

# Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters, like those found in the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricane season starts June 1 and ends November 30. The peak threat for the Texas coast exists from August through September. Hurricanes can strike the Texas coast during every month of the hurricane season.

## Understanding The Terms

### **Hurricane Watch:**

Hurricane conditions are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

### **Hurricane Warning:**

Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

### **Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings:**

Take these alerts seriously. Although Tropical Storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, They often bring life-threatening flooding and dangerous winds. Take precautions.

A catastrophic hurricane making landfall along the Texas coast continues to be the greatest natural threat the State of Texas faces each year. The social and economic impacts can be tremendous as we all experienced with Hurricane Ike in 2008. Hurricanes can be powerful with devastating impacts from storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding from heavy rains. To reduce these potentially deadly effects, it is imperative to prepare for each type of hurricane hazard.

Advanced planning and preparation are essential to protecting property, reducing risk and ultimately saving lives. Taking the time to develop a family disaster plan, reviewing emergency preparations and checklists, making a disaster supply kit, and staying aware of current weather situations will improve your level of preparedness.

The National Weather Service publishes a Texas Hurricane Guide each year. The guide is designed to enable you to focus your activities before, during and after the storm, and to easily locate specific instructions. This guide presents a roadmap that lays out what you will need to have and need to do. Download the guide at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/bro/tropical/guide/2015/english.pdf>