Preparedness Plan Reflection

**As you prepared your plan, in what ways was it lacking?**

Our plan for hurricanes has a few pit-holes based on our adaption over times through hurricanes. If we were to experience flooding we are not prepared with sandbags to block the water from coming into our house however it has never even been close to that. With a power outage we are able to cook food with the grill and have canned food (we always have a manual can opener) with extra water available. The main issue with power turning off is that our portable chargers only last so long and we’ll get bored, and my dad won’t be able to work without wifi (remote worker). Past the first couple years we haven’t boarded our windows as it has been unnecessary but if very strong winds came through something could smash through them easily and cause an extra hazard to us. If we are all at school or just out we do not have a meet up spot however we are all able to call each other and know well in advance of a hurricane. In essence there are things we could do to prepare more however for our specific situation they’ve been deemed unnecessary after dealing with many hurricanes and some are not worries because of how long it takes a hurricane to get here.

**How do you plan to improve and fix those weak spots?**

Most of the weak spots will not be fixed as they’ve been taken out for a reason: they are not something needed in almost any case. The ones that will be fixed are better checks of the house after a storm and hopefully my father and I won’t go to look for the “impending” tornado. We will also look at making a designated spot to shelter as we’ve never had to evacuate before it’s not been mentioned and would be helpful.

**Did anything surprise you about this process?**

The thing that surprised me most about this assignment is how much the specific road I live on makes a difference. The road right next to me will have vastly different plans because they are on a river and their drainage is terrible while ours is amazing and never a concern. It was also interesting to see what my parents removed from the plan since first moving here. Since they both grew up in VA beach they had been hit harder by hurricanes but found certain parts of their previous plans unnecessary. Lastly, I found it interesting how just about every point on the plan I would just think of immediately when a hurricane is approaching from the number of times we’ve been through it; this made me think of how that reaction would look for other disasters like earthquakes and tornadoes at other parts of the US.