

hurricane preparedness



- **Hurricane conditions are sustained winds of 74 miles per hour [mph] or higher.**
- **Tropical storm conditions are sustained winds of 39 – 74 mph.**
- **Hurricane season is between June 1st and November 30th.**
- **A hurricane watch means hurricane conditions are possible in a stated area. Experts announce hurricane watches 48 hours before they expect tropical storm force winds to start.**

in preparation

In preparation for an approaching hurricane, we recommend the following;

- Write down emergency phone numbers and keep them on the refrigerator or near every phone in your house. Program them into your cell phone too.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit.
- Locate the nearest shelter and different routes you can take to get there from your home. If shelter locations in your area have not been identified, learn how to find them in the event of a storm.
- Pet owners: Pre-identify shelters, a pet-friendly hotel or an out-of-town friend or relative where you can take your pets in an evacuation. Local animal shelters may be able to offer advice on what to do with your pets if you are asked to evacuate your home.

during and after

During and after a hurricane, you may need supplies to keep your family healthy and safe. Hurricanes may cut off your power and water supply. Additionally, you may not be able to use your motor vehicle due to damage or flooding. It is recommended you plan ahead and prepare the following;

- An emergency food and water supply.
- An emergency medicine supply.
- Emergency power sources such as flashlights (don't forget extra batteries).
- Safety and personal items.
- Important documents, including medical documents, wills, passports and personal identification.
- A fire extinguisher. Make sure your family knows where to find it and how to use it! Read the National Fire Protection Association's tips for using fire extinguishers.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Move cars and trucks into your garage or under cover.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car.
- Visit Ready.gov for information on how to prepare your car and what to include in your kit.

get your home ready

- Clear your yard. Make sure there's nothing that could blow around during the storm and damage your home. Move bikes, lawn furniture, grills, propane tanks, and building material inside or under shelter.
- Cover up windows and doors. Use storm shutters or nail pieces of plywood to the outside window frames to protect your windows. This can help keep you safe from pieces of shattered glass.
- Be ready to turn off your power. If you see flooding, downed power lines, or you have to leave your home, switch your power off.
- Fill clean water containers with drinking water. You'll want to do this in case you lose your water supply during the storm. You can also fill up your sinks and bathtubs with water for washing.
- Check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector's battery to prevent CO poisoning

be ready to evacuate

- Always listen to authorities regarding whether you should evacuate or stay at home.
- If a hurricane is coming, you may hear an order from authorities to evacuate (leave your home). Never ignore an order to evacuate. Even sturdy, well-built houses may not hold up against a hurricane. Staying home to protect your property is not worth risking your health and safety.
- You may hear an order to stay at home. If driving conditions are dangerous, staying at home might be safer than leaving.

if you need to evacuate

- Grab your emergency supply kit and only take what you really need with you (cell phone, chargers, medicines, identification like a passport or license, and cash).
- Unplug your appliances. If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water.
- Follow the roads that emergency workers recommend even if there's traffic. Other routes might be blocked or flooded. Never drive through flooded areas—cars and other vehicles can be swept away or may stall in just 6 inches of moving water.
- Contact your local emergency management office and ask if they offer accommodations for owners and their pets. Learn more about evacuating with your pet.

if you need to stay home

- Keep your emergency supply kit in a place you can easily access.
- Listen to the radio or TV for updates on the hurricane.
- Stay inside. Even if it looks calm, don't go outside. Wait until you hear or see an official message that the hurricane is over. Sometimes, weather gets calm in the middle of a storm but then quickly gets bad again.
- Stay away from windows—you could get hurt by pieces of broken glass or flying debris during a storm. Stay in a room with no windows or go inside a closet.
- Be ready to leave. If emergency authorities order you to leave or if your home is damaged, you may need to go to a shelter or a neighbor's house.



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