

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

What to Do Before

Make Plans to Stay Safe

- Determine your best protection from high winds and flooding.
- Have a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter safely.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately
 - You may have to leave your home quickly and go to a safe place. Know where you will go, how you will get there and where you will stay.
 - Plan well in advance if you will need help leaving or use public transportation.
 - Mobile, manufactured, and trailer homes and recreational vehicles (RVs) are not safe in high-wind events. Plan ahead by preparing to evacuate to a safe location.

Plan to shelter safely

- Be ready to live without power, water, gas, phone, and internet for a long time.
- Practice going to a designated safe shelter for high winds. The next best protection is a small room with no windows on the lowest level of a sturdy building that is not likely to flood.
- Be aware that flooding can happen quickly. Have a plan to evacuate fast before floodwaters reach you.
- Create a personal support team of people you may assist and who can assist you.

Plan to stay connected

- Sign up for free emergency alerts from your local government.
- Plan to monitor local weather and news.
- Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone.
- Have a battery-powered radio during a power outage.
- Understand the types of alerts that you may receive and have a plan to respond when you receive them:

- A WATCH means Be Prepared!
- A WARNING means Take Action!
- Alerts you may receive include: Hurricane Watch & Warning, Tropical Storm Watch & Warning, Extreme Wind Warning, Storm Surge Watch & Warning, Flash Flood Watch & Warning, Flood Watch & Warning.

Learn emergency skills

- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power.
 - Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas, and water.
 - Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment.
 - Talk to your doctor.
- Plan for backup power.

Gather emergency supplies

- Gather food, water, and medicine. Stores and pharmacies might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home Kit.
- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies (food, batteries, etc.). Have a 1-month supply of medication in a child-proof container, as well as medical supplies and equipment.
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.
- Keep personal, financial, and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up).

Protect Your Home

Wind

- Secure or bring inside outdoor items, such as lawn furniture and trash cans, that could be picked up by high winds and hurt someone.
- Anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside, such as gas grills and propane tanks.
- Trim or remove trees close enough to fall on your home.
- Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or sheeting.

Flood

- Clean out drains, gutters, and downspouts.
- Stockpile protective materials such as plastic sheeting and sandbags.
- Consider installing a sump pump with battery backup.
- Consider elevating the heating system, water heater, and electric panel.
- Review insurance policies with your agency.

What to Do During

If local authorities advise you to evacuate, go right away

- Bring your Go-Kit.
- Follow evacuation routes and do not try to take shortcuts because they may be blocked.
- Check with local officials for shelter locations.
- Download the Red Cross Emergency App to find shelters near you.
- Determine your best protection for high winds and flooding.
- Take shelter in a designated storm shelter or an interior room for high winds.
- Stay away from glass windows and doors.
- Move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- Never walk, swim, or drive through floodwater. Remember, Turn Around! Don't Drown!