



**“FAIR TO PARTLY CLOUDY.....WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS”
A HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE**

Part 2

Now, not all homeowners’ policies are created equal. There are several variations in the scope of coverage that polices from different insurance companies offer. As a homeowner, you need to take some time to research the type of insurance you really need. You need to ask questions and more questions about your policy and insist on clear answers from your insurance company, agent or broker. Ask about what is **not covered**, as this will help you to focus more on the areas where you are openly exposed. Then ask about how any of the things not covered, that you consider to be important, can be included in your policy. Information is available; usually it is completely free. Proper insurance arrangements should be considered as an important element in your first line of defense against the effects of disasters and misfortune. Critical rules to follow are:

- Recognize insurance as a financial necessity.
- Use insurance as a management tool in securing your financial future.
- Avoid shortcuts such as under-insurance. Insure full worth and claim full worth.
- Get professional advice on what to do and follow instructions.
- Keep all policies current & up-to-date. Review regularly.
- Get insurance advice on new activities/projects before implementation.
- Avoid last minute insurance arrangements. You can’t insure a burning house!
- Have a contingency plan.

When a hurricane or other disaster threatens, there are a few practical steps you could follow which may help not only to safeguard your personal belongings, but may also save your life.

These may include:

Preparing your family so that each person knows what is going on and what to do, wherever they may be.

Having emergency supplies on hand in your home is the first step. Always stock up on canned foods and a can opener.

Having a disaster-preparedness kit stored in a container that's easily portable, such as a duffel bag or camping backpack. Placing items in waterproof plastic bags will help protect them further. A very important component of the disaster-preparedness kit is a First-aid kit with essential medications. A Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries are other essential items, as there is a great possibility of a power outage.

Store at least three gallons of water per person (one gallon of water per person for at least three days; often, more is needed)

It is also recommended that protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags are kept on hand.

Keeping a small amount of cash on hand just incase banking facilities are not up and running immediately following the natural disaster.

Any special items required for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

Instructions for how to turn off water and electricity if authorities advise you to do so.

Perform an inventory of what is in your home; being sure not to forget items that you've added since the last time you performed such an inventory.

Copies of important documents, including insurance policies, wills, titles and deeds to property, birth and marriage certificates, credit card and bank account information.

It is also advisable to store copies of your important documents somewhere other than your home, such as in a bank's safety deposit box or with out-of-town family or friends. If this proves impossible, storing the documents in a fireproof box in your home may be the best alternative.

The preceding was brought to you by your friends at EC Global Insurance. For more information please call 451-3244 "*Our strength is on your side*".