



Hurricane Preparedness for Notaries



If You're Evacuating

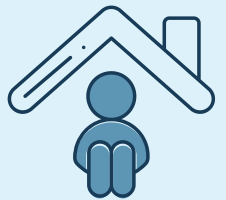


Gather your notary record book (journal), stamp/seal, and commission certificate (if you have it), and pack them with your essential documents. Store your journal in a waterproof or fireproof pouch, and place your stamp or seal in a secure, portable container.

Never leave these items behind unless absolutely necessary and properly protected. If any notary tools are lost or damaged during the evacuation, report the incident to your state's commissioning authority immediately.

If You're Sheltering in Place

If you're not evacuating, reduce the risk of damage by moving your notary supplies to an interior room, away from windows. Store items in waterproof containers and elevate documents and electronics off the floor to protect them from potential flooding.



Post-Storm

Once you're safe and able, inspect your notary supplies for any loss or damage. If your record book, stamp, or seal is missing or compromised, report it right away—many states require notification within a specific timeframe and may ask for a written statement.

Replace any damaged or lost tools through a trusted provider like Notary Public Underwriters. If you've moved, update your contact information with your state's notary division and bonding agency.

Let your clients know if your availability or location has changed. Maintain clear records of what was lost to protect your commission.

Know your state's laws for alternative methods of verifying identity in case a signer lost their ID during the disaster. Most states allow personal knowledge if you know the signer well. Some also allow credible witnesses to vouch for the signer—but each state has different rules, so review the law before proceeding.

