BE SMART.
TAKE PART.
PREPARE.
**What Are The Hurricane Hazards?**

- **STORM SURGE** - A hurricane can produce destructive storm surge, which is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds. This advancing surge combines
with the normal tides to inundate normally dry land in feet of water. The stronger the storm, the higher the storm surge.

- **INLAND FLOODING** - In the last 30 years, inland flooding has been responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States.
- **HIGH WINDS** - Hurricane-force winds can destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes.
- **TORNADOES** - Hurricanes can produce tornadoes that add to the storm's destructive power. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right-front quadrant of the hurricane.

**Graphical Hurricane Local Statement:** Issued by local National Weather Service offices to provide more specific information about potential impacts of a tropical storm or hurricane on a particular area.

**What Should I Do When A Watch or Warning Is Issued?**

When a **HURRICANE WATCH** is issued, it means that hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area. The hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and proactive measures should be initiated especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

When a **HURRICANE WARNING** is issued, it means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area. The hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing proactive actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

**What Actions Should You Take To Be Prepared?**

Have a **NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio** and battery backup to receive important weather and other emergency-related warnings.

- Build a **disaster supply kit** and have a **family and/or business plan.** Remember to also **have a plan for pets.**
- **Before, During and After a Hurricane**
- **Evacuating Yourself and Your Family**
- Determine if your home is in a storm surge **evacuation zone.** If so, learn what needs to be done if you **evacuate or stay** when a storm is moving toward your area.
- **Mitigate Hurricane Damages**
- Learn how to **prepare your home** from wind damage before a storm threatens your area.
- Consider insuring your home or business from **flood loss.**
- Make sure that all other aspects of your home are as **protected** from hurricanes as possible.
Creciente Hurricane Supply List

Prepared by Ready.gov

Basic emergency supply kit

Water ~ one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
Food ~ at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
Flashlight and extra batteries
First aid Kit
Whistle to signal for help
Dust mask to help file contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
Manual can opener for food
Local maps
Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Additional Emergency Supplies

Prescription medications and glasses
Infant formula and diapers
Pet food and extra water for your pet
Cash or traveler's checks and change
Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
Emergency reference material such as a first aid book
Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes
Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper _ when diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
Fire extinguisher
Matches in a waterproof container
Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
Paper and pencil
Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
First Aid Kit

Two pairs of Latex or other sterile gloves if you are allergic to Latex
Sterile dressings to stop bleeding
Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes
Antibiotic ointment
Burn ointment
Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant
Thermometer
Prescription medications you take every day
Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies

Non-Prescription drugs:
Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
Anti-diarrhea medication
Antacid
Laxative

Other first aid supplies
Scissors
Tweezers
Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant

For baby:
Formula
Diapers
Bottles
Powdered milk
Medications
Moist towelettes
Diaper rash ointment

For Adults:
Denture needs
Contact lenses and supplies
Extra eye glasses
HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE

AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.
HURRICANE BASICS

Hurricanes have the power to cause widespread devastation, and can affect both coastal and inland areas. How to Prepare for a Hurricane explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly at a time when every second counts.

WHAT
Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over the water and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes. These large storms are called typhoons in the North Pacific Ocean and cyclones in other parts of the world.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale classifies hurricanes into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and wind damage potential. With wind speeds of 111 miles per hour or more, Category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes are major according to this scale. Category 1 and 2 hurricanes can also cause damage and injuries. The Saffir-Simpson scale is shown at the end of this document.

WHEN
The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season begins May 15 and ends November 30.

WHERE
Each year, many parts of the United States experience heavy rains, strong winds, floods, and coastal storm surges from tropical storms and hurricanes. Affected areas include all Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, parts of the Southwest, the Pacific Coast, and the U.S. territories in the Pacific.

IMPACT
Hurricanes can cause loss of life and catastrophic damage to property along coastlines and can extend several hundred miles inland. The extent of damage varies according to the size and wind intensity of the storm, the amount and duration of rainfall, the path of the storm, and other factors such as the number and type of buildings in the area, the terrain, and soil conditions. The effects include the following:

- Death or injury to people and animals;
- Damage or destruction of buildings and other structures;
- Disruption of transportation, gas, power, communications, and other services;
- Coastal flooding from heavy rains and storm surge; and
- Inland flooding from heavy rains.
Frequency of Hurricane and Tropical Storm Activity by County
This map depicts the frequency with which counties have experienced a hurricane or tropical storm based on a 125-mile-wide storm path around the center point of the storm.

Deaths and injuries during hurricanes can be caused by building damage from high winds, windborne debris, storm surge, and flooding.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

EVACUATE
Because hurricanes can be detected and tracked in advance of making landfall, residents in the storm’s path often get several days of advance notice. When a hurricane threatens your area, the best action to protect yourself and your family from the high winds and flooding caused by hurricanes is to evacuate when ordered to do so, before those conditions hit your area. Know and follow the directions from local officials for community evacuation or seek higher ground for localized flooding.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

REINFORCE FOR WIND, ELEVATE FOR WATER
Your goal now, before a hurricane occurs, is to reduce the risk of damage to structures from winds and flooding. This includes strengthening the building’s outer shell—including the doors, windows, walls, and roof—and removing or securing all objects and non-building structures, as well as clearing the outside areas around the building. Measures to protect against potential flooding include waterproofing basements and elevating critical utilities (e.g., electrical panels and heating systems). In flood-prone areas, consider elevating the entire structure.
RISK MANAGEMENT

INSURANCE

Purchasing flood insurance provides financial protection for the cost of repairs due to flood damage. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding, including storm surge flooding, but flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program. You may also be able to purchase insurance for wind.

