

READY TOGETHER FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE LIBRARY

RTF-116

Hurricane Preparedness Guide

A Practical Guide to Protecting Your Family Before, During, and After a
Hurricane

Building Resilient Communities Together

Hurricanes Require Early Preparation

Hurricanes are powerful storms capable of producing destructive winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, storm surges, tornadoes, and prolonged power outages.

Because hurricanes are often tracked several days before landfall, families have valuable time to prepare.

Using that time wisely can make a significant difference.

Preparation begins long before the storm arrives.

Why Hurricane Preparedness Matters

Preparing for hurricanes helps your family:

- Evacuate safely when necessary.
- Protect your home.
- Reduce the risk of injury.
- Stay informed during changing weather conditions.
- Recover more quickly after the storm.

Preparedness begins with a plan.

Before Hurricane Season

Take these important steps:

- ☐ Know if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone.
- ☐ Review your family emergency plan.
- ☐ Build your emergency kit.
- ☐ Prepare a Go Bag for every family member.
- ☐ Sign up for local emergency alerts.
- ☐ Protect important documents in waterproof containers.
- ☐ Review evacuation routes.
- ☐ Check your insurance coverage.

Prepared families prepare before hurricane season begins.

Prepare Your Home

Reduce storm damage by:

- ☐ Securing outdoor furniture.
- ☐ Trimming weak tree branches.
- ☐ Cleaning gutters and drainage systems.
- ☐ Reinforcing windows and doors where appropriate.
- ☐ Charging phones and backup batteries.
- ☐ Filling your vehicle with fuel if evacuation becomes likely.

Small preparations make a big difference.

Hurricane Watches and Warnings

Hurricane Watch

Hurricane conditions are possible.

Review your plans and prepare to act.

Hurricane Warning

Hurricane conditions are expected.

Complete preparations immediately and follow official instructions.

Do not delay evacuation if it is ordered.

If You Must Evacuate

When evacuation is recommended:

- ☐ Leave early.
- ☐ Follow designated evacuation routes.
- ☐ Bring your emergency kit.
- ☐ Take medications.
- ☐ Bring pets.
- ☐ Lock your home if time allows.
- ☐ Inform family or friends where you are going.

Your safety comes first.

During the Hurricane

If you remain at home:

- ☐ Stay indoors.
- ☐ Keep away from windows.
- ☐ Monitor official weather information.
- ☐ Keep flashlights nearby.
- ☐ Use generators safely outdoors only.
- ☐ Remain inside until authorities declare conditions safe.

The calm eye of the storm can be misleading—dangerous conditions may return quickly.

After the Hurricane

When the storm has passed:

- ☐ Watch for downed power lines.

- ☐ Avoid floodwaters.
- ☐ Check your home for damage.
- ☐ Photograph property damage if needed.
- ☐ Continue monitoring official updates.
- ☐ Help neighbors if it is safe.

Recovery begins with safety.

Protecting Children

Help children by:

- ☐ Explaining hurricanes in simple language.
- ☐ Practicing evacuation plans.
- ☐ Keeping favorite toys or comfort items in the emergency kit.
- ☐ Reassuring them throughout the emergency.

Prepared children respond more confidently.

Protecting Older Adults

Ensure they have:

- ☐ Medications.
- ☐ Emergency contacts.
- ☐ Transportation plans.
- ☐ Medical equipment.
- ☐ Caregiver support.

Planning ahead protects vulnerable family members.

Caring for Pets

Prepare:

- ☐ Food.
- ☐ Water.
- ☐ Medications.
- ☐ Leash.
- ☐ Carrier.
- ☐ Vaccination records.
- ☐ Comfort items.

Never leave pets behind during an evacuation.

Ready Together Action

Complete these three steps this week:

- ☐ Review your evacuation route.

- ☐ Protect important family documents.
- ☐ Prepare your family's Go Bags.

Prepared families prepare before the storm arrives.

Review Your Hurricane Preparedness

Review your hurricane plan:

- ☐ Before hurricane season.
- ☐ Every six months.
- ☐ After moving.
- ☐ After changes in household members.

Preparedness is an ongoing commitment.

About Ready Together Foundation

Ready Together Foundation is dedicated to building resilient communities through emergency preparedness, emergency relief and response, youth engagement, and outreach to vulnerable populations.

Our work focuses on:

- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Relief & Response
- Youth Preparedness & Leadership
- Vulnerable Population Outreach

Together, we are building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Ready Together Foundation

Building Resilient Communities Together

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Preparedness is a journey, not a one-time event. Every small step you take today helps protect the people you care about tomorrow.