

T H E O N E S O U R C E F O R R E A L E S T A T E

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS BOOKLET



PROPERTY ONE

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WATCHES & WARNINGS



Whenever a tropical cyclone (a tropical depression, tropical storm, or hurricane) has formed in the Atlantic Ocean, the NOAA National Hurricane Center will issue tropical cyclone advisories at least every six hours. You can find these products on www.hurricanes.gov; on TV, radio, and cell phones; and NOAA Weather Radio.

Storm Surge Watch: There is a possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours.

Storm Surge Warning: There is a danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours. If you are under a storm surge warning, check for evacuation orders from your local officials.

Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within your area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or greater) are possible within your area. Because it may not be safe to prepare for a hurricane once winds reach tropical storm force, The NHC issues hurricane watches 48 hours before it anticipates tropical storm-force winds.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or greater) are expected somewhere within the specified area. NHC issues a hurricane warning 36 hours in advance of tropical storm-force winds to give you time to complete your preparations. All preparations should be complete. Evacuate immediately if so ordered.

Extreme Wind Warning: Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour. Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

HURRICANE HAZARDS



While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and depression also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.

Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane related deaths in the United States. Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.

Flooding from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from tropical cyclones. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.

Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes.

Tornadoes can accompany tropical cyclones. These tornadoes typically occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.

Dangerous waves produced by a tropical cyclone's strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents, mariners, and businesses. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than a 1,000 miles offshore.

PLANNING FOR A HURRICANE



When a hurricane threatens our area, be prepared to evacuate if you live in a storm surge risk area. Allow enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to evacuate.

Stayed tuned in: Check the websites of your local National Weather Service office and local government/emergency management office. Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other radio or TV stations for the latest storm news.

Upon the issuance of a voluntary or mandatory evacuation, the following needs to be performed:

- It is recommended that refrigerators be purged prior to evacuating to avoid food spoilage and appliance damage during a prolonged power outage.
- Remove any objects from windowsills.
- Unplug all appliances and/or electronic peripherals
- Turn all air conditioning units off
- Turn all lights out

If NOT ordered to evacuate:

- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level during the storm. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
- Stay away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force winds coming from the opposite direction.

Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to carry container. Below is a comprehensive list of what should be included in your kit. Possible containers include a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack or a duffel bag.

Water

- Store water in plastic containers, such as soda bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people will need more.
- Store one gallon of water per person per day.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for each person in your household for food preparation/sanitation).

Food

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation, and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno. Select food items that are compact and lightweight. Include a selection of the following foods in your disaster kit:

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables
- Canned juices
- Staples (salt, sugar, pepper, spices, etc.)
- High energy foods
- Vitamins
- Food for infants
- Comfort/ stress foods

First Aid Kit

- (20) Adhesive bandages, various sizes
- 5" x 9" sterile dressing
- Conforming roller gauze bandage
- Triangular bandages
- 3 x 3 sterile gauze pads
- 4 x 4 sterile gauze pads
- Roll 3" cohesive bandage
- Germicidal hand wipes or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- (6) Antiseptic wipes
- Pair large medical grade non-latex gloves
- Adhesive tape, 2" width
- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Cold pack
- Scissors (small, personal)
- Tweezers
- CPR breathing barrier, such as a face shield

Non-Prescription Drugs

- Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Antacid
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Laxative
- Syrup of Ipecac (to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Tools and Supplies

- Aluminum foil
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Cash
- Compass
- Emergency preparedness manual
- Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Fuel container for extra fuel for vehicle(s)
- Map of the area (for locating shelters)
- Matches (in a waterproof container)
- Medicine dropper
- Mess kits or disposable tableware and utensils
- Needles & thread
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife, pliers
- Paper, pencil, tape
- Plastic sheeting
- Plastic storage containers
- Shut-off wrench - to turn off household gas and water
- Signal flare
- Tube tent
- Whistle

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Soap, liquid detergent
- Feminine supplies
- Personal hygiene items
- Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

Clothing and Bedding

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.

- Sturdy shoes or work boots*
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Sunglasses

Special Items

Remember family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons

- Infants
 - o Formula
 - o Diapers
 - o Bottles
 - o Powdered milk
 - o Medications
- Adults
 - o Heart and high blood pressure medication
 - o Insulin
 - o Prescription drugs
 - o Denture needs
 - o Contact lenses and supplies
 - o Extra eye glasses
 - o Inventory and pictures of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
 - o Any special family items such as pictures, heirlooms, etc.
- Entertainment
 - o Games
 - o Books
 - o Portable electronics
 - o Rechargeable cellphone chargers

Important Documents

Keep any pertinent records/ documents in a waterproof, portable container.

- Will, insurance policies, contracts deeds, stocks and bonds
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

Remember to store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supplies kit in the trunk of your car. Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc. Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

AFTER THE STORM



Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates. If you evacuated, return only when officials say it is safe and according to your re-entry placard group. Once home, drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out streets. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects in the road, downed electrical wires, and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks that might collapse.

Upon returning, stay out of any building if you smell gas, if floodwaters remain around the building, if the building was damaged by fire, or if the authorities have not declared it safe.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after storms in areas dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your building, home, or garage. Review generator safety.

Because of the risk of starting a fire **DO NOT USE CANDLES**. Use battery-powered flashlights or lanterns. **ALWAYS POWER ON YOUR FLASHLIGHT BEFORE ENTERING A VACATED BUILDING**. The battery could produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.