

HURRICANE DISASTER INFORMATION

ABOUT HURRICANES

A hurricane sometimes referred to as a typhoon, tropical storm or tropical cyclone, is a large storm with a low-pressure center that produces heavy rain and strong winds. Hurricanes develop over warm water and thrive in tropical regions, but lose their strength as they travel over land.

While hurricanes produce most of their damage along the coastal regions, inland states can also be impacted by flooding caused by heavy rain. They produce very strong winds and extremely heavy rain and along the coast they can produce heavy damage to populated areas due to high waves and intense storm surges (which can result in flooding). Tornadoes have been known to spawn from hurricanes as well.

The Atlantic ***hurricane season is June 1 through November 30*** each year.

HURRICANE WARNINGS

There are two types of hurricane warnings issued by authorities:

- **Hurricane Watch**
A hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and television for news, or listen to NOAA Weather Radio.
- **Hurricane Warning**
A hurricane is on its way to your area. Be prepared to evacuate immediately, if told to do so by authorities.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

Hurricanes are also classified into 5 categories based on their ability to cause damage:

- **Hurricanes - Category 1**
Category 1 hurricanes have sustained winds between 74 and 95 miles per hour and a storm surge of 4 to 5 feet. The damage caused by category 1 hurricanes is minimal and limited to unanchored mobile homes, signs and vegetation.
- **Hurricanes - Category 2**
Category 2 hurricanes have sustained winds between 96 and 110 miles per hour and a storm surge of 6 to 8 feet. The damage caused by category 2 hurricanes is expected to be moderate with damage to all mobile homes and roofs. Flooding is expected.
- **Hurricanes - Category 3**
Category 3 hurricanes are considered to be major and have sustained winds between 111 and 130 miles per hour and a storm surge of 9 to 12 feet. The damage caused by category 3 hurricanes is expected to be extensive with damage to some buildings. Low-lying roads will be cut off due to flooding.
- **Hurricanes - Category 4**
Category 4 hurricanes are considered to be major and have sustained winds between 131 and 155 miles per hour and a storm surge of 13 to 18 feet. The damage caused by

category 4 hurricanes is expected to be extreme with damage to all buildings. In addition, damage will include: destroyed roofs, destroyed mobile homes, cut off roads due to flooding and fallen debris, and flooded beach homes.

- **Hurricanes - Category 5**

Category 5 hurricanes are considered to be major and have sustained winds greater than 155 miles per hour and a storm surge of more than 18 feet. The damage caused by category 5 hurricanes is expected to be catastrophic with most building being destroyed. In addition, damage will include: flooded homes, major roads cut off, and most vegetation destroyed.

PREPARING FOR A HURRICANE

Being prepared for a hurricane or any other type of disaster requires preparation beforehand. There are three important steps you should complete in preparation for a hurricane.

- [Make A Plan](#)
- [Be Informed](#)
- [Get A Kit](#)

Having the proper emergency preparedness kit, having a plan, and knowing what to do before a hurricane strikes, will greatly improve you and your family's chances of being safe.

MAKE A PLAN

- *HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS*
 - Make sure your emergency supplies are contained in a [backpack](#). This way, you can take them with you should you need to evacuate
 - Cover your home's windows with ply wood or hurricane shutters. High winds will break or shatter your windows resulting in damage to your home and possible injuries.
 - Bring all of your outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down inside. This will prevent you from losing your property and prevent injuries from flying debris.
 - Trim trees and shrubs on a regular basis. This will make them more resistant to the wind.
 - If you home has shutters, close them.
 - Turn off utilities as instructed by authorities.
 - If your utilities can remain on, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed. This will help preserve food should there be a power failure.
 - Turn off propane tanks.

BE INFORMED

National Weather Service

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/hurricanepreparedness/index.html>

CDC hurricane preparedness tips:

- [Preparing for a Hurricane](#): Take basic steps now to ensure your safety should a storm hit.
- [Emergency Supplies You Will Need](#): Stock your home and your car with supplies.
- [Make a Plan](#): Create a family disaster plan.
- [Avoid Flooded Areas](#): Take precautions before, during, and after a flood.
- [Prepare to Evacuate](#): Never ignore an evacuation order.
- [Protecting Older Adults](#): Understand older adult health and medical concerns.
- [Protecting Pets](#): Ensure your pet's safety before, during, and after an emergency.
- [Prevent carbon monoxide \(CO\) poisoning after the storm](#): Ensure your CO detector has working batteries. Place generators outside at least 20 feet from any door, window, or vent.
- [After a hurricane](#): Learn how to avoid injuries, make sure your food and water are safe, and clean up mold safely.

GET A KIT

A 'Go Bag' Can Make All the Difference in an Emergency

A go bag is a packed case that you grab on your way out the door, and that will help keep you safe and comfortable in the coming hours and days. Stopping to hunt for your medications or other important needs can cost you critical seconds in an evacuation. Pack a separate go bag for yourself and every member of your household, and keep them stored in the same location.

Here are some of the suggested recommendations;

- **Basic electronics**
Pack an extra phone charger in case you're fortunate enough to have electricity, and a portable battery pack in case you're not. Also stash a long-lasting LED flashlight. Pack a small hand-cranked or battery-operated AM/FM radio (with extra batteries).
- **Personal needs**
While getting ready for a typical day, list every toiletry you use, then buy a [travel-size version](#) of each. Pack backup eyeglasses, as well as a first-aid kit, baby wipes and a multipurpose tool with a knife and can opener.
- **Clothing**
Pack a few days' worth. Include layers you can add or remove, plus lightweight rain gear and waterproof boots.
- **Your meds**
Pack about three days' worth of each of your [prescriptions](#), which should last until you

can get to a pharmacy that's open. If you need larger items, such as an oxygen tank, make sure you have a portable version.

- **The perfect bag**

Think small and portable. A backpack is ideal, but a lightweight suitcase with wheels will also do. Just remember, you may literally be running with it.

- **Paperwork**

Fill a zip-top waterproof bag with photocopies of your birth certificate; driver's license; Social Security and Medicare cards; power of attorney and will; any marriage, adoption or naturalization certificates; proof of address; insurance, medical and immunization records; and information about your credit and ATM cards.

- **Food and drink**

Bottled water is essential. Granola or energy bars are great because they are small and filling, and they come in a variety of flavors.

- **Cash**

In addition to enough money for a few days, include small bills and a roll of quarters. If you need to buy something out of a vending machine, you don't want to start asking equally desperate strangers for change.