

PERSONAL HURRICANE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Hurricanes pose a significant threat to the Greater New Orleans area. In addition to military duties, personnel must take precautionary measures at home to protect their families and property in the event of a hurricane. All reasonable efforts will be taken by the Commanding Officers and department heads to ensure personnel have time to prepare for hurricane emergencies. Personnel must take individual responsibility for pre-planning and ensuring family members know what to do in the event of a hurricane.
2. These safety precautions are not to be considered as all-inclusive. They are a guide and may be used as a checklist. Common sense and individual requirements may dictate additional measures be included.
3. When a hurricane threatens, you may have to make the decision whether to evacuate New Orleans or to "ride out" the storm in your home. Be advised that IF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RECOMMEND EVACUATION, YOU SHOULD LEAVE. Their advice is based on experience and knowledge of the hurricane's strength, direction, and potential for destruction. If a military evacuation order is issued, all military personnel and family members living in government housing are required to evacuate the New Orleans area. Otherwise, the following general principles apply. If you live:
 - a. In a mobile home, plan to LEAVE.
 - b. Near a river or in a flood plain, plan to LEAVE.
 - c. On high ground, away from the river and your house is sturdy, consider staying.
4. If you decide to stay, take the following safety precautions:
 - a. The use of candles, open flame lanterns, camping stoves, and barbecue grills for emergency lighting and cooking is extremely hazardous. Try to plan around their use, but if used, be cautious and ensure adequate ventilation.
 - b. Prevent sliding glass doors from lifting off tracks by using wedges.
 - c. Board garage and porch doors.
 - d. Board windows.
 - e. Move valuables and important papers to upper floors. Consider using water and/or fire proof containers.
 - f. Bring pets inside.
 - g. Fill containers (empty milk cartons, cooking pots, sinks, and bathtub) with several days supply of drinking water.
 - h. Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
 - i. Use telephones only for emergencies.
 - j. Stay indoors away from windows and on the leeward side of the house.
 - k. Remain calm. If the "eye" of the storm passes directly over your location, there will be a lull in the wind, which may last a few minutes or several hours. Remember, the wind will return suddenly from the opposite direction; frequently with greater force.

5. If you decide to evacuate:

a. Know in advance where you are going. If possible, prearrange lodging with family or friends. Don't wait to leave until the last minute or after the high winds strike. Evacuation routes may become impassable. Review New Orleans Evacuation/contra flow procedures.

b. Take personal supplies which may not be readily available in shelters such as, toiletries, medicines, disposable diapers, baby formula, change of clothing, blankets, flashlights, snacks, etc.

c. Leave early and in daylight, if possible.

d. Notify relatives of your evacuation plans.

e. Drive carefully using recommended evacuation routes.

6. After the hurricane:

a. If you have evacuated, wait until authorities have determined whether it is safe to return to the area in which you live and which return routes are recommended. When cleared to return, drive home carefully. Be alert for fallen trees, poles, dangling/fallen electrical wires, undermined roads, and flooded low areas.

b. Do not sightsee.

c. Report broken or damaged water, sewer, and electrical lines to authorities.

d. At home, check for gas leaks. Check food and water for spoilage.

e. Be alert to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure makes fire fighting difficult after storms.

f. Unless you are qualified to render emergency assistance, stay away from disaster areas where you may hamper first aid or rescue work.