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News Release

Do-It-Yourself Tips to Prepare Homes for Hurricanes

Hurricane Season Begins June 1

ORLANDO, Fla. – Florida has had about twice as many hurricane landfalls in recorded history as any state, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There are several easy steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances their property becomes a statistic.

Hurricane season begins shortly so Florida homeowners should consider the following do-it-yourself tips to protect their property:

- **Install storm shutters** to protect windows from strong winds.
- **Identify somewhere to secure outdoor items** like furniture, garden tools, toys and garbage cans. Strong winds can turn these items into projectiles that may damage homes and cause injuries.
- **Clean gutters and downspouts.** Leaves, twigs and debris can clog them and prevent rainwater from efficiently draining away from homes.
- **Buy flood insurance.** Most home insurance policies do not cover the expensive damage of hurricane-related flooding. National Flood Insurance Program policies become effective 30 days after the date of purchase so homeowners should purchase one before it's too late. Learn more at www.floodsmart.gov.

For Hurricane Irma recovery information, visit www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL.

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Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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