

HURRICANE PREPARATION

Tropical Storm Watch:

Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning:

Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours.

Hurricane Watch:

Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued.

Hurricane Warning:

Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by local officials.



TAKING ACTION is as easy as 1-2-3		
1 BEFORE	2 WATCH	3 WARNING
Before Hurricane Season Starts YOU SHOULD:	When a Hurricane Watch is issued YOU SHOULD:	When a Hurricane Warning is issued YOU SHOULD:
Assemble your Disaster Supply Kit. These items are often scattered around your home and simply need to be brought together into one location. Write out your Family Disaster Plan. Discuss the possible hazards with your family. Determine if you are in an evacuation area. Identify an out-of-town family contact.	Check your Disaster Supply Kit. Make sure nothing is missing. Determine if there is anything you need to supplement your kit. Replenish your water. Activate your Family Disaster Plan. Protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time (for example, securing a boat or leaving a barrier island).	Ready your Disaster Supply Kit for use. If you need to evacuate, you should bring your Supply Kit with you. Use your Family Disaster Plan. Your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

(Courtesy NHC, NOAA)

Prepare For The Storm

- ✓ Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- ✓ Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months.
- ✓ Remember to make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- ✓ Real preparedness requires taking First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.
- ✓ Identify a safe room or the safest areas in your home and within your community for each hurricane hazard.
- ✓ Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- ✓ Acquire and post emergency telephone numbers by your phones.
- ✓ Note the types of hazards that could affect your family (storm surge, flooding, and wind).
- ✓ Determine escape routes from your home and designate places to meet.
- ✓ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.

Disaster Supply Kit

- Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
 - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
 - non-electric can opener
 - cooking tools / fuel
 - paper plates / plastic utensils
- Blankets** / Pillows, etc.
- Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- First Aid Kit** / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
- Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries** / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes
- Flashlight** / Batteries
- Radio** - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Telephones** - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional telephone set
- Cash and Credit Cards** - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- Keys**
- Toys**, Books and Games
- Important documents** - in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag
 - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm



Evacuating

Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens your area. If your family hurricane preparedness plan includes evacuation to a safer location for any of the reasons specified within this article, then it is important to consider the following points:

- ✦ **If ordered to evacuate**, do not wait or delay your departure. If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.
- ✦ **Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home**, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location. In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large, multi-county hurricane evacuation event.
- ✦ **If you decide to evacuate to another county or region**, be prepared to wait in traffic. The large number of people in this state who must evacuate during a hurricane will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.
- ✦ **If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home** and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss with your intended host the details of your family evacuation plan well before the beginning of the hurricane season.
- ✦ **If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination** during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave. Most hotel and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel/motel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.
- ✦ **If you are unable** to stay with friends or family and no hotel/motel rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your disaster supply kit with you to the shelter. Find Pet-Friendly hotels and motels.
- ✦ **Make sure that you fill up your car with gas** before you leave. (Courtesy NHC, NOAA)

Emergency Information Before and After		
SC Emergency Management Division	Plans and Information	http://www.scemd.org/
SCDOT Traffic Information	1-888-877-9151	http://www.sctraffic.org/
American Red Cross	Register as "Safe and Well"	https://disastersafe.redcross.org/

Pet Disaster Supply Kit

- Proper identification including immunization records
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar, and leash

