

Holes should be drilled for lag bolts 2 1/2 inches from the outside edge of the plywood at each corner and at 12-inch intervals around the perimeter of the window.

Drill four holes in the center area of the plywood to relieve pressure built up between the window and the plywood during a hurricane. Mark each shutter so you will know where it is to be installed and store them and the bolts in an accessible place.

## ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS

- **Bring in all outside items, such as patio furniture and children's toys, that can become projectile objects in heavy winds.**
- **Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Make trees more resistant by removing diseased or damaged limbs.**
- **Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts. Hurricanes often bring long periods of rains. Clear drainage prevents misdirected flooding.**
- **Know whether your home is in a flood zone and if necessary follow flood preparedness procedures.**
- **Prepare an evacuation plan in case you and your family are asked to leave your home. Have a "grab and run" bag ready with important papers, such as your homeowners insurance policy and any required prescription drugs.**
- **Listen to the advice of local officials and leave if they tell you to do so. If you are not advised to leave ride out the storm in a safe room in your home away from windows.**

## WHEN THE STORM IS OVER

- **Use extreme caution when entering your home or business after the storm. Hurricane-driven flood waters may have damaged buildings where you least expect it. Carefully watch every step you take.**
- **Wear sturdy shoes. The most common injury after a disaster is cut feet.**
- **Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights when examining buildings.**
- **Examine walls, floors, doors, staircases and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing.**
- **Inspect foundation for cracks or other damage. Cracks to damaged foundations can render a building uninhabitable.**
- **Look for fire hazards. There may be broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits or submerged furnaces or electrical appliances. Fire is the most frequent hazard following floods.**
- **Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise quickly leave the building.**
- **Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or /frayed wires or smell burning insulation call an electrician.**
- **Pump out flooded basements gradually (about 1/3 of the water a day). If the water is pumped out completely in a short time pressure from the water outside could cause the basement walls to collapse.**



## TOWN OF FALMOUTH BUILDING DEPARTMENT

# Hurricane Protection: Before and After



How to Protect Your  
Family and  
Your Home

