

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
- RAINFALL
- STORM SURGE
- 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.

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)

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.

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

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

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

Be **cautious** of wildlife and other animals.

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

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

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

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

MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY

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