

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS



**Know your area's risk from hurricanes.**

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**If you are at risk for flash flooding,** watch for signs such as heavy rain.

**Practice going to a safe shelter** for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room or ICC 500 storm shelter. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not subject to flooding.

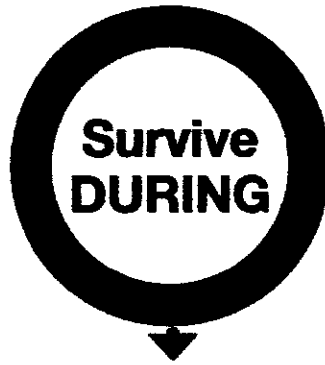
**Based on your location and community plans,** make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.

**Become familiar with your evacuation zone,** the evacuation route, and shelter locations.

**Gather needed supplies for at least three days.** Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

**Keep important documents in a safe place** or create password-protected digital copies.

**Protect your property.** Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups. Consider hurricane shutters. Review insurance policies.



**If told to evacuate, do so immediately.** Do not drive around barricades.

**If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room.** ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor.

**If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building.** Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.

**Listen** for current emergency information and instructions.

**Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors** and away from windows.

**Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.** Turn Around. Don't Drown. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

**Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.**



**Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.**

**Be careful during clean-up.** Wear protective clothing and work with someone else.

**Do not touch electrical equipment** if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.

**Avoid wading in flood water,** which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

**Save phone calls for emergencies.** Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

**Document any property damage** with photographs. Contact your insurance company for assistance.

## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **ready.gov** and search for **hurricane**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **hurricane**.



**FEMA**

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