



2024

Hurricane

Preparation

Guide

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Hurricane Preparation Guide

OVERVIEW

Hurricane season is upon us.

With severe storms across varied locations, it is essential to prepare yourself, your **property** & your loved ones from the potential danger & damage of hurricanes.

Hurricanes are powerful forces of nature & their level of damage can be unpredictable, depending on local **infrastructure** & **safety** implementations, but armed with the right information, tips & **strategies**, you will have a leg up on safety, security & minimized damage.

Our Hurricane Preparation Guide is a helpful tool to enable you to keep your peace of mind as the **storm rages on**.



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GLOSSARY

Hurricane: A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of at least 74 mph.

Tropical Storm: A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of 39-73 mph.

Storm Surge: The abnormal rise in sea level caused by a hurricane's winds.

Eye: The center of the hurricane, typically a calm area with no clouds.

Eyewall: The ring of thunderstorms surrounding the eye that contains the most intense winds of the hurricane.

Rain Bands: Bands of clouds & thunderstorms that spiral outward from the eye.

Saffir-Simpson Scale: A scale used to categorize hurricanes based on wind speeds & potential damage.

Cone of Uncertainty: A graphical representation of the potential path of a hurricane, which widens as the forecast moves farther out in time.

Tropical Depression: A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of less than 39 mph.

Wind Shear: The change in wind speed or direction with height, which can weaken or disrupt a hurricane's circulation.



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MAKE A PLAN

Keep this emergency plan in a safe, central area that is readily accessible.

- 1** Hold a family meeting. Decide on an emergency meeting location, memorize emergency numbers & choose a family code word.
- 2** Learn where the evacuation zones are. Decide upon a primary & secondary evacuation shelter.
- 3** Review your insurance policies. Ensure your property & belongings are protected.
- 4** Prepare your essentials. Stock up on eight (8) weeks worth of basic necessities.
- 5** Inspect your home for structural vulnerabilities. Secure the property & make any necessary repairs.
- 6** Account for any additional needs required for children, people with disabilities, elderly family members & pets.



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EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

Make sure you have all the necessary supplies & available resources with this essential checklist.

- 5-days of drinking water. 1 gallon per person a day.
- Supplementary water for cooking, bathing & pets.
- 5-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Manual can opener.
- Baby formula, diapers & wipes.
- Pet food, cat litter & pet care items.
- Disposable plates, utensils & cookware.
- Paper towels, tissues & garbage bags.
- First aid kit, medications, hand sanitizer & wipes.
- Bug & mosquito repellent.
- Flashlights, batteries, car chargers & battery packs.
- Books, games & toys.
- A battery-powered radio.
- A battery-powered fan.
- A general toolbox, gloves & duct tape.
- Fuel to cook & gasoline for cars & generators.
- Pillows & blankets.
- Any medications or supplements. (Refill your Rx!)



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PROTECT YOUR HOME

Address any issues with your home before the storm arrives. Hire professionals for advanced tasks or when safest for you.

START SMALL. Secure all lightweight items inside & outside of the home to prevent flying debris hazards.

CHECK YOUR ROOF. Inspect roof for leaks, loose shingles or other issues. Clear all gutters & drain pipes.

TRIM YOUR TREES. Trim trees, branches & other plant life back could fall & cause damage.

SECURE DOORS & WINDOWS. Windows must be shuttered with metal hurricane shutters or hurricane resistant. Doors should be impact resistant & up to code.

PREPARE YOUR POOL. Drain the water level to no less than two (2) feet & add extra chlorine. Turn off all operating power & stow equipment safely.

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EVACUATION

If you are called to evacuate, it is important to remain calm & stick to your agreed upon household emergency plan.

Reasons for mandatory evacuation:

- The home is structurally unsafe.
- The home is located in a flood zone, or an area susceptible to storm surge.

Reasons for voluntary evacuation:

- You feel unsafe in your home.
- You are a person who is disabled, pregnant or with ongoing medical conditions.

Ensure you, your family & all members of your household are aware of the evacuation plan & a safe route to shelter.



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SHELTERS

There are many types of shelters you can seek in a natural disaster or a hurricane. Make sure you, your family & all members of your household are aware of your shelter options. Agree upon a primary shelter & an emergency backup plan shelter.

- Seek shelter at a the home of a safe friend or family member.
- If there is nowhere else safe go to a general public shelter.
- If you are a person with disabilities or have ongoing medical conditions, special needs shelters are available, however pre-registration may be required.
- If you are pregnant or have a critical medical condition, seek shelter at a hospital or medical center.
- Pet-friendly shelters are available, however proof of up-to date vaccinations may be be required.
- Many areas also provide shelters for large animals & livestock.



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DURING THE STORM

It is important to remain calm as the hurricane occurs. There are many ways to weather a storm, safe & secure.

- **STAY INSIDE!** Designate & prepare a safe, central place in your home where you & your family can seek shelter together.
- Line windows & doors with **towels** to limit any water entry.
- In a power outage, opt for **battery-operated flashlights** over candles to prevent further emergency.
- Secure any valuables or documents in a safe & **waterproof** place.
- Employ a **battery-operated radio** to monitor the weather & remain updated on any changes in the storm, local government announcements or updated curfews.
- Do not run water unless necessary. Have plenty of bottled water on hand. Boil any tap water before use.
- Do not open the **refrigerator** unless necessary in order to maintain a cool internal temperature.
- **Cell phone & wifi** capabilities may be be inaccessible, so opt for landlines or satellite phones as backup forms of communication.

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AFTER THE STORM

You made it through the worst of it, but post-hurricane conditions contain many potential hazards & ongoing safety issues, which are extremely important to be aware of.

- **NEVER** touch or walk near a downed power line. Active power lines are conductive in water & could be extremely dangerous.
- Stay away from **flood waters**. Floods can move hazardous waste & dangerous debris.
- Look out for **insects, snakes & vermin** that have been displaced by the storm or flood water.
- **Do not drive** unless necessary. Roads could be full of hazardous conditions (down power lines, trees, debris) & traffic lights could be out. It is also important to leave the roads clear & open for first responders to move quickly & safely.
- Document & **photograph** any property damage & notify your insurance company.
- **Be patient!** First responders & necessary disaster relief are hard at work to get your area back to working order.

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GENERATOR SAFETY

Generators are an excellent safety tool during power outages. However, they can be extremely dangerous if used improperly.

Follow this guide to prevent hazards such as carbon monoxide poisoning, toxic engine exhaust, electric shock, electrocution & fire.

- **Outdoor Placement:** Operate the generator outside in a well-ventilated area. Make sure it is placed away from doors, windows & vents.
- **Fuel Storage:** Store fuel for the generator in approved containers. Keep containers in a cool, well-ventilated space, away from any potential hazards.
- **Grounding:** Follow the manufacturer guidelines for proper grounding to minimize risk of electric shock & fire.
- **Keep Dry :** Operate the generator on a dry surface. Avoid use during wet or rainy conditions.
- **Let it Cool:** Allow the generator to cool before refueling.
- **Extension Cords:** Use heavy-duty extension cords in good condition, made for outdoor use.
- **Prevent Overload:** Estimate the total wattage you plan to run in order to not overload the generator.

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ADDITIONAL TIPS

A final batch of tips to stay prepared, safe & ahead of the game, before, during & after a hurricane in your area.

TRAFFIC LIGHT OUTAGES

- If a traffic signal is down, intersections should be taken as four-way stops. Enter the intersection slowly, with caution.
- You do not need to report traffic light outages, as damage assessment teams will work on this. It is best to keep emergency lines open.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

- For down trees or other situations, a chainsaw may be necessary in the aftermath of a storm.
- Exercise extreme caution when operating a chainsaw.
- Hold the chainsaw with both hands at all times.
- Do not cut branches over your head.
- Do not force the saw into any material or object.
- Wear protective clothing.



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**Thank you for reading our 2024
Hurricane Prep Guide.**

**You are armed with the
knowledge to weather the storm.**

**Share this guide with family &
friends to make your safety plans
together!**

**Stay Safe &
Be Well!**

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Safety Plan

Fill out & print this safety plan.
(Laminate for waterproofing if you wish!)
Stow in a general location, where it can be readily accessed.
Share your safety plan with family & friends!

SAFETY STEPS

1. Ensure all members of the household are on board with the safety plan.
2. Know your area's evacuation zones & shelters.
3. Understand your insurance policy & evaluate your assets.
4. Inspect your home for insecurities to avoid damage or risk.
5. Prepare your property & stock up on essential supplies.
6. Make any necessary arrangements for pets & people with special needs.

SUPPLIES

- 5-day supply of drinking water (1 gallon per day, per person, for 5 days).
- 5-day supply of non-perishable food for each person.
- First aid kit, medications, hand sanitizer & wipes.
- Battery-powered flashlights, battery-powered fans, extra batteries, battery packs.
- Fuel to cook without power, such as charcoal or propane.
- Gasoline to fill cars & generators.

EVACUATION PLAN

SHELTER LOCATION

Primary: _____

Secondary: _____

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Name: _____ #: _____

Name: _____ #: _____

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

