

HURRICANES



Hurricanes and tropical storms are among the most destructive, deadly forces on earth. Do your part to protect your family and property from disaster:

BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANES!

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM:

** WATCH OR WARNING? **

A **HURRICANE WATCH** means that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74mph or higher) are possible. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds in an area.

A **HURRICANE WARNING** means that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area.



HURRICANE HAZARDS

- WINDS
- STORM SURGE
- RAINFALL
- TORNADOES
- INLAND FLOODING

If the winds die down, the EYE of the hurricane may be passing, in which case the winds will pick up again.



BEFORE THE STORM

- Develop a **Family Disaster Plan**.
- If evacuation is not mandatory and you choose to ride out the storm, identify the safest place in your home as the "Safe Room."
- Map out the best escape routes from your home and establish a safe, close meeting place.
- Select an out-of-state friend to serve as a single point of contact and make sure everyone in your family has this number.
- Most shelters don't allow pets, so be sure to plan ahead.
- Install permanent storm shutters or attach 5/8" marine plywood. Tape will not stop windows from shattering.
- Secure all outside furniture and fixtures.
- Trim trees and shrubs surrounding your home.
- Clear gutters and downspouts of debris.

CREATE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT



Battery operated flashlights and radios



Nonperishable emergency food supplies and drinking water for 3 days (1 gallon per person per day)



Clothing and shoes for each family member



A first-aid kit and prescription medications



Special items for infants or the elderly

HOW STRONG IS THAT HURRICANE?

Hurricanes and tropical storms are rated according to their strength on the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale**. Lower category storms may inflict just as much damage as higher category storms.

DURING THE STORM

- Listen to broadcast media for information and instructions.
- Close all doors and windows, and secure storm shutters.
- Set the refrigerator to the coldest setting and keep the doors closed. If instructed, disconnect all utilities.
- Shut off propane tanks.
- Store water in bathtubs and large containers for sanitary purposes, like flushing toilets.

EVACUATE:

- MOBILE HOMES
- LOW-LYING COASTAL AREAS
- TEMPORARY STRUCTURES
- HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your Safe Room. Stay indoors, away from windows and glass doors. Stay low to the ground and cover yourself with a sturdy object, such as a table.



AFTER A HURRICANE

Be alert for downed power lines or broken gas mains. Report damage as soon as possible.

Don't enter your home if you smell gas, if floodwater surrounds the structure, or if it's been damaged by fire.

Do not reenter your home until a building inspector says it's structurally secure.

Water sources may be contaminated. Test well water before consuming.

Continue listening to media for water system updates, news and further instructions.

If you have no other drinking supply, boil water for one minute, let it cool, then store it in clean containers.

Don't eat food that has come into contact with floodwaters.

Wash, sanitize or discard anything that has come into contact with floodwaters.

Be cautious of wildlife and other animals.

TROPICAL STORM

Winds are 39-73 mph. Tropical Depressions have winds less than 38 mph.

CATEGORY 1

Winds are 74-95 mph. ex. Hurricane Dolly (2008)

CATEGORY 2

Winds are 96-110 mph. ex. Hurricane Frances (2004)

CATEGORY 3

Winds are 111-130 mph. ex. Hurricane Katrina (2005)

CATEGORY 4

Winds are 131-155 mph. ex. Hurricane Charley (2004)

CATEGORY 5

Winds are 156 mph and up. ex. Hurricane Andrew (1992)

MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY

BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANES