

# Hurricane Preparedness



## What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone. Hurricanes are often accompanied by thunderstorms. In the Atlantic region, hurricane season lasts from June through November with peak season occurring from mid-August to late October. The primary hazards of a Hurricane are high winds, debris, tornados, rain, lightning, flooding, and a storm surge.

A hurricane watch means that the onset of hurricane conditions is possible within 36 hours.

A hurricane warning means that the onset of hurricane conditions is likely within 24 hours.

Planning for an emergency BEFORE a disaster strikes is imperative, so think about the following items when developing a comprehensive emergency plan for your family.

1. Plan to Shelter in Place: Have a 3-day supply of food and water (up to a 7 day supply is highly recommended) for each person in your home. Remember individual diet needs & pets.

2. Plan to Evacuate: Have supplies ready in your car or in a backpack in case you must leave your home. Pack lightly and include basic supplies for 24-48 hours.

3. Plan for your Pets: People often report not wanting to evacuate because no pre-planning was done for their animals.

4. Plan to help others: Remember to help neighbors or loved one's who require additional assistance.

If a hurricane watch or a hurricane warning is issued here are some simple steps to follow:

- Make sure all your family members carries identification with them.
- Have a full tank of gas in your vehicle, cash, and a disaster kit ready.
- Listen to the radio and television, including NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for the most recent updates.
- Be prepared to act quickly.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to maximum cold and keep them closed.
- Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water for bathing, flushing toilets and cleaning, do not drink this water.
- Secure or bring inside outdoor items like patio furniture, kids toys, and lawn mowers.
- Turn off propane tanks and be prepared to shut off other utilities if emergency officials advise you to do so.

Only evacuate if you are told to do so by the authorities or if you live in a mobile home, high rise building, on the coast, in a floodplain, near a river, or near an inland waterway, or otherwise feel you will be in danger.

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## If You Evacuate:

- Turn off all utilities if you are told to do so by the authorities.
- Once you are told to do so – evacuate immediately.
- Stick to designated evacuation routes. If you need help, this is the most likely place you will find it.
- Take your most reliable vehicle and avoid taking multiple vehicles.

## If you shelter in place:

- Stay inside somewhere safe like an interior room, closet, or hallway. Stay downstairs if you are not in a flood prone or storm surge area.
- Do not go outside during the storm. Flying debris can be very dangerous.
- Close all doors and windows, brace external doors, stay away from windows and keep curtains and blinds shut.
- If there is a lull in the storm, do not think it has passed it could simply be the eye of the storm passing over.

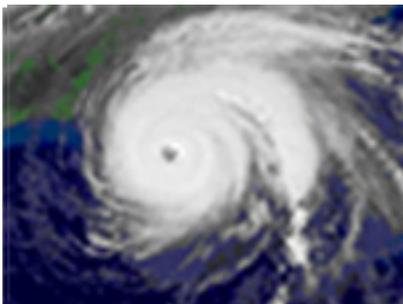
## How do I prepare for my pets?

You should have an emergency supply kit for your pet, just like the one you have for your family. The kit should contain at least a 3 day supply of food and water (7 days is recommended), medicines & medical records, first aid, identification tags, leash, collar, documentation of registration, adoption, and vaccination, crate or pet carrier, litter box, litter, and poop bags, and finally a picture of you and your pet.

For more information on preparing your pets for an emergency please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html>



For more information please visit our website:  
<http://www.region4b.org/EmergencyPreparedness.aspx>

## What food and water preparations do I need to make in case of hurricane?

Keep foods that have a long shelf life, require little or no cooking or refrigeration, meets the dietary restrictions of all family members, meets pet's needs, and is not too salty or spicy because this can increase thirst and water may be in short supply. You should keep at least a 3 day supply of food and water on hand, but 7 days worth is recommended. Make sure to frequently check dates of things in your emergency supply and rotate out food that is nearing its expiration date

In addition, you should set aside the following items for preparing food in case of an emergency: cooking utensils, eating utensils, paper plates, paper cups, paper towels, a manual can opener, aluminum foil, gas or charcoal grill or camp stove, fuel for cooking such as charcoal. (Caution: never burn charcoal inside! The fumes are deadly when concentrated indoors).

For more please visit:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/food-water/prepare.asp>

How do I prepare a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan for my family?

To design your family emergency preparedness plan please visit:

[http://www.ready.gov/america/\\_downloads/familyemergencyplan.pdf](http://www.ready.gov/america/_downloads/familyemergencyplan.pdf) (also available in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese).

