

Emergency Preparedness: Nor'Easters



CREW

Communities
Responding
to Extreme Weather



What is a Nor'easter?

- A Nor'Easter is a storm that travels along the east coast of North America, most often between September and April. Usually, winds travel from the northeast, giving Nor'easters their name.
- Nor'Easters can cause intense winds, heavy rain or snowfall, coastal erosion, storm surge, and rip currents.
- Nor'Easters get their power and intensity from the differences in temperature between cold Northern winds and warmer air above water along the Gulf Coast.
- Climate Change is causing more and more snow or rain to fall during Nor'Easters. It also causes more coastal flooding during Nor'Easters, due to rising sea levels.

Before the Storm:

- Make sure you are signed up for local government alerts about storm and weather statuses.
- Check to see if your home is in a high-risk category for flooding, and purchase flood insurance if necessary.
- Assemble an emergency kit.
- Prepare for power outages by recharging electronics and putting fresh batteries in smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Consider using a generator as well.
- Review other property insurance policies.
- Make and review an emergency plan for your family unit, including whom to contact and multiple places to meet up.
- Check heating fuel and insulate your home as much as you can, including along window lines and door cracks.
- Prepare your home for the storm as follows:



How to Prepare Your home:

- Know how to turn electricity gas, and water valves off and on.
- Secure large objects, freestanding objects, or damageable objects (including any patio furniture outside or shelves inside).
- If expecting high winds, cover windows with storm shutters or plywood, but NEVER tape.
- For homes with flood risks, remove valuables from where waters could easily reach, unclog gutters and drains, and consider purchasing sump pumps for your basement.



During the storm:

- Monitor news updates from local organizations, radio, and government alerts.
- Do not go outside or drive unless absolutely necessary.
- If outdoors, avoid flowing water, even if it looks shallow.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately with your emergency kit and pets if possible.
- If sheltering in place, avoid windows and listen for news updates.
- Avoid using any fire hazards, such as candles.

After the storm:

- Continue to monitor news updates.
- Avoid downed utility wires and flowing water if outside.
- Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies, downed utility lines, and gas leaks.
- Check if water supply is safe to drink and boil water for at least one minute before using until certain of its safety.
- Check home for property damage (generators, pipes, etc...) and take pictures of damage as proof for insurance.
- Avoid broken glass or other hazardous material.
- Throw away any food that was in contact with flood water or that was not at a refrigerated temperature for more than two hours.
- Check-in with family and neighbors to confirm everyone is safe.



For more information, check out:
[www.mass.gov/info-details/noreaster](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/noreaster-coastal-storm-safety-tips)
[www.climate crew.org](http://www.climatecrew.org)