---

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

While storms are tracked as soon as they have the potential to become a tropical cyclone, it is difficult to accurately predict the path of the storm far in advance. Forecasters generally identify a cone or a range to illustrate the path that the storm may take.

The National Weather Service (NWS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues hurricane watches and hurricane warnings, as well as several other hurricane-related alerts. These include watches and warnings for high winds, storm surge, flooding (e.g., flash flooding, coastal flooding, river flooding), thunderstorms, and tornadoes. Watches, warnings, and evacuation notices are science-based predictions that are intended to provide adequate time for evacuation. Those who wait for actual confirmation of a catastrophic event may be trapped by high winds, flooding, or traffic. Download the Be Smart. Know Your Alerts and Warnings document at www.ready.gov/prepare for a summary of available notifications.

HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WATCH

NWS issues a tropical storm or hurricane watch for an area 48 hours prior to when it expects hurricane or tropical storm conditions to materialize. During a watch, tune in to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local radio, or television for information and conduct outside preparedness activities.

HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WARNING

NWS issues a tropical storm or hurricane warning for an area when weather conditions for a tropical storm or hurricane are expected within 36 hours. During a warning, complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials.

EXTREME WIND WARNING

NWS issues an extreme wind warning to notify an area of imminent extreme winds associated with a major hurricane (Category 3 or greater). These warnings indicate a very significant threat of casualties and are usually valid for two hours or less.

OTHER ALERTS

Because tropical storms and hurricanes encompass several types of hazards, NWS may issue additional watches and warnings as a result of the storm, including alerts for flash floods, tornadoes, and floods. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local radio, or television for information and to monitor alert notifications.

EVACUATION NOTICE

If the danger is significant, state or local government officials may issue an evacuation notice. Evacuation orders may vary by state and community and range from voluntary to mandatory. When authorities issue a mandatory evacuation notice, leave the area immediately.
TAKE ACTION NOW!
People who live in hurricane-prone coastal areas should know their vulnerability to wind and flooding, as well as what to do to reduce the effects of both. People who live inland from coastal areas may also experience high winds, power outages, and flooding from torrential rain. Protecting yourself today means having sources for information, preparing your home or workplace, developing an emergency communications plan, and knowing what to do when a hurricane is approaching your community. Taking action today can save lives and property.

**Know**

**Know your hurricane risk.** Your risk from hurricanes is based on where you live, the structure of your home, and your personal circumstances. People who live on the coast are most at risk for extreme winds and flooding from rain and storm surge. People who live inland are at risk for wind, thunderstorms, and flooding. Hurricanes also cause widespread power outages, which may be a risk factor for people who need power-dependent medical devices. Visit [http://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload](http://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload) to learn about your property’s projected risk to flood hazards.

**Know how to stay informed.** Receiving timely information about weather conditions or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to be safe.

- Monitor weather reports provided by your local media.
- Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, do an Internet search with your town, city, or county name and the term “alerts.”
- Consider buying a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards receiver, which receives broadcast alerts directly from NWS. You can purchase these at many retail outlets, such as electronics and big box stores, or online. Some NWR receivers are designed to work with external notification devices with visual and vibrating alerts for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information on NWR receivers, visit: [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrecvr.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrecvr.htm).
- Think about how you will stay informed if there is a power outage. Have extra batteries for a battery-operated radio and your cell phone. Consider having a hand crank radio or cell phone charger.

**Know your evacuation routes; plan your transportation and identify a place to stay.** To ensure that you will be able to act quickly should the need arise, you need to plan ahead.

- Know your community’s local hurricane evacuation plan and identify several escape routes from your location in case roads are blocked. Include plans to evacuate people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, as well as pets, service animals, and livestock.
- If you plan to evacuate by car, keep your car fueled and in good condition. Keep emergency supplies and a change of clothes in your car.
- If you will need to share transportation, make arrangements now. If you will need to use public transportation, including paratransit, contact your local government emergency management agency to ask how an evacuation will work, how you will get current information during an evacuation, the location of staging areas, and other information.

- If you will need to relocate for an extended period of time, identify a place away from home where you could go if you had to leave. Consider family or friends who live outside of the local area.

- If you expect to go to a shelter after evacuating, download the American Red Cross Shelter Finder App at [www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/shelter-finder-app](http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/shelter-finder-app). This app displays a map of all open American Red Cross shelters, and provides the capacity and the current population of each shelter. You can also text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area.

- If you have pets and plan to go to a shelter, call to inquire whether the shelter can accommodate your pets. Shelters will accept service animals.

**PRACTICE**

**Practice taking shelter.** While you may need to evacuate the area due to a hurricane, there are also situations when you may need to seek protection from hurricane-force winds. Identify your protective location and practice getting all household members to that location quickly. If you do not have access to a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) safe room or an International Code Council (ICC) 500 storm shelter, use a small, interior, windowless room, such as a bathroom or closet, on the lowest level not likely to flood.

**Practice how you will communicate with family members.** In a dangerous situation, your first thoughts will be the safety of your family and friends. In case you are not together when authorities issue a tropical storm or hurricane watch, or a tropical storm or hurricane warning, practice how you will communicate with each other. Remember that sending texts is often faster than making a phone call. Keep important numbers written down in your wallet, not just on your phone. It is sometimes easier to reach people outside of your local area during an emergency, so choose an out-of-town contact for all family members to call, or use social media. Decide where the members of your household will meet after the hurricane. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan) for instructions on developing a Household Communications Plan.

**Practice first aid skills and emergency response actions through training classes.** In most circumstances, when someone is hurt, a person on the scene provides the first assistance, before professional help arrives. Learn and practice response skills now so you will know what to do.

- Each year, more than 3 million people gain the skills they need to prepare for and respond to emergencies through American Red Cross training classes, including first aid, automated external defibrillator (AED), and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. Visit [www.redcross.org/take-a-class](http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class) to find out about classes in your area. Download the American Red Cross First Aid App at [www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/first-aid-app](http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/first-aid-app).
- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program expands the emergency response network by providing training in basic response skills to community members. CERT Basic Training educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may negatively affect their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Visit www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams to find your local program.

**STORE**  
**STORE** supplies so you can grab them quickly if you need to evacuate; know in advance what else you will need to take. Take time now to make a list of the things you would need or want to take with you if you had to leave your home quickly. Store the basic emergency supplies in a “Go Bag” or other container. Be ready to grab other essential items quickly before leaving. Remember to include specialized items for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, such as older adults, children, and those with Limited English Proficiency.

When making your list, consider the **Five Ps of Evacuation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>PRESCRIPTIONS</th>
<th>PAPERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People and, if safely possible, pets and other animals or livestock</td>
<td>Prescriptions, with dosages; medicines; medical equipment; batteries or power cords; eyeglasses; and hearing aids</td>
<td>Papers, including important documents (hard copies and/or electronic copies saved on external hard drives or portable thumb drives)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL NEEDS</th>
<th>PRICELESS ITEMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal needs—such as clothes, food, water, first aid kit, cash, phones, and chargers—and items for people with disabilities and others with access and/or functional needs, such as older adults, children, and those with Limited English Proficiency</td>
<td>Priceless items, including pictures, irreplaceable mementos, and other valuables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STORE** supplies you will need to live at home with no power. Even if you are in an area that was not asked to evacuate, you may still lose power and the water supply to your home. Depending on the strength of the hurricane and its impact on your community, you could be in your home with no power or other basic services for several weeks. Think about items you require for this situation. Keep these supplies on hand in your home. For a full list of supplies for your emergency supply kit, visit www.ready.gov/build-a-kit.
Here are some suggestions to consider:

- Flashlight and radio, either hand-cranked or battery-powered, with extra batteries;
- At least 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days. A normally active person needs about three-quarters of fluid daily, from water and other beverages. Water is also needed for food preparation and sanitation;
- At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food for members of your household, including pet food and considerations for special dietary needs. Include a non-electric can opener for canned food;
- First aid kit, medications, and medical supplies; and
- Battery backup power for power-dependent mobility devices, oxygen, and other assistive technology needs.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person, if you live in a cold-weather climate.

Store the important documents you will need to start your recovery.

Review your homeowner’s or renters insurance policy and also prepare or update a list of your home’s contents by taking pictures or videotaping each room in the house. If your home or business sustains significant damage, you will need access to insurance and rental or mortgage agreements to file a claim or request assistance from the government. During recovery, you may also need access to personal information such as medical insurance, and prescriptions or warranties for durable medical equipment. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) can help you identify the records you should keep safe. This document is available at www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness. Store your records safely. Keep papers in a fireproof, waterproof box. If records are stored electronically, keep a backup drive in your fireproof, waterproof box, or store files using a secure cloud-based service.

Protect your property and manage your risk. If you live in a hurricane-prone coastal area or in an inland area where heavy rains from a downgraded hurricane might pass, take steps now to protect your property from both high wind and water damage. This includes buying specialized insurance for losses caused by flood and wind damage.

Discuss what you have done to prepare with your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Talking about preparedness with others will help you think through your plans, share information about alerts and warnings, and share tips for protecting property. Talking about disasters and helping others prepare makes everyone safer.

Discuss how your community can reduce risk. Work with others in your community to improve community resilience planning. Support your community’s participation in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program and examine how building codes or land-use planning could improve the community’s resilience. Work with others to request evaluations of Best Available Refuge Areas in public locations and pursue community investments for FEMA safe rooms and ICC 500 storm shelters. For more information on mitigation options for reducing your community’s risk, see Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards at www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/30627?id=6938.
Hurricanes have the potential to cause massive destruction. If you are in the path of a major hurricane, authorities may direct you to evacuate for your safety.

**EVACUATE**
- Fatalities and injuries caused by hurricanes are often the result of individuals remaining in unsafe locations during a storm. If authorities advise or order you to evacuate, do so immediately. Be sure to remember the Five Ps of Evacuation: People, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs, and Priceless Items.
- Leave early to avoid delays caused by long lines, high winds, and flooding.
- Follow posted evacuation routes and do not try to take short cuts because they may be blocked. Stick to designated evacuation routes.

