



**News You Can Use
from
State Senator Audrey
Gibson**

***Helpful tips for
Hurricane Season***



**101 E. Union Street, Suite 104 Jacksonville, FL 32202.
(904) 359-2553**

Dear Constituent and Friend,

June 1st is the official start of hurricane season, which lasts through November 30th! The unpredictability of the number and severity of storms means we should prepare at the beginning of the season. Below are some tips that will help you and your family get ready now. **Please share with others so all of our neighbors and friends are hurricane ready!**

Here are a few preparation tips you can do now and others you know should follow, **before the storm:**

- Check your supplies such as water (one gallon per person for a minimum of three days), non-perishable foods, blankets, first aid kits, flashlights, batteries, radios, and any pet care items including their own water
- Get medications you may need before the storm reaches the area
- Fill your vehicle with gas before the storm approaches
- Don't operate a generator inside your home as fumes are toxic and may cause serious injury or death
- Keep financial information and important documents accessible in something that is waterproof, like a plastic zip bag
- Be sure to have cash on hand, as power outages may restrict access to ATMs and limit credit card use
- Follow all instructions from local authorities regarding evacuation or other safety procedures
- Identify the closest shelter near you in the event you need to evacuate including special needs shelters, and pet shelters if needed

During this year's legislative session, I was happy to support our disaster preparedness sales tax holiday, which was passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law. This is a great benefit for families as they prepare for the hurricane season.

The sales tax holiday begins on Friday, June 1, 2018 and ends on Thursday, June 7, 2018. Use this list to help build your hurricane kits:

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS 2018 SALES TAX HOLIDAY

\$10 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Reusable ice (resuable ice packs)	\$50 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Tarpaulins (tarps)■ Visqueen, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths, and other flexible waterproof sheeting■ Ground anchor systems■ Tie-down kits■ Bungee cords■ Ratchet straps■ Radios (powered by battery, solar or hand crank)<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Two-way■ Weather band
\$20 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Any portable self-powered light source:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Flashlights■ Lanterns■ Candles	
\$25 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Any gas or diesel fuel container, including LP gas and kerosene containers	\$750 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Portable generators used to provide light or communications, or to preserve food in the event of a power outage
\$30 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only (excluding automobile and boat batteries):<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ AA and AAA-cell■ C-cell■ D-cell■ 6-volt■ 9-volt■ Coolers and ice chests (food-storage; nonelectrical)	Always Exempt <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Bottled water (unflavored, uncarbonated)■ Canned food, including meats, vegetable, fruits, peanut butter, and other nonperishable items■ First aid kits■ Prescription and non-prescription medications (all Rx and most over the counter are exempt)■ Baby food and formulas

June 1-7

 Visit floridarevenue.com/disasterprep

Helpful websites and phone numbers in building your disaster family plan:

- **Florida Division of Emergency Management:** <https://floridadisaster.org/info/> or 800-342-3557 for all up to date information
- **City of Jacksonville Preparedness Guide:** <http://www.coj.net/departments/fire-and-rescue/emergency-preparedness.aspx>
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** 800-621-3362
- **City of Jacksonville:** 904-630-2489
- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO):** 911 or 904-630-0500 for non-emergency calls
- **Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA):** 904-665-6000
- **Florida Department of Financial Services Consumer Helpline:** 877-693-5236
- **American Red Cross:** 866-438-4636

The best way to keep safe is to stay informed and be prepared!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 904-359-2553.

As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6