

## Get Hurricane Ready

Between festivals, barbecues, and getaways, getting ready for a hurricane might be the last thing on your mind. But there are things you may want to do now to be prepared. Johnson Insurance has tips to help you avoid property damage and keep safe in the event of a hurricane.

### Summer is the prime time to prep your property

Use the good weather to do some outdoor work and check-ups around your property:

- Trim trees that could break off in high winds; however, trim with caution - for trees near power lines, contact your electricity company for assistance. And for high trees consider contacting an arborist.
- Take a look at your furniture and secure any objects that might fall, break or cause a fire.
- If you have a sump pump, you should also make regular checks to ensure it's in good working condition - ground water increases during storms.

You'll want a sufficient supply of charcoal or propane during BBQ season, but also in case of tropical storms or hurricanes. Then, if power is knocked out you'll be able to cook after the storm. Of course, **never operate a BBQ or camp stove in your house or garage**. Stock up on batteries too for flashlights and a battery-operated radio (which every household should have).

### Hunker down safely during a storm

Being prepared beforehand will help protect you and your home if a hurricane does land in your area. But there are things you can do during the storm too:

- When you come home, park your car in the garage if you have one.
- Ensure all outdoor furniture and appliances such as fire pits and BBQs are stored or well secured, and that all awnings are retracted.
- Move valuables off the basement floor in case of flooding.
- Listen to advice from authorities and emergency services during the storm and make sure your cell phone is fully charged. Be sure to have a phone that doesn't require electricity to function - cordless phones will not operate if there's a power outage. Additionally, if the power goes out unplug or turn off appliances and electronics to prevent a power surge when electricity is restored.

### After the storm passes

- Once the storm is over, take a walk around your property, looking for shingles or siding that may have blown off in the high winds. If you see indications of damage, contact a professional for a further inspection. Take pictures and make a list of damaged property to help when you start your claim.
- A bit of advance preparation may help you avoid property damage. And if you're a Johnson customer, you can count on us to be there for you. Make a claim through the claims line at any time.

**Claims Service available 24/7**

**1-844-895-0784**

**1-800-873-2424 (Quebec)**