

Gaggle of gizmos can help you weather storms

From powering smart phones to getting information, these gadgets will help you get by when the big one hits.

BY JACK ROWLAND | *Times Gadget Guy*

When hunkered down for an approaching hurricane, the essential things you typically need are power, light, information, water and food. ¶ Food is the easy one, and if you lose power you'll be surprised how long you can survive on granola bars and beef jerky. For the other needs, however, some gadgets can keep you out of the dark, powered up, con-

nected and hydrated. ¶ In the past, radio and television broadcasts have been among the best sources of information during a hurricane. That's still true but thanks to smart phones and tablet computers, social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook and local news sites such as tampabay.com will be even more valuable. ¶ So besides the gadgets listed here, add a smart phone with Twitter and Facebook accounts to your hurricane survival checklist.





Times senior video producer **Jack Rowland** is the Gadget Guy. With more than 25 years of experience covering major hurricanes, he has been using all kinds of gadgets for years to survive and work in hurricane zones. Stay tuned to his Gadget Guy blog, tampabay.com/blogs/latest-gadgets, for more about gizmos, gadgets, widgets and apps that can help you survive a hurricane or your daily life. Scan the QR code with your mobile device to go directly to his blog.

Energizer Weather Ready 4 LED flashlight

Here's another alternative when you need a flashlight that works with various battery sizes. The Energizer Weather Ready 4 LED flashlight delivers 56 lumens of light and will run on C, AA or AAA batteries. It ships with two C batteries installed and sells online for about \$14.

Aquarmira Frontier Pro Ultralight water filter

Water is another one of the things that disappears from shelves as a hurricane approaches. After a storm, water lines might be damaged and contaminated. The Aquarmira Frontier Pro is a water-purification device that attaches to a normal water bottle. It uses an antimicrobial filter to remove giardia, cryptosporidium and E. coli. Each filter cleans 50 gallons of water. It sells online for about \$20.



Lenmar battery adapters

Batteries are among the first things to disappear from store shelves when a hurricane is approaching. What do you do if you need D cells but all you can find is AA? These battery adapters from Lenmar can help. Just slip a AA battery inside to convert it to a C or D cell. The batteries won't last as long, but they will work. They're available in packs of four online for about \$8.



Duracell Powerpack 600

If you're going to stay connected during a storm, you'll need power for your smart phone, tablet computer and other items. The Duracell Powerpack 600 can provide portable power for AC- and DC-powered electronics such as smart phones, laptops, tablets, small electric coolers, lights, small televisions, fans and more. It has three AC sockets and one DC socket with a built-in inverter. It also has a light, an AM/FM radio and a digital clock. With the attached cables you also can use it to jump-start a car. You won't be using a gas generator until after the storm passes, so this is a quiet and safe way to keep things powered up. It sells online for about \$150.