**IF YOU ARE IN AN AREA WITHOUT AN EVACUATION NOTICE**
Take precautions to protect yourself and stay safe from the high winds and potential localized flooding.
- Stay indoors away from windows and glass doors. Flying debris from high winds is dangerous and can be deadly. If you are in a mobile home or temporary structure, move to a sturdy building.
- For protection in extremely high winds, go to a small, interior, windowless room, such as a bathroom or closet, on the lowest level not likely to flood.
- If you are in an area that is flooding (e.g., on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an island waterway), move to a location on higher ground before floodwaters prevent your ability to leave.
- If the power is out, use flashlights, not candles. Turn on a battery-operated or hand-cranked radio to get the latest emergency information. Stay tuned to alerts.

**EXPERIENCING A HURRICANE**
You may experience any of the following during a hurricane:
- Long periods of very strong winds and heavy rains.
- If you are in a coastal area, you may experience a storm surge, which means that high winds are pushing seawater onto the shore. A storm surge combines with the ocean’s tide to produce a storm-tide surge. Storm-tide surges have been registered as high as 35 feet above normal sea level and can cause significant flooding across a large area. This generally occurs over a short period, typically 4 to 8 hours; but in some areas, it may take much longer for the water to recede to its pre-storm level.
- Significant changes in air pressure during the storm can cause discomfort, and loud moaning, shrieking, and whistling sounds may occur because of the winds.
- Many of those in the center of the storm experience a false sense of security. After the center of the hurricane, also known as the eye, passes over, the storm will resume. Do not venture outside until emergency officials say it’s safe.
IF YOU EVACUATED
- Return home only when authorities indicate that it is safe to do so.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Do not attempt to drive through flooded areas. Roads and bridges may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Be aware of downed trees, power lines, and fallen debris.

IF YOU STAYED IN THE AREA OR AS YOU RETURN
Listen to official public information to get expert, informed advice as soon as it is available. Use the following considerations and precautions:

INSIDE SAFETY
- If the storm damaged your home severely, you may only be able to enter when officials say it is safe to do so. Stay out of any building surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering flooded buildings. There may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations. Personal safety considerations include protecting yourself from electric shock, mold contamination, asbestos, and lead paint. Turn off electricity at main breaker or fuse box. Homeowners who are unfamiliar with electricity or their home’s electrical systems should contact their local power company or a qualified electrician to assist them in making their property safe from electrical hazards after a flood. Check for loose boards and slippery floors.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or you are standing in water. Shut off the utilities to a flooded home or building.
- Use flashlights, not lanterns, torches, or matches, to examine buildings. Flammable gases may be inside and open flames may cause a fire or explosion.
- If you turned off your gas, ask a licensed professional to turn it back on.
- Carbon monoxide kills. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine ONLY outdoors and away from windows so fumes do not get inside. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are also deadly; cook with charcoal ONLY outdoors. For more information, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning at http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/cofacts.asp.

OUTSIDE SAFETY
- If you see floodwater on roads, walkways, bridges, and on the ground, do not attempt to cross floodwater. The depth of the water is not always obvious, and the road bed may be washed out under the water. Moving water has tremendous power. Six inches of moving water has the potential to knock you off your feet, and a foot of water can sweep a vehicle—even a large SUV—off the road. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers. For more information on floodwater hazards, visit the NWS Turn Around Don’t Drown® program at http://tadd.weather.gov/.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which may be contaminated with oil, gasoline, or raw sewage.
- Watch for dangerous debris (e.g., broken glass, metal fragments), dead animals, or venomous snakes in floodwaters. Before walking through debris, use a stick to check for hidden dangers. Underground or downed power lines may electrically charge the water.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to 911 or the power company’s emergency number.
- Stay away from damaged areas unless police, fire, or relief organizations request your assistance.

**COMMUNICATIONS**
- Use local alerts, radios, and other local information sources, such as American Red Cross apps, to get information and advice as soon as it is available.
- Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends. Telephones and cellular phone systems are often overwhelmed following a disaster, so use phones only for emergency calls.

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**
- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community’s water supply is safe to drink.
- Service damaged septic tanks and leaching systems as soon as possible. A damaged sewage system is a serious health hazard.
- Have wells checked for contamination from bacteria and chemicals.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage, bacteria, and chemicals. Be careful and wear appropriate protective equipment like gloves, safety glasses, and face masks. Follow five basic steps for post-flood building restoration, including (1) air out, (2) move out, (3) tear out, (4) clean out, and (5) dry out. Seek professional services and/or guidance before attempting to repair flood-damaged property.
- Throw out any food, including canned items, that was not maintained at a proper temperature or has been exposed to floodwaters. Do not eat food from a flooded garden. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Remove and replace drywall or other paneling that was underwater. Use a moisture meter to make sure that the wooden studs and framing are dry before replacing drywall. Mold growth in hidden places is a significant health hazard.

**CARE FOR LOVED ONES**
Look for signs of depression or anxiety related to this experience, such as feeling physically and mentally drained; having difficulty making decisions or staying focused; becoming easily frustrated on a more frequent basis; feeling tired, sad, numb, lonely, or worried; or experiencing changes in appetite or sleep patterns. Seek help from local mental health providers if you detect these signs in yourself or others.

