



Office of Public Health Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Guidance

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Start your preparations before a hurricane watch is issued for your area.

- Go through your hurricane/emergency supplies and replace any items that are outdated.
- Test your flashlights and other battery operated equipment.
- Update any emergency numbers and phone numbers for family contacts outside the area. Review the websites provided below for pertinent tips and useful information.

When a hurricane **watch** is issued for your area –

- Double check your supplies and your plans. If there are any actions in your plan that need to be taken before you hunker down, act now.
- You should get some cash from the bank or ATM and gas up your car. The longer you wait, the longer the lines will be, wasting your time.

When a hurricane **warning** is issued for your area -

- Lower your refrigerator temperature. If you lose power, a colder refrigerator will keep foods longer. If you lose power, open the refrigerator door as few times as possible.
- Fill up your bathtub and any extra jugs with water. If water supplies are interrupted, you'll have water for cleaning, cooking and drinking.
- If you are evacuating, prepare your property first, and then leave the area as quickly as possible since roads will become congested soon after the warning is issued.

A wealth of information on emergency preparedness and response for hurricanes and other natural disasters can be found at the following websites:

The American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/>
National Weather Service National Hurricane Center <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emergency Preparedness and Response website: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/>

Additional Guidance/Check lists are provided on the following pages to assist in planning for Hurricane's and the information is also applicable to any disaster.

At a minimum, have the basic supplies listed below.

Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multipurpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit.

Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Two-way radios
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Manual can opener

Additional supplies to keep at home or in your kit based on the types of disasters common to your area:

- Whistle
- N95 or surgical masks
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Towels
- Work gloves
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Household liquid bleach
- Entertainment items
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Meet with your family or household members.

- Discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.
- Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- If a family member is in the military, plan how you would respond if they were deployed.

Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency

Choose two places to meet:

- Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire
- Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service.
- Everyone should have emergency contact information in writing or programmed into their cell phones.

Plan what to do if you have to evacuate

- Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there. You may choose to go to a hotel/motel, stay with friends or relatives in a safe location or go to an evacuation shelter if necessary.
- Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable.
- Plan ahead for your pets.
- Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes.

Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur in your area.

- These events can range from those affecting only you and your family, like a home fire or medical emergency, to those affecting your entire community, like an earthquake or flood.
- Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels.
- Know the difference between different weather alerts such as watches and warnings and what actions to take in each.
- Know what actions to take to protect yourself during disasters that may occur in areas where you travel or have moved recently. For example, if you travel to a place where earthquakes are common and you are not familiar with them, make sure you know what to do to protect yourself should one occur.
- When a major disaster occurs, your community can change in an instant. Loved ones may be hurt and emergency response is likely to be delayed. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). This training is useful in many emergency situations.
- Share what you have learned with your family, household and neighbors and encourage them to be informed.

Emergency Contact Cards for All Household Members

You can obtain contact cards online from Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/ECCard.pdf>

- Print one card for each family member.
- Write the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers.
- Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
- Carry the card with you so it is available in the event of a disaster or other emergency.