

Hurricane Preparedness June 1- November 30 of Every year

A hurricane is a severe tropical storm that forms in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Living in hurricane prone communities you need to know your vulnerability and what protective actions you need to take. Below you can find the steps you need to take to better prepare yourself, your family, your business and your property.

Step 1- Build a Kit ("To-Go-Bag")

A to-go-bag is a emergency supply kit for you and your family. It should include but not limit to the follow items:

- Water- 1 gallon per person for at least 3 days
- Food- 3 day supply for ALL family members of non-perishable food (canned goods)
- Battery powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle- in case you need to signal for help
- Dust mask- to help filter contaminated air, and plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Moist towelettes (enough for every family member)
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Wrench or pliers
- Can opener
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers or charging panels
- Candles
- Matches
- Camping lantern
- Medications
- Infant needs
- Pet food and water
- Copies of important documents
- Cash
- Sleeping bag or blankets and pillows
- Changes of clothing and sturdy shoes
- Personal hygiene items

Step 2- Make a Plan

You need to prepare your family

Make a Family Emergency Plan in case your family is not together when a hurricane strikes. You need to know how to contact one another, when and how you will get back together and what to do in case of an emergency. Also, you should consider evacuation plans, family communications plans, utility shut-off and safety and safety skills.

Step 3- Be Informed

Hazards from a hurricane are lightning, tornadoes, flooding, storm surge, highwinds and even landslides or mudslides. The most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane is to use common sense and familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a hurricane.

A hurricane watch means a hurricane is possible in your area. Start your hurricane preparations now.

A hurricane warning is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate then you need to leave immediately.

Extra measures you can take

- Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant
- Secure your home by closing shutters, and securing outdoor objects
- Turn off utilities as instructed, Otherwise turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks
- Install a generator
- Reinforce your garage doors
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes

For more information visit www.ready.gov or www.msema.org