



Before the storm hits

Follow these tips when the storm is approaching.

- ✦ Listen to the radio or TV for important 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 the doors closed.
- ✦ Turn off propane tanks.
- ✦ Avoid using the phone, except for in emergencies.
- ✦ Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- ✦ If you're in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor

Evacuate under these conditions.

- ✦ If you are directed to do so by local authorities. 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 island waterway.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to a 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.
- ✦ Avoid elevators.



After a Hurricane

Keep these tips in mind when the storm has passed.

- ✦ Continue listening to NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates. You could experience extended rainfall and subsequent flooding, even after the storm.
- ✦ If you become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact FEMA or the American Red Cross.
 - ✦ FEMA's National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRLS) gives displaced individuals the ability to enter personal information into a database so they can be located by others during a disaster.
 - ✦ The American Red Cross also maintains a database to help you find family.
- ✦ Use the phone only for emergency calls.
- ✦ If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- ✦ If you are unable to return home and have immediate housing needs, text **SHELTER** + your ZIP code to **43362** (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: **shelter 77005**).
- ✦ Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. If you must go out watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.
- ✦ Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to your local utility company.
- ✦ Walk carefully around the outside of your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage. Take pictures of any damage.
- ✦ Stay out of any building if you smell gas, if floodwaters remain around the building, or your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.
- ✦ If you have any doubts about safety, have your home inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.
- ✦ Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- ✦ Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- ✦ Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- ✦ **NEVER** use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator is turned off.