

FEMA's Are You Ready? Guide on Hurricanes

FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency,
United States Department of Homeland Security
<http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/hurricanes.shtm>

Take Protective Measures

Before a Hurricane

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Consider building a wind-safe room.

During a Hurricane

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks. Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and

flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

- If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your wind-safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors—secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm—winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

FEMA's Basic Disaster Supplies for Your Go Kit

There are six basics:

1. Water

- Keep a three-day supply
- Store at least one gallon per person per day
- Check for the expiration dates of bottled water

2. Food

- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water
- Select food items that are compact and lightweight
- Avoid foods that will make you thirsty
- Choose salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals, and canned foods with high liquid content

3. First aid supplies

- Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car
- Contact your local American Red Cross chapter to obtain a basic first aid manual

4. Clothing, bedding and sanitation supplies

- If you live in a cold climate, you must think about warmth. It is possible that you will not have heat; include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Toilet paper, soap, liquid detergent, personal hygiene items, etc.

Tools

- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Portable, battery-operated radio (even if you can't hear, your neighbors can help!)
- Portable, battery-operated television and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife

Special items

- Medications
- Supplies for pets or service animals

Check all supplies periodically for expiration date and clothing to make sure it's appropriate for the season.

Find out about these kits in more detail at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/basickit.shtm>

HLAA's Suggested Items for People with Hearing Loss

- PDA, pager, text-enabled cell phone, batteries and car charger
- Portable caption-enabled television and batteries
- Portable TTY and/or phone amplifier and batteries
- Personal assistive listening device, neckloop or headset and batteries
- Extra hearing aids or cochlear implant processor and batteries and/or car charger

Documentation

If you need to leave in an emergency, you don't want to have to search for important papers. However, we know identity theft is a concern. We suggest keeping a strong box near your Go Kit with copies of the items you think important. Here are a few documents you could include:

- Insurance policies (health, car, home)
- Deeds and property records
- Immunization records

- Birth and marriage certificates
- Driver's license
- Social Security card
- Passport
- Will
- Bank and credit card account numbers
- Stocks and bonds
- Audiogram
- Make and model of your hearing aid and/or cochlear implant

Resources

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
www.noaa.gov

National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org 