**INSURANCE**
Photograph damage to your property and contact your insurance agent. Do what you can to prevent further damage (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof) that insurance may not cover.
WIND
The best way to reduce the risk of damage to a structure from hurricane winds is to reinforce or strengthen the building. Where available, you may also purchase high-wind insurance policies.

Windows are particularly vulnerable components on most structures. Impact-resistant glazing or permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to laminate the glass with a thin film to keep the glass from shattering. You can also board up windows with 5/8-inch plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking. Numerous manufacturers produce certified storm-resistant window and door products. Also reinforce garage doors against direct wind effects by using storm-resistant doors or by retrofitting existing doors with commercially available products.

Roof failures commonly cause major damage to buildings and their contents. Metal brackets and straps can strengthen the connections between the roof and wall systems. Brackets and straps should be attached at the studs and rafters, not to the plywood sheathing. The entire structure can be bolted to its foundation using anchor bolts along the foundation sill.

When a hurricane is forecast for your area, you should remove or secure items that are typically outside. Bring patio furniture, garden tools, garbage cans, and toys inside. Trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building. Anchoring storage sheds and other outbuildings helps prevent them from becoming flying debris. Anchor objects that are unsafe to bring inside, like gas grills or propane tanks.

FLOOD
Take steps to protect your property from flood damage.

- Talk to your insurance agent about buying flood insurance. Flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners. Because homeowners insurance policies do not typically cover flood losses, you will need to purchase separate flood insurance if your property is at risk for flooding. Visit www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/defining_flood_risks.jsp for an estimate of what flood insurance may cost for your property address. A policy purchased today will take effect in 30 days, so act now.
- Elevate the heating system (furnace), water heater, and electric panel if the location is susceptible to flooding.
- Install “check valves” in sewer lines to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drain of your home.
- Waterproof the basement.
- Install sump pumps with battery backup.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, stockpile emergency building materials (e.g., plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber nails, a hammer and saw, a pry bar, shovels, and sandbags).
- In areas with repetitive flooding, consider elevating the building.
- Keep gutters and drains free of debris.
The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane’s sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, however, and require preventative measures. In the western North Pacific, the term “super typhoon” is used for tropical cyclones with sustained winds exceeding 150 mph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>SUSTAINED WINDS</th>
<th>TYPES OF DAMAGE DUE TO HURRICANE WINDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>74-95 mph</td>
<td>These very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed framed homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding, and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last for a few hours to several days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>64-82 knots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>119-153 km/hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>96-110 mph</td>
<td>These extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed framed homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and could block numerous roads. Near-tertal power loss is expected with outages that could last for several days to weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83-95 knots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>154-177 km/hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (major)</td>
<td>111-129 mph</td>
<td>Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96-112 knots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>178-208 km/hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (major)</td>
<td>130-156 mph</td>
<td>Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>113-136 knots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>209-251 km/hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (major)</td>
<td>157 mph or higher</td>
<td>Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>137 knots or higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>252 km/hr or higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOURCES

If you would like more information, the following resources may be helpful.

- FEMA Against the Wind: Protecting Your Home From Hurricane and Wind Damage: www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2988?id=1641
- FEMA Community Hurricane Preparedness Training: www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-324.a
- FEMA Safety Tips for Hurricanes: Publication for Teachers and Parents for Presentation to Children. To order, call 1-800-480-2520.
- FloodSmart: www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart
- Institute for Business and Home Safety Protect Your Home Against Hurricane Damage: www.disastersafety.org/hurricane
- National Hurricane Center: www.hurricanes.gov
- Ready: www.Ready.gov/hurricanes
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Disaster-Specific Resources: Annotated Bibliography: www.samhsa.gov/rtae/dhhis/dhhis_specific_bib.asp#disaster
Introduction

A hurricane can cause widespread devastation during and after it occurs. This guide from FEMA is designed to help you properly prepare for a hurricane and know how to protect yourself during and after one.

Planning and preparing can make a big difference in safety and resiliency in the wake of a hurricane. The ability to quickly recover following a hurricane requires a focus on preparedness, advance planning, and knowing what to do in the event of a hurricane.
How to Prepare for a Hurricane

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over ocean water and often move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes. The heavy winds of hurricanes can cause damage or destroy homes, buildings, and roads, as well as cause power, water, and gas outages. These effects can injure or kill people, disrupt transportation, and pollute drinking water. Hurricanes cause deaths and injuries primarily from drowning, wind, and wind-borne debris. The impact from hurricanes can extend from the coast to several hundred miles inland. To find your risk, visit FEMA’s “Know Your Risk Map.” Be better prepared for this hurricane season, and learn more at ready.gov/prepare.

Now/Prepare

Sign up for local alerts and warnings. Monitor local news and weather reports.

Prepare to evacuate by testing your emergency communication plan(s), learning evacuation routes, having a place to stay, and packing a “go bag.”

Stock emergency supplies.

Protect your property by installing sewer backflow valves, anchoring fuel tanks, reviewing insurance policies, and cataloging belongings.

Collect and safeguard critical financial, medical, educational, and legal documents and records.

During/Survive

Follow guidance from local authorities.

If advised to evacuate, grab your “go bag” and leave immediately.

For protection from high winds, stay away from windows and seek shelter on the lowest level in an interior room.

Move to higher ground if there is flooding or a flood warning.

Turn Around Don’t Drown.® Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through water.

Call 9-1-1 if you are in life-threatening danger.

After/Be Safe

Return to the area only after authorities say it is safe to do so. Do not enter damaged buildings until they are inspected by qualified professionals.

Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through floodwaters.

Look out for downed or unstable trees, poles, and power lines.

Do not remove heavy debris by yourself. Wear gloves and sturdy, thick-soled shoes to protect your hands and feet.

Do not drink tap water unless authorities say it is safe.
Now/Prepare for a Hurricane

STAY INFORMED: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

You can receive alerts and warnings directly from the National Weather Service for all hazards with a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Some radio receivers are designed to work with external notification devices for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information on NWR receivers, visit nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/nwrcvr.html.

Sign up for emergency alerts and notifications that your community may offer. Download Be Smart. Know Your Alerts and Warnings for a summary of notifications at ready.gov/prepare.

WATCHES AND WARNINGS

The National Weather Service (NWS), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), issues alerts when weather conditions make hurricanes more likely. Know the terms used to describe changing hurricane conditions and be prepared to take appropriate action.

**Tropical Storm or Hurricane Advisory**—The NWS issues an Advisory when it expects conditions to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is used, these situations should not be life-threatening.

**Tropical Storm or Hurricane Watch**—The NWS issues a Watch when a tropical storm or hurricane is possible within 48 hours. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local radio, TV, or other news sources for more information. Monitor alerts, check your emergency supplies, and gather any items you may need if you lose power.

**Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning**—The NWS issues a Warning when it expects a tropical storm or hurricane within 36 hours. During a Warning, complete your storm preparations, and immediately leave the threatened area if directed to do so by local officials.
Now/Prepare for a Hurricane

PLAN FOR EVACUATION

If the danger is significant, state or local government officials may issue an evacuation notice. You can do the following to be better prepared.

Learn your community's evacuation plan and identify several posted routes to leave the area.

• **Evacuation routes:** Check with your state's Department of Transportation or Office of Emergency Management website to find routes near you.

• **Emergency shelter location:** To find a shelter near you, download the FEMA app at fema.gov/mobile-app.

Once you determine your evacuation route and shelter location, write them down on your Hurricane Preparedness Checklist, which is located at the end of this guide.

Make a plan for your pet. To learn more, go to ready.gov/animals.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO BE READY**

- Plan for your entire household including children, people with disabilities and access and functional needs, and pets.

- Keep your gas tank at least half-full at all times. Maintain basic emergency supplies (e.g., snacks, bottled water, first aid kit, flashlight, flares, jumper cables and other tools, a wool blanket, and a change of clothes) in your vehicle.

- **Pick an out-of-state contact** everyone can call to check-in and report their status.

- **Know where you will meet up** if you are separated and where you will stay.

- **Pack a “go bag”** including items you need to take with you if you evacuate. A “go bag” should be easy to carry and kept in a place where you can grab it quickly.

**CREATE YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Your family may not be together when a hurricane occurs, so it is important to know how to contact one another and how to get back together.

Keep important numbers written down in your wallet in case you cannot access the contact list in your phone. Landline and cellular phone systems are often overwhelmed following a disaster, so you may need to use text messages and social media.

Designate an out-of-town contact who can help your household reconnect. Be sure to practice your plan with your family. Get more information by downloading Be Smart Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan or visit ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Write down any important phone numbers on your Hurricane Preparedness Checklist so you can access them easily.

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit ready.gov/prepare
**EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

You can build your supplies over time by adding a few items each week or month. Gather in advance the necessary supplies and items you will need to stay safe after the hurricane passes and as you start to recover. Stock food items that do not need refrigeration and will last. Regularly replace items like water, food, medications, and batteries that go bad over time.

For a complete list of emergency supplies, visit [ready.gov/prepare](https://ready.gov/prepare) and then check them off your Hurricane Preparedness Checklist once you add them to your emergency kit.

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

Make sure you have everything you’ll need to get in touch with your family either through cellular phones or email.

**MEDICAL NEEDS**

Be equipped to tend to any current or unexpected medical conditions your family may have.

**CRITICAL DOCUMENTS**

Place any important documents in a waterproof container to help keep them dry and easily accessible.

**TOOLS AND SAFETY ITEMS**

Small items like matches, flashlights, a multi-purpose tool, and a whistle can make a huge difference for your family while weathering the storm.

**FOOD/SUPPLIES**

Have at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water for your family. Remember to pack anything specific to your family’s needs.

**HYGIENE AND SANITATION**

Practicing good hygiene can stop the spread of bacteria and infectious disease.

**PROTECTIVE GEAR**

Protect yourself by packing warm clothes and blankets to prevent hypothermia. Don’t forget protective footwear and gloves too.

**COMFORT & PRICELESS ITEMS**

You may be away from your home for an extended period and your property may be damaged. Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially your children.

Ask yourself, “What would I need for myself and my family if a hurricane struck?” Add any of these specific items to your Hurricane Preparedness Checklist.

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit [ready.gov/prepare](https://ready.gov/prepare)
Now/Prepare for a Hurricane

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY AGAINST WIND AND WATER DAMAGE

Planning and preparing before a hurricane strikes can help you manage the impact of high winds and floodwaters. Take the steps outlined below to keep you and your family safe while protecting your home and property. If you are a renter, talk with your landlord or property manager about the steps you can take together to protect yourself, your family, your home, and your property.

WIND

High winds: The best way to reduce the risk of damage to a structure from hurricane winds is to reinforce or strengthen the building including doors, windows, walls, and roofs. The best way to protect yourself is to consider either constructing a safe room that meets FEMA criteria or a storm shelter that meets ICC 500 criteria.

Wind-borne debris: Bring loose, lightweight objects (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans, and bicycles) inside; anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., gas grills and propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on buildings.

FLOOD

There are steps that you or your property owner can take now to make your home or business more flood resistant. Some improvements are simple and inexpensive; others require more of an investment. As your budget allows, take these steps to protect your property from flood damage and manage your risks.

- Keep gutters and drains free of debris.
- Install a water alarm and sump pumps with battery backup.
- Install “check valves” in sewer lines to prevent floodwater from backing up into your drains.
- Stockpile emergency protective materials such as plywood, plastic sheeting, and sandbags.
- Elevate the heating system (furnace), water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Waterproof the basement.
- In areas with repetitive flooding, consider elevating the building.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Most property insurance policies do not cover flood losses, so you will need to purchase separate flood insurance if your property is at risk for flooding. Talk to your insurance agent about buying flood insurance. Flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program in participating communities. Keep in mind that a policy purchased today will take 30 days to go into effect, so act now!

Learn how to financially protect yourself from flood damage by visiting FloodSmart.gov.

Find your flood risk at msc.fema.gov/portal.

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit ready.gov/prepare
During/Survive a Hurricane

DECIDING TO STAY OR GO

If authorities advise or order you to evacuate, grab your “go bag” and **leave immediately.** If you are not in a mandatory evacuation zone, you may still decide to leave the area, you may need to move to higher ground, or you may choose to stay in your home. If you decide to stay home, remember that even if the high winds and floodwaters do not reach your home, you may lose power and water, and you may not be able to leave your home for several days if the roads are impassable.

---

**IF YOU ARE IN AN AREA WHERE AUTHORITIES ADVISE OR ORDER YOU TO EVACUATE:**

**TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY TO EVACUATE!**

Grab your “go bag” and leave immediately. Follow posted evacuation routes and do not try to take shortcuts because they may be blocked. Stick to designated evacuation routes. For localized information:

- **Evacuation routes:** Check with your state’s Department of Transportation or Office of Emergency Management website to find routes near you.
- **Emergency shelter location:** To find a shelter near you, check the FEMA mobile app: [fema.gov/mobile-app](http://fema.gov/mobile-app).

**Don’t forget:** Write down your evacuation route and shelter information on your Hurricane Preparedness Checklist.

---

**IF YOU ARE IN AN AREA **without an evacuation notice:**

If you are in an area that is flooding (e.g., on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an island waterway), move to a location on higher ground before floodwaters reach you.

Stay indoors and away from windows and glass doors. If you are in a temporary structure, safely move to a sturdy building and go to a windowless room on the lowest level that is not likely to flood.

Never use a generator, gasoline-powered equipment and tools, grill, camp stove, or charcoal burning device inside or in any partially enclosed area. Keep these devices outside and at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents.

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit [ready.gov/prepare](http://ready.gov/prepare)
POST-DISASTER TIPS TO STAY SAFE

If you’ve evacuated the area, wait for public officials to say it is safe before returning. Each year, a significant number of people are injured or killed while cleaning up after a hurricane. As you begin cleanup, keep these safety tips in mind:

STAY SAFE

Do not wade in floodwaters, which can contain dangerous debris like broken glass, metal, dead animals, sewage, gasoline, oil, and downed power lines.

Do not enter a building until it has been inspected for damage to the electrical system, gas lines, septic systems, and water lines or wells. Wear appropriate protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, rubber boots, and masks to protect you from debris and airborne particles, e.g., mold and dust.

Do not use electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.

Protect your pet following a hurricane. To learn more, visit ready.gov/animals.

STAY HEALTHY

Throw out any food including canned items that were not maintained at a proper temperature or have been exposed to floodwaters. Do not eat food from a flooded garden. When in doubt, throw it out.

Avoid drinking tap water until you know it is safe. If uncertain, boil or purify it first.

Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage, bacteria, and chemicals.
FIVE STEPS FOR POST-HURRICANE CLEAN-UP

Use appropriate personal protective equipment to avoid injury from possible exposure to mold and bacteria including gloves, goggles, rubber boots, and N95 masks.

AIR OUT by opening all doors and windows whenever you are present. Leave as many windows open when you are not present as security concerns allow.

MOVE OUT saturated porous materials such as mattresses or upholstered items, especially those with visible fungal growth.

TEAR OUT flooring, paneling, drywall, insulation, and electrical outlets saturated by floodwater.

CLEAN OUT and disinfect any remaining debris and mud.

DRY OUT the building and any remaining contents.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources and websites can help you further prepare for, respond to, and recover from a hurricane.

FEMA Mobile App: fema.gov/mobile-app

FEMA Against the Wind: Protecting Your Home From Hurricane and Wind Damage: fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2988

FEMA Community Hurricane Preparedness Training: training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-324.a

FEMA Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room in Your Home or Small Business: fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2009?id=1536

RELATED WEBSITES

American Red Cross Hurricane Preparedness: redcross.org/prepare/disaster/hurricane

FEMA Hurricane: ready.gov/hurricanes

FloodSmart Campaign: FloodSmart.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): noaa.gov

Para obtener información y recursos en español visite community.fema.gov/?lang=es

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit ready.gov/prepare
TEST YOUR HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KNOWLEDGE

1 **MYTH:** Preparing for disasters is time-consuming and expensive.

**FACT:** Signing up for local alerts and warnings is free. Many preparedness apps are also free.

**FACT:** Your home may already contain emergency kit items.

**FACT:** You can purchase items for an emergency kit and assemble it over time.

**FACT:** Having an adequate emergency supply of food and a communication plan can be of benefit no matter the hazard.

2 **MYTH:** My homeowners insurance should cover everything if a hurricane affects me.

**FACT:** This is not always the case. Check your insurance policy and consult your insurance agent.

**FACT:** Standard homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.

3 **MYTH:** In an emergency, only first responders need to know what to do.

**FACT:** Everyone needs to know what to do before, during, and after a hurricane to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors.

**FACT:** First responders may not reach you for hours or days after a hurricane strikes. Everyone needs to know what to do to stay safe.

4 **MYTH:** I am prepared for any emergency, including a hurricane, if I have an emergency kit packed.

**FACT:** Emergency preparedness requires more than a kit.

**FACT:** Having a family communication plan, signing up for alerts and warnings, and knowing what to do and how to evacuate are also important.

**FACT:** Many emergencies require knowledge of what to do to protect yourself.

5 **MYTH:** It’s okay if I drive through a small amount of floodwater.

**FACT:** As little as 12 inches of water can float smaller SUVs, and 18 inches of water can float larger vehicles such as full-size SUVs.

**FACT:** The depth of the water is not always obvious, and moving water has tremendous power. Turn Around Don’t Drown®

**FACT:** Even a small amount of water on a road may hide dangers such as undermined roads ready to collapse.

6 **MYTH:** A person can safely wait to evacuate until confirmation that a hurricane is in their area.

**FACT:** Those who wait for actual confirmation of a hurricane may be trapped by high winds, flooding, or traffic.

7 **MYTH:** If I tape my windows, it will protect them from strong hurricane force winds.

**FACT:** Taping windows can create larger and deadlier shards of glass.

**FACT:** Hurricane shutters or impact-resistant windows are far more effective in protecting against breakage of windows.
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

The right time to prepare for a hurricane is now. This helpful checklist will get you started. Make sure to include your entire family in the preparation and discuss your emergency plan with them. Post this checklist in an easily accessible location so it's always close by. Remember to keep in mind your family's unique needs as you complete the checklist.

BEFORE A HURRICANE
Stock your emergency kit and "go bag" with:

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
☐ Important contact information for family, school, work, doctors, etc., including phone numbers and email addresses
☐ Cellular phone, extra battery, and chargers for electrical equipment
☐ AM/FM radio/NOAA Weather Radio (extra batteries)

MEDICAL NEEDS
☐ Medications for at least one week and copies of prescriptions
☐ Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
☐ Medical equipment/assistive technology and backup batteries
☐ First aid kit

CRITICAL DOCUMENTS
☐ Photo ID (e.g., driver's license, passport)
☐ Cash and credit cards
☐ Personal records (e.g., birth certificates, marriage certificates)
☐ Medical records
☐ Financial information (e.g., bank account or credit card information)
☐ Property records (e.g., insurance policies, deed, or lease)
☐ Waterproof, portable container for important documents

TOOLS & SAFETY ITEMS
☐ Flashlight
☐ Multi-purpose tool
☐ Matches or lighter in waterproof container
☐ Whistle
☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________

FOOD/SUPPLIES
☐ At least a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food
☐ Infant formula and diapers
☐ Pet food, supplies, and extra water
☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________

HYGIENE & SANITATION
☐ Soap/disinfectant/sanitizer
☐ Paper towels/moist towelettes
☐ Toilet paper
☐ Bleach
☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________

PROTECTIVE GEAR & CLOTHING
☐ Extra warm clothes
☐ Sturdy shoes
☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________

COMFORT & PRICELESS ITEMS
☐ Items like: books, puzzles, favorite stuffed toy, photo albums, valuables
☐ ____________________________
☐ ____________________________

DURING A HURRICANE
When a tropical storm or hurricane watch is issued, it's important to stay informed.

Tune in to channel: ____________________________
Check for alerts on apps: FEMA App

In case of evacuation, grab your "go bag" and leave immediately. Use evacuation route: ____________________________
The closest shelter is: ____________________________
Meet family at: ____________________________

Make sure to take these important numbers with you:
Family member's name:
Phone #: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Local contact's name:
Phone #: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Out-of-state contact's name:
Phone #: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Primary physician's name:
Phone #: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Hospital's phone #: ____________________________
Insurance company's phone #: ____________________________

FEMA's helpline: 1-800-621-FEMA
TTY: 1-800-462-7585
VRS: 1-800-621-3362
Red Cross's helpline: 1-800-733-2727

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit ready.gov/prepare