

SHABBAT PROTOCOLS IN CASE OF A HURRICANE OR OTHER DISASTERS

Developed by Rabbi Kenneth Brander with profound thanks to Rav Hershel Schachter shlita for his guidance.

If a hurricane or there are severe dangerous winds on Shabbat or Yom Tov, stay home. In the case of Shabbat, we will lain two *parshiyot* next week.

If there is no electricity on Shabbat or Yom Tov but storm is over. If safe...

- Minyan only during daylight hours
- Shacharit _____am.
- Mincha will be held at _____.
- Parshat _____ will be read next week for those unable to attend shul this week.
- If there is electricity, services will be held as regularly scheduled.

Assume no Eruv

- Carrying permitted for life/limb threatening situations.
- Carrying permitted for individuals who need medical attention without which a person's functionality is compromised, even for a bed-ridden headache. In this case carrying should be done, if possible, in an irregular fashion (i.e. carrying medicine in one's belt or shoe).
- Carrying permitted to allow a baby, infirm senior, someone with psychological challenges, or a child/adult traumatized by the event to function without compromise. In this case, carrying should be done, if possible, in an irregular fashion.

Use of Candles, Glowsticks & Flashlights

- Hang/place lit flashlights with fresh batteries in key locations before Shabbat and Yom Tov.
- It is recommended to use LED flashlights over incandescent flashlights because they will last longer. Some claim to even last 48 hours.

- Light yahrzeit or hurricane candles before Shabbat and place them in designated locations.
- Be careful about using candles in an area that might cause a fire.
- Glowsticks, if possible, they should be opened before Shabbat.
- A point of consideration: Open glow sticks prior to Shabbat and then freeze them. This decelerates the chemical reaction allowing them to last longer (when removed from the freezer).
- In a state of darkness and there are no prepared glow sticks, it would certainly be permitted to ask a Gentile to crack the glow stick and, when that option is not available, a Jew him/herself would be permitted to do so to insure that no trauma nor any other physical danger adversely affect any individual.

If Flashlight/Candle goes out:

- When necessary (to take care of children, to eat etc...) and there is no other light, a Gentile can relight or change batteries.
- If not having the light may create a life threatening situation, one may do so oneself.

Moving a Flashlight is permitted.

Moving Candles is permitted in the following situations:

- For any medical concerns no matter how slight.
- For the comfort and welfare of seniors and children under eight (or above eight years old when child is traumatized by the event).

Television or Radio

- TV or radio should be left on in a side room.
- A streaming radio app set up before Shabbat/Yom Tov can also be used in a side room (this might not be such a good suggestion as a lost internet connection may affect the app)
- The TV or radio should only be used to listen to the news
- Channel should not be changed.
- Volume on radio (if dials are not digital) may be adjusted on Shabbat or Yom Tov. Better to keep it on low for it preserves the battery and only raise volume if necessary.

Sukkot, Shemeni Atzeret & Simchat HaTorah

- If the weather forecast is for winds of over 40 mph there is a serious danger that the sukkah will become flying debris which can create dangerous projectiles and should be dismantled before Shabbat/Yom Tov. **Wind speed can be checked in advance for your location by Googling “wind speed forecast.”**
- If there is a concern of schach flying around (in winds that are less than 40 mph winds) then the schach can be tied down even with plastic cable ties.
- If schach needs to be replaced or tied down on the sukkah on Shabbat or Yom Tov it can be done by a Gentile.
- If there is a concern that the schach will fall in during the meal, you should not eat in the Sukkah.
- If many Sukkot have been dismantled and the storm has passed, if there is a remaining sukkah in the neighborhood it should be used for at least a limited meal including Kiddush, ha'Motzi and something to eat.
- If there is concern about going to shul on Simchat Torah morning – *Vezot ha'Bberakha* can be read on the night of Simchat Torah in five aliyot. Alternatively should the storm pass by Simchat Torah afternoon then hakafot and torah reading can be read at an early mincha on Simchat Torah.

Questions: Call Rabbi _____ at phone number
