

HURRICANE TECH PREP

You know the drill for stocking candles, batteries and water. But how is your hurricane tech preparedness? These days, getting ready for storm season includes protecting digital files, powering mobile gadgets and downloading apps to keep your family safe.

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SMARTPHONE APPLICATIONS

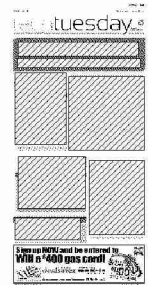
TRACKING FAMILY



Guardly (iPhone, free): If you are in an emergency and can't speak, a button on Guardly sends a voice call, text message and email to specified contacts to tell them where you are and that you need help. The free version doesn't let you say why you need help. A premium version, starting at \$9.99 a month, adds real-time location tracking and the ability to text and share photos with emergency contacts. It also auto dials 911 if the user chooses.



Life360 Family Tracker (iPhone, Android, free): Users can see other Life360-using family members on a map. It keeps track of your phone's location using GPS. If you're in trouble, you can send a general alert for help to specified emergency contacts via a phone call, email and text message. Users can also browse the map to see nearby fire and police stations, hospitals and the homes of registered sex offenders.



TRACKING THE STORM



TheWeatherChannel
(iPhone, Android, free): Shows time-lapse video of radar and clouds, weather alerts for user's location plus local weather conditions and news reports.



Hurricane Tracker Florida
(iPhone, free): Provides tropical weather satellite image and condition warnings from Miami's National Hurricane Center. The 99-cent version adds past storm data.



iMapWeather Radio (iPhone, \$9.99): Using GPS to detect a user's location, app sends notifications when severe weather is nearby. Includes a cone of probability for approaching hurricanes.

TRACKING RESOURCES



Red Cross Shelter View
(iPhone, free): The app provides Red Cross shelters locations, the number of people there and news on recent disasters. During a disaster, the info is updated every 30 minutes.



AAA Trip Tik (iPhone, free): The app pulls up nearby gas stations and most recently reported gas prices. If you need to evacuate, it also can be helpful for finding hotels, places to eat and car repair shops.



Gas Buddy (iPhone, Android, free): This service is built around users submitting gas price information to help you find the cheapest gas nearby. Contributors earn points to win prizes.

TECH PREP GEAR

BUDGET = \$



Verbatim Tuff 'N' Tiny 16 GB USB drive (\$29, amazon.com): For a worst-case scenario, keep your most important digital files on your keychain with this USB drive that is resistant to dust, water and static discharges.



Duracell 175 Watt Pocket Power Source Inverter (\$31, amazon.com): Need to recharge that laptop? This car charger powers electronics that use a USB port or three-prong AC outlet.



American Red Cross Blackout Buddy (\$15, eton corp.com): This LED flashlight plugs into a wall socket and turns on when there is a blackout. Can be used as a night light or flashlight.

BUDGET = \$\$



Illumaguard (\$50, elektrikusinc.com): When the power goes off, the Illumaguard battery backup keeps your lamp on for up to eight hours when using an energy-efficient CFL bulb.



Gorilla Torch Flare (\$35, amazon.com): Flexible tripod arms with magnetic grip help this tough LED light brighten almost any area. Has option for a red-light strobe signal.

BUDGET = \$\$\$



Motorola Talkabout MS350 two-way radios

(\$76, amazon.com): Able to communicate up to 35 miles apart, these waterproof, rechargeable radios tune into NOAA national weather hazard stations, float in water and can be used as LED flashlights.



Revolve xeMini Plus (\$70, amazon.com): This solar charger can power itself from a wall outlet, car charger (not included), computer or sunlight. Once the battery is filled, it can recharge any device that can connect via its two USB ports.



Duracell PowerPack 450

(\$115, amazon.com): This alternative to a generator provides 450 watts of power and has a voice prompt to tell you how much juice is left to run the plugged-in device. It has an emergency light, can run small power tools, recharge laptops and cellphones and jump start a car.



Wet Circuits Power Strip

(\$70, wetcircuits.com): Water-resistant power strip's smart fuse and circuit breaker are designed to sense overheating and cut off power to prevent fire.