

Hurricane and Coastal Storm Preparedness



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Hurricanes and Coastal Storms

- Hurricanes:
 - Violent areas of low pressure forming in tropics
 - Have winds of 75 mph or more
 - Accompanied by torrential rains
- Coastal Storms
 - Typically form along East Coast or in the Carribean.
 - Produce similar damage as tornadoes.



Hurricane and Coastal Storm Risks

- Strong winds and storm surge can:
 - Damage or destroy structures
 - Lift and move unstable structures and objects
 - Damage utility and sewage lines
 - Give rise to tornadoes
 - Make roads impassable
 - Disrupt communication lines
 - Cause coastal erosion
 - Cause floods
 - Threaten lives



Saffir-Simpson Scale

- Measures wind speed
- Has five categories
 - I: 74-95 mph
 - II: 96-110 mph
 - III: 111-130 mph
 - IV: 131-155 mph
 - V: More than 155 mph



Statistics



- 100 million Americans are at risk for hurricanes
- Almost 14 million live area where winds greater than 125 mph have been recorded (i.e., tip of Florida to North Carolina coast)
- More than 6 million live in storm surge areas



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Preparing for a Hurricane

- Know your risk and evacuation routes
- Develop action plan
- Secure needed supplies
- Floodproof property
- Create personal disaster supply kit for your family
- Secure mobile homes

Before a Hurricane

- Board up all windows and glass doors
- Check batteries
- Stock up on nonperishable food (don't forget food for your pets)
- Make sure you have medications
- Ensure you have some cash on hand
- Listen to Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages on radio/other media sources

Stay or Go?



- If in evacuation zone, leave immediately
 - Determine where you will go
 - Leave as early as possible
- If not in evacuation zone:
 - Follow sheltering guidelines
 - Determine safe room in home
 - Fortify house
 - Assist those with special needs

During a Hurricane

- Stay indoors
 - Stay away from flood waters
 - Be aware of the “eye”
 - Be alert for tornadoes
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- **Our area will be impacted the most by high winds, leading to downed trees, damage to the electrical grid, structures, and transportation delays.**
 - **During Hurricane Laura in 2020, 95% of our area lost power during the event.**

After a Hurricane

- Do not reenter area until it is declared safe
- Use flashlight to inspect for damage
- Wear protective clothing, sunscreen, and bug repellent
- Check on neighbors
- If you use a generator, do not use it inside your home
- Stay away from downed power lines
- Turn off utilities, if necessary