



## Hurricanes

Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that form in the ocean. They gather heat and energy through contact with warm ocean waters. Evaporation from the seawater increases their power. Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an "eye," and have winds at least 74 miles per hour. When hurricanes come onto land, their heavy rain, strong winds, and large waves can damage buildings, trees, and cars.

## Be Prepared

### BEFORE:

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Help your parents bring in outdoor items like potted plants, patio furniture, decorations, and garbage cans. They can fly in strong winds!

### DURING:

- Don't open the refrigerator or freezer. If you lose power, keep the cold air in!
- Stay away from windows and glass doors. They could break and hurt you.
- Don't go outside when the rain or winds stop. This is the eye of the storm, or a short "rest," and it will start again.
- If need be, stay inside a closet or a room without windows. You can also lie on the floor under a table or sturdy object.
- Listen to your parents or safety authorities for important instructions.

### AFTER:

- Don't go outside without a grown-up.
- Don't go near any wires that are loose or dangling. They could electrocute you!
- Tell your parents if you smell gas.
- Don't drink water from the faucet unless your parents say it's okay.
- Text, don't talk. Unless there's a life-threatening situation, if you have a cell phone, send a text instead of calling. Texting may work even if cell service is down.

*from FEMA Ready.gov/kids*