

Hurricane Preparedness



Typically hurricane season is defined as June 1st through November 30th. If you live in a hurricane affected area, please do not delay in getting yourself prepared. If the past several years have taught us anything at all it is if you are not ready then you could be in big trouble. As always, follow the instructions of your local city and state authorities as to what evacuation procedures should be taken. There is no way to predict how devastating the resulting damage from a storm can be, but always have a plan and have your supplies ready.

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. **Hurricane Preparedness Week 2012 runs from May 27th through June 2nd.** Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. This means it is important for your company and your family to have a plan that includes all of these hazards.

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: lightning, tornadoes, flooding, storm surge, high winds, even landslides or mudslides can be triggered in mountainous regions. Look at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family/business disaster plan accordingly. But remember, this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

WATCH vs. WARNING

A HURRICANE WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within **36 hours**.

This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan. Protective measures should be initiated, especially those that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.



A HURRICANE WARNING issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least **74 mph** are expected within 24 hours or less.

Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

2012 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Alberto
Beryl
Chris
Debby
Ernesto
Florence
Gordon
Helene
Isaac
Joyce
Kirk
Leslie
Michael
Nadine
Oscar
Patty
Rafael
Sandy
Tony
Valerie
William

What's YOUR Plan?

- ✔ You should have a disaster plan. Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- ✔ Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- ✔ Determine the best evacuation routes from your home and establish a place to meet if you and your family are separated. Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- ✔ Have a "Pet Plan" in place before a storm threatens. Contact your vet or local humane society for information on preparing your pet for an emergency.
- ✔ Make sure you have enough non-perishable food and water to last 3-7 days.
- ✔ Prepare a first aid kit which contains any special medications.
- ✔ Keep a basic set of tools, such as a **screwdriver**, hammer, wrench, etc., along with a can opener, flashlight and a battery operated radio.
- ✔ Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Make sure to keep your policy and any important documents with you in a waterproof bag or container.
- ✔ Make sure to fill up your gas tank and have cash on hand. You never know if you'll be able to have access to either in an extreme case.