

EXTREME WEATHER PREPARATION: HURRICANES



As humans release more greenhouse gases into our atmosphere, global and regional weather patterns are changing. One consequence is that hurricanes are becoming more common and more severe. Learn how you can stay safe.

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A HURRICANE

BEFORE: IF STAYING AT HOME

- **Consider purchasing flood insurance, windstorm insurance, and/or renter's insurance. To be covered, you must purchase insurance BEFORE a hurricane watch. Homeowner's insurance will not cover floods and might not cover windstorms.**
- **Plan how to communicate with your family members and inform them on your plan and whereabouts.**
- **Keep a full tank of gas in case an evacuation seems likely. Gather emergency supplies in your vehicles.**
- **Cover your windows with storm shutters or marine plywood. Fit according to window size. Do NOT tape your windows.**
- **Build or restock an emergency preparedness kit. Make sure to include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.**
- **Identify which areas of your home are safest in the event of a hurricane.**
- **Keep important documents (passports, deeds, and insurance) in a storm-proof container in case of flooding.**
- **Unplug most of your electronics except for your refrigerator or freezer. Unplug freezer and refrigerator only if evacuating or if there is a flood risk.**
- **Set your refrigerator and freezer temperature to its coldest, to prevent food from going bad in case there is a power outage.**
- **Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof and outdoor furniture to the frame of your home.**
- **Secure outdoor furniture or bring it inside.**



BEFORE: IF EVACUATING

- It is important to evacuate if instructed to do so. Mobile homes and similar structures are dangerous in hurricanes.
- Stock non-perishable food supplies, bottled water, a first-aid kit, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries in air-tight containers.
- Remove fuses from air conditioners to prevent damage.
- Turn off water to prevent flooding from broken pipes if possible.
- Move important items to higher surfaces or floors.

For more information:

- <https://fox8live.com/2018/09/10/what-do-before-during-after-hurricane/>
- <https://social.selective.com/articles/wh-at-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-hurricane>
- <https://www.directenergy.com/learning-center/preparing-for-hurricane-before-during-after>

DURING:

- Close storm shutters.
- Stay indoors and away from windows.
- Close all interior doors. If power is lost, use a flashlight -- NOT candles.
- Check the TV, radio, or city or county websites frequently for updates or emergency instructions.
- Evacuate to a shelter or a neighbor's home if your home is damaged or if you are instructed to do so.

WHAT NOT TO DO DURING A HURRICANE:

- Do NOT handle electrical equipment.
- Do NOT use your phone except in an emergency.
- Do NOT go outside even if it seems that the storm has subsided.
- Do NOT use candles. They are a fire hazard.
- Do NOT tape your windows. This offers little strength to the glass and can create larger, more dangerous glass shards if the windows break.

AFTER:

- Avoid any flood water that may be contaminated or electrified from underground or downed power lines.
- Only return back home if authorities instruct you to do so.
- When power returns to your home, do not start all major appliances. Turn them on gradually.
- Never use generators indoors.
- Do not use electrical or gas appliances that have been wet.
- Take photos of any damage incurred. If flooding or any water damages occur, repair and clean as fast as possible to avoid mold.