



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Hurricanes are Tropical cyclones with winds that exceed 74 mph.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Sustained Wind</u>	<u>Level of Damage</u>
● Category 1	74-95mph	Low
● Category 2	96-110mph	Moderate
● Category 3	111-130mph	Extensive
● Category 4	131-155mph	Extreme
● Category 5	+ 155mph	Catastrophic

The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30 with peak activity occurring during July through September. This year it has been predicted that there may be eleven to sixteen (11-16) named storms; six (6-8) of which are expected to develop into hurricanes and two (3-5) likely to become major hurricanes.

By the **Start of Hurricane Season** *you should*:

➤ **Have a family Disaster Plan**

"Preventing the loss of life and minimizing the damage to property from hurricanes are responsibilities that are shared by all." One of the ways you can prepare for and mitigate against disaster is by planning with your family. How many of us have family disaster plan? Your family Disaster plan should be based on your vulnerability to the Hurricane Hazards. ***You should keep a written plan and share your plan with other friends or family.***

FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to **storm surge**, **flooding** and **wind**.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet.
- Have an out-of-community person as a contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your **pets** if you need to evacuate. Remember pets are not allowed in shelters
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call these numbers.
- Check your insurance coverage
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a **Disaster Supply Kit**.
- Use a battery operated radio. **Remember to replace its battery every 6 months.**
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.
- Plan for evacuation

Remember Disaster prevention includes both being prepared as well as reducing damage (mitigation)

➤ **Have a place to go**

One of the most important decisions you will have to make is "**Should I Evacuate?**"

If you are asked to evacuate, you should do so without delay. That means that you should identify a place to go.

If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer place then it is important to consider the following points:

- ✚ If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.
- ✚ Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.
- ✚ If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of the hurricane season.
- ✚ **If you are unable to stay with friends or family, then as a last resort go to a shelter.** Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort. Bring your **disaster supply kit** and food and water supplies with you to the shelter.
- ✚ Make sure that you fill up your car with gas, before you leave.
- ✚ Ensure your cell phone/phones are fully charge and carry them with you

➤ **Assemble your Disaster Supply Kit**

There are certain items you need to have regardless of where you ride out a hurricane. The disaster supply kit is a useful tool when you evacuate as well as making you as safe as possible in your home. These items are often scattered around your home and simply need to be brought together into one location. In certain circumstances you may need to go to a store to purchase an item to supplement your kit.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- ✓ **Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- ✓ **Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days — non-perishable packaged or canned food / beverages
 - foods for infants or the elderly
 - non-electric can opener
 - matches
 - Disposable Eating Utensils
- ✓ **Blankets / Sleeping Bags / Pillows**
- ✓ **Clothing** – at least one complete change of clothing and foot wear per person
 - rain gear/ sturdy shoes or work boots/gloves
- ✓ **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- ✓ **Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- ✓ **Toiletries (Toilet Paper, soap, disinfectant, sanitary napkins etc.)**
- ✓ **Household chlorine Bleach**
- ✓ **Flashlight / Extra Batteries**
- ✓ **Radio** - Battery operated
- ✓ **Mobile Phones** - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery
- ✓ **Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards** - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- ✓ **Keys**
- ✓ **Toys, Books and Games**
- ✓ **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- ✓ **Pet care items**
 - Proper identification/immunization records/medications
 - Ample supply of food and water
 - A carrier or cage
 - Muzzle and leash
- ✓ **Important documents** - in a waterproof container or watertight re-sealable plastic bag
 - identification cards
 - passport
 - insurance
 - medical records
 - bank account numbers
 - Birth, marriage and death certificates etc.

Hurricane Warning System

Advisory: Issued at regular intervals when a tropical storm or hurricane is first detected in the area.

Hurricane Watch: Issued within **36 hours** when the hurricane poses a threat but actual strike is not certain.

Hurricane Warning: Issued when the country can be affected by hurricane conditions within **24 hours**.

Know What to Do When a Hurricane **WATCH Is Issued**

- Listen to the radio or TV stations for updates.
- Prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
- Prepare to cover all windows of your home. If shutters have not been installed, use plywood. *Note:* Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Check on emergency supplies (food, water, first aid kit, batteries, flashlights ect.)
- Fill containers with water

Know What to Do When a Hurricane **WARNING Is Issued**

- Listen to the radio for hurricane updates
- Complete preparation activities
- Evacuate immediately if told to do so
- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
- Batten down windows and glass doors
- Pack all valuable documents in plastic and store in a safe place
- Switch off main electrical switch and gas cylinder.

During the Hurricane

- Stay calm and provide assurance to the young and the elderly
- Do not go outside during the passage of the hurricane eye. Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.
- If you are away from home in stay in a safe location and remain there until the hurricane is over

Know What to Do After a Hurricane Is Over

- Keep listening to the radio or TV stations for instructions.
- If you evacuated, return home when local officials tell you it is safe to do so.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Use flashlights in the dark; do not use candles.
- Seek medical assistance for injured persons; report missing persons
- Do not touch loose or dangling wire; report these to the nearest utility office
- Do not attempt to cross flooded areas
- Do not go sightseeing in affected areas
- Purify water before usage