

Duct Tape and Hurricane Season

Whether you call it Duck Tape (because it is waterproof) or Duct Tape (because it connects air ducts) you definitely need a case or two of the utilitarian, pewter-colored tape. Here are just some of the ways you can use it before and after a hurricane.



Before the storm:

Wind indicator: adhere rock to end of a yard of tape and dangle it from a tree branch you can see from your window. Hanging down straight - no worries. Swaying - Cat 1. Swinging wildly - Cat 3. Rock missing and the tape is flapping - Cat 5.

Cover your windows and sliders with tape. Nothing will penetrate that barrier.

Run tape along the outside of each door. Start waist high, down along the bottom and up the other side. This will prevent flooding.

Lash down the car port with tape and adhere to cement blocks.

Keep dock lines from fraying - tape before you cut.

Tape shutters closed just to be sure they will hold.

Inside the house: tape all your kitchen cabinets and drawers shut with belongings in them. Do the same with bedroom dressers, then tape the dressers to the floor.

Tape your valuables inside your washer and dryer drums for safe keeping. They are unlikely to go anywhere.

Running out of rope to tie things down? This is a two man operation: stick the end of the duct tape roll to a portable drill - run the tape out as far as you need - turn on the drill and the tape will twist into a strong rope.

It is hot work prepping for a storm. Keep sweat out of your eyes: create a little gutter with a piece of tape stuck to your forehead.

After a storm:

Repair a favorite tree wrap/splint broken branches with tape. The tree will mend the wound. Of course, if you tape up your trees before the storm, they will be indestructible.

If you must go outside during a hurricane, cover yourself with 10 layers or more of duct tape. Nothing will penetrate that barrier.

Cover your styrofoam cooler with duct tape. It will last a lot longer and look spiffy. Repair a hinge on your Igloo cooler with a tape hinge.

There will be debris on the road. Use tape to repair a punctured tire.

Don't walk through flood water; it is not sanitary. Duct tape 5-gallon buckets to your feet to stay dry.

Repair any boat hull with overlapping strips of tape.

A quick first aid tip: small wounds can be covered with tape. Big wounds? Use tape to secure towels, shirts or other compresses in place.

While the electric is down - tape your flashlight to your hat.

Fix car damage with duct tape.

Mosquitoes go crazy after a storm. Make a body suit of inside-out tape to trap mosquitoes.

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Monroe Co. Woman Arrested After Allegedly Running "Trunk-side BBQ Squirrel Plate" Operation In Parking Lot

Deputies say a Stock Island woman is facing multiple charges after allegedly operating what authorities are calling "an unlicensed mobile squirrel based food enterprise" out of the trunk of her 2004 Buick LeSabre.



According to MCSO, 42-year-old Darlene "Darla Mae" Pinder was arrested Tuesday afternoon after deputies received "no fewer than nine complaints" about a woman hollering, "Hot squirrel plates! Ten dollars, comes with slaw!" in the grocery store parking lot.

Witnesses told deputies the trunk of Pinder's Buick was "set up like a makeshift concession stand," complete with a folding card table, a crockpot plugged into a questionable extension cord, and a handwritten sign reading "SQUIRREL BBQ — FARM TO TRUNK."

THE BUST

Deputies say when they approached the vehicle, Pinder attempted to slam the trunk shut, shouting, "These ain't for sale, they're for my church!" before a cloud of hickory smoke billowed out, revealing at least 14 foil-wrapped plates stacked like a tailgate buffet.

A deputy on scene reported that the aroma was "shockingly pleasant, if not concerning."

Pinder was taken into custody after allegedly trying to bribe officers with a "family size sampler plate."

CAR IMPOUNDED

The Buick was immediately impounded, though the towing company reportedly demanded hazard pay after discovering the backseat was "full of squirrel pelts, three crockpots, and what appeared to be a bucket labeled 'KEY LIME MARINADE.'"

The tow truck driver, who asked not to be named, said, "I've hauled meth labs, I've hauled gator traps, but this... this is new."

COMMUNITY REACTION

Local resident Melva Ann Albury said she wasn't surprised. "Darla Mae's been cooking critters since '98. Once she tried to sell me a iguana pot pie at a yard sale. Honestly, the squirrel plate wasn't half bad."

Another shopper added, "I thought it was a fundraiser. Around here, you never know."

CHARGES

Crews faces charges including: Operating an unlicensed food service; Illegal sale of wildlife; Obstruction; Possession of an extension cord described as "a fire hazard in three states."

She is currently banned from all Monroe County parking lots "until further notice."

Women Reel In Wahoo, Mahi and Memories at Keys LLGF Screamin' Reels Tournament

Women anglers from across Florida and beyond gathered in the Florida Keys for the Ladies, Let's Go Fishing (LLGF) Screamin' Reels Tournament, held May 15-17 in Tavernier, FL. Hosted by the nonprofit Ladies, Let's Go Fishing Foundation, the event combined fishing, camaraderie and friendly competition in a fun, supportive environment for women ranging from ages 25 to 89. The weekend kicked off with a welcome party at the Tavernier Elks Club before anglers headed offshore aboard private and charter boats for two days of tournament fishing.



Lisa Brewer, Sarasota, FL; Nancy Lawrence, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; Monica Sprague, Palm Bch. Gardens, FL; Zaida Diaz, Miami, FL, and Amanda Smith, St. Petersburg, FL on *Sea Horse*.



First Place Offshore: Robin Krueger, Parkland, FL 17.25 lb. wahoo on *Poppa Wahoo*.



First Place Private Boat: Kat Farese, Dania Beach, FL 8 lb. mahi on *Marlin Darlin*.



Second Place Offshore: Canan Myers, Deshler, OH 4.9 lb. mahi on *Sea Horse*.



Third Place Offshore: Lisa Brewer, Sarasota, FL 4.3 lb. mahi on *Sea Horse*.

LLGF offers another Keys event Oct. 16-18 with full day fishing seminar, two days of fishing and prizes as well as the Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament Feb. 5-7, 2027.



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