

# Ready America: Hurricane Preparedness

## Step 1: Build A Kit / "To-Go Bag"

### Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car in case you are told to evacuate.

- [Water](#), one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- [Food](#), at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- [First aid kit](#)
- Whistle to signal for help
- [Dust mask](#), to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

### Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. You can use the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\)](#) - PDF, 277Kb) developed by Operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps to help you organize your information.
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher

- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## Step 2: Make a Plan

### Prepare your family

Make a [Family Emergency Plan](#). Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency. You should also consider:

- [Evacuation plans](#)
- [Family communications](#)
- [Utility shut-off and safety](#)
- [Safety skills](#)

### Prepare Your Business

Businesses have a critical role in preparedness. Putting a disaster plan in motion now will improve the likelihood that your company will survive and recover. [Ready Business](#) outlines commonsense measures business owners and managers can take to start getting ready.

### Plan to Protect Property

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. **Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage.** To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the NFIP Web site, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-800-427-2419.

For more detailed information on how you can protect your property, view the **Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration's** printer-friendly handout [Avoiding Hurricane Damage](#)

In addition to insurance, you can also:

- Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Secure your home by closing shutters, and securing outdoor objects or bringing them inside.
- Turn off utilities as instructed. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.

- Turn off propane tanks.
- Install a generator for emergencies
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage, it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting [www.FoodSafety.gov](http://www.FoodSafety.gov).

### **Step 3: Be Informed**

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: [lightning](#), [tornadoes](#), [flooding](#), [storm surge](#), [high winds](#), even [landslides or mudslides](#) can be triggered in mountainous regions. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family disaster plan accordingly. But remember this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

- [Learn about damaging and potentially deadly hurricane hazards](#)
- [What to do during a hurricane](#)
- [Get your children involved \(kids site\)](#)
- [People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs](#)
- [Care for pets](#)

### **Other Sources**

[FEMA: Are You Ready?](#)

[Ready.gov](#) or [Listo.gov](#)