

TAKE ACTION

If you are **HURRICANE AWARE** you will be able to answer these three questions:

1. What are the Hurricane Hazards?

[Storm Surge](#), [Marine Hazards](#), [Tornadoes](#), [High Winds](#), and [Inland Flooding](#)

2. What does it mean to you?

Do you live in a Surge Zone? On a Barrier Island? In an area prone to flooding? In a strong sturdy home?



3. What actions should you take to be prepared?

[Family Disaster Plan](#), [Disaster Supply Kit](#), [Secure your home](#), [Have a place to go](#), and [Stay Aware](#)



Be sure to ask other family members, friends and neighbors if they are **HURRICANE AWARE** too.

TAKING ACTION is as easy as 1-2-3:		
1 BEFORE	2 WATCH	3 WARNING
<p>Before Hurricane Season Starts <i>YOU SHOULD:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. 	<p>When a Hurricane Watch is issued <i>YOU SHOULD:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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). 	<p>When a Hurricane Warning is issued <i>YOU SHOULD:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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.

RELATED INFORMATION

- [ONLINE VULNERABILITY INFO](#)
- [BE PREPARED](#)
- [PDF RESOURCES](#)

RELATED MULTIMEDIA

- MAX MAYFIELD DISCUSSES - [BEING PREPARED](#) (0.1mb MP3 )
- MAX MAYFIELD DISCUSSES - [HAVING A PLAN](#) (0.1mb MP3 )

RELATED WEBSITES

- [FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY](#)
 - [AMERICAN RED CROSS](#)
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ADDITIONAL SAFETY INFORMATION

By the **Start of Hurricane Season** *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. In certain circumstances you may need to go to a store to purchase an item to supplement your kit.
- **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.

When a **Watch is issued** *you should:*

- **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).

When a **Warning is issued** *you should:*

- **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.

FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

- ✓ Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to [storm surge](#), [flooding](#) and [wind](#).
- ✓ Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- ✓ Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.

- ✓ Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- ✓ Make a plan now for what to do with your [pets](#) if you need to evacuate.
- ✓ Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- ✓ Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- ✓ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a [Disaster Supply Kit](#).
- ✓ Use a [NOAA weather radio](#). Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
 - ✓ Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes

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
 - foods for infants or the elderly
 - snack foods
 - 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 (not cordless) telephone set
- Cash (with some small bills) 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
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
 - Pet care items**
 - proper identification / immunization records / medications
 - ample supply of food and water
 - a carrier or cage
 - muzzle and leash

SECURE YOUR HOME

RETROFITTING YOUR HOME

The most important precaution you can take to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind can enter. According to recent wind technology research, it's important to strengthen the exterior of your house so wind and debris do not tear large openings in it. You can do this by protecting and reinforcing these five critical areas:

[ROOF](#) | [STRAPS](#) | [SHUTTERS](#) | [DOORS](#) | [GARAGE DOORS](#)

A great time to start securing - or retrofitting - your house is when you are making other improvements or adding an addition.

Remember: building codes reflect the lessons experts have learned from past catastrophes. Contact the local building code official to find out what requirements are necessary for your home improvement projects.

FLOOD INSURANCE

The National Flood Insurance Program, is a pre-disaster flood mitigation and insurance protection program designed to reduce the escalating cost of disasters. The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners

Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions. Check your policy.

[National Flood Insurance Program](#) call

1-888-CALL-FLOOD ext. 445, TDD# 1-800-427-5593.

HAVE A PLACE TO GO

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 with in this web site, 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 hotels/motels 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.