - when you really need them, you cannot find them in the stores!" **Linda Goodman**

You Can Have It All!



Mark Adams Team

We especially loved this tip from Shane Wilcox.

**"Tip for avoiding the impacts of tropical storms?
Move further inland."**

We can help you with that.

**Call the Mark Adams Team today at 804.237.8585
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