

American Red Cross Hurricane Safety Tips



Be Prepared in Time of Disaster

- Know your area's hurricane risk. To find out if your area could flood during a hurricane, call your local Red Cross chapter.
- Hurricane season lasts from June through November. August and September are peak hurricane months.
- Keep a portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries, emergency supplies, first aid kit, canned food, and bottled water on hand.
- Prepare a family evacuation plan to determine where your family would go during a hurricane.
- Prepare instructions on how to turn off your utilities.

- Keep insurance policies, documents, and valuables in a safe place, such as a safe-deposit box.

A hurricane watch means a hurricane is possible in your area. If hurricane watch is issued—

- Board or tape up your windows.
- Bring inside those objects that could fly around or blow away, such as garbage cans, bicycles, toys, and lawn furniture.
- Secure a supply of fresh water and new batteries.
- Fill your car with gasoline.
- Evacuate immediately if told to do so.

A hurricane warning means a hurricane is approaching your area. If a hurricane warning is issued—

- Evacuate immediately if told to do so.
- Stay away from windows and stay inside if you are told not to evacuate.
- Beware of the calm eye of the hurricane. Stay inside. This calm center of the storm lasts only a short time. The most severe part of the hurricane comes immediately before and after the eye has passed.

If you are going to a designated Red Cross shelter, don't forget to bring—

- Essential medication.
- Personal items, such as a toothbrush and eyeglasses.
- Your own blankets and pillows.
- A change of clothing.
- Your children's favorite toys.

When the hurricane is over—

- Be careful of downed power lines.
- Wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing.
- Use your flashlight to inspect for damage.
- Ask a professional to check your water, gas, electric, and sewage lines.



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