



What Do Before/ During/ After the Storm

WHEN IN A WATCH AREA

- Frequently listen to radio, TV (local and cable), and [NOAA Weather Radio](#) for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding materials.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.
- Prepare to bring inside lawn furniture and other loose, light-weight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, etc.
- Have on hand an extra supply of cash.

WHEN IN A WARNING AREA

- Closely monitor radio, TV (local and cable), and NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, etc.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if told to do so!
- If evacuating. Leave early (if possible, in daylight). Stay with friends or relatives, at a low-rise inland hotel/motel, or (as a last resort) go to a predesignated public shelter outside a flood zone.
- Leave mobile homes in any case.
- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.
- Put food and water out for a pet if you cannot take it with you. Most public health regulations do not allow pets in public shelters, nor do most hotels/motels allow them.

IF STAYING AT HOME

- Only stay in a home if you have **NOT** been ordered to leave. Stay inside a well constructed building. In structures, such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds can produce deadly missiles and structural failure.
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.

IF WINDS BECOME STRONG

- Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room, such as bathroom or closet.
- If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

PLAN TO EVACUATE IF YOU

- Live in a mobile home. They are unsafe in high winds, no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- Live on the coastline, an offshore island, or near a river or a flood plain.
- Live in a high-rise. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.

AFTER THE STORM

- Keep listening to radio, TV (local or cable), and NOAA Weather Radio.
- Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.

- Roads may be closed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, turn around and go another way!
- Avoid weakened bridges and washed out roads. **Do not drive into flooded areas!**
- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electricity charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Check gas, water, and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.
- Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- Be especially cautious if using a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.