



Coast Guard Family Hurricane Preparedness Information

Items to prepare for & think about:

- Loss of electricity/running water for months.
- No roof on your home.
- Home underwater for weeks.
- Money in the bank and can't get to it.
- No one will accept credit cards.
- No grocery stores/gas stations open.
- No phones (even cell).
- No car – debris blocking streets.
- Unable to recognize surroundings.
- People walking around in a daze.
- No trees any where.
- No renter's, homeowner's or auto insurance.
- Devastation for literally miles.
- Ice being sold for \$4-5 a bag.
- Utter chaos!
- Loss of personal mementos.
- Warlike setting with military in full battle gear!
- Extreme heat and no way to cool off.
- Not able to go back to your home for weeks and maybe months.
- Loss of spousal employment.

General Hurricane Information:

Coast Guard Hurricane Conditions:

- 5 – Dec thru May
- 4 – Jun 1 thru 30 Nov (Hurricane Season)
- 3 – 48 hours prior
- 2 – 24 hours prior
- 1 – 12 hours prior

Hurricane Category (Winds)

- Tropical Storm – 39 MPH
- One - 74-95 MPH
- Two – 96-110 MPH
- Three – 111-130 MPH
- Four – 131-155 MPH
- Five – 156+ MPH

Damages Expected

- Minimal
- Minimal
- Moderate
- Major
- Severe
- Catastrophic

Create a disaster plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

- Decide whether or not to evacuate. Are you in a mandatory evacuation zone? Is there time to evacuate? Where will you go?
- If the member will deploy or is deployed, determine ahead of time where the dependents will evacuate to and notify the Unit POC of that location. If you or your dependents are not going to evacuate, notify the unit NDPO or unit POC that you will be staying at home; provide your home address, telephone# and/or cell phone.
- Ask an out-of-state friend or family member to be your “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance or you may only be able to make one phone call. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know who your contact is and your contact’s phone number.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.
- Write down all of these contact numbers and information on the family emergency contact card.

Complete this checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for emergency help.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it’s kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt. Both before and after a storm.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

Practice your Disaster Plan:

- Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Evacuation Plan:

Local government officials, not the Red Cross, issue evacuation orders when disaster threatens. Listen to local radio and television reports when disaster threatens. If local officials ask you to leave, do so immediately; they have a good reason for making this request.

Coordinate your evacuation plan in advance when creating your family's disaster plan. Ensure that you've tested the evacuation routes and that you have planned several in the instance of closed roads and routes.

Items to take:

- Maps and compass
- Can of tire sealer in your trunk
- Sleeping bags and/or blankets for each member of the family
- Air or foam mattress
- Important documents (see *1 below)
- Extra clothes, shoes, etc.
- Valuables
- Books, games, playing cards, etc. (this may be an extended stay)
- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, toilet paper, feminine products, paper towels, etc.
- Cash - Enough to sustain through 7-14 days without credit cards and banks.
- Hurricane Emergency Kit (see *2 below)

(*1) Important documents:

- Driver's license or personal identification
- Social Security card
- Proof of residence (deed or lease)
- Insurance policies
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Stocks, bonds, and other negotiable certificates
- Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns
- **Conduct a household inventory***

Inventory your household possessions by making a list of everything you own. If disaster strikes, this list could:

- Help you prove the value of what you owned if those possessions are damaged or destroyed.
- Make it more likely you'll receive a fast, fair payment from your insurance company for your losses.
- Provide documentation for tax deductions you claim for your losses.

***To conduct a thorough home inventory:**

- Record the location of the originals of all important financial and family documents, such as birth and marriage certificates, wills, deeds, tax returns, insurance policies, and stock and bond certificates. Keep the originals in a safe place and store copies elsewhere. You'll need accessible records for tax and insurance purposes.
- Make a visual or written record of your possessions. If you don't own a camera or videotaping equipment (and can't borrow or rent it), buy an inventory booklet and fill it out, or make a simple list on notebook paper. Ask your insurance agent if he or she can provide one.
- Go from room to room. Describe each item, when you bought it, and how much it cost. If you're photographing or videotaping, have someone open closet doors and hold up items.

- Record model and serial numbers.
- Include less expensive items, such as bath towels and clothes. Their costs add up if you have to replace them.
- Be sure you include items in your attic, basement, and garage.
- Note the quality of building materials, particularly for such furnishings as oak doors or expensive plumbing fixtures.
- Photograph the exterior of your home. Include the landscaping--that big tree in the front yard may not be insurable, but it does increase the value of your property for tax purposes. Make special note of any improvements, such as a patio, fencing, or outbuildings.
- Photograph cars, boats, and recreational vehicles.
- Make copies of receipts and canceled checks for more valuable items.
- Get professional appraisals of jewelry, collectibles, artwork, or other items that are difficult to value. Update the appraisals every two to three years.
- Update your inventory list annually.
- Sound like too much work? Computer software programs designed for such purposes can make the task much easier. These programs are readily available in local computer stores or online.
- Most important, once you have completed your inventory, leave a copy with relatives or friends, or in a safe deposit box. Don't leave your only copy at home, where it might be destroyed.

(*2) Hurricane Emergency Kit:

- 2 flashlights
- Battery-operated radio, TV
- 6 extra sets of batteries each
- Gel freezer packs to keep food cold
- A cooler
- Matches and a lighter
- Camping stove and/or grill with fuel, canned heat and/or charcoal bricks with starter fluid
- Fire extinguisher (and a box of baking soda to extinguish a fire)
- 2 week supply of prescription medicines
- Medicine kit, first aid book,
- 2 week supply of OTC medicines such as aspirin, stomach antacids, antidiarrhea medicine, iodine, hydrogen peroxide, antibacterial ointment, bandages, insect repellent, scissors, tape, etc.
- Tarps (enough to cover roof)
- Towels (3 per person)
- Camera and film (video camera and blank video tapes)
- Kitchen utensils, spoons, knives, forks, hand-operated can opener, bottle opener, cooking pans, spatula, etc.
- A whistle
- Cell phone (if possible) with car charger, extra batteries (charged)
- Drinking water in plastic containers (minimum 1 gallon of water per person per day for 14 days)

- Additional water for flushing toilets, taking baths, washing dishes, etc.
- Water purifying kit.
- A box of large, plastic trash bags.
- Non perishable food in cans or sealed containers (enough for 14 days). Don't forget pets too!
- A box of locking top, sealing plastic bags – one and two gallon sizes

Remember these simple tips:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and sturdy shoes so you can be protected as much as possible.
- Take your disaster supplies kit.
- Take your pets with you; do not leave them behind. Because pets are not permitted in public shelters, follow your plan to go to a relative's or friend's home, or find a "pet-friendly" hotel.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities — don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

If you have only moments before leaving, grab these things and go:

- Medical supplies: prescription medications and dentures.
- Disaster supplies: flashlight, batteries, radio, first aid kit, bottled water
- Clothing and bedding: a change of clothes and a sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member
- Car keys and keys to the place you may be going (friend's or relative's home)
- Children & pets

For More Information:

- <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/>
- <http://www.fema.gov/about/regions/regioni/>
- <http://www.state.me.us/mema/>
- <http://www.yorkcountyme.gov>
- <http://www.fema.gov/kids/hurr.htm>
- www.uscg.mil
- www.redcross.org
- www.fema.gov
- www.weather.com
- www.hurricane.noaa.gov
- www.disasterhelp.gov
- www.weatherpoint